MONDAY, MAY 19, 1930

Plattsmouth One of the Early Settlements of Nebraska Territory; Chartered in 1855 the city, consisting of John P. Sat-tler, mayor; Herman L. Thomas, city

From Earliest Days This City and County Has Played Important Part in History of State-Ferry Across River

# SAMUEL MARTIN THE FIRST SETTLER Jess N. Elliott as chief of police while

Wheatley Micklewait First Postmaster and Mayor-Home of First Railway Shops-Always Provided Unexcelled Educational Opportunities.

The city of Plattsmouth ranks and Lafayette Nuckells. In Novemamong the early settlements of the ber, 1854, the town was platted and territory of Nebraska, with Bellevue, laid out by O. N. Tyson, the sur-Omaha, Nebraska City and Brown- veyor of the company, and on March ville, being one of the localities in 14, 1855, a special act of the territhe new west that first attracted the torial legislature was approved, deattention of the pioneers who came fining the boundries of Cass county to this part of the west to find homes, these pioneers having played a large Plattsmouth. Finely Kept Lawns is the Rule and Not the Exception Here—Pe-

part in the early history of the territory and the state.

One of the early problems of the settlers was that of transportation The first known explorations in and a ferry was established shortly

Manuel Lisa, who gave the name to and which was ended by the leaders mouth there has been here the spirit 1860, the church did not erect their church is Rev. Harry G. McClusky Bellevue, came to this locality to of the early settlers including Sharp, of the Christian faith as expressed present building until 1869, when the one of the best known ministers of visit both sides of the Platte river O'Neill and Wheatley Micklewait. in the many churches that have come church was erected as a memorial, the state and who has gained a wide and investigate the character of the Until 1857 a flat boat served as the to be part of the civic life. The and has since served to house this reputation for his work as a pulpin country then unknown to the white vehicle for crossing the river, but early missionaries that served from faith. The Rev. George C. Betts, one orator. This church is located at man, followed in 1810 by Francis was later suplanted by power boats DeRoin, acting in the capacity of a and the "Emma," and then in 1859 scout for the American Fur company, Peter A. Sarpy brought the ferry and who sought locations for fur boat. "The Survivor" to this place trading posts along the Platte and as a ferry boat, this being sunk in the Missouri rivers. One of the first 1860 and then other boats were definite explorations of this section placed in service here.

was in 1819 when Long's expedition The first postoffice was establishwas sent from St. Louis on the steam- ed here in 1855 and Wheatley Micker "Western Engineer," the first boat lewait was designated as the first of its kind on the river, to explore postmaster of the community. that section of the country adjacent Mr. Micklewait was the first mayor

to the mouth of the Platte river. of the city under the charter of The history of this section is vague 1855, the government being organizfrom the time of the Long expedi- ed December 20, 1856, with Enos tion until in 1842 when the expedi- Williams, W. M. Slaughter and Jacob tion under the command of Col. John | Vallery as the councilmen to assist in C. Fremont was sent west to explore guiding the a ffairs of the little piothe territory between the Missouri neer community. Incidently the first and the Rocky mountains. This ex- council voted themselves a salary of pedition camped one night on the \$100 per year and also levying a tax bluffs south of where the City of of one-half of 1 per cent on all the Plattsmouth is now located and in taxable property of the city. Later his record of the expedition note was the council voted to place the salar-

# PLATTSMOUTH CITY GOVERNM'T

The city of Plattsmouth is governed by the councilmanic form of government, the city divided into five wards, and the executive officers of clerk; John E. Kirkham, city treas-urer; Charles L. Graves, police judge. The members of the city council are: Frank M. Bestor, Elmer A. Webb, first ward: Claud C. Smith and W. A. Tulene, second ward; W. H. Puls, Miles Allen, third ward; George Luschinsky, C. A. Johnson, fourth ward; Edward Gabelman, R. H. Patton, fifth ward. The president of the council is C. C. Smith. The police and street departments is headed by other members of the police department are Joseph Libershal, assistant chief and David Pickrel, night police. The health department is headed by Dr. O. C. Hudson, while the city legal department is in the hands of Joseph A. Capwell as city attorbers of this faith to settle in Cass

Churches and Homes of City on Par with Any

tunia is Official Flower

Since the first settlers came to their faith to the members of the vices and the large Sunday school this locality were made in 1805 when after the incorporation of the city dwell in the community of Platts- pioneer band. Although organized in organization. The pastor of the





FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

First Presbyterian Church

county. The church has been active The Presbyterian church was one in the community since its foundation and has a fine church building the church here was established in on North Eighth street where under 1858 with sixteen charter members the guidance of the Rev. A. L. Ogden and is now one of the largest in there are held services each Sunday membership in the city, with a very of the church and Sunday school. fine church edifice and a splendid St. Luke's Episcopal Church organization of church workers who are making the church one of the The Episcopal church was one repmost active in the community. The resented among the very earliest setchurch building is one of the most attlers in the community and the piotractive in this part of the state and neers Bishops Talbot and Clarkson served the charge here for a number arranged in the most modern manner of years, giving the consolation of for the handling of the church ser-Seventh and Granite streets.

### St. Paul's Evangelical Church

The St. Paul's Evangelical church s one of the youngest in the city as it was established here in 1892 and the growth of the membership was very rapid and in 1897 the church structure at Fifth and Vine streets, in the main portion of the city, was opened to the service of the members later in the pastorate of the Rev. O. G. Wichmann, the present pastor, the basement of the church was completed and made into a very attractive meeting place for the social acivities of the church and serving as a great aid in the stimulation of

the work of the younger people of the church. This church has a very large membership among the residents of the country districts adjoining the city.

tian Science society which has a

Big Sand and **Paving or Gravel** Gravel Industry on Most Streets Being Built Up in Plattsmouth

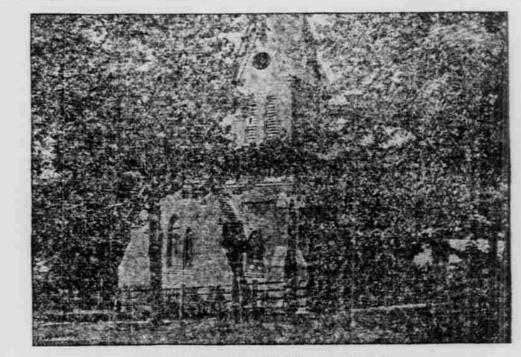
Sons and Geo. W. Bell Company All Busy Places Now

## Pits of Lyman-Richey Co., Merritt & All Thoroughfares in Business Section and Many in Residence Portion of City Paved

One of the big seasonable indus-Few cities the size of Plattsmouth tries that has been built up here in the past two or three years is the can boast of more paved and gravelsand and gravel industry. A few years ed streets than are found here.

The past decade has seen some ago the Lyman-Richey company moved one of its large pumping outfits paving done each year, until not to this vicinity from Louisville where only the business section but a great the land holdings it had worked for part of the residence section is servmany years were becoming exhaust- ed with paving, while many of the ed and opened up a large pit just unpaved streets have been graveled a short distance up the Platte river as a part of the campaign to abolish mud and give residents of the city an from the Oreapolis tower. The business increased rapidly and all weather roadway to their front

the high test of the road gravel and doors. paving aggregate resulted in heavy The nearness of the gravel pits to emand for shipments to Iowa pav- this city has permitted the trucking ing contractors and the placing of in of gravel for this work at a very of the first in Nebraska territory and Iowa state highway inspectors here low cost and in many blocks the



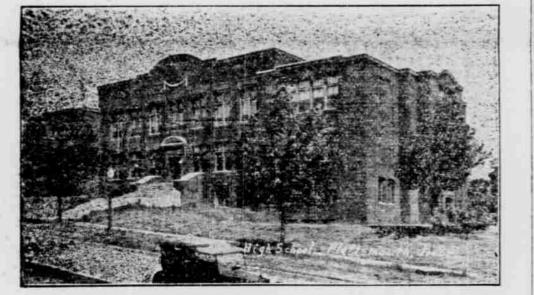
ST. LUKE'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

regularly throughout the summer property owners have gone together eason to place their O. K. on the and provided the gravel without the arious shipments that go all over expense and bother of creating an vestern lowa, rather than having improvement district, paying for the separate inspector on each of the same at time of laying, with the city providing the necessary grading and

A second pumping outfit was ad- drainage. Not only has this proven ded and during the season, which is very satisfactory on the more level low on in full blast, both outfits are streets, but a great deal less expenin operation 24 hours out of every sive. On the hill streets paving has day, Sundays included, sending out been laid to prevent washing.

The graveling program is going colid trainloads of this material. The Lyman-Richey company is one steadily forward with new blocks religious homes is that of the Chris- of the oldest sand and gravel com- being added to the network almost panies in the state and have pits lo- every week, while the dirt streets ated along the Platte river the en- are kept in good condition for traffic

## PLATTSMOUTH SEMI - WEEKLY JOURNAL



PLATTSMOUTH HIGH SCHOOL

taken of the facts relative to the lies of the councilmen at five cents land south of the mouth of the each, payable in city script. In the late eighties the city was divided Platte river.

About the year 1848 a Mormon into wards and the selection of the Lake City, stopped for a short time fifth ward.

and continued west along the south bank of the Platte to the promised er number wintered at Florence. At proper facilities for education of the the Otoes, Pawnees and Omahas, the a school was opened by Mary Stock- Sunday school work. The Sunday a religious order of the church. The bus; A. O. U. W.; Sons of Herman; settlers being compelled to keep on ing on what was known as Gospel their way westward and small mili- hill in the southwest part of the tary posts were established along the city and in 1857 a school was oper-Missouri river that the rights of the ated on the site of what is now the Indians might not be invaded. No Wescott clothing store building at one was allowed to remain in the the corner of Fifth and Main streets, then unorganized territory without there being organized two primary a special permit from the secretary schools, one of which was located of war.

where the present Bekin building The first permission of this kind now stands. The school system rethat there is record of, was that ob- mained in this condition until the tained by Samuel Martin, a trader, growing size of the city made a located on the east bank of the Mis- change necessary and in 1872 the souri river, in Iowa, who in 1853, proposition was advanced of voting Just before the ice broke up in the bonds in the sum of \$25,000 for a river, brought over on the ice the school building and which was corlogs of his house in Iowa, establish- ried at a special election held July ing a trading post at the point where 22nd, 1872. From the proceeds of Plattsmouth is now located. He the sale of these bonds the building was assisted by James O'Neill and now known as the Central building Col. J. L. Sharp in the erection of a was erected, this being at that time two story log house, which was gen- a four story structure which housed erally known as "The Old Barracks" the entire city school system. Later and was in existence for many years ward buildings were erected to help in that part of the city bounding on care for the needs of the children the river front. This first settler had and in 1916 the sum of \$125,000 was school of this church is one of the parish has had a number of discome to the west from Illinois and voted to erect the present building largest in the city, with a member- tinguished priests serving the church had purchased the ferry of Libeas that houses the High and Junior T. Coon in 1850. He was not only schools, and in addition the Central. the first settler, but his was the Columbian, first ward, west second first death in the community, as he ward and fourth ward schools care passed away on December 15, 1854. for the city school system,

By treaties made by the government and President Pierce with the Otoes and the Pawnees, the land ad-

ed by the advancement of the white The mill was established in the late pioneers across the stream to make fifties by Conrad Heisel, father of the their settlements.

OLDEST FLOURING MILL

Educational System

at Bellevue laid among of the first ministers of his faith in church at Sixth and Granite street here. The church serves a parish that bership. lief of the church of Christ.

As the city has grown in size the includes Plattsmouth and immediate members of the various denomin- vicinity and while the church has ations have erected fine substantial no resident priest at the present time buildings over the city and to which services are held by Bishop E. V. house of worship one of the homes has come the faithful at the call of Shayler and priests of Omaha, with their belief to worship.

The Methodist Church.

lay reader of the church. The oldest in point of existence in Roman Catholic Church

the city was that of the Methodist bers being enrolled with the Rev. represented by the services and sacri-Hiram Burch as the first pator of fices of the early missionaries of the the church. The church was subject church and as the community became to the trials and tribulations of the settled and members of the faith came early days, the first church being in here to dwell, the physical represena building at Fifth and Main streets tation of the church was found in and which was the gathering place the erection of a church building on Fraternally, the city is represented

until in 1869 when a building was South Fifth street near the present by a large number of the leading erected on South Sixth street which Garfield park and where in the days orders of the country, having here

was the meeting place until in 1900 of the sixties and early seventies the representation of all branches of when the building was sold and the church carried on its mission. In the Masonry, Plattsmouth lodge No. 6 site converted into a place of busi- year 1875 the Hon. John Fitzgerald, A. F. & A. M., Nebraska Chapter No. ness and which is now occupied by pioneer railroad contractor erected 3 of the Royal Arch Masons; Mt. tablished a ferry-a flat boat propol- wards in the following years, there the Ghrist Furniture Co., the con- the present church on Oak street Zion commandery No. 5, Knights led by sweeps-across the Missouri being four wards for many years, un- gregation meeting for a year in the which he offered as a memorial to the Templar; the Home Chapter of the river, landing near the mouth of the til in the middle nineties, when an- A. O. U. W. hall, until the present memory of his family, the church Order of Eastern Star and Cass Chap-Platte river and here a large number nexation of land in the south por- church building was erected. This building being designated as the ter of the Order of DeMolay. There of the Mormons bound west to Salt tion of the city formed the present edifice has been gradually im- church of St. John the Baptist. Later are also Plattsmouth lodge No. 739 proved until it is one of the largest there was added to the establishment of the B. P. O. E.; Plattsmouth Aerie and most up to date in the city. The of the church here the parochial No. 365 of the Fraternal Order of The coming of the white settlers present structure has grown by the school building, where today there Eagles; Cass Camp 332 of the Modland in the west, although the great-brought with them the desire for the addition of the excavation of the is a large school maintained with a ern Woodmen of America; Platte basement for the use of the social fine membership and which is under lodge No. 7, I. O. O. F.; Fr. Juan this time the country was held by young of the community and in 1856 activities of the church as well as the the direction of the Ursualian sisters, DePadilla Council Knights of Colum-



#### FIRST METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ship of some 275 and which is pre- here, and among them Father Michael sided over by Joseph A. Capwell as A. Shine, who was later invested superintendent. The present pastor with the rank of monsignor of the of the church is the Rev. Harold E. church. The present priest is the Sortor, who came to this city from Rev. Father George Agius, one of

Craig, Nebraska, four years ago and the leaders of the priesthood in the Captain Wiles who in the days when

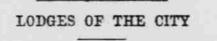
present proprietors, George and Fred The Plattsmouth Town Company was organized October 26, 1854, by Samuel Martin, James O'Neill, C. modern trend and is maintained now the instrumentality of Elder Thomas and with Rev. Father Jerry Hancik braska pioneers and which is still the employees dwindles to only a few the way from Omaha to the Kansas Nuckolls, J. L. Sharp, Manly Green as one of the best mills in the state. J. Todd, one of the very first mem- as the pastor of the parish. official design of the state.

tire length of the state, but nowhere at all times except during muddy the Indians the seeds of the Christian faith and the bands of the early set-tlers together in the ties of the be-first priest of the church assigned of the streets and alleys committee of are yielding.

The Holiness church also has a Another company that does a good the city council. shipping business and is located on Go where you will, it would be very active organization here, that trackage is Merritt & Sons, whose hard to find a town with better has secured for the purpose of a pits and loading tipples are located maintained streets than Plattsmouth just north of the Oreapolis tower, has, in the south part of the city and

Judge James T. Begley serving as the where each Sunday services are held. near the south end of the Platte Truly the religious life of the city is fitting with the many pleasant daily output, although smaller than Paved Highway homes and contented families that that of the Lyman-Richey company,

The history of the Roman Cath- makes this city the ideal home city is sufficient to give employment to ized here in June, 1857, twenty mem- olic faith in this part of the west is of the state and one where there is a good number of men and is increas-The latest entrant into the sand



This community was for many,

many years the home of Captain

Isaac Wiles, veteran of the Second

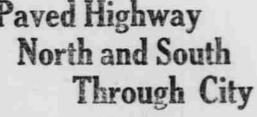
Nebraska, who at the close of the

war and the perils of the Indian

menace on the Nebraska plains, spent

and gravel field here is the Geo. W. Bell Co., of Omaha, a well known builders supply concern. They have Highway 75 and are opening up a

large pit there. This pit is not located on trackage, but the Bell company plans truck delivery of its entire output, in line with their policy



acquired land on the east side of Completion of Work in Near Future Will Greatly Increase Traffic Over U. S. Highway 75.

The coming few weeks will see



ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL CHURCH

his years on the farm at the south- of laying all builder's materials on completion of the paved highway exwest boundaries of the cities. It was the ground for the contractor. They tending north and south through this have a fleet of trucks and expect to city from Omaha south to the Union

also engage in the ready-mix concrete corner, a total distance of 34 miles. game, delivering same onto the job This project, begun last year was all ready to be poured into the forms. held up for weeks due to incessant The Bell company is taking a great rainfall and a portion of it carried many truckloads of gravel from its over to this spring for completion. pits daily and will increase its truck- A gap of some three miles south ing facilities in order to take care of this city and about a mile (excluof still greater demand. sive of grade crossing projects) be-The ready-mix concrete game is tween here and Omaha is all that

becoming a very lucrative business, and should increase in popularity remains to complete the job.

with the introduction of new con- Given good weather, the first of tainers that are kept revolving as June should see the opening up of the delivery trucks speed along the the entire stretch between Plattshas served faithfully and earnestly in the cause of the church here. In addition to the church structure in the cause of the church here. In manufacturers of the celebrated a special permit from the war depart-ment was removed, this being follow-

First Christian Church The First Christian church is also are of the early churches of the com-the needs of a large congregation of state line. men.

