

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

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## REV. PRESSON, OLDEST METHODIST PREACHER IN NEBRASKA ASPHIXATED

Well Known to the Old Residents of This Vicinity, and Preached His First Sermon on the Ground Where Omaha Now Stands April 24, 1850—Ninety-six Years of Age.

A special from Lincoln, under date of May 1, says that Rev. Harrison Presson, 96 years old, father of Colonel J. H. Presson of Omaha, at present chief recording clerk in the governor's office, was suffocated to death by gas there today.

His housekeeper, Mrs. Helen Whitlock, was almost overcome when found and a 17-year-old niece of the latter died a few minutes afterward as a result of the inhalation of the fumes.

Mr. Presson was one of the pioneer Methodist preachers of the state and was the oldest living minister of that denomination in the world. He was very agile for his years and recently when a birthday party was held for him here he told several of his Grand Army comrades that he expected to pass the hundredth birthday.

Sixty-two years ago, in 1850, Mr. Presson preached a sermon on the ground where Omaha now stands, his congregation was composed of a very few white settlers, several curious Indians and a number of westbound emigrants, who were in the wagon train with which he was crossing the plains.

His grandfather lived to be 105 years old and his grandmother died at the age of 101. His mother died when 96.

In addition to the above the Lincoln Star says:

Mr. Presson's claim to being the first Methodist to preach a sermon in Nebraska is based upon the fact that during his march to California he stopped on the present site of Omaha, April 24, 1850, and preached before a band of about 100 Pawnee Indians.

Rev. Presson's early days in Nebraska were spent preaching in the vicinity of Plattsmouth. His first charge was in Union. Since that time he has preached in many of the towns of the Nebraska City conference. He was one of the ministers who made up the first conference of the Methodist church in this state and remained in this conference until he was superannuated in 1886. His last charge was at Greenwich, Neb.

Mr. Presson celebrated the ninety-sixth anniversary of his birth at his home in Lincoln, February 19. At this time many friends and relatives visited him and the local G. A. R. post attended in a body. Although well advanced in age, Mr. Presson preached sermons up until a few years previous to his death. He was always known as an active man in church affairs and took great interest in the development of the church in Nebraska.

### Dandelion Killer.

Gus Olson, the Plattsmouth photographer, was in town Tuesday and Wednesday taking numerous views of streets, houses and public buildings. Mr. Olson has recently bought his old partner out and is now going to increase the business, he says, until he will have thirty or forty working printing cards. He has a dandelion killer that he declares will kill the miserable weeds, and will soon have it placed on sale. If he has succeeded in finding such a bonanza that can be guaranteed to kill dandelions, his fortunes is sure made.—Weeping Water Republican.

## PLATTSMOUTH WILL BE REPRESENTED

Quite a Number of the Members of the Plattsmouth Commercial Club Will Attend Meeting.

From Friday's Daily.

Plattsmouth will send a number of live wires of the business community to the state convention of Commercial clubs which convenes at Hastings Tuesday and Wednesday of next week. The delegates from the Plattsmouth club are E. A. Wurl and John Batt, both enterprising, up-to-date merchants. These gentlemen will be accompanied by President of the Commercial Club T. H. Pollock, Secretary A. L. Tidd, Treasurer Rea Patterson, J. P. Falter, C. C. Parmele, H. A. Schneider, E. H. Wescott, George Falter and as many more as will spare the time and money to make the trip. It will be a booster delegation for Plattsmouth and the bigger the delegation the more it will attract attention and start inquiries regarding commercial advantages of our beautiful and enterprising city.

The attractions of the convention will be Governor Aldrich as one of the speakers, and also Professor Barbour of the state university. On the evening of May 8 a fine banquet will be served at one of the leading hotels, the delegates and their friends participating. We hope that many more than those named above will catch the spirit and accompany the delegation.

Among other matters discussed for the benefit of the cities of the state will be the question of good roads, which is one of growing importance and a topic that our own city is interested in as much as any other. Last year three or four members of the club attended the state convention and brought home ideas that has materially benefited the community, and it is President Pollock's hope that fifteen or twenty will go on this occasion and return chuck full of enthusiasm for the business interests of Plattsmouth.

### Miss Helen Waugh Married.

The following is taken from the State Journal. The bride has a large circle of friends in this city, whose best wishes will ever attend her in her new home:

"The marriage of Miss Helen Waugh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Waugh of this city, and Ernest E. Jeffries of Timber Lake, S. D., took place quietly Wednesday, May 1, at noon at the bride's home, 1330 F street. The groom's father, the Rev. John Jeffries of Bonesteel, S. D., officiated. The bride was gowned in white linen, trimmed in Cluny lace, and she carried a bouquet of sweet peas. The ceremony was followed by a wedding breakfast for the small company of relatives. The dining room was decorated in spring daisies. Those present from out of the city were: Rev. and Mrs. John Jeffries, Bonesteel, S. D.; Mrs. Williams, Inlay, Mich.; Mrs. Charles Bowby, Friend; Mrs. R. W. Arndt, Denver; Mr. and Mrs. Fred Waugh, Omaha; Miss Hazel Dovey and Miss Lillian Cole, Plattsmouth. Mr. and Mrs. Jeffries left in the early afternoon for the groom's ranch in South Dakota."

Mrs. Andy Smith of Thurman, Iowa, arrived in this city today at noon for a visit with her mother, Mrs. Lampson and daughter, Mrs. C. R. Todd. Mrs. Smith called at this office and renewed her subscription.

## LOUISIANA AS A STATE FOR HOME-SEEKERS

Corn Growing Has Received More Attention in the Past Three or Four Years Than Ever.

From Friday's Daily.

Mr. Almond of Louisiana and L. B. Stoner of Lincoln entertained an audience of farmers and land buyers at the Majestic theater yesterday afternoon with a lecture and stereopticon views of products of the alluvial lands of Louisiana. Mr. Almond has resided in Louisiana for twenty-two years, and in speaking of its climate, stated that there never had been a drouth, or cyclone, or hail or snow during the years of his residence.

He quoted government statistics to show that his state was a good place to invest money in farm lands. There was not a month in the year but that some farm or garden crop could be planted. He reminded his audience that not less than four crops could be raised from the same field during one twelve months. In speaking of his state as a corn state, Mr. Almond said that corn had received more attention the past three or four years and the production of the cereal had increased about 41 per cent in that time. The Boys' Corn Club of Louisiana had produced 104 bushels per acre, and the speaker thought men skilled in growing the crop could do much better.

He referred to the late David Rankin of Missouri, who had 34,000 acres of farm land put to diversified farming, but mostly to corn. Mr. Rankin estimated that his income was about 3 per cent on his investment, one year with another. Mr. Rankin visited the Louisiana alluvial farm land district and spoke very highly of it. The lecturer dwelt on the nearness of the seaboard as an advantage to the Louisiana farmer, and prices would undoubtedly be higher there than here.

In referring to the climate on the Fourth of July, 1911, when the thermometer registered above the 100 mark in New York, Boston, Chicago and the large cities of the north, in New Orleans it registered 89, and there were but two days last summer when it went above 95 degrees. The death rate on an average over the United States is placed at 47 per 1,000; in Louisiana it is 15 per 1,000. More people live out of doors the year round in that state than anywhere and although Mr. Almond is a man 75 years of age he never has felt a pang of rheumatism while in Louisiana. Some fine views were shown of fields of growing crops and of products of the soil. After Mr. Almond had finished Mr. Stoner stated on what terms the lands could be purchased.

### Entertained at Brantner Home.

From Friday's Daily.

The Social Workers of the M. E. church held their regular meeting at the home of Mrs. Ed Brantner yesterday afternoon and were very pleasantly entertained. During the early part of the afternoon the ladies held their regular business session, after which they participated in social conversation and stitching on dainty fancy work, these diversions being most enjoyably interspersed with instrumental and vocal music. At the usual hour a dainty luncheon was provided by the hostess.

### Bridge Ready in Ten Days.

From Friday's Daily.

Glen Smith, the bridge contractor, doing the repair work on the Pollock-Duff wagon bridge, yesterday completed the pile-driving for the first steel span. Driving the piles for the false work has occupied some time, but the work will move with greater speed from this on. There is one more steel span for which steel piles will be driven and the work of driving the piles and placing the superstructure on the piles will require about ten days to complete.

John Brooks, who is spending this summer on a farm near Cedar Creek, was in the city today to take in the circus and visit his parents over Sunday.

## E. E. HILTON, FORMER PLATTSMOUTH MAN, PASSES AWAY IN FLORIDA

Mr. Hilton Came to Plattsmouth Some Thirty Years Ago and Resided Here Until About Two Years Ago—Was County Surveyor for Seven Terms—Death Due to General Breakdown

News of the death of E. E. Hilton, at Kissimmee, Florida, was received by friends in the city a few days ago. The funeral occurred a week ago today. He probably died on April 25, death having resulted from a general breakdown of health, the climate there not having agreed with him.

Mr. Hilton and wife and son, Howard, moved from Omaha to Florida several months ago, where he had a good position as surveyor for a real estate syndicate. He leaves surviving two sons and two daughters and a devoted wife. His oldest son, Gwendith, resides in Omaha, where he has a position with an electrical company; Howard, the younger, resided with his parents; the two daughters are married, Mable residing in Toledo, Ohio, and Gertrude in Canada.

Mr. Hilton was born near Fort Wayne, Indiana, and received a college education in his native state. He was a nephew of the late Colonel H. C. McMaken. He came to Plattsmouth about thirty

years ago and for a few years was connected with the government surveying office with his uncle, Mr. Fairfield, later accepting a position as surveyor for the Burlington and resided at Wymore, Hebron and other points for a few years, later returning to Plattsmouth. Here he was elected to the important office of county surveyor on the republican ticket, taking his office January 1, 1894, and was seven times re-elected to the same position and then declined to serve further in that capacity, having filled the position for sixteen years, going out of office in January, 1910. He was a faithful public official, always giving his best efforts to the discharge of his duties. After going out of office he removed with his family to Omaha, where he resided until going to Florida a few months ago. Mr. Hilton had a wide acquaintance in this county and his death will be deeply mourned by a large circle of friends here, as well as elsewhere.

## LIBRARY IS IN VERY FLOURISHING SHAPE

Building to Be Renovated, and a Stronger Levy Needed to Keep Supplied With Books.

The library board met last

Thursday night, those present being Misses Barbara Gering, Olive Jones, Messrs. A. L. Tidd and N. C. Abbott, Councilman Lushinsky, chairman of the committee on improvements at the library building, was also present to inspect the work which has been done. The board tendered Mr. Lushinsky and the city council a vote of thanks for the very great improvement in constructing the concrete wall and terracing and sodding the property and constructing a concrete walk on the east side of the lot. A vote of thanks was also given Elmer Holstrom for acting as librarian during the time Miss Jones was detained at home with sickness in the family. The board decided to have the building renovated during the present month and left the matter in the hands of the librarian.

A. L. Tidd was appointed a committee of one to present the matter of a stronger levy to the city council. The hundreds of volumes in the library are being constantly worn by the many readers who daily apply for books, and the levy heretofore has been inadequate to keep up the expense of supplying new volumes and rebinding old ones. The terms of three members expiring, the board recommended the appointment of A. L. Tidd, D. B. Smith and D. O. Dwyer as new members.

The following interesting report was filed for March: Number of books exchanged 1,671; a year ago, 1,269. Number of books used by city teachers, 42; by county teachers, 44. Books donated, Mrs. T. P. Livingston, 11; Nora Livingston, 2; Mrs. Emil Wurl, 7; Mrs. Bowker, 5. Number of men borrowers, 17; last year, 26. Magazines donated to country patrons, 36.

For April the librarian filed the following: Books exchanged, 1,249; a year ago, 1,058. For use city teachers, 26; country teachers, 7. Books donated, Nora Livingston, 3. Magazines donated to country patrons, 16. Number of men borrowers, 14; last year, 14.

Frank Beal came in from his run last evening for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Beal. Frank is on the Sioux City run, train No. 87, and this is only his third visit at home since last November.

### Canon Burgess Resigns.

Canon Burgess of St. Luke's church, resident pastor of the church in this city for most than thirty-eight years, on April 24th handed in his resignation to the vestrymen. At a meeting of the vestry on last Monday night the following written acceptance of Canon Burgess' resignation was adopted:

"Canon H. B. Burgess, Plattsmouth, Neb.

"Dear Canon Burgess—It is with deep sorrow that we accept your resignation, under date of April 24, as rector of St. Luke's church, to take effect May 1st. More than thirty-eight years of faithful service has endeared you unspeakably to every member of your parish; and our words of praise for your noble work here in Plattsmouth are but a faint expression of the innermost feeling of your people. We have elected you Rector Emeritus of St. Luke's church and ask you to accept with this our strongest wishes for the best health and happiness for yourself and Mrs. Burgess in your days of retirement. Assuring you of our most hearty desire for your future comforts, we remain, respectfully yours,

"George Falter, Secretary.  
"W. J. White, Senior Warden.  
"C. G. Fricke.  
"J. H. Thrasher.  
"George Dodge, Junior Warden."

"Plattsmouth, Neb., April 29, 1912."

Canon Burgess' successor has not yet been selected, although the matter of extending a call to a rector will be considered very soon.

### One Thousand Will Sing.

A magnificent chorus of one thousand voices in concert will feature the entertainment which will be provided for the State Sunday School convention when it holds its annual meeting in Omaha on June 18, 19 and 20. The chorus of one thousand, to be composed of female voices selected from the Sunday schools of Douglas county, will give a concert on Monday night, June 17, preceding the three days' convention of the state association. The chorus will be under the direction of John S. Helgren, who has had considerable success as a director of large choruses. The concert will be given in the Auditorium, which will provide ample accommodations for the large gathering. Officers of the state association anticipate an attendance of 1,500 at the annual meeting.

The Journal office carries all kinds of typewriter supplies.

## DEPARTMENT STORE CLERKS HOLD PICNIC

The Proprietor of Ranger's Entertains Clerks and Their Escorts at a Moonlight Picnic.

From Friday's Daily.

M. Fanger, the genial proprietor of the department store, came in from Iowa yesterday, and recognizing the strenuous efforts of the charming young ladies at his store to sell more goods this season than any past year, Mr. Fanger's generosity got the better of him and last night, after closing the store, he tendered the young ladies and escorts a moonlight picnic down by the big bridge.

Tie passes were procured for the entire party through the influence of some of the young gentlemen, and with the necessary equipment in the grub baskets the party set out for the scene of festivities. A roaring bonfire was started near the supper hour and beans were cooked, weinies toasted, coffee boiled and other toothsome dishes prepared for the whetted appetites of the lady clerks. The desert consisted of hard boiled eggs and cream pie.

After the picnic supper the party watched the moon rise, which came up on time, viz. 9:15, then circled about the blazing embers and related ghost stories until they were afraid to come home. The boat ride had to be abandoned, as the water was said to be too rough for safety. At not a very late hour the merry picnickers, chaperoned by Mr. Fanger himself, started for the city, and everyone on Main street from First to Fifth were serenaded by the home-coming crowd.

### It's a Girl.

From Friday's Daily.

Anton Nesladek, of West Main street, wore a smile about so broad and about so high when he reported to T. H. Pollock this morning that he would not be able to go out on the telephone line today. To Mr. Pollock's inquiry as to the reason, Anton replied, as his smile broadened, "It's a girl. She was born last night." Mr. Pollock informed the young man that he was perfectly excusable and Anton returned to his home about the happiest man in town. The mother and child are doing well.

### Going Some.

Dietrich Koester and his good team figured in a runaway last Saturday. He was coming over the tracks by the Missouri Pacific pump station, when the team got scared. They ran and Mr. Koester pulled until one line broke, and the team turned in across A. E. Jameson's lot. There is almost everything from water tanks to thrasher engines in that vicinity, and the wagon did not miss hardly anything movable or immovable. There was another occupant with Mr. Koester, who finally got out of the wagon and Mr. Koester vainly tried to make his escape. Once he did get out when they ran over a pile of lumber, but he was tossed in the air and was making a good display like an aviator, only he came down and lit in the wagon again. The team ran into a telephone pole over by Mrs. Hammer's and strange to relate, no damage was done. "That was the fiercest ride I ever took," says Dietrich, and now maybe he will buy an auto.—Weeping Water Republican.

### John Melsinger Sick.

John Melsinger, living on the old home place west of this city, was taken ill last Monday, which illness proved to be an attack of appendicitis, and while his condition has not been considered serious, he has suffered considerable and it may be necessary to take him to the hospital for an operation later. His parents, who are residents of this city, have been at his home, and should the young man be compelled to go to the hospital Mr. and Mrs. Melsinger will look after the farm until he returns.

### In From Nehawka.

From Friday's Daily.

John Knabe and L. H. Young, from near Nehawka, were in the city a few hours today, driving up from their homes to look after some business matters. Both gentlemen are among the enterprising, progressive and prominent farmers of south Cass and both are good friends of the Journal. We are pleased to class them among the large family of Journal readers. While here Mr. Knabe paid the office a brief visit, renewing his subscription to 1913.

Mrs. Anton Svoboda and daughter, Miss Marie, were passengers on the morning train for the metropolis today, where they visited friends for the day.