

AFTER 56 YEARS A WADENA RESIDENT, A PROGRESS REPORT BY HARALD E. BOEN as reported in the Pioneer Journal of April 18, 1968

CRIME WAS NOT UNCOMMON IN WADENA AREA IN 1906

Crime seems to have been prevalent in 1906, for instance, in direct proportion to the population in this area if the reports that dot the pages of the Pioneer Journal in that year can be taken as a criteria. There were murders, suspected murders and major crimes of lesser degree.

It appears to have been the policy of the PJ editor at that time to report everything in almost tiresome details regardless of its unsavory character. That undoubtedly was prompted by the fact that news as such was relatively scarce and in order to retain its readership the sensational had to be resorted to.

All of this, of course, is purely speculative and the reader will have to be his own judge as to the opinion expressed here. At any rate, we have decided, just for once, to republish here some of these stories that appeared 62 years ago. They do reflect some of the social conditions prevailing at that time, so here they are, selected at random.

April 5, 1906: (Ed. Note) the following story might well have been captioned "Here Comes a Juicy One" used by Editor C. C. Eastman in a later issue of the Pioneer Journal concerning one of those triangle affairs emanating from Leaf River Township.

April 5, 1906: Village Marshall John Naylor has in his possession two letters written by a married woman of Dent, over in Otter Tail county, to her paramour in this city, which are interesting, in as much as they show to what depths human nature will sink under certain circumstances, and to what length a woman will go when swayed by illicit love.

Along in February, a man named John Farley was around this city. He stopped at Klinkner's restaurant, and on two different occasions he was visited by a married woman from Dent. After the woman left for home after her second visit, Farley got drunk. He was accosted one night on the street by Marshal Naylor. During the conversation Farley told the officer that he had been over at Dent working on a murder case. To prove his singular story he took Mr. Naylor into Klinkner's restaurant and produced a package of letters, handing out two for the officer to read.

Evidently Farley in his drunken state, produced the wrong letters. The epistles placed in the hands of Mr. Naylor were from the woman living at Dent. Mr. Naylor read the letters and as they clearly indicated that the woman might soon seek to take the life of her husband so that she would be free to link her fortunes with Farley, Mr. Naylor decided to keep them and take steps to prevent the commission of a great crime. The next day Mr. Naylor showed the letters to Sheriff Irwin and the officers decided to send them to attorney M. J. Daly of Perham and have him act in the matter. This was done. On the receipt of the letters Mr. Daly drove to the woman's home near

know what part of its anatomy to deliver a resounding kick. Worked faithfully and well during the winter so why cut out now? Just another little aggravation and a call to Herb Johnson to tend to that baby of his. Thought you'd be concerned about it.

The Civil War cannon mounted so long ago in the cemetery, is due for relocation soon on a site reserved for it immediately north of the mausoleum, say Les Nyberg of the cemetery association. Every available lot surrounding the present cannon site is a grave site now and there are complaints of the people standing on those graves every Decoration Day when ceremonies are held for sizeable crowds. The new site is part of the new addition to the cemetery which will be opened for occupancy at some future time.

A new 80x200 building is to be erected in the vicinity of the Bell telephone Co., warehouse north of the Ken Stuntebeck garage property. Construction work has been started but the Industrial Commission, sponsor of the new building states that the occupant-to-be is still to be named. There has been some inquiry for a building of that general type by manufacturers and the Commission finds enough encouragement to warrant construction now. Reports have it that it will be something in a manufacturing line, other than garments, that will employ quite a number of women.

Increases in teacher salaries that have posed unusual problems for school boards in the matter of finance are to be found in recent actions by school boards in West Fargo and Moorhead. Defeat of 12.25 mill levy increase in West Fargo last month necessitates the elimination of instructional television and purchase of materials needed for that course, two part time teachers at Harwood and Horace schools and reduction of the Horace staff to two teachers.

Budget cuts will save \$14,500 but the board will be about \$70,000 short of next years budget and a \$30,000 cutback into it and have a \$230,000 football field.

Whether or not Wadena school system faces finance problems has not as yet been indicated. With school election coming up May 21 a financial statement is pertinent.

Sad to relate but the best procedure of the National Farmers Organization in an effort to gain a fair market price for livestock seems to require some drastic action to emphasize its demands. Thousands of hog are being killed and buried to dramatize their efforts. Negroes have finally won an opening housing law from congress but at terrible cost to Whiteys.