

Four Men in a Boat

Christ Fosa, Hans Holson, Lars Hyde and Anton Ouren are getting a lot of notoriety throughout the state as a result of a trip of theirs to Red Lake Falls, Minn. Many newspapers have had varying accounts of their experiences, and the following account is taken from the Hillsboro Banner:

Four Hannaford, Griggs county, men got weary of the bone dry law and decided they would start out to find an oasis in the desert. They left home in an Overland boat and after many weary hours of hard travel in the torrid, broiling sun, with parched lips, reached the fork of the Red Lake and Clearwater rivers where the first, last and only chance wet city of Red Lake Falls is hidden among the hills and in the Valley of those streams. Here they quenched their thirst with Ham's, Slitz, Blatz and Kentucky dew until their hearts content and until their brains became befuzzled and their limbs shaky. After sampling everything kept in stock by the grog shops they loaded up their boat to the oar locks and started for their parched, stricken homes on the prairies of Griggs county. They proceeded with smooth sailing until they hit a snag in the shape of a little bridge near the Bierman farm, northeast of Hillsboro, which the driver evidently took for a flock of bridges and as a consequence missed it by a foot or two, the boat capsizing and coming out of the wreck with a broken rudder and an oar missing. The supply of liquid refreshments, however, floated to the top and was salvaged. Unmindful of being shipwrecked the marooned men with the aid of frequent sampling kept up their spirits to a high pitch and made merry, so much so that people passing their way brought word to Hillsboro which finally came to the ears of the sheriff, who quietly proceeded to the scene of hilarity and had his suspicions confirmed by the sight of much bottled moisture of the fiery kind and four men under full sail in a nearby wheatfield. They—men and bottles—were hustled into the sheriff's lifesaving boat and pulled into shore and confined in the life-saving station that adjoins the lighthouse to the east.

On Tuesday the four ship wrecked men were escorted to Fargo by Sheriff Osmund and arraigned before his honor, Judge Cole. Three of them made an open confession and plead guilty to a charge under the state law and were let off with a fine of \$100 and costs. The other one did not fancy the proceedings and decided to stick it out with Sheriff Osmund awhile but has since changed his mind and will take his medicine with the rest. All of which reminds us of three men in a boat, only there were four in this one.