

WILLMAR TRIBUNE

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PRISONERS FAILED IN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE FROM COUNTY JAIL

Bank Robber and Auto Thief Saw Plate, Bind Sheriff's Wife in Short Lived Endeavor To Make Their Escape

FIRE WHISTLE SUMMONS CITIZENS FOR POSSE

Runaways Surrender to Priest After Return From Hasty Flight to Stock Yards. Are Escorted to Jail by the Clergyman

After months of secret plotting and nights of laborious work, on the part of the first mentioned, Mike Nelsonovitch, auto thief, and H. E. Wheeler, bank bandit, staged a rather sensational escape from the County Jail Saturday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock causing quite a stir in the city. While Sheriff Peter Bonde and his Deputy, Olson, were at Grove City, and other parts of the county, serving jury notices, and the jail was in sole charge of Mrs. Bonde, the inmates made their futile venture to leave both the jail and the city for freedom.

Mike is a typical criminal and one well versed in the ingenious methods used by such men to attempt an escape. He appeared and confessed to be the leader and the "brains" of the escape. The three inmates beside him in the cells declared that Mike had made it known to them his intention to escape at any price and were generally afraid of him and were held in silence by his desperate attitude.

Mike has been in the jail since last November when he was apprehended at St. Paul for the theft of an automobile belonging to Carl J. Iverson of Atwater. He was examined there, and turned over to Sheriff Bonde for confinement in the County Jail at Willmar.

Henry E. Wheeler is the bank bandit who entered the Farmers State Bank at Kandiyohi two weeks ago, locked the cashier and assistant in the vault, escaped with \$900 and was caught at Benson after hitting four cars at points along his course Northwest thru the county.

Two Attempts Fail

Mike no sooner found himself in the jail than his wits were at work overtime trying to devise some means of escape. His foresight had solved the problem of securing tools. Before he determined to steal the Iverson car at Atwater he had purchased at Breckenridge six hack saws of three inch lengths and by the use of adhesive plaster fastened them to the bottom of his feet. In the examination the inspectors failed to inspect his feet. Sheriff Bonde accepted the man into the jail with the understanding that the examination had been thorough. Once inside the bars Mike worked nights to work on them. He spent the greater part of December making three cuts after which he abandoned the job as impossible. The bars are 2 1/2 inches in width and 1/2 inch in thickness and made of the best steel. He sawed loose one piece about four inches in length and had replaced it so it would not be detected with butter and sugar smoothed over the crevices.

Tries Tunnel Method

Last Monday Mike's attention had been strongly attracted to a metal plate near the West wall of the cell and noticed that it had been bolted on as a patch. Using his hack saw he cut the bolts, lifted the plate, and discovered an opening beneath. He crawled down and decided to dig a tunnel Southward a distance of about fifteen feet to the foundation, dig thru that barrier and make a quiet escape some night. As an excavating tool Mike used a piece of steel from the bed and used a pillow case as a carrier for the soil. To provide light he secretly saved all the butter he could get, placed it in a cut off tobacco can, placed a twisted rag strip into it for a wick, lit it, and had sufficient illumination to work during the dark hours. For three nights he worked industriously until on Friday he overheard with disappointment that the plumbers would come into the cell on Saturday to do some repair work. Mike feared that his work on the

plate would be discovered and the tunnel located. To provide against this he secured, down in the dark hollow below, a cement foundation block which he tied to the plate as a weight so that if touched by the plumbers above it would be held steady and in its place.

Tries Third Method

Mike had arrived at the foundation, had dug two feet into the five feet thickness when he decided that he must try something else before the plumbers arrive. He then hit upon the idea to excavate under the wall of the cell and under the cement floor of the West corridor outside. This distance is about four feet and took him a short time. Once underneath the corridor floor, which is made of square cement blocks, he succeeded in knocking one loose giving him sufficient opening to crawl up into the corridor.

Then he invited Wheeler to prepare to escape. Once out in the corridor the next move was to open the double doors of the jail room proper. Here they decided to involve Mrs. Bonde, the Sheriff's wife, who was alone in the jail on Saturday afternoon. Wheeler sat on a chair within the cell where he could be plainly seen by Mrs. Bonde thru the barred opening in the second of the two doors. Mike crawled thru the floors and opened one of the windows very wide, struck a water pipe which leads up to the Bonde rooms, several taps to call Mrs. Bonde down, and then hid in a corner awaiting her appearance.

Mrs. Bonde Gagged and Bound

Mrs. Bonde about three o'clock heard the rattling noise on the water pipe and immediately went down to inquire what they wanted. She opened the outer door and talked thru the barred opening to Wheeler who sat in the cell. Wheeler asked her to close the window as there was a cold draft in the room, he said. Without suspecting a plot, Mrs. Bonde opened the inner door and walked towards the window. Suddenly Mike sprang at her, grasped her by the head and chin and in a subdued voice commanded her not to scream. The attacked woman struggled and fought as best she could with the repeated words of the criminal in her ears that he would not harm her if she ceased screaming. Finally Wheeler crawled out of the cell by the same route as Mike had and joined his companion. They then tied two handkerchiefs together for a gag and used a necktie to bind her hands behind her back. Mrs. Bonde was carried out into the hall and laid on the floor. A coat was rolled up for a pillow and placed under her head. They then donned their outer wraps. Wheeler used a brush and spent a little time with his toilet while Mike put on a red mackinaw. His hat, which he always wears as he expects apparently to pay only a short visit at every jail, fell off his head in the struggle with Mrs. Bonde. He forgot to recover it and in stead used one hanging on a rack in the hallway. Mrs. Bonde pled with the men to leave

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MOSSBERG RECITAL THURSDAY NIGHT

Noted Baritone Will Sing Tomorrow Evening at Opera House

Joel Mossberg of Chicago, the well known Swedish baritone, will appear in recital tomorrow evening, Thursday, March 10th, at the Opera House before an audience of prospective large proportions. The program contains a generous number of melodies of the North, which will please the many citizens in this county of Swedish extraction. Other numbers are of a dramatic type while still others are of the semi-classical or popular variety. Miss Amy Fridlund of Willmar will accompany Mr. Mossberg on the piano. Tickets have been sold in advance and a large audience is assured. Those who have heard the singer on Edison, Victor and Columbia records, will be eager to hear him in person.

Clarence Gronaski will render a cornet solo during the first intermission and Miss Elvira Redlund will give several readings during the second intermission.

THORPE CREAMERY MAY RE-OPEN SOON

Additional Stock Sold and Interest Revived in Old Creamery

Several meetings have been held during the past few weeks by stockholders and those interested in the reopening of the Thorpe creamery and the result of these meetings is that steps are being rapidly taken to put the creamery on its feet and in operation once more. The creamery plant has not been doing business for several years. Meetings of stockholders and prospective members were held on the 26th of February and on Saturday of last week. At the former meeting a committee was appointed to ascertain the number of cows which could be solicited and depended upon to support the creamery should it resume its business. A committee to sell shares was appointed and reported last Saturday that shares were selling easily. It was also reported that 650 cows had been solicited. A committee composed of Ed Flann, Henry Lobnitz and County Agent Rodegeb was appointed to appraise the building and its equipment.

Wins Third Prize

In the Caleb Dorr prize scholarship oratorical contest of the central school of agriculture, held recently at University Farm, Grace Jonk of Raymond, this county, won third honors in the girls' class and was awarded \$20 in cash. This contest will hereafter be an annual affair at the school of agriculture, having been made possible by the terms of the Will of the late Caleb Dorr, one of the first pioneers of the city of Minneapolis.

The central school of agriculture is a part of the department of agriculture of the University of Minnesota. Its course of study is designed to fit young men and young women to be successful farmers. Two terms of three months each, are spent in school work at University Farm. The student spends the remainder of the year on the farm and receives credit for actual work performed in farm production, home life improvement and community agricultural production projects.

Birthday Social

The Fidelis Society will meet next Monday evening, March 14, at eight o'clock in the church basement for a Birthday Social. Refreshments will be served by Mesdames Victor Fridlund, Clarence Larson, John Engstrom and Misses Anna and Agnes Johnson, Mae and Violet Bjornberg. All members are requested to be present and bring a friend.

County Nurse Visits

During the past two weeks Miss Inga Imsdahl, county nurse, examined pupils of Districts 86, 148, 14N, 15N, 45 and 16S. Kandiyohi school. She made 85 home calls. During these visits she discovered two new tuberculosis cases, and three cripple cases and had three mothers' meetings. She addressed the Ladies Aid in the Mamre Mission church north of Penock.

NELSONOVITCH RECEIVES MAXIMUM OF TEN YEARS

Auto Thief Pled Guilty Before Judge Qvale Monday Afternoon

Mike Nelsonovitch, charged with the theft of an automobile belonging to Carl Iverson of Atwater last November, pled guilty before Judge Qvale of the District Court at the Courthouse Monday afternoon. He had petitioned to appear and admit his guilt. After his futile attempt to escape Saturday he decided that there was no other alternative but plead guilty or wait for the session of the Grand Jury. Mike's testimony showed that he was released from the St. Cloud Reformatory just one year ago. He had been confined there for 26 months for the same offense of which he was convicted here. Judge Qvale sentenced him indeterminate with a maximum of ten years in the state penitentiary at Stillwater, Minn. Sheriff Bonde took Nelsonovitch down on Tuesday.

OBITUARY

MRS. MARIA LAWSON

Mrs. Maria Lawson, widow of the late C. M. Lawson of New London, passed away at her home at New London last Sunday afternoon at one thirty o'clock at the age of over eighty-three years. The cause of death was weakness following an attack of pneumonia.

Mother Lawson, whose maiden name was Lindstrom, was born near Ronneby, Blekinge, Sweden, Nov. 9, 1837. Her folks, as well as those of her husband, Carl Magnus Lawson, were among the very early Swedish immigrants coming to the State of Illinois in the early fifties. They lived at Cordova and Moline until 1883, when they moved to Paxton, where the Augustana College and Seminary had been located under the direction of Dr. T. N. Hasselquist. The humble home of the Lawsons was located on "College Hill" near the school, and all the students of that period, now the surviving elders



The late Mother Lawson

of the clergy of the Augustana Synod, were familiar to the members of the family. In 1880 the family moved to New London where they located on some school land near the village. Ten years later they moved to a home in the village, where the deceased has lived the last thirty years of her life. Her husband died in 1916. Mrs. Lawson has been cared for by her daughter Dora during the declining years.

Mother Lawson was the mother of fourteen children, most of whom died in infancy. Four of these children and a foster-son survive, vs: Mrs. Carrie Swenson of Willmar, Thomas J. Lawson, and Miss Theodora Lawson of New London, Victor E. Lawson and Eben E. Lawson of Willmar. There are a number of grand children and great grand children.

Mrs. Lawson was one of the few survivors of the very earliest members of the Augustana Synod of the Lutheran church, and has taken an active interest in its work during the sixty years. As an instance of her interest may be mentioned that she had saved every copy of the church paper from the first number and had them in bound form in her library, wherein she could at any time revive her memories of the past. She was a devoted Christian who tried to live according to the precepts of the Master.

The funeral takes place next Friday afternoon at the Lebanon Lutheran church at New London at three o'clock, Rev. A. F. Almer to officiate.

LEGION QUINT TO PLAY LAST GAME

Fourth Game With Benson Here Friday. Locals Will Finish With Flash

The basketball season for the Legion five will wind up Friday evening here in the H. S. gym when Benson will again be played for the fourth time. Willmar was defeated at Benson Monday night.

As this is the last number on the Legion indoor athletic program the quint will endeavor to make a brilliant adieu and hold Benson. Playing up to form this is possible, local fans believe. Willmar will have her regular lineup. Fans should come out and assist in tacking down a win.

DISTRICT FUTURITY SHOW AT COUNTY FAIR

The Kandiyohi County Fair Association have made arrangements with the National Duroc Jersey Record Association to put on a District Futurity Show at the county fair and that in order to get this thing not less than ten persons raising pure bred registered Duroc Jerseys must nominate their herds and those that will conform with the rules and regulations required by the National Association can compete for the prizes which are \$17, 1st prize, \$15, 2nd prize, \$12, 3d prize \$10, 4th prize, \$8, 5th prize and \$5.50 6th prize. Place for spring pig of either sex for litter of 4-\$25 for 1st place, \$20 for 2d place, \$17 for 3d place, \$15 for fourth place and \$13 for fifth place. For further information write John Swenson, Willmar, Minn., Rt. 4.

TWO CULLING DEMONSTRATIONS BY "U" EXPERT

Oscar Quam and M. N. Hegland Farms are Places for Meetings

Two poultry culling demonstrations will be conducted Saturday, March 12th, by an expert from the University at two places in the northern part of the county. In the forenoon all interested in poultry culling are invited to Oscar Quam's farm about a mile north of New London and in the afternoon a similar demonstration will be held on the M. N. Hegland farm in the northwestern corner of Burbank township.

Reception at Mission Church

A reception was given Monday evening at the Swedish Mission church in honor of the Revs. B. W. and E. T. Clover and Elmer Johnson, evangelists.

The Revs. B. W. Clover and Elmer Johnson spent Monday in this city while enroute from Strandburg, S. D., to Minneapolis.

Rev. E. F. Clover has held meetings at Fahlun and is now conducting meetings at Lake Elizabeth.

A pleasing program was given presided over by Hildar Hoagland, Piano duet, Mrs. Erick Ekljer and Mrs. L. H. Landberg; Vocal duet, Adeline and Austin Sundberg; two songs by the choir; vocal duet, Esther Nicholson and Esther Larson; Solo, L. H. Landberg. Rev. G. N. Tegnell gave a talk, to which the guests of honor responded fittingly. A gathering of about three hundred friends attended.

Lunch was served by the Young People of the Mission church, after which a social time was enjoyed.

Women Book Picture

The League of Women Voters of this city have arranged for the regular performances at the Dreamland Theatre Saturday afternoon and evening, March 12th. They have booked the popular and educative film, "Alice in Wonderland." The matinee should be attended by children as it will be found to be of value to them.

Entertains at Dinner Party

Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Larson were the guests of honor at a dinner party given Sunday evening by Miss Amanda Erickson at her home on Third St. W. A social evening was enjoyed. The guests numbered twelve.

FINDS NORWAY IN ECONOMIC TROUBLES AS U. S.

N. G. Nelson Returns To Willmar After Long Visit In the Homeland

N. G. Nelson returned to Willmar last Saturday after a nine months sojourn in Norway where his family, which accompanied him, will remain for a continued stay until June.

Mr. Nelson spent much time in touring this "land of the Midnight Sun," viewing the scenic features and visiting various noted institutions. He attending a session of the "Storting," or Norwegian Congress but found the chamber only partially occupied by its members as even politics and government are lacking in interest. Business depression is found there as here. Unemployment is nationwide and there is no market for home products. Politically Norway has had a hard time of it and the Socialist majority is losing its control. Abnormal times have discredited the Socialist party.

Mr. Nelson is the senior member of the Nelson Bros. Laundry firm of Willmar.

TOWN MEETINGS HELD YESTERDAY

Spicer Votes for Pool Halls and Kerkhoven Against Them

Yesterday was town meeting day in the various villages and townships of the county. As a rule, there were no contests, and the large appropriation item was the road and bridge fund. The village of Spicer voted in favor of licensing pool halls, ayes 43, noes 32. Kerkhoven village abolished pool halls by a vote of 144 to 108. In Mamre the town caucus substituted two names for each position to be filled at the election. A complete report of the officers elected in the county will appear in our next issue.

PLEASED WITH SINGING OF ST. OLAF CHOIR

The choir sings exceptionally. The voices are beautiful in their freedom of emission, their roundness and their purity. * * * And these voices are admirably trained. They are true as a bell and they respond with the same certainty, exactness and clarity. The tone is capable of finest gradations ranging from ringing forte to an exquisitely soft piano, and the soft tone is ever just as pure, just as true as is the loud. The voices blend perfectly thus making the tonal mass invariably a delight.

Musically and interpretatively, too, the choir stands on high level. The diction is such that every word is clearly and easily intelligible, and in the handling of either massed harmonies or in the weaving of polyphonic lines the singers do exceptional work. * * *

Chicago Tribune, Tuesday, April 6th. By W. L. HUBBARD.

Birthday and Farewell Party

Last Thursday at the Jonicks residence occurred a combined birthday and farewell party. Honor was done to Mrs. J. W. Frye, whose birthday was observed, and also Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Ladwig, who have moved to Michigan, N. D. Those present were: Mr. and Mrs. Peter E. Frye, Mr. and Mrs. C. N. Frye, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Ladwig, Miss Lena Grabmeyer, Mr. John Roget. There was music by C. N. Frye and Mrs. Jonicks. A splendid dinner was served by Mrs. Jonicks who is a daughter of Mrs. J. W. Frye.

Baptist Church Mission Circle

The Mission circle of the Baptist church will meet in the church Thursday, March 10, at 2:30 P. M. Lunch will be served after the program by Mrs. Emil Carlson, Mrs. Elmer Peterson and Mrs. C. F. Olson. There will also be a candy sale. Welcome.

Fine Land Office

Solon L. Benton is now nicely located in his new quarters on Litchfield Ave. next to the Standard Oil Service Station. This location Mr. Benton recently bought and has had the interior remodeled and painted in a most nifty and tasteful manner.

Dance March 17

The auxiliary of the Ancient Order of Hibernians will give a dance at the Masonic Building on St. Patrick's Day, Mar. 17. Dancing will begin at 9:00 o'clock p. m.

BUFFALO TAKES DISTRICT TITLE

Willmar Gambly Loses Hard Fight. Two Point Margin Wins

Battling in earnest to hold back the offense of the Buffalo High School quint the local five went down to a hard defeat Thursday night at the Willmar gymnasium. Buffalo, frankly speaking, outclassed the locals both in defensive and offensive play. With Kipp and Leonard as pivots the Buffalo men whirled about the floor displaying some good passing work. They encountered an equal degree of difficulty in shooting with Willmar which suppressed the score to the low figure of 9-7 in Buffalo's favor. Kipp, without counter argument, was easily the ablest man on the floor. His clean and fast style interested all.

For Willmar Grace played a good game but was exiled from the fray on personal fouls in the first part of the last period. He was replaced by Sandin, who brot in fresh spirit but not sufficient to stem the tide of defeat which inevitably was coming on. Linn and Westgard played stellar roles again standing as impassable obstacles at times to Kipp, Price and Leonard.

Buffalo's guards blocked well. It was apparent that the Buffalo boys had in mind to protect their basket most carefully. Repeatedly they duplicated the Westgard-Linn work.

Larson played a good game as did also Johnson. The latter however was closely guarded and secured but one basket. Grace made one basket and two free throws, Sandin a free throw and Johnson and Larson each one basket. Score 7.

For Buffalo Kipp, Price and Leonard caged one basket each while Kipp shot 3 fouls. Score 8.

Fouls—Willmar, Grace, 4 personals, Johnson one personal, Larson one personal, Linn 2 personals and one technical, Sandin one technical. Buffalo: Kipp, 2 personals, and one technical, Price one technical, Leonard one personal and Stark one personal.

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|---------|
| Willmar | Pos | Buffalo |
| Grace | RF | Kipp |
| Johnson | LF | Price |
| Larson | C | Leonard |
| Linn | RG | Bredt |
| Westgard | LG | Stark |
| Sandin for Grace. | | |

High School Defeated

The Hanscom Legion five defeated the W. H. S. quint Tuesday evening. The Willmar-St. Cloud game had been cancelled and the above was substituted. The final score was 45-25. Johnson and Grace did the best work for the Highs while "Abbie" and "Seve" rolled up the points for the Legionaires. This was the last game for the H. S. and Coach Trebilcock sent in his subs to enjoy a real game before the season closed. The legion used its regular lineup during the last half while during the first half the following was the lineup: Nelson and Roy Christian, forwards; Boese, center, and Bob Johnson and Hartwick, guards.

Benson Wins

Benson and Appleton finally settled their quarrels for the District championship here last Friday evening in a game which clearly showed the edge the Benson Legion had over its opponents. The outcome of the game was 25-10. During the second period Benson outclassed and outplayed Appleton in every phase of the sport. Excellent passing and snoring shooting held Appleton helpless.

A special train from Appleton arrived at 7:15 p. m. with hundreds of rooters. Willmar fans were not permitted seats or space in the gym until the visitors had been provided for. Quite a number were unable to get in.

The Womens Civic Club

The Womens Civic Club will meet at the Odd Fellows Hall Friday evening at 7:45 P. M. The program will contain the following numbers: A piano duet by Mrs. Geo. Robinson and Miss Robbins, a song by Mrs. Walter Hackett, a reading by Miss Elvira Redlund, a talk on Home Economics by Miss Julian D. Newton of the State University and a song by the Young Ladies Octette. It is urged that all club members be present and a cordial invitation is extended to all other women of the city to attend the meeting. Admission free.