

Polk County Register

Irregularities in Counting Is Allegation of Allen In Demand For Vote Recount

Republican Candidate For Assessor in Recent Election to Contest Meyer's Vote.

COMPLAINT IS FILED IN DEPARTMENT NO. 2 OF POLK CIRCUIT COURT: ILLEGAL THROWING OUT OF BALLOTS IN FOUR PRECINCTS ALLEGED; ELECTION BOARDS "GAVE WAY TO SLEEP," IS CHARGE; LONG, WEARY HOURS RESULT IN MISTAKES IN TABULATION, IS BELIEF OF CONTESTANT.

Alleging that Frank E. Meyer, who was declared elected to the office of county assessor at the recent election, by the county canvassing board, by a majority of three votes, was not legally elected to the office, and that several irregularities exist in the returns as certified by the different election boards which, when legally counted, will show that he has been elected, Arthur R. Allen, of Rickreall, Republican candidate for assessor at the election held on November 5, has begun contest proceedings against Meyer, according to papers filed in department No. 2 of the Polk county circuit court on Monday. The contest is set for hearing on Friday, December 6, at 10 o'clock in the forenoon, before Judge Percy Kelley.

Six Precincts Specified. While the contest, which will be simply a recount, will embrace every precinct in the county on the vote for assessor, the complaint especially designates six precincts in which alleged errors exist in the counting, by reason of the illegal elimination of votes cast in said precincts and further because members of the election boards, wearied by their long vigil in counting, fell asleep and that judges acted in the double capacity of judges, and clerks. Upon these alleged irregularities the grounds for the proposed recount are based.

Three Ballots Thrown Out. The complaint alleges that in Salt Lake precinct three or more ballots were rejected and not counted for the office of assessor, and that, on account thereof, one of the judges took the clerk's place, performing the double office of judge and clerk, which condition was calculated to occasion error.

Entire Board Asleep. In Eola precinct, where the heaviest vote in any one precinct in the county was cast, "your contestant is advised and believes, and in consequence thereof alleges, that the clerks and judges gave way to sleep on account of exhaustion from unreasonable hours of attention to work, and in consequence error was made in the count, and that one of the judges, inspected and counted the votes.

That in a number of precincts your contestant is informed and believes, and therefore alleges, that errors were made in tabulating the votes cast in said precincts for the office of assessor.

One or More Thrown Out. "That in North and South Monmouth precincts one or more ballots were thrown out and not counted for your county officer for the reason that the voter erroneously cast his ballot for president rather than the presidential electors.

"That in South Independence precinct one ballot was not considered, though legally cast, for the reason that the judges held that the voter was not qualified on account of not having resided long enough in the precinct when, as a matter of undisputed fact, the voter had resided in said precinct for more than two weeks and was of lawful age.

"That defendant did not receive a plurality of the legal votes cast at said election but, on the contrary, plaintiff did receive a plurality of said votes, and was duly and legally elected, and is entitled to the office of assessor for said county and state."

Wants Judgment of Court. "Wherefore plaintiff prays judgment of the court declaring plaintiff elected to the office of county assessor, and that the clerk shall issue a certificate to said plaintiff which shall be exclusive evidence of plaintiff's right to hold the said office, and for his costs and disbursements of the contest."

C. L. McNary, of Salem, appears as counsel for Mr. Allen in the proceedings.

Method of Procedure. Inasmuch as the contest only contemplates a recount of the vote on assessor, and no claim of fraud is set up, in the event that the case is held legal by the court, and the various motions liable to be advanced by counsel for Meyer, shall have been disposed of favorably to the plaintiff, the county clerk will be ordered by the court to open the ballot boxes and the count will be made by the court or by some one designated by him, the clerk acting as tallyman. Every ballot cast in the county will be inspected and counted on the office of assessor. Both the plaintiff and the defendant may be represented in person and by counsel, and all objections regarding the counting of alleged illegal ballots, advanced by counsel, must be decided by the court.

Friends Request It. "Regarding a recount of the votes cast for assessor at the recent election, I am doing so at the urgent request of many friends from nearly every

FLOATER FOUND IN WILLAMETTE

BODY OF GERMAN DISCOVERED IN RIVER ON POLK SIDE.

Marion County Official Takes Charge of Remains; Theory of Suicide Is Advanced.

SALEM, Nov. 26.—About 1 o'clock yesterday afternoon a body later identified as that of Daniel Widmer, was found floating in the river, near the west end of the steel bridge. A. E. Clark, a stockman of Lents, made the discovery and communicated with the watchman on the bridge, who in turn advised the police.

Coroner Clough and Chief of Police Hamilton arrived on the scene in a short time and securing a boat, towed the corpse to land, and later had it brought to the morgue, where the remains were viewed by a number of persons. Fred Goldsmith, proprietor of the German bakery, identified them as those of Daniel Widmer. A slight scalp wound was probably received in falling.

Widmer is said to have been in this city but a few weeks, most of which time he has been out of work. Recently he secured a position at the Clover Leaf dairy, which is just over the bridge in Polk county. It is supposed that he was on the way to work at that place when he took a notion to jump off the bridge. No motive is known for the deed.

The body is being held pending advice from relatives in Harrisburg who have been notified. Widmer was about 40 years old and had been in this country for a year, coming to Iowa from Germany, of which country he was a native.

Coroner R. L. Chapman, of Polk county, to whom the case belonged, advised that it has been found on the west bank of the Willamette river, was called up by the Marion county official, but before the former could give directions as to the disposal of the body communication over the long distance phone was interrupted, and was again taken up. Contrary to reports published in the Salem papers, the Polk county official did not "give permission" for the Marion coroner to take charge of the remains.

section of the county," said Mr. Allen yesterday. "The count will be as fair for Mr. Meyer as for myself, as every precinct will be counted, and not the precincts alone where mistakes are known to have been made that would undoubtedly turn the result in my favor. There may be mistakes found in some of the precincts which will place Mr. Meyer further in the lead.

"I hold no animosity toward Mr. Meyer, he is a fine fellow and I have a high regard for him, but that a recount will show a material change in the result as heretofore announced, I have excellent reasons to believe. However, if it shall show Mr. Meyer to have been elected, I will surely congratulate him most heartily. On the other hand, if I have been elected, as shown when the votes are carefully recounted, I certainly am entitled to the office.

Friends Pledge Funds. "Friends have rallied to my support; those who stood for me all through the campaign and others who did not, and have pledged funds to bear the expense of the recount; therefore there is nothing left for me to do but to have a recount, hence my action in filing notice. I will contest only on the grounds of erroneous counting, will set up no charge of fraud nor try to have any precincts thrown out.

According to the information I possess, there have been plenty of mistakes made which require correction before the public will know who really has been elected. In some instances whole ballots were strung without being counted simply because of a technical error of the elector in voting for president. Other instances are known where some of the election board even fell asleep while counting and in some instances became so weary and ill to even perform their duty. If I rightfully am entitled to the office I want to know it, and if Mr. Meyer is the successful candidate that fact should be established."

Cleve Burch returned from Sheridan Saturday.

Launching of the New York; Notables, Sponsor, Flower Girl



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

WHEN the great hull of the super-Dreadnought New York hit the water at the Brooklyn navy yard it made a splash that figuratively was heard around the world. The new warship, which cost over \$6,000,000 as she now stands and will cost \$4,000,000 more to finish in the next year and a half, is the greatest sea fighter in the universe. She is shown just as she struck the water. President Taft, Secretary of the Navy Meyer, Miss Elsie Calder, sponsor for the ship, and her flower girl, little Kathleen Fitzgerald, are also shown, snapped at the launching, which was attended by many notables. The launching was most successful.

DOUBLE ANNIVERSARY POLK PIONEER PASSES

Beautiful New Butz Home Scene of Happy Event; Two Couples Observe Twenty-Fifth Marriage Day.

A veritable house-warming in connection with the celebration of the twenty-fifth wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Butz and Mr. and Mrs. George O. Harshman was a delightful function at the beautiful new Butz home overlooking the city to the south of Dallas, on Friday afternoon and evening, November 22, 140 guests being present.

FOUR SELL HOP CROP

Hop Buy by H. L. Fenton on Monday: Total Expenditure of \$25,000; One of Largest Deals of Season.

Yesterday, through his agent, H. L. Fenton, R. E. Williams, purchased the entire hop crop of a Chinese grower near Independence, consisting of 399 bales, the crops of E. E. Lee, J. E. Dennis and Gates & Campbell of Dallas, the purchases amounting to about \$25,000. The price paid was said to be rather low and the hops of medium quality. The hops were taken for immediate delivery and shipment will be made to a London firm. The deal is considered one of the largest of the season.

FRIENDS FELICITATE COUPLE

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hyster Reminded of Anniversary. The 24th wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Hyster was the signal for a happy gathering on Thursday night, some 25 couples of friends and neighbors calling briefly to remind them of the fact that the day must be observed. The visit of these friends was in the manner of a surprise and the occasion was of an informal nature but none the less pleasant and agreeable to the Hysters as well as the visitors.

THREE SCHOOLS ON STANDARD LIST 2D MONTH

SCHOOL REPORT FOR MONTH ENDING NOVEMBER 1, ISSUED BY COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT SEYMOUR.

FAIRVIEW HEADS THE LIST

Honor Roll in Attendance and Absence of Tardiness Shows Encouraging Record; 102 Visits by School Boards; Best Month's Record for County.

Showing three schools on the standard list: 48 in the roll of honor for having an attendance of 95 per cent or more, and 21 on the honor roll for having no tardiness during the month, and containing also much other valuable information for those interested in the schools. County Superintendent H. C. Seymour has issued his regular monthly report for the month ending November 1, 1912, as follows:

Number of schools reporting correctly and on time, 84. Number of schools not reporting on time, 4. Number of pupils remaining at time of last report, 1353. Number of pupils registered new during month, 84. Number of pupils registered secondary during month, 52. Number of pupils readmitted during month, 105. Total number of pupils on register during month, 2354. Number of pupils dropped during month, 19. Total number of pupils on register at time of this report, 2729. Number of days taught during month, 19. Whole number of days' attendance, 60,476. Whole number of days' absence, 1754. Whole number of times late, 512. Number of pupils neither absent nor tardy, 1623. Average number of pupils belonging, 2770. Average daily attendance, 2677. Per cent of attendance, 96.5. Number of visits by parents, 106. Number of visits by school boards, 102.

Roll of Honor.

The following schools have been placed on the roll of honor for the county for having made a percent of attendance of 95 or more: Zeha, Dallas, Smithfield, Red Prairie, Lewisville, Bullton, Monmouth, Airlie, Bethel, Polk Station, Ward, Porterdale, Fairview, Cochran, Rickreall, Oak Point, Elkins, Independence, Antioch, Buena Vista, Spring Valley, Harmony, Upper Salt Creek, Montgomery, Lincoln, North Dallas, Crowley, McMinnock Valley (100 per cent), Fir Grove, Sunny Slope, Concord, Oak Dale, Lone Star, McCook, Guthrie, Liberty, Falls City, Black Rock, Oakhurst (100 per cent), Pioneer, Cherry Grove, Mountain View, Hopville, Highland, Mistletoe, Valley Junction, Fern, Brush College.

Standard Schools.

The Fairview school, with G. W. Dykstra as teacher and A. Achi, Kirk Scrafford, Peter Nelson, E. E. Hillbrand as school board; the Pioneer school, with Miss Carrie Dahm as teacher and Fred Happe, J. H. Keeler, G. W. Curtis, O. N. Harrington as school board; the West Salem school, with Miss Ruby Roten, Miss Orpha White, as teachers and C. Ruge, George Gosser, George Frazure, F. L. Wood as school board, have become Standard Schools, having won all of the 14 points required.

TO ISSUE PHOTO RECORD

Oregon Power Company Will Produce Book of Photographs Showing Scenes and Buildings in County.

For the purpose of having at their main office a complete panorama of the different cities in which their properties are located, the H. M. Pillsbury company, of Chicago, is having a series of views taken of the cities in which they are interested. These consist of photographs of large size which are bound in book form and which contain all the points of interest, including the public and main business buildings, street views and other interesting data of the cities. The work for Dallas, Independence and Monmouth in which the Oregon Power company operates, is being done by Photographer Stone of this city, under the direction of Manager J. L. White, of the Polk properties. The book will contain between 20 and 40 views and these will be added to from time to time as new buildings are completed. These books are intended for information of the home office and for the use and convenience of possible investors.

LABORER CARVES FOREMAN.

Angered at Discharge, Tom Homer Inflicts Serious Injury. Following his discharge from the "Wig-Rich" ranch, five miles south of Independence, on Monday, Tom Homer, a laborer, is said, engaged in a quarrel with Mr. McDonald, foreman at the ranch, and as a result the latter was seriously cut about the face and body with a knife in the hands of Homer. It is said that Homer at one time left the ranch and his whereabouts are at present unknown. Homer is declared to have fled without bothering to take his belongings, or even his coat. Homer was arrested in Independence last night by Marshal Tupper and, waiting examination before Justice Wilson of that city, was brought to Dallas where he was locked up in the county jail to await the action by the grand jury on a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

BUILD TEMPORARY WALKS.

Prospect of Paving Induces Council to Build Crosswalks of Wood.

The building of wooden crosswalks on Main street at the intersection of Mill, the first of which was put in Monday, has given rise to speculation as to the reason therefor, especially in face of the ordinance which calls for concrete crossings only. In the business section inquiry has elicited the information that the wooden walks were built because of a belief among the members of the city council that it is only a question of a few months until hard surface pavement will be put down on the business streets and the council did not believe in putting the city to the expense of concrete crosswalks which would have to be torn up in a few months.

DALLAS HIGH WINS FROM SALEM

DEFEATS CAPITAL BUSINESS COLLEGE 55 TO 11 IN BASKET BALL.

Local Boys Show Up Strong and Score Baskets at Will; Team Deserves Better Patronage.

Dallas High School basket ball team defeated the Capital Business college five at Salem on Thursday night, in a one-sided contest, 55 to 13. The Dallas club clearly outclassed the Salemites, although the latter was composed of full grown men, while the Dallas five were only high school lads. But they gave a good account of themselves and could have made the score much larger on the side had they so desired. A special train was run over the Salem, Falls City & Western, and about 50 young people took advantage of the opportunity to see the home team in action.

RICKREALL COUPLE MARRIED

Miss Esther Edgar Becomes the Bride of Harry Sherwood.

The marriage of Miss Esther Edgar to Harry Sherwood, both of Rickreall, occurred at high noon yesterday at the home of the bride's parents near Crowley Station. Rev. J. W. Osborn officiating. The wedding was attended by about 40 of the relatives of the contracting parties. Mr. and Mrs. Edgar left immediately after the wedding feast for Portland and Oregon City for a short honeymoon, after which they will be at home in Aurora, Oregon, where Mr. Sherwood is interested in business. The bride is well known in the vicinity of her home as one of the most charming of ladies and is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Edgar, old-time residents of that community.

Surveying Near Eola.

Deputy County Surveyor F. M. Surver, with a crew of men is engaged at present running lines and establishing corners in the Eola hills on some property owned by Mrs. Willie Simon. Mr. Simon is with the party.

IS BAD CHECK ARTIST

Former Dallas Resident Gets Into Trouble in Portland For Passing Alleged Worthless Paper.

W. E. Gilbert, a former resident of Dallas, is in trouble at Portland as a result of the indolent issuance of checks of a worthless nature, according to reports from that city. Mr. Gilbert was in the employ of the Johnson Lumber Co., while here about five years ago and several worthless checks, it is said, are still tucked away in out of the way places as mementoes of the gentleman's carelessness.

According to reports, Mr. Gilbert, who is a broker residing at the Imperial hotel in Portland, on Saturday, wrote a check for \$10,000 on a bank at Woodland, Washington, with which he bought stock in a realty concern. Inquiry at the Woodland bank developed the fact that Gilbert had no money on deposit. As the check had not been cashed the authorities decided to hold him upon the charge of obtaining money under false pretenses for the cashing of a smaller one for \$21 drawn upon the same bank. Portland detectives say that Gilbert has the "check habit" and this assumption is verified by Dallas people who it is reported were misled for small amounts but failed to prosecute the gentleman for some unknown reason. He is out under bail furnished by a Portland judge.

Fred Palmer arrived in Dallas Saturday night from Seattle, to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. I. M. Palmer, who are both in failing health.

CROELTY IS CHARGE IT TWO DIVORCE ACTIONS

COURT OF DEPARTMENT NO. 2 ASKED TO SEVER MARRIAGE VOWS OF MIS-MATED COUPLES.

ONE HAS JOY IN JAGFEST

Fills Up on Firewater and Abuses Spouse, Is Allegation; One Union Has Lasted 24 Years; the Other Survived the Hand of Fate for 22 Months.

The galling marital vows of two mismatched couples will be severed by the circuit court of Polk county if the prayers of the plaintiffs are answered by department No. 2, according to papers filed with the County Clerk last week.

Susie A. Vorphal has begun an action against Lidas W. Vorphal for absolute divorce and such other relief as to the court may seem proper, according to a complaint filed by her attorneys Oscar Hyster and H. H. Belt. The plaintiff and defendant were married in Portland on January 24, 1911 and lived together until August 1, 1911 when the plaintiff left defendant and since has lived apart from him. She alleges that "since their marriage defendant has been guilty of cruel and inhuman treatment and personal abuse and indignities rendering her life burdensome and unhappy, and that defendant is possessed of a violent and ungovernable temper and on frequent occasions has choked, beat and otherwise mistreated plaintiff." Among other things it is alleged that defendant has pointed a loaded revolver at plaintiff and threatened her life all of which has caused plaintiff to leave defendant and live apart from him.

Plaintiff also asks the Court to restore her maiden name, Susie Whitcomb.

Cruelty and Drunkenness. Alleging cruelty and gross and habitual drunkenness and other shortcomings of a reprehensible nature, Cora D. Comstock has begun an action in department No. 2 against Frederick E. Comstock, according to papers filed on Friday by Walter L. Toomey, Jr., counsel for the plaintiff. The complaint states that the couple were married at Dundee, Ore., on May 9, 1888 and that they lived together until Nov. 10, 1912 when defendant left plaintiff. The complaint accuses defendant of "gross drunkenness and a quarrelsome disposition" and states that "defendant has often abused plaintiff and cursed her in the presence of her children and once when a number of friends were at the house." It is also alleged that the "defendant's gross and habitual drunkenness has weakened his mind."

Three children have been born to the union, two of whom are under age, Edna May, aged 14 years and Herman, aged three years. Plaintiff asks Court to give her the custody of the two minor children, alleging that she is competent to care for and educate them, and that the defendant, by reason of his drunkenness and his habitual associates, is entirely unfit to have their custody. She also asks the Court to require defendant to pay to the clerk of the court \$10 per month to assist her in the care and education of the children; "also to add a further sum of \$150 per month, and a still further sum of \$150 to permit her to employ attorneys and for the expense of the suit."

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