

Old Beach Land Mark Destroyed by Fire

State Line Hotel, Operated by Landlord Wall, With Contents Nearly Total Loss in Dismal Blaze Originating in Kitchen.--- Charred Walls Alone Left Standing.

The State Line hotel, one of Beach's oldest landmarks and in the old days the rendezvous of shepherds, cattlemen, incoming homesteaders and land men for miles around, was totally destroyed by a disastrous fire which originated in the kitchen this morning at 5:45. Nothing but the charred walls remain, the furniture, fixtures and interior being a charred heap of rubbish. Insurance in the sum of \$5,500 in no wise covers the loss.

At about 5:00 this morning, Art McGwynne started a fire in the kitchen range, later assuming his duties in the front office. Johnson, the cook, upon his arrival discovered the entire back end of the building in flames and ran across the street and turned in the alarm. The building was as dry as tinder, and though the fire department arrived on the scene a few minutes later, the flames had spread throughout the whole interior. Realizing the improbability of being able to save the structure, attention was turned to saving as much of the fixtures as was possible, and while the department battled with the flames, willing hands succeeded in saving the piano, a settee, and a few articles of furniture from the parlor and office before being driven out by the heat and smoke. After a hard fought battle, in which the fire boys were thoroughly wet to the skin, the fire was subdued, but not until nothing but the charred walls remained. The boys deserve great credit for being able to prevent the flames from spreading to neighboring buildings.

Mr. and Mrs. Wall, who occupied a room downstairs next to the kitchen, had a narrow escape, as the blaze originated on the other side of the wall and nearly formed a trap from which they would have been unable to escape a few minutes later. They were unable to save any of their clothing, with the exception of what they hastily donned as they left the building.

That there was no loss of life is a remarkable and fortunate circumstance, as the hotel was crowded with guests. All of them succeeded in leaving the building in safety, none the worse for the perilous experience, and so far as we have been able to learn, with no loss of their effects.

A freakish prank of the flames was learned today. Mr. Wall upon retiring the night before left his watch in a coat pocket, failing to rescue the coat in his hurry to leave the room. After the fire had been subdued, he took an inspection of the ruins, and after a search discovered what had once been his coat, the charred pocket in which the watch lay alone being all that was left. Though discolored with the heat and smudge, and soaked with water, the watch was ticking along as merrily as ever, without a stop.

A bit of humor which caused a little diversion from a tragic situation was also disclosed. It appears that a traveling man who

was registered at the State Line and who had on another occasion been a guest of that hostelry when a fire alarm was turned in, before he retired for the night espied a ladder lying on the west side of the building. With singular forethought, which he later ascribed to a "hunch", he placed it at his window, and when the room became filled with smoke made a safe and sane, though hasty, exit thereby. Upon reaching a haven of safety, he removed the ladder to the next window, where it was utilized by another occupant. It is needless to state that he has a sublime faith in hunches that knows no doubting.

The State Line hotel, under the proprietorship of Landlord F. E. Heath, underwent considerable remodeling some time ago. In 1903 the Pioneer store was built, a dwelling annex being added in 1904. When the needs of infant Beach had become such as to warrant it, the hotel, then of small accommodations, was added, a force of twenty carpenters under A. J. McDougall of Mandan pushing the work to rapid completion in the summer of 1906. Later, the store business was abandoned, the partition separating the store from the hotel removed and other alterations made, making the building a comparatively modern hostelry.

Temporarily, at least, until more permanent plans are perfected, Mr. Wall will devote his time to his restaurant business on the corner opposite the Golden Valley State Bank. Friends came to the rescue of the family, with clothing, practically all of their own having been destroyed, until a new supply was obtained.

FURNITURE CO SENDS IN REQUEST FOR THE BANDIT CHIEF'S BODY

Field Headquarters, American Expeditionary Force Colonia, Dublin, Mex., March 28, by aeroplane to Columbus, N. M.—A letter requesting Villa's body has been received by Brigadier General J. J. Pershing from a Dyersburg, Tenn., firm. The firm advertises that it handled furniture, undertaking, carpets, matting and window shades. The letter reads:

"General Pershing: "Dear Sir—Is it possible for us to get the body of Villa, if he is killed? We want to hold it by embalming and keeping in our undertaking department. We will pay a good price for his body. Please let us hear from you in regard to the same."

Ed. F. Bartlett, now of Enid, Mont., this week showed his appreciation of the Chronicle by remitting his check, which shows his name way ahead on the honor roll of the Chronicle family. We are glad to learn that he is more than making good in his new home.

John Gifford from Trotters was transacting business in Beach Thursday.

NONPARTISAN LEAGUE CONVENTION WILL OPEN TOMORROW MORNING

Fargo, March 31.—About 40 delegates from various sections of the state arrived in the city yesterday morning and several conferences were said to have been held during the day for the purpose of perfecting arrangements for the opening of the state convention of the Nonpartisan league tomorrow. At least 5,000 farmers are expected by the leaders in this city to arrive here within the next 24 hours. This is expected to be one of the largest gatherings of tillers of the soil in the history of the state.

An elaborate program has been arranged for the two days' sessions, addresses being scheduled by President Ladd of the Agricultural college. John H. Worst, former president of that school, former Senator Pettigrew of South Dakota and several others. Bands will furnish music. Saturday evening there will be a monster parade and fireworks.

The sessions will be held in the auditorium. Candidates for state and legislative offices will be selected by the league at this convention and there is much speculation as to who will be the men named. There were many rumors of slate-making by the delegates in the city yesterday but they all deny that anything in that line was being done, saying that this will be attended to by the convention.

War Dep't Orders New Aeroplanes

San Diego, Cal. March 28.—Captain V. Clark, aeronautical engineer of the signal corps aviation school here, and Lieutenant Thomas Dewitt Milling, junior military aviator and instructor in flying, have received telegraphic instructions from the war department, it was announced today, to proceed to Washington to inspect, purchase and test a number of new aeroplanes to be sent to the expeditionary forces now operating in Mexico. They said they would leave immediately.

Will Purchase Modern Planes It is understood that Captain Clark and Lieutenant Milling are to purchase from eight to 12 twin motored 120-horsepower semi-armed aeroplanes. Machines similar to this type have been shipped in large numbers to the British and French flying corps, it is said, and have given excellent service. These planes are protected by a plate of heavy steel. They develop a speed of from 80 to 90 miles an hour with pilot and observer and can carry enough fuel for a 500-mile flight.

Glassford in Charge Colonel William A. Glassford, former chief of the signal corps of the western department of the army, with headquarters at San Francisco, will assume command of the signal corps aviation school Monday, April 3. He will relieve Captain Scowan.

The opera house management has changed the appearance of their Triangle features, which hereafter will be shown Wednesday and Saturday. Aloha Oe, by the new arrangement, will be shown tomorrow (Saturday) night instead of tonight, as advertised.

G. V. Superior to Montana

As illustrating the desirability of Golden Valley lands over the sections of the state and Montana, the following interesting fact came to the attention of the Chronicle editor this week.

During the past ten years, a prominent eastern land company disposed of nearly 40,000 acres of fertile Golden Valley soil to homeseekers and investors in real estate. Since then they have largely disposed of their real estate interests here, gaining control of a large area near the Bitter Root Valley in Montana, which they are parceling out to homeseekers. Here a singular difficulty presented itself. Such a reputation had the Golden Valley attained that the firm experienced considerable difficulty in persuading homeseekers to go further west after they had once glimpsed the Golden Valley, and as a consequence, considerable difficulty is being experienced in disposing of the western lands to people from the east who must pass through here in order to look them over.

A number of these people come from German settlements in Minnesota. In one particular instance, they are closely associated with a worthy German pastor, a Rev. Woolf, who is endeavoring to place his people in a newer section of the agricultural west where they may derive the advantages of low priced lands with as high grade crops as are raised in Minnesota. Rev. Woolf refuses absolutely to consider a migration of his flock to any other section of the country but the Golden Valley.

Recently, the real estate firm alluded to gained control of 20,000 acres of agricultural land lying between Beach and Carlyle. This is a very fertile area, and was controlled, so we understand by the Beaver Valley Land Company, who were in no hurry to colonize the district, realizing its ultimate value. The new owners are taking active steps toward closing it out this year to actual settlers only, which will give a big impetus to the agricultural progress and advancement not alone of that locality, but to the entire Valley as a whole.

This is a condition of affairs in which every citizen of the Golden Valley may take worthy pride, and shows to what an extent this country is advertised to eastern homeseekers. Surely, with this appreciation shown abroad, our local people will not go wrong by taking a more vital interest in the best farming community in the country. Hang on to your land, and if you value it at all, do not dog the footsteps of every homeseeker who comes to the Golden Valley with offers to sell your farm to him. If you place so little faith in the country that you are anxious to sell, you cannot expect the buyer to make up the deficiency.

Atty. Dawson, of Sentinel Butte, was transacting business in city yesterday and today. Mr. Dawson was registered at the State Line hotel, and experienced a thrilling descent of the stairs, urged forward by a wall of flame and dense smoke, at the fire which destroyed that structure this morning. He managed to save his effects.

COMING TRIANGLE FEATURES

The Management of the Beach Opera House takes this opportunity to announce that in the future Triangle Photoplays will be shown on Wednesday and Saturdays. Wednesday April 5, the little screen star Dorothy Gish will make her first appearance here with the Triangle Co. with Frank Campeau and Owen Moore in a Griffith Fine Arts production "Jordan is a Hard Road". On the same night a 2 reel Keystone comedy will be shown "Fatty and the Broadway Stars" with Webber & Fields, "Fatty" Arbuckle, Sam Bernard and Willie Collier. Saturday April 8, Katherine Kaelred with House Peters, will be seen in a Thos. Ince production "The Winged Idol". The Keystone Comedy is "Crooked to the End." Fred Mace with the Keystone Players makes this one of the funniest that Mack Sennet has turned out for the Triangle Co. April 15, Sid Chaplin will be seen in a whirlwind 4 reel Keystone Comedy "The Submarine Pirate." People stood in the rain for hours waiting to see this picture.

Three Drown in Missouri Floods

Bismarck, N. D. March 28.—Unprecedented flood conditions in the Missouri river and over the entire Missouri slope district have taken a toll of three lives and completely blocked all traffic in this district of the Northern Pacific line.

With a storm in progress tonight, heavy rain and snow falling, conditions are likely to become worse. Today's fatalities include the following:

John Willof, center, drowned in square Creek; Fred Laute of Braddock, drowned in drainage canal; James Quinzer of Braddock drowned in drainage canal.

Young Will and his mother were precipitated into the stream. Mrs. Will being unable to save her boy. His body has not been recovered.

Laute and Quinzer were drowned while driving in a buggy, going into what they thought was a bridge, only to be precipitated into a drainage canal and both were killed.

Main line traffic on the Northern Pacific was abandoned when bridges at Almont and Curlew were washed out by the Knife River. On the Mandan to Golden Valley line, bridges near Hazen and Golden Valley were swept away, while on the Mandan to Mott line, bridges near Schmidt were carried out and many miles of track inundated by the Cannon Ball river.

Big ice gorges, formed at Washburn, Sanish and Williston, in the main channel of the Missouri river, hold firm tonight, and residents along the river are in many cases in peril. The lower portion of Mandan is flooded.

Work towards the erection of Valley City's new postoffice has commenced by the removal of the buildings that encumber the building site.

Messrs. Geo. Jones and Harry Struble, of the Dickinson opera house orchestra, were guests at the Callendar the first of the week.

Alpha to Have Mail Route

Government Advertising for Bids for Carrier—Action for Placing Alpha on Route Follows Petition.

The government has posted notices for bids for carriers to serve the Alpha country, it became known here this week. Further particulars regarding the route, its length and source, are unobtainable, but it is likely that the new route will run from Golva. This is thought probable from the fact that, though the government rescinded whatever action it may have taken for a railway mail service on the south branch owing to an indefinite schedule on the part of the road, arrangements may in the near future be perfected whereby the south country will be served by mail from the Beach office when a definite schedule and railroad service may be determined upon.

Considerable difficulty has been manifested in keeping the Alpha route running, the government ordering its discontinuance three times. Petitions were circulated in each case which resulted in the department's rescinding their action. A route is a necessity in the Alpha country, as without it residents of that section would be forced to make long drives in order to get their mail, which in the busy season would occasion much inconvenience.

We understand that whether Alpha is to have a route or not hinges upon the government's being able to get a satisfactory bid for the service. It is possible that temporarily the Alpha office will be supplied from Sentinel Butte, as in the past, from what information we can obtain.

3 CHILDREN BURN TO DEATH IN HOME WHILE PARENTS ARE ABSENT

Hillsboro, N. D., March 28.—Three children were burned to death in their home in the absence of their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Carson, living on the Minnesota side of the Red river just east of Caledonia, according to word received here yesterday.

Hot coals dumped close to the residence several hours before fired the straw banking on the side of the house.

A 12-year-old girl, the daughter of a neighbor, left in charge of the three babies, the oldest being only six years old, instead of rescuing the children, ran to her home to give the alarm. When she returned with rescuers the building was entirely in flames and the three children had been burned to death.

The Golva Sunshine society will meet with Mrs. Smith, of Golva. Confectionery and lunch will be sold, Saturday April 8th. This is a worthy cause and your assistance and patronage will be appreciated.

John Steenson, a prominent farmer of Adams, was the fourth victim of an asphyxiation tragedy which proved fatal to his wife and two daughters. One funeral service will be held.

C. C. Crain, a prominent farmer of Bonnie View, was transacting business in the city Tuesday.

What One G. V. Farmer Did

A Story With A Moral Which Shows There Are More Ways of Making Money Than by Selling Grain.

Northwest of Beach there lives a farmer who has set a pace which it would be well for all farmers in the Golden Valley to follow. Simple enough in itself, it would add an aggregate wealth to the resources of the country which it would be hard to estimate.

Instead of hauling his grain to the elevator this fall as it came from the machine and receiving the lowest market price for it, he held it, and ran it through a fanning mill and kept the dockage at home, instead of preserving the dockage to the elevator. Then he cast his eye about with the result that he bought a fine lot of growing hogs, which he fattened on the dockage. When ready for the market, he shipped them to St. Paul, where he was successful in selling them at a good price, and with the proceeds he bought a car of Guernsey cattle which he owns clear, and which will in their turn yield him a handsome profit.

The enterprising farmer referred to is Edward Summers, who lives five miles northwest of Beach. We don't know just how long he held his wheat, but we will venture to state that he has netted a handsome profit from it also over and above what he would have obtained if he had hauled it from the elevator to the machine.

It is, of course, the irony of circumstances that all farmers can't parallel Mr. Summers' performance, because they must have the money at once to liquidate their obligations. In many cases, however, if the local bankers are informed of the farmers' plan they will be glad to give him financial assistance, knowing full well that it is a safe and sure loan far removed from speculation, and its financial dangers. Eventually, every farmer in the Golden Valley will be forced to mix his farming with stockraising and market his grain in the form of live stock which keeps the fertility on the land. It's saving the little leaks that count.

Because of the heavy floods near Mandan and Bismarck, the train service on the Northern Pacific has been considerably disorganized this week, in spite of the heroic efforts of the company to keep the trains running. So much snow has fallen in the central and northern parts of the state that the sudden thaw caused all the rivers and streams to overflow their banks, in many instances the water being several miles wide. Bridges were washed out and the road bed washed away, in several cases the rails and ties being suspended in the air after the fashion of a suspension bridge. Tuesday the through passenger trains were sent around on the Great Northern, which left Beach without mail service for about thirty-six hours. Since then train service has been resumed, though all west bound trains have been from one to six hours late on account of the laborious process of installing temporary bridges and the spongy nature of the roadbed. The company deserves considerable credit for the manner in which they met the exigency.