

# Abilene Weekly Reflector.

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ABILENE, KANSAS, THURSDAY MORNING, OCTOBER 24, 1907.

NO. 7.

## Special Notice

Owing to the increased cost of paper and changes in postal rules the WEEKLY REFLECTOR will be sent at the following rates after January 1, 1908:

To subscribers INSIDE DICKINSON COUNTY, \$1.00 a year if paid strictly in advance or within the year; \$1.25 a year if not paid in advance.

To subscribers receiving mail OUTSIDE DICKINSON COUNTY, within the United States, \$1.50 a year in advance.

To subscribers in Canada and foreign countries \$2.50 a year in advance.

## Special Notice

Subscribers outside the county may, until January 1, 1908, renew their subscriptions for as long a period as they wish in advance of that date at \$1.00 a year. This offer is also open to new subscribers. After that date all outside subscriptions will be on a basis of \$1.50 a year. Subscriptions in foreign countries and Canada will be taken until January 1, 1908, at \$2.00 a year and may be paid as far in advance as desired.

## Morkinson's Slayer Guilty of Murder

TOPEKA, Oct. 22.—At 4:10 Monday afternoon, after two hours and 20 minutes deliberation, the jury in the case of the state against Wilbur Van Horn, charged with the murder of William Morkinson of Hope, Kas., on the morning of June 19, brought in a verdict of "murder in the first degree." The verdict was a surprise to many people who heard the instruc-

tions of the court, and to the defendant, who seemed to confidently expect acquittal. Motion for a new trial will be filed by Lynch and Humphrey, attorneys for the defendant within a short time.

Morkinson was a tree salesman and was found dead near the U. P. track west of Topeka last spring.

## IS IT ONLY A DREAM? Yankton Railroad Getting Farther and Farther Away.

The Clay Center Times puts forth this theory: Work on the Yankton, Wichita & Houston railroad is being done further and further away from this part of the country all the time. In spite of all the work done and the rich flash of color given by the surveys and blue prints, the scheme never seemed bona fide. These days when big projects of that kind are undertaken it is given out fairly and

squarely who are behind them. Coming into a community and demanding a hand-out on faith alone does not go in this town, besides, first of all, does Clay Center want the road, anyway?

**Salina 24, Herington 0.**  
SALINA, Oct. 19.—In a football game here Friday afternoon, the Salina high school team defeated the Herington high school team by a score of 24 to 0. It was the first game of the season here and the attendance was large.

Wanted, dish washer at 'acidic hotel. 27-tac-1f

## "WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT IT?"



## Story of Abilene's Once Wireless Paper

The troubles of the newspapers during the telegraphers' strike, recall the days of the old Gazette when G. W. C. Rohrer, Dick Colver, G. Y. Benjamin and W. J. Winfield, with a number of local writers, issued a morning associated press paper the only one between Topeka and Denver. The paper played in hard luck when the boom fizzled out and one dark night the associated press refused to furnish any more news without cash in advance. Then it was that the staff became really interested. The Cincinnati Enquirer was devoting a great deal of attention to horrible crimes committed in the feud belt of Kentucky and Tennessee and McCullough's Globe Democrat was over-loaded with snake stories and hunting yarns.

With paste-pot and scissors the force worked on the front page and the next morning's Gazette had an array of telegraph news that was unsurpassed anywhere on earth. The dates and places had been changed and all was brought up to a few hours before going to press. Every paper in Kansas was scooped on a dozen big items.

Thereafter no difficulty was found with the telegraph news. All sorts

of high crimes and misdemeanors were dished up under dazzling headlines and a gentle shower was good for a column of special dispatches written in the office. Only once did the paper miss fire. Colver did not know oats from mint juleps and in the middle of January he printed a home-made dispatch from Hope telling how the farmers were busy putting in their oats crop. That brought in some indignant denials but it did not worry Dick any. Soon after the daily was moved to Salina and later suspended publication.

Rohrer is running a hotel in Anadarko, Okla.; Colver died after a meteoric career on the Pacific coast. His last leap into fame was when he organized on paper a revolution that was to make a separate country of Old California. Benjamin went back to Kentucky and died. Today we received a card from Rochester, N. Y., bearing W. J. Winfield's picture and bemoaning him for alderman. Good for Win—the REFLECTOR hopes he will be elected by 'steven thousand majority.

The bank that financed the paper failed but the remembrance of the boom day journalism remains with all the old-timers as one of the interesting experiences of the town's life.

## TRUST COMPANY CLOSES.

### Big New York Financial House Gets Into Trouble.

The local commission house on the Christie wire reports a run on the Knickerbocker Trust Co. of 68 Broadway, New York City, one of the oldest banking houses in New York. The state bank examiner found the institution in bad shape and later closed their doors.

Moyer & Co. have also failed today. The stock market made new low records today but closing prices showed a substantial advance from these low figures.

It is rumored that the U. S. treasury department is pouring money into New York as fast as possible.

## Automobile News.

Emmett Hoffman made the run from Salina to Abilene on rough roads in an hour and fifteen minutes Wednesday. Pretty fast running even on smooth roads.

Dr. Singer of Detroit, Mich., passed through here this week on his way to Pueblo, Colo. He ran a Ford runabout. Model S.

Paul Jolley is working in the garage.

One of the attractions at a big racing meet being held at Kansas City today is the racing car "Whistling Billie" owned by the White Steamer Co. "Whistling Billie" holds the world's record of the fastest mile on a circular track, made in 48 3/5 seconds. Ray Picking will start to work in the garage.

The Union Electric Co. has just installed a compressed air plant and other new machinery in their garage. Most of the motorists who pass through here on long distance trips stop at the Garage for gasoline and to tell of their experiences on the road.

Dr. Ed. Makins and J. S. Huff had a narrow escape yesterday while riding in the latter's runabout. Near J. J. Kugler's farm northeast of town, the auto ran over a dog and the machine turned sidewise and went into the ditch bursting two tires and bending the front axle. Both the occupants were thrown out, Dr. Makins spraining a wrist. However, Ed and Jerry think they got off mighty luckily, considering.

A carload of Maxwell runabouts for the Riverside Light & Power Co. arrived from Kansas City.

## County Teachers' Examination.

There will be a regular examination of applicants for teachers' certificates in the county superintendent's office Friday and Saturday, October 25 and 26, 1907, commencing at 8 a. m. each day. E. S. McCowan, 40-State County Superintendent.

## HOT BOX CAUSED EXPLOSION

### Sparks, Result of Friction, Ignited Powder at Fontanet.

Thirty-eight Have Died and 50 Are Seriously Injured—Property Loss \$750,000.

Fontanet, Ind., Oct. 17.—Thirty-eight lives snuffed out, 600 injured, of which number 50 were seriously hurt, and a property loss of approximately \$750,000 is the latest estimate of the destruction wrought by the explosion at the Dupont powder mills Tuesday morning. From a workman employed in the glazing mill it was learned that a "hot-box" which was caused by too much friction on the shafting causing sparks to be transmitted to some loose powder, was in all probability the cause of the terrible catastrophe. The employe whose name is William Sherrow and who is dangerously hurt as the result of the explosion said: "The explosion was caused by loose boxing on the shaft. The day before this terrible explosion happened, we had to throw water on it when it became too hot. This time it got too hot and sent off the sparks that caused the explosion."

Another company of state militia arrived from Indianapolis Wednesday evening and immediately went into camp. The town is now under martial law, the two companies of state troops being in full control. Coroner Leavitt of Vigo county spent the entire day in investigating the cause of the accident. The coroner declares that it is his opinion that not more than 20 men were at work at the time the explosion occurred. He said that in an explosion of the intensity of this one, it was probable that a number of persons might be blown to atoms and their bodies never recovered. The injured at this place and Terre Haute are getting along nicely and it is thought no more deaths will occur.

## Planning to Welcome the Fleet.

Washington, Oct. 17.—The citizens of California, particularly of San Francisco, are making ready to give a royal reception to the great battleship fleet when it passes in the Golden Gate next spring. A general committee on entertainment and reception has been formed, comprising every one of the mercantile organizations of the city and coast and with an adequate supply of funds to defray the cost of entertainment. It is said that Franciscans will extend to Admiral Evans' fleet such a welcome as has never been known in naval history except upon the return to America of Admiral Dewey's flagship fresh from the Philippine campaign.

## Slave Adams to Go to Trial.

Raidrum, Md., Oct. 17.—C. L. Hellman, attorney for Slave Adams, asked Wednesday that Adams' trial for the murder of James Tyler be carried over to the next term as Clarence Darrow, the leading attorney for the defense is also in the Pettibone case which is set for October 28. After such argument Judge Woods set Wednesday October 23 as the date for the Adams trial.

## Dickinson Woman Is Suing for a Fortune

Mrs. J. W. Brown, living northeast of the city, is one of the heirs to the Rohrbaugh estate at Ottawa and may receive a fortune out of it. It is reported from Ottawa that the brothers and nieces are to bring suits to set aside the will and claim the property by right of inheritance.

Colonel Rohrbaugh, a Pennsylvania Dutchman, came to Ottawa thirty years ago, with nothing. He died last summer, worth approximately \$200,000. He built the town opera house—one of the finest in the west, and had a large number of handsome brick business blocks in the city. Prior to his death he had given \$20,000 to the construction of the new M. E. church in Ottawa. He had always been a large contributor to the church.

His will, made in 1903, made extensive bequests of real estate and other property to the First M. E. church of Ottawa, to Bethany hospital, Kansas City, Kas., and to Baker University at Baldwin. Mr. Rohrbaugh had for years made his home with the family of his deceased wife's sister, Mrs. E. P. Hubbard. He left no direct heirs. Members of the Ottawa church,

charging that Mr. Rohrbaugh was being unduly influenced to part with his property and that his estate was being dissipated, brought proceedings in February to have a guardian appointed for him. No verdict was reached by the jury, but immediately after the filing of the proceedings, Mr. Rohrbaugh deeded all his property to members of Mrs. Hubbard's family.

Action to set aside the first of these deeds was tried at Iola on change of venue from this county—District Judge Smart being the executor of the Rohrbaugh will—last week, and is now in the jury's hands. A long list of similar actions is pending. The actions are based on the claim that Mr. Rohrbaugh was of unsound mind, and was improperly influenced.

It is now reported that nieces of Mr. Rohrbaugh who live in western Kansas, and that other relatives in Pennsylvania, none of whom was remembered in the will, have employed counsel and are only awaiting the outcome of the present litigation to bring proceedings to set aside the will and claim the entire property.

## Texas a Wonder Says Dickinsonians

The excursionists who went with C. A. Scherer to the Panhandle were surprised at the progress being made. They say that Hurley, Bailey county, is truly the goal of the homeseeker. Bailey county is yet unorganized. Hurley, the prospective county seat, is situated in a most beautiful country with miles and miles of fine land surrounding it. Children Land Co., of Kansas City are the agents for thousands of acres of choice land which they are offering cheap. Hurley has a large hotel, fine store building, a fine church building in course of erection, a good school building, livy barn and lumber yard.

Harry Bricker is nicely located three miles from town on a 400-acre farm, has a fine field of wheat and plenty of roughness for his stock.

Commissioner Scherer has a half section of fine land.

On this last trip W. R. Waring and Louis Gessert of Vine each bought a quarter section, and O. L. Thisher a half section. The Oesterreichs of Woodbine each took an option on quite a large tract. Ed Knoppe of the Hlawatha neighborhood, also took an option on quite a tract of land.

Hurley is to be on the Belan cut-off or extension of the Santa Fe. This line is being extended from Wood-

ward, Okla., to the California main line in New Mexico and is being laid with 85 pound rails. Thousands of men are working on it and when it is completed the California trains will be run that way to save distance and to avoid the mountain climb of eastern Colorado.

The climate of the Hurley country is remarkable for its healthfulness and rich soil. Water is found at 60 feet, windmills run the year round, the water is soft and healthful. There is a complete absence of pneumonia, malaria and tuberculosis; from two to four feet of soil, just as rich and productive as Kansas soil; as much or more rainfall, with the advantage that its twenty-three inches of rainfall are principally in April, May, June, July, August, September and October, months in which rain is most needed for crops.

It is certain that with 100,000 farmers going into the southwest every month here will be a great advance in that section and investments there will be very profitable. The land along the line of the Santa Fe in that section of the state offers the greatest opportunities of today for homeseekers.

Clean old papers 10c per hundred at this office. 5c per bundle.

## NEWS FORECAST FOR WEEK

### Schedule of Events That Will Command Attention.

President's Return—Anti-trust Convention—Balloon Races—Argument in Missouri Ouster Suit.

Washington, Oct. 21.—The return of President Roosevelt to Washington; a great gathering of business and professional men at Chicago to take part in the National Civic Federation's conference on trusts and combinations; the balloon races at St. Louis; the tour of William J. Bryan through New York state; a continuation of the Interstate Commerce commission's hearing in the cases of the Union Pacific and Chicago and Alton railroad cases; arguments of counsel in the cases of prominent insurance officials indicted as a result of the insurance investigation in New York state; the Illinois Central meeting at Chicago; and arguments in the ouster proceedings brought against the Standard Oil company by the state of Missouri, are among the events which promise to have a prominent part in the news of the week.

President Roosevelt will go to Vicksburg immediately after breaking camp at Bear Lake. There he will deliver one of three hot speeches which have been arranged as a part of his homeward journey. He will

speak at Vicksburg on Monday. On Tuesday the president will speak at Hermitage; on Wednesday he will speak at Nashville and from that city he will proceed immediately to Washington.

The conference on trust and combinations to meet in Chicago on Tuesday and continue for three days is expected to be the largest meeting ever held in this country for the purpose of discussing trade combinations.

Mr. Bryan will come to New York as the guest of the New York progressive democratic league. His first speech will be in New York City on Monday.

The suit brought by the state of Missouri to oust the Standard Oil company of doing business in that state will come up in the supreme court at Jefferson City next Friday. The case is to be argued on the report of the special commission which is alleged to have found an illegal combination of the Standard Oil company, the Waters-Pierce Oil company and the Republic Oil company and the exceptions filed by the companies to the report.

They Carry the First Class Mail. Washington, Oct. 18.—By reason of their speed the new Cunarders, the Lusitania and Mauretania will receive from the United States government from \$4,800 to \$6,000 every time they leave New York for carrying first class mail destined to Europe. No contract to this effect is necessary as the rate to be paid 35 cents a pound, is fixed by internal arrangement.