

## KEROSENE EXPLOSION CAUSES SAD DEATH

MRS. JOHN IVERSON SKURDAHL DIES FROM BURNS AND HOME IS DESTROYED

A very sad accident happened on the farm of John Iverson Skurdahl, a few miles west of town, early on Friday morning of last week. As a result of this accident a happy home in our midst has been plunged into the deepest grief by the death of the loving wife and mother. Even the house itself in which the family lived was consumed by hungry flames of fire.

The accident happened in this manner: Mrs. Skurdahl had arisen early that morning and started to build a fire in the kitchen stove, using kerosene which she poured on the wood from a 5-gallon can that had recently been filled. Evidently there must have been some live coals or fire in the stove at the time when she did this, as an explosion followed immediately scattering the oil all over the unfortunate woman who in an instant was enveloped in a flame of fire. She ran out of the house crying at the top of her voice and the other members of the family and Mr. Nels Messelt, who has been helping them with the farm work this fall, hurried from their beds as quickly as possible, but when they arrived on the scene every stitch of clothing had been burned off from the poor woman's body. She remained conscious in spite of her suffering from the severe burns, and after covering herself with a quilt brought from the burning house, she walked unassisted to a neighbor's house about a quarter of a mile away, while the others busied themselves in getting out the smaller children from the rapidly burning building. The piano and a few pieces of furniture from the front room were all that could be saved from the well-furnished house.

Mrs. Skurdahl was brought to the Warren hospital as quickly as possible and given the very best treatment and care that her case demanded, yet her burns were so severe and extended all over her body except underneath her feet, that there was little hope for her recovery. At 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon of the ill-fated day she breathed her last.

Deceased, whose maiden name was Johanna Moe, was born April 23, 1868, in Norway. She was married to her husband, who survives her, about 25 years ago. They came to this county about 13 years ago having previously lived at Portland, N. D. Husband and eleven children mourn the loss of a kind and affectionate wife and mother, the names of the children being: Julia Inga, Maybelle, Edwin, Carl, Melvin, John, Norman, Josephine, Myrtle and Obert. One son, Oscar, preceded her to the better land about two years ago.

The funeral was held from the United Norwegian Lutheran church on Monday afternoon at two o'clock and was largely attended by citizens and friends who sympathized with the greatly bereaved family. A touching and impressive funeral sermon was preached by Rev. N. G. W. Knudtsen. Deceased had in life been an active member of said church and had taken great interest in the Ladies' Aid society and in all good and noble work. But her loss will be most severely felt in the home where she was the ministering angel and where she was honored and loved as a mother should be. Beautiful floral tributes also attested the love borne for her by neighbors and friends. The pall bearers were: Nels Messelt, Dudley Cheney, John Cheney, J. S. Hilleboe, C. R. Engestad and Peter Kurz.

A sister of deceased, Mrs. Langaer, and her husband, of Hope, N. D., were present at the funeral. With tear filled eyes a long funeral procession escorted the remains to Greenwood cemetery there to rest until the morn of the resurrection. But, oh! beyond this shadowland, Where all is bright and fair I know full well these dear old hands Will palms of victory bear; Where crystal streams thru endless years Flow over golden sands, And where the old grow young again, I'll clasp my mother's hands.

## VISITING NURSE DOING GOOD WORK.

The visiting nurse, Miss Ruth Olson, has been doing a lot of good work calling on families in both town and country and observing their mode of living and instructing them in sanitation especially with regard to the prevention of tuberculosis. During her visits she has discovered conditions in some families that are truly deplorable, especially in such cases where the father or the mother have been removed by death or otherwise, or where carelessness, ignorance or poverty are responsible for filthy and unhealthy home surroundings. She has found several families in the county where the children were greatly neglected and had neither proper clothing nor food. She has called for donations of clothing for the little ones, and the merchants and kind people of this city have responded generously. A big box of supplies was sent out this morning to a family living west near Red River.

## HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

The Normal students began their second six weeks of practice teachings Monday.

One of the students in the Normal department asked if "coal was raised" (meaning mined) in Indiana.

Anna Anderson and Hilda Hanson are absent from school.

Quite a number of exhibits have been received by the school from different manufacturing companies, among them being the Corticelli Silk Company, The Dixon Pencil Co., The Atlas Cement Co., National Lead Co., The Armours Fertilizer Co., The Heinz Co., Dr. Price's Baking Powder Co., and LePage's Glue Co. Samples have also been received of asbestos, jello and wood.

The class in Mechanical Drawing has been organized and it is expected that in a few weeks some fine work will be done.

Seeds are being gathered by the members of the Botany class. Those who have not yet gathered theirs, ought to hustle.

The four classes in the high school are going to have their pictures taken as the Seniors want a picture of each class to put in their annual.

The Normal class now has a period for music under the direction of Miss MacLaren.

Robert Bren has returned to high school as a post-graduate student, having been kept out of school to help in threshing and fall work.

Last Friday night at the court house the Freshmen held their party and it was the best one held for a long time. They were very generous and hospitable to all, especially the Sophomores.

The Botany class has had some experience in selecting grain for an exposition as they have been helping to look over the wheat for Mr. Vansickle who is going to send it to New York to the big grain exhibit.

Some fine bread and other pastry has been made by the Cooking class. If this continues, Warren will be no place for a baker to thrive.

One of the Senior girls bought a new hat and ran all the way home for fear the styles would change.

The Minnesota Educational Association meets this week, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Mr. Mitchell left Saturday night.

Hurrah! First snow, Oct. 18.

We had music Monday in general assembly instead of favorite quotations.

The spelling reports of the different classes for last week were not what they should have been, but will be better this week.

The members of the Botany class are each preparing a composition on different weeds the best of which will be published in the local papers.

One of the Sophomore girls had to sing a song for her supper Friday night at the Freshman party. She chose "Wake Freshmen, Wake" and it applied well to the occasion.

Miss McFee and Miss Sargent from Grand Forks visited our school Saturday afternoon.

The weather having been bad for several days, outdoor basket ball practice could not be continued.

At general assembly Tuesday morning, Mr. Mitchell made a few remarks in which he strongly urged the boys against the use of tobacco in any form.

## FOLDAHL SERVICES

Rev. G. Wahlund will conduct services at Eric Olson's school house, on Sunday next, Oct. 29th at 11 a. m.



New Great Northern Depot, Warren, Minnesota.

## SEEING MINNESOTA IN A TOURING CAR

AN ACCOUNT OF THE VARIED EXPERIENCES ON THE RETURN TRIP.

We left the readers of the Sheaf at "Stony Point" between Atwater and Willmar, just as we were about to resume our journey, after the damage to the steering apparatus of our car had been repaired. We did not, until this accident happened, realize of how much importance the steering mechanism of a car really is. Without it, a car will flounder around on land like a ship deprived of its rudder, will at sea. In life also every person is in need of a steering gear in order to be able to keep a straight course until the journey's end is reached. Such a steering gear is a firm character, without which every little obstruction in the path, every temptation by the wayside, will cause a deflection in the course and make life more or less a failure.

Willmar was reached in the early part of the afternoon, but as we were eager to get home, our stay there was limited to half an hour, while we replenished our gasoline tank and procured a few other supplies for the car. We had spent about two years in Willmar thirty-five years ago, but were unable to look up any friends from that remote time in the few minutes at our disposal. We had the pleasure of meeting, however, our old friend, Hans Peterson, now in the lumber business, with whom we had worked together as clerks in the store of Dale & Royce. Then we were both filled with the enthusiasm and optimism of youth and looked upon life with different eyes than we do now. The intervening years had brought many changes and experiences to each of us but we had no time to talk about them. Only a hearty handclasp and with tear-filled eyes we parted. Oh, the friendships formed in youth, they are of the real, lasting kind, after all! There are no friends like the old friends. We made a hurried call at the office of the Republican-Gazette where we surprised Miss Charlotte Christenson, formerly with the Sheaf, by asking her if she needed more "copy", she being at the time busily occupied at the Simplex type setting machine, just as she had been for years in the Sheaf office, where she learned the business. Our visit to Willmar made us feel somewhat like Rip van Winkle did when he returned from his long nap. The town looked entirely different from what it did when we walked its streets. We didn't see a street or house that we knew, unless it was the Great Northern depot, and we are not quite certain as to that. From experience we know that there are few things that can equal a Great Northern depot in stability.

Leaving Willmar, we proceeded northward on a good road that has been built and maintained largely through the efforts of the Willmar automobile club. The villages of Spicer and Green Lake are passed, the latter being located on a beautiful lake by that name, a well known summer resort. New London and Belgrade are passed by in turn and not before Brooten is reached do we put up for the night. Next morning we resume the journey, going north thru Grovelake and Westport, and reaching Alexandria a little before noon. Of course, we had to have some coffee and lunch at Rev. Matt-

son's hospitable home, while our car was being fed its usual supply of gasoline, and then off again.

We did not get very far, though, before one of the rear wheels gave us trouble. The roller bearing in which it revolved got out of order and, just as the human system does when something goes wrong in the bodily mechanism, it got hot. Yes, it got very feverish. The writer and his kind sympathetic wife carried water in old tin cans from Lake Miltona to cool the injured part and reduce the inflammation, but in vain. It was no easy matter to diagnose the trouble exactly, and besides we were many miles from an auto-doctor (repairer) and an auto-hospital (garage). First aid to the injured was furnished by an auto-doctor summoned from Alexandria, but did not prove effective. We would have had no objection to stop at beautiful Lake Miltona for a two or three days' fishing, but Mr. Bystrom was getting anxious to proceed and managed to get the car and occupants into Parkers Prairie late in the evening. During the night there came one of the heaviest rainfalls that we had seen this year and the roads became utterly impassable. With such a poor condition of the roads confronting us and realizing also that the car needed repairs of a more permanent character, we decided to make the rest of the trip by railway. We boarded a Soo line freight for Henning, and there we caught a Northern Pacific passenger train for Fergus Falls, where we arrived at about 5 P. M.

Fergus Falls, is noted for its learning and its schools as well as for its idiots and fools, being as we all know the home of Northwestern and Park Region colleges and also of a state insane asylum. After partaking of supper at a restaurant we went out for an auto trip about the city. On this trip we called at the home of Rev. James Moody, pastor of the Swedish Lutheran church, whom we knew intimately from boyhood and who even is related to us in a way. Both he and his estimable wife had sat at our feet and learned words of wisdom from our lips when in the long ago we were engaged in pedagogical work. As we stepped into their home they were on the point of leaving for the church down town to attend an entertainment given by the Luther League, and we gladly accepted an invitation to accompany them there. As we were seated in a pew, listening attentively to an excellent program rendered by the young people, whom should we see come and seat himself in an adjoining pew but our old friend, Leonard Erickson, accompanied by a genteel looking lady, whom we assumed to be his wife and later were introduced to as such. We remember Leonard back in the latter eighties when he, as a boy in his teens just over from the old country, attended the Warren school and worked for his board. But the green old country boy had the right grit in him and he advanced rapidly in his studies. In a few years he acquired sufficient knowledge to pass a teacher's examination and began teaching country school. Next he attended the Moorhead Normal and graduated from that institution. Then we remember him as being employed in the U. S. census department at Washington at the same time taking a course in law at Columbia college. Returning to Minnesota as a full-fledged lawyer, he hung up his shingle in Fergus Falls, where he has succeeded in building up a good practice. He also has met, wooed and won a sensible and highly cultured young woman there. We were told that they own a beautiful home near the city. Mr. Erickson has an elegant office and valuable law library

in one of the large brick blocks of the town. He has certainly achieved a remarkable success and he is still a young man. This is in short Mr. Erickson's history.

At the gathering in the church we had the pleasure to listen to an address by Prof. Joranson, the new principal of Northwestern college. He is an able man, a good speaker and also a good musician. We also met other good friends from former days, among them some who were students in our teaching days at Hope Academy in Moorhead. At the close of the program refreshments were served and everybody enjoyed a good social time. There is no better place for young people to meet and get acquainted in, than at a Luther League or similar gathering. An environment is found there that will help mould the characters of the young and be an influence in their lives for good.

Rev. Moody's congregation has just built and completed the handsome new church in which the meeting was held. We spent a most delightful evening with our good friends in Fergus Falls and regretted that it was necessary for us to leave on the Great Northern flyer for our homes where we arrived early next mornin'. Again we were at home! "Mid pleasures and palaces though we roam, Be it ever so humble, there's no place like home."

When the roads got dry again Mr. Bystrom and the writer returned to Parkers Prairie and brought the car safely home. On this trip we had even more fun than before, owing, perhaps to the fact that our wives were not along and we could act naturally, just as men do when they are by themselves. Yet we would not have been adverse to having had them with us to share the enjoyment. But an account of that trip will make another chapter. —J. P. M.

## WEDDING BELLS.

At the Methodist parsonage at 3:30 o'clock Wednesday, Oct. 25 the Rev. A. A. Myers performed the ceremony which united Mr. Perley Ray McKnight and Miss Zelpha B. Elliott. The bride was born in Warren and lived here until she was eight years of age. Her mother died and was laid to rest in the cemetery here. The bridegroom is a prosperous farmer of Puposky, Minn., where the newly-wedded pair will be at home to their friends. The bridal dress consisted of Alice Blue Messaline silk. The Soo train was taken to Thief River Falls from which place they will proceed to their new home.

Mr. Charles E. Hellquist and Miss Marie Benson were married by Rev. A. A. Myers at the Methodist parsonage at 3 o'clock on Wednesday afternoon, October 25th. Miss Lydia Hellquist, sister of the bridegroom acted as bridesmaid and Mr. Peter N. Benson, brother of the bride, was best man. The bride was choicely attired in cream Nun's velling trimmed with silk embroidery. As a former student of North Star College, she is favorably known in Warren by a large circle of friends. After visiting their parents at Strip and Newfolden, and spending some time in Minneapolis, Mr. and Mrs. Hellquist will proceed to Mahanomen, where Mr. Hellquist has established his home.

## SUPPER AND AUCTION

The Ladies' Aid society of the Scandinavian M. E. church will serve supper at the church Saturday evening, Nov. 4th. After the supper an auction sale will be held. All are most cordially invited.

## HEALTH IN POTATO CROP

WARREN IS BECOMING A POTATO CENTER—OVER 20 CARLOADS ALREADY SHIPPED FROM HERE THIS FALL

That co-operation between the farmers and the business men of a town may be of mutual benefit has been well demonstrated by the establishment of the potato growing industry here on a commercial scale. Last winter a number of business men of the city sought to interest the farmers in the raising of potatoes. After visiting other potato sections and learning from successful growers many things about the business, meetings of farmers were called for the purpose of discussing the question. The farmers began to realize that there is good profit in raising potatoes and decided to go into it on a large scale. A potato growers' association was formed with C. L. Spaulding as president and Maurice Munger as secretary. It was also agreed to raise Early Ohio exclusively, as better prices can be obtained from buyers when solid carloads of the same variety can be shipped from the same point. Merchants here assisted the farmers in getting seed potatoes shipped in. The potatoes were planted and have yielded well. Already over twenty carloads have been shipped from here and twice as many more will either be shipped or used for seed next year. Buyers are here for the tubers and loading them on the track, and the prices paid are in the neighborhood of 50 cents a bushel. Yields ranging all the way from 150 to 400 bushels to the acre are reported, and even up to 500 bushels. One can easily see that this is a profitable crop with such yields and prices. Farmers who have Early Ohio receive about 15 cents a bushel more than those having other varieties. As many as 25 wagon loads at a time have been lined up awaiting their turn to be weighed at the city scales, and John Mortenson, the public weigher, has had his hands full of business.

Buyers say that the potatoes raised here are superior to any grown further south in the valley, both as to uniformity in size and smoothness and as to palatability. The country tributary to Warren is therefore well adapted to the raising of potatoes and that will be an important industry here in the future.

**SWEDISH MISSION CHURCH**  
Rev. O. K. Moberg, of Crookston, will hold services at 10:30 and 7:30.

**UNITED NOR. LUTH. CHURCH**  
N. G. W. Knudtsen, Pastor.  
Services Sunday Oct. 29th: At Warren 11 a. m. and at Alvarado 3:30 p. m.

**METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH**  
A. A. Myers, Pastor.  
There will be services next Sunday morning and evening at 10:30 and 7:30 o'clock. Sunday school after the morning service. Epworth League at 6:45. All are welcome.

**SYNOD LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
P. F. Kjolvaug, Pastor.  
Services Oct. 24: Scandinavian at Radium 4 p. m. English at Warren 7:45 p. m. Confirmation class meets in McCrea school house Saturday Oct. 28 2 p. m. In Warren at 5 p. m.

**SWEDISH LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
E. O. Chelgren, Pastor.  
Services will be held in the Vega church next Sunday at 11 a. m. In Warren at 7:30 p. m. The Warren Ladies' Aid will be received by Ed. Rosendahl's Friday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. The Luther League will meet there at 8 o'clock p. m. All welcome.

**MISSION CHURCH OF VIKING**  
Werner Drotts, Pastor.  
Services will be held next Sunday in church at 10:30 a. m. and in the Temperance hall of Viking at 7:30 p. m. Rev. W. Hagquist, a missionary from China, will speak the same day in the Temperance hall of West Valley at 3 p. m. and in New Folden at 7:30 p. m. All are welcome to this meeting.

Harry Wattam visited with his father here on Tuesday.