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WILLMAR OPERA HOUSE DESTROYED

Burns to Ground Early Last Thursday Evening.—Big Loss.

The Willmar Opera House, lately remodelled and improved, became the prey of the fire fiend Thursday evening. It was completely destroyed. The loss is over \$20,000 with \$8,000 insurance, and is a hard blow to the principal owner, Mr. Alton Crosby.

The fire was discovered at 8:45 p. m. Most of the members of the volunteer fire department were scattered in their various homes eating their supper. They responded well, however, and in short time had three streams of water playing on the fire. Had some water at an adequate pressure been available at the first few moments after the fire was discovered, the building might have been saved, but after the fire had once taken hold in the wooden interior and the stage settings the building was doomed. The most the fire department could hope to do, was to confine the fire to this building. This they were able to do, owing to the fact that a light wind was blowing.

The firemen found it impossible to get at the heart of the flames owing to the great clouds of smoke which rolled forth when the stage doors were opened. It was impossible for the firemen to penetrate very far into the building.

Getting a good start, the flames worked their way up the walls to the roof, and the paint scenery furnished plenty of fuel. In the roof the flames broke through the steel ceiling and the roof, and with the draught due to the ventilators, it was not long before the entire roof was a mass of flames.

The origin of the fire is a mystery, although judging from where the flames were first seen after the alarm was turned in, in all probability a short circuit in the electric wiring was the cause. When discovered the blaze did not seem to be one of much consequence, although the dense smoke made it impossible to get at it and extinguish it.

Fire fighting under the best of conditions is an unenviable job, and the members of the local department who fought valiantly against overwhelming odds, with the thermometer at 30 degrees below zero, are deserving of commendation. Many hundreds of spectators stood around the scene of the fire which made a great spectacle.

The building and contents were valued at about \$20,000, with \$8,000 insurance. Just the week before, Mr. Crosby had installed an electric photo-player, valued at \$3,000. The only things saved were valuable papers taken from Mr. Crosby's office before the fire secured great headway. The south, west and north walls caved in, leaving only the solid brick front standing.

Four firemen remained on the scene all night, and a stream of water was kept directed on the smoldering ruins.

The contents of L. M. Crosby's office on the south side of the building were not harmed by the blaze Thursday evening, but the fire broke out

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The motion picture machine, which was enclosed in the fire-proof booth, was melted into an unrecognizable mass. The five reels of pictures, shown at the matinee that afternoon were also destroyed. That a fire should break out in the building, was the last thing thought of by Mr. Crosby. The fact that there was no stove or furnace in the building seemed to be assurance in this respect.

It seems the irony of fate to think that a building, situated as the Opera House was, right under the city water tower, should be totally destroyed by fire. Many conditions are in circulation in regard to the condition of the hydrants, etc. No hydrants were found frozen, but the extreme cold made it difficult and hazardous to manipulate the hydrant after the water had been turned on and for that reason it was deemed expedient to attach but one hose to a hydrant.

Mayor Wellin states that he happened to be standing by the hydrant at the time he looked towards the Opera House and saw a light through the back door as if some one was burning waste paper. He hurried across the block, but before reaching the place the alarm sounded and in a very short time, a hose cart had arrived, attached to the hydrant at the Spicer corner and was ready to throw water. There was no attempt to use the old fire engine, which the fire department considers useless.

The adjoining buildings were not damaged to any extent. The beautiful new bank building on the north had a few cracks in windows which damage was estimated at \$600. Wiggins' building sustained broken windows to the extent of about \$100.

No definite plans have been made for rebuilding the opera house, but Mr. Crosby tells us that there is every reason to believe that arrangements will be made to rebuild on the same site.

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HIGH SCHOOL CHORUS TO GIVE OPERETTA

"Sylvia" to be Presented at High School Auditorium Friday and Saturday, Jan. 28 and 29.

The high school chorus will present the operetta "Sylvia" at the high school assembly room, Friday and Saturday, Jan. 28 and 29. Rather than give up the idea of having the operetta, when the opera house was destroyed, it was decided to build a temporary stage at the high school. Remembering the success of "Pauline" last year, doubtless packed houses will greet the players.

Miss James, superintendent of music in the local schools, is directing the production. The small admission fee of 25c will be charged, and the program will begin at 8 o'clock.

Following is a list of characters: Sir Bertram DeLacy, the Court Poet.....Otto Kuntz Prince Tobbytum, a Man of Consequence.....Arthur Limperich Willam, an Honest Farmer.....Walter Erickson Robin, a Country Lad.....Frank Sather Sylvia, Betrothed to DeLacy.....Cecilia Barrett Betty, Betrothed to Willam.....Julia Ogren Arabella, a Court Lady.....Marion Marshall Araminta, Her Sister.....Emma Boyd Polly, Molly, Douce, Farmer's Daughters, Myrtle O'Neil, Thelma Curran, Edna Sanderson.

Chorus of farm lads, farmer's daughters and haymakers.

The net proceeds of both performances will go to the contribution of the Willmar schools to the Old Settlers' Memorial.

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OBITUARY

EMMA SOPHIA OSTLUND.

The sad news of the death of Mrs. Emma Ostlund spread through the community last Friday evening. She passed away at the Anderson family residence on West Gorton avenue, Jan. 14, at 8:10 p. m., the cause of death being heart trouble.

Mrs. Emma Sophia Ostlund was born in Mamre township Oct. 17, 1878. She was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Erlanson, and grew to womanhood in that good old Mamre home. On New Year's Day, eleven years ago, she was married to Mr. Emil Ostlund. Their happy companionship was suddenly cut short on Aug. 29, 1909, when Mr. Ostlund passed away, and the lately deceased was left a widow with one daughter, Ellen. Since the death of the husband, Mrs. Ostlund has resided with her brother, Albert and sisters, the last few years at Willmar.

The deceased is mourned by her daughter, Miss Emma Ostlund, two sisters—Misses Mary and Lydia Erlanson of Willmar; three brothers—Erick Erlanson of Glenwood; Albert Erlanson, of Howard, N. D.; a large number of brothers and sisters-in-law, cousins, and other relatives. Among these are two uncles—E. Berquist of LaBolt, S. D., and S. Erickson of Mahlowa, Minn.

In the death of Mrs. Ostlund, her many friends keenly realize their loss, and sympathize deeply with the bereaved ones. The departed was a true friend, and her devotion to those she loved would make a bright chapter in any life. Nothing but the throes of the loving hand that removed her can reconcile them to her absence. While she is gone from the scenes of the pleasure and sorrows of life, she will still live in the hearts of those who knew her best. Her retiring nature led her to hide her best qualities from public gaze, but they were revealed to those who enjoyed her acquaintance. It was in the home that her true worth was most conspicuous. She was brought up and confirmed in the Mamelund Lutheran church, of which she remained a faithful member until her residence at Willmar, since when she has affiliated with the Bethel church.

The funeral will occur next Saturday, at ten o'clock, brief services take place at the Erlanson residence on West Gorton avenue, after which the sad cortege will wind its way to the Mamelund church, where services will be conducted by Rev. W. E. Pearson, at two o'clock. The interment takes place in the churchyard adjoining.

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NORWEGIAN SINGERS ARE HOSTS

Nordmandene Singing Society Give Splendid Entertainment at Masonic Hall.

The social festivity arranged by the Nordmandene Singing Society at the Masonic Temple hall last Friday evening proved a very agreeable occasion for the many friends of the organization who attended.

The musical numbers on the program, which was an informal one, consisted of several group of songs by the society, a vocal solo by Miss Helga Peterson, and a violin duet by Messrs. B. Swalin and Arne Wellin. Short talks were made by M. B. Michaelson and Hon. L. O. Thorpe.

After this part of the proceedings, the master of ceremonies, Mr. Hong, invited all the guests to the dining hall, where a fine lunch was served which part of the program was also thoroughly enjoyed. The remainder of the evening was spent in games and in a social way.

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ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF ASSOCIATION

Kandiyohi County Poultry Association Elects Officers.

The annual business meeting and election of officers of the Kandiyohi County Poultry Association was held last Friday evening at the close of the Poultry Show. The following were elected officers for the ensuing year: President, V. E. Lawson; Vice President, Mrs. P. M. Long; Sec'y. and Treas., Severt Omandson.

The association elected nine directors from different parts of the county, and all those present pledged themselves as boosters for a better and bigger show next year. The directors were voted as members of the executive board.

The meeting was an enthusiastic one and augurs well for the future of the Kandiyohi County Poultry Association.

A full list of prize winners for the show will be published later. Severt Omandson captured the Mayor's Silver Cup, donated by E. C. Wellin, and H. H. Bratt of Atwater was the proud winner of the New London Milling Co.'s Silver Cup.

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REBEKAH DISTRICT MEETING

State President and Many Outside Visitors Attend Lodge Meeting at Willmar.

A very successful district meeting of the Rebekah lodges of the seventeenth district of Minnesota was held in this city yesterday afternoon and evening. A number of delegates from outside lodges arrived on the afternoon train. Mrs. Bertha Lang, president of the Minnesota Rebekah Assembly, was present and conducted the meeting. The afternoon session was devoted to a school of instruction in the secret work and parliamentary rules, at six o'clock a delicious supper was served in the dining room, covers being laid for sixty. After supper a class of candidates was initiated into the mysteries of the Rebekah degree, the work being done by the Willmar degree staff in a very efficient and impressive manner that brought the highest encomiums from the State President. Following the initiation, lunch was served, after which the district meeting resumed. The secretaries of the lodges represented gave brief reports of the conditions of their respective lodges, the report of Hopeful Rebekah Lodge of Willmar being especially gratifying, showing a steady increase of membership, well attended meetings and a splendid financial condition. The following district officers were elected for the ensuing year: President, Mrs. Emily C. Long, of Willmar; vice president, Mrs. A. Westerdahl, of Kerkhoven; secretary, Mrs. H. B. Preble, of Willmar; treasurer, Mrs. Cox of Kerkhoven.

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CO-OP. DECLARES REGULAR DIVIDENDS

Fifth Annual Distribution of Surplus Will Reach Over Twelve Thousand.

The Willmar Co-operative Mercantile Company has just declared their regular annual dividend of six per cent on shares, twelve per cent refunds on purchases of stock-holders and six per cent refund on purchases of non-shareholders. The total amount to be distributed for 1915 amounts to \$12,179.93, among 1,396 customers. The individual dividends range in amount from two cents to \$202.46. This is the fifth annual distribution. Previous years the following amounts have been paid:

Five months, 1911.....	\$ 2,158.45
1912.....	9,376.23
1913.....	10,354.77
1914.....	11,224.92
1915.....	12,179.93

Grand total to date.....\$46,199.96

The company has now 220 shareholders. The annual meeting will be held at the courthouse, Feb. 16. A ballot is furnished each shareholder containing names of all the stock-holders. Each shareholder expresses his choice for five directors. The annual meeting then elects the board of directors from the ten names having the largest number of nominating votes.

It is possible that the matter of providing more land for the growing business will be taken up at the meeting.

—Misses Mabel and Hattie Holmdahl entertained the clerks of the Co-operative store last Tuesday evening. Music and games furnished the chief amusement. At a late hour delicious refreshments were served.

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HOG LUND HARDWARE

When in need of Hardware, Paints, Oils or Glass, remember that August Hoglund has it on hand, and he will make you attractive prices. Now located on Third Street. Telephone 103.

Divide Horse Bounty.

In the application for the \$200 bounty for capturing a horse thief, James Corbett, near Milan last October, Judge Gysle apportioned the amount as follows: E. W. Rohlen, \$45; C. A. Bystrom, \$35; R. J. Avelsgard, Oliver Haugland, Geo. R. Blom, each \$30.—Swift County Review.

ROSELILLIAN.

Rosellilian, Jan. 17.—Aron Hawkinsson, his last sermon at the Fabian Baptist church a week ago last Sunday and a large crowd attended.

Arthur Eastman of Grove Lake made a business trip to Olivia Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Renstrom and family visited at the Mats Renstrom home Sunday evening.

Miss Freda Johnson is staying with Fred Larson at Willmar, where she underwent an operation at the Willmar hospital Saturday.

Mr. Andrew Larson left for Grove City last week to attend a Y. P. convention.

Mrs. Oscar Knutson who has been seriously ill is reported to be around again.

Melvin Root who is employed at the O. & J. Johnson Machine Works at Willmar is spending his vacation at the C. Holmgren home here.

The Person Bros. of Tomkins, Can., who have been visiting with the R. P. Johnson family left for Willmar Saturday.

Alex Hed of Willmar is spending his vacation at his parental home here.

Henry Aaspaas spent Sunday at the Ole Blomquist home at the city.

Peter Hanson is reported to be on the sick list at this writing.

Ralph Tatting called at the E. G. Blum home Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Erickson and Fred Johnson walked to Kandiyohi lake one day last week.

No school was held in Dist. 88 Wednesday and Thursday on account of the stormy weather.

L. J. Peterson and son, Oscar were seen at Olivia Saturday afternoon.

Ed. Johnson assisted his brother, Albert with some work last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Erickson have moved into their new residence.

Mabel Lundquist visited at the Gust Ericson home Sunday.

Erick Nylin who has been making his home at Dodge, N. D., the past summer is visiting with the E. Rose family here at present.

Victor Hed was a Sves caller last Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Julius visited at the Ole Tatting home Thursday evening.

Mrs. S. D. Anderson of New London returned to her home at that village the middle of the week, after visiting for a couple of days with relatives in this city.

Judge C. W. Stanton of Bemidji is prominently mentioned as a candidate for governor on the Democratic ticket.

KANDIYOHI COUNTY BANK

ANDREW LARSON, Pres.
F. E. HONG, Cashier

Organized 1879
Charter No. 43

Second Oldest
STATE BANK
in
MINNESOTA
Capital \$100,000

Surplus \$20,000

Profits \$15,000

Banking in All
Its
Branches

We Welcome
Your Business

Directors
Andrew Larson L. O. Thorpe
G. N. Tallman
J. F. Johnson J. G. Estrom

Glasses Fitted

Broken lenses replaced—frames repaired.
First class optical work guaranteed.

G. S. ANDERSON
Eyeglass Optician, with
Anderson Bros. & Co.

Johnson-Carter.

It will be news to many friends in this county to learn of the marriage of Miss Augusta Johnson, the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Johnson of Willmar, which occurred during Christmas at Pomeroy, Washington, where Miss Johnson has been employed for the past two years as teacher.

The lucky young man is Clyde Carter, a young farmer in the Pomeroy neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter have the best wishes of the bride's many friends in Minnesota.

"Osseo" Program.

The Osseo Literary Society of the Willmar Seminary will give the following program at the Seminary Friday evening, Jan. 21, at 8:15 o'clock.

Recitation.....Miss Nellie Olwin
Vocal solo.....Miss Armeta Swanson
"The Twister".....Miss Ella Samington
Song.....School Chorus
Duet.....Arthur Wilcken
Violin solo.....
"The Proposal Under Difficulties," a one act comedy.
Piano solo.....Miss Ella Samington
Admission 15 cents.

Entertain at Dinner.

Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Peterson, 2532 Pillsbury avenue, gave a dinner Saturday evening at their home in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Percy Watson of Pen City, Shantung, China. The guests were all former Carleton college friends and included Governor and Mrs. J. A. A. Burnquist, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell E. Jepson, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Tomlin, Paul, and Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Challmon. Dr. and Mrs. Watson will leave Monday, Jan. 31, for San Francisco, and will stay Saturday, Feb. 5, for China.—Minneapolis Journal.

Not Drugs or Surgery

Net Osteopathy or Massage

LEWIS E. COSS, D. C.

Doctor of Chiropractic

Graduate of the Palmer School of Chiropractic

Member of U. C. A. Member of M. C. A.

Offices—Rooms 9-10-11-12, Loney Block, 9th St.
Phone 630 :: Residence 238 L.

This new science corrects the cause of acute and chronic disease.

A true osteopathic theory reveals the cause of your disease.

Majestic Theatre

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

MATINEE EVERY DAY

4 P. M.

Except Saturdays when Matinee starts at 3:15. Evening Shows Hereafter Start at 7:15 Sharp with Continuous Performance Until 10:30. . .

KANDIYOHI COUNTY BANK

ANDREW LARSON, Pres.
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G. S. ANDERSON
Eyeglass Optician, with
Anderson Bros. & Co.

Johnson-Carter.

It will be news to many friends in this county to learn of the marriage of Miss Augusta Johnson, the oldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Isaac Johnson of Willmar, which occurred during Christmas at Pomeroy, Washington, where Miss Johnson has been employed for the past two years as teacher.

The lucky young man is Clyde Carter, a young farmer in the Pomeroy neighborhood.

Mr. and Mrs. Carter have the best wishes of the bride's many friends in Minnesota.

"Osseo" Program.

The Osseo Literary Society of the Willmar Seminary will give the following program at the Seminary Friday evening, Jan. 21, at 8:15 o'clock.

Recitation.....Miss Nellie Olwin
Vocal solo.....Miss Armeta Swanson
"The Twister".....Miss Ella Samington
Song.....School Chorus
Duet.....Arthur Wilcken
Violin solo.....
"The Proposal Under Difficulties," a one act comedy.
Piano solo.....Miss Ella Samington
Admission 15 cents.

Entertain at Dinner.

Dr. and Mrs. J. R. Peterson, 2532 Pillsbury avenue, gave a dinner Saturday evening at their home in honor of Dr. and Mrs. Percy Watson of Pen City, Shantung, China. The guests were all former Carleton college friends and included Governor and Mrs. J. A. A. Burnquist, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell E. Jepson, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Tomlin, Paul, and Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Challmon. Dr. and Mrs. Watson will leave Monday, Jan. 31, for San Francisco, and will stay Saturday, Feb. 5, for China.—Minneapolis Journal.

Not Drugs or Surgery

Net Osteopathy or Massage

LEWIS E. COSS, D. C.

Doctor of Chiropractic

Graduate of the Palmer School of Chiropractic

Member of U. C. A. Member of M. C. A.

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H. E. CANFIELD, M. D.

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THE WILLMAR HOSPITAL

Conducted by Dr. B. J. Branton

OFFICE HOURS:
1 to 4 p. m.; 7 to 8 p. m.
Sundays, 12 m. to 1 p. m.

Strictly Modern

Special Maternity Facilities

The Willmar Hospital
Calling Hours: 2 to 4 p. m.
For the Treatment of All Non-Contagious Diseases.
Corner Becker Ave. and Fourth St.

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