

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

VOL. NO. LIII

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, MONDAY, JANUARY 24, 1938.

NO. 101

## Weeping Water Swept by Worst Fire in History of the City Early This Morning

Starting in Basement of the C. H. Gibson Store at 1:30, Flames Threatened the Entire Business Section of Town.

ESTIMATE LOSS WILL REACH \$75,000.00

All Available Residents of Community Turn Out to Battle Flames and Fire Departments of Louisville and Elmwood Respond to Call for Aid

This morning Weeping Water was slowly recovering from the shock of the greatest fire in the history of the city, a fire that leaves in its wake a loss of from \$65,000 to \$75,000, gutting the larger part of one of the main business blocks of the city.

The fire was first discovered at 1:15 this morning when Miss Shirley Bates, night operator for the Lincoln Telephone Co., whose exchange is located in a building over the Johnson cafe, first noticed smoke in the rooms and turned in the alarm. About the same time Mayme Hillman, owner of a cafe located in the west half of the double building occupied by the C. H. Gibson store, also noticed the heavy smoke and notified Marshal Theo Davis who at once started an investigation.

**Marshal Finds Blaze**  
Mr. Davis going to the rear of the Hillman restaurant discovered a blaze in the rear of the Gibson store and at once started the general fire alarm and hastened to the hose house to secure the truck. As the fire truck arrived at the scene an explosion took place in the basement of the Gibson store and a wall of flames leaped up a small elevator shaft to the main floor of the building and in a very few moments the blaze was roaring through the structure and spreading to the adjoining buildings where was located the W. T. Joyce electrical shop and to the E. A. Michelson variety store as well as into the Johnson cafe.

Every able bodied man of the city was aroused and hastened to the scene as the mounting flames for some time seemed to threaten the entire block which had some of the largest business establishments in the city in it.

The telephone exchange above the Johnson cafe was soon reached by the flames and the communications out of the city destroyed shortly after calls for assistance had gone out to Elmwood and Louisville for fire equipment.

**Telephone and Power Lines Out**  
The fire in its spread took down several of the power lines and that part of the city was in darkness as well as without communication as the blaze lighted up the skies and made a scene of terror for the residents of the city.

For a time it was feared that the building of the Nebraska State bank, located on the east end of the block and a store adjoining would be swept away but the stout walls were able to withstand the flames until the firemen could get the fire confined to the buildings occupied by the five business places.

With the fire at its height, "Hans" Anderson, as he is known, who had sleeping rooms over the variety store, was seen trapped in the burning structure and was forced out to the ledge of a window on the second floor and it was feared that he would attempt to leap to his walk below but firemen were able to rescue him from his peril.

**Offices Swept Away**  
The real estate and insurance office of H. A. Crozier, located on the second floor of the Gibson building was one of the first to be gutted and the large safe that contained the papers and records of Mr. Crozier was plunged to the basement of the building where it lies today buried in the debris and wreckage and is being extricated by volunteer workers to see if any of the records have survived the heat.

When the fire was at its height records and papers from the Nebraska State bank were removed to places of safety under the direction of Frank Domingo, cashier of the bank.

The law offices of C. E. Tefft are

on the upper floor of one of the adjoining buildings and for a time it was thought that this too would be swept by the blaze that had gutted the nearby structures.

**Fire Notes**  
The water supply fortunately was adequate to carry on the long hard fight until the fire was at last mastered near 7 o'clock this morning.

This morning at 11 o'clock still smoldering ruins marked the scene and streams of water were directed on the wreckage to check a possible outbreak of the fire.

The city was filled with willing workers under the leadership of Mayor O. C. Hinds and every effort being made to get the fire out so that the task of clearing the debris might start.

Mr. Gibson lost all of the books and records of the store as well as what cash had been left there overnight. Mrs. Hillman escaped from her restaurant with only what clothing she had on and with the money that was in the cash register.

Buildings on the north side of the street had windows cracked and paint scorched in the intense heat of the raging flames.

The only injury reported was that of Bud Blair, Louisville fireman, who fell in a man hole suffering slight cuts and bruises.

124-daw

### CARD OF APPRECIATION

To My Many Friends:  
Your friendship, which was demonstrated at the time of my recent severe illness, has been a source of much consolation to both myself and Mrs. Rhin. For the kindly visits, the flowers, the cards and letters that you showered upon me and your many other acts of helpfulness during the time I was sick and to those who so kindly offered of their blood for transfusion, I appreciate it more than anything money could buy, and thank you all most sincerely.  
P. F. RHIN, Union, Nebr.

### TESTIFIES IN DAMAGE SUIT

Sheriff Homer Sylvester was at Omaha Wednesday where he was a witness in a case in which damages were asked for the drowning of Edward Kelly in 1935 at Plamore park north of this city in Sarpy county. A verdict for the plaintiff was awarded in a previous trial but a new trial was granted.

Sheriff Sylvester was called to the park at the time of the accident and was present when the body was recovered.

### MUST OBEY STOP SIGNS

Chief Weller of the state safety patrol, speaking at Lincoln Thursday served notice that the state patrolmen, beginning February 1st, are going to start making arrests for stop sign violations.

In the past through the state, violators of the highway stop signs have been let off with warnings but that custom will end February 1st when the law will be strictly enforced.

### PLATE SUPPER AND PROGRAM

Given for the benefit of the Rock Bluffs cemetery. To be held Friday, January 28th at 8 p. m. at the Rock Bluffs school. The public invited.  
124-27w 125-27d

### EVANGELISTIC CAMPAIGN

By radio, Jan. 23-Feb. 27th. Week day at 6:30; Sunday, 7:30 a. m. Rev. Oscar Lowry, evangelist. Under auspices of Family Altar Broadcast, Waterloo, Iowa. 121-6td-1tw

## Defer Action on Proposal to Take Elks Club

Chamber of Commerce Directorate in First Meeting of New Year, Lays the Question Over

From Thursday's Daily—  
The Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce Directorate held its first noon-day luncheon meeting of the new year at the hotel dining room today. President J. Howard Davis presided, and there were 22 of the board members present.

Announcement was made of the personnel of the various committees, and a brief report requested from each committee chairman present.

Two committees of former years have had their designation changed to include a more comprehensive field of activity. The former Railroad committee was changed to Transportation, including rail, truck and water, and the Entertainment committee will henceforth be designated as Public Relations committee.

### Personnel of Committees

The officers and members of the various committees are:  
J. Howard Davis, president; F. I. Rea, vice president; E. H. Wescott, secretary; L. O. Minor, treasurer.  
Finance and Membership—L. O. Minor, chairman; F. I. Rea, E. H. Schulhof, C. J. Schneider, John Sattler, Clem Woster.  
Roads and Highways—John Sattler, chairman; E. G. Ofe, F. M. Bester, John Cloldt, Elmer Sundstrom, George Farley.

Legislative—A. H. Duxbury, chairman; Walter Smith, Elmer Webb, J. A. Capwell, Wm. Pulis.  
Industries—A. L. Tidd, chairman; C. C. Wescott, John Turner, Ray Misner, E. J. Weyrich, E. C. Giles.  
Transportation—Elmer Sundstrom, chairman; J. H. McMaken, E. J. Richey, W. A. Robertson.

Missouri River Improvement—T. H. Pollock, chairman; E. J. Richey, A. L. Tidd, F. M. Bester.  
Publicity—Paul Vandervoort, II, chairman; Frank Smith, Elmer A. Webb.

Agricultural—G. K. Hetrick, chairman; D. M. Babbitt, E. A. Rosen Glen Valley, R. W. Knorr.  
City Improvement and Planning—S. S. Davis, chairman; George Lushinsky, F. L. Cummins, G. A. Pahl.  
Public Relations—L. S. Devoe, chairman; P. T. Heineman, J. W. Holmes, Carl Ofe, Robert Jacobs, J. R. Reeder.

### Discuss Community House

The City Improvement and Planning committee reported on a move to secure the former Elks building for a community house. It was stated that numerous organizations have gone on record declaring need for such a place for the boys and girls of the community, to be conducted along the same lines as Y. M. and Y. W. C. A. programs in the larger cities, with recreational facilities.

In rendering the report, Rev. G. A. Pahl, member of the committee, said, "Where we will go from here on this proposal depends entirely on the backing of the community."

A. L. Tidd voiced the opinion it would be more advisable to take over the Legion community building and complete it for an all-purpose community hall. Searl Davis, speaking as chairman of the committee, said the two would serve separate purposes, the Legion building large banquets and public gatherings and the Elks building, cut up into smaller rooms as it is, the various groups of young people. He felt the only way the Legion building could be made adaptable to these varied uses, would be through the addition of the second story, which would be costly.

The Legion's attitude on the matter, as determined at a recent meeting, is one of passive interest, standing ready to turn over to the city at any time it wishes to accept its entire investment of \$19,000.00, (subject to \$2,200.00 outstanding indebtedness) free of charge and with no strings tied to the offer except a room in which to hold its meetings of non-commercial nature.

There was considerable other discussion with Lynn Minor pointing out that in taking over the Elks building, the committee would be resurrecting a building that is now idle and falling into disrepair, while taking over the Legion building would be simply changing ownership of a going concern. For that reason he felt the Elks' building of-

fered greatest possibilities to the community.

Mr. Davis explained the civic body was not being asked at this time to lend financial backing to any proposition, but merely to go on record declaring a need for a community house for the boys and girls of Plattsmouth such as the Elks building and instruct the committee to engage in further study of the problem.

As the hour of adjournment drew near, John Sattler moved that the matter be laid over to a later meeting for further discussion and action.

## Garden Club Gives Farewell to Friends

Dinner Party for Mr. and Mrs. Freeman McFarland Soon to Leave City—Elected Club Officers

From Thursday's Daily—  
The Plattsmouth Garden club held a 6:30 dinner yesterday in the Stewart cafe dining room honoring Mr. and Mrs. Freeman McFarland who are soon to leave Plattsmouth. The club is very sorry to have Mr. and Mrs. McFarland leave, as they have been very active workers in the Garden club.

The regular monthly business meeting followed the dinner. There was an election of officers in which Mrs. E. H. Wescott was elected president; Mrs. J. M. Roberts, vice-president; Mrs. Luke Wiles, secretary and treasurer.

Emil Weyrich showed picture of his own garden and of the flowers of Plattsmouth, and the pictures of Yellowstone park and his travels last summer.

There were some fifty of the members and friends present to take part in the dinner and meeting.

### WILL HAVE TO FILL VACANCY

The death of Commissioner E. B. Chapman will make it necessary to fill the vacancy on the board and for the second time in two weeks the county clerk, county treasurer and county attorney will be called upon to make an appointment.

The resignation of Commissioner Fred H. Gorder in the third district made necessary the filling of the vacancy which resulted in H. C. Backemeyer of Greenwood being named to the position.

The vacancy in the second district will make necessary the selection of some resident of that district which comprises Liberty, Nehawka, Mt. Pleasant, Center, Louisville and Avoca precincts.

### SUFFERS HEAVY LOSS

Wednesday afternoon just before the bank closed for the day, a stranger, supposedly a traveling representative of a wholesale firm, appeared at one of the local business places, producing a check for \$250 signed by a supposed Omaha firm. The stranger apparently had good credentials and accordingly a representative of the store accompanied him to the bank to get the check cashed. The local party endorsed the check together with the stranger.

This morning the check arrived back at the local bank and marked a forgery and the result will be that the endorser will have to stand the loss inflicted by the slicker.

### TO LOCATE AT ASHLAND

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stander, members of one of the best known families of Cass county, are planning on leaving their farm near Louisville in the spring and will make their home at Ashland. They have purchased a residence property in that city and will enjoy a well deserved rest from the work of the farm.

### HOLD EIGHTH GRADE EXAMS

Eighth grade examinations of the Cass county schools were held Friday at the office of County Superintendent Miss Alpha C. Peterson. There were some thirty-five of the young people in attendance at the examinations. These examinations were conducted at several centers over the county.

## District President Guest Speaker at Auxiliary Meeting

Mrs. Eugene Nutzman, of Nehawka, Tells of Legislative Aims to Help Prevent War.

Upwards of thirty members and guests attended the January meeting of the American Legion Auxiliary at the home of District Vice President Mrs. Raymond Larson Friday afternoon. Associate hostesses were Mrs. Rozina Ripple, Mrs. J. L. Capps, Mrs. Fred Herbstler and Miss Celia Palaeck.

January being Legislative month on the Auxiliary's calendar, the program following the business session was devoted to this subject, under the direction of Mrs. A. H. Duxbury, unit legislative chairman.

The ladies were very pleased to have with them the district president, Mrs. Gene Nutzman, of Nehawka, who was the speaker of the afternoon, discussing legislative aims of the Legion and Legion Auxiliary in general, but more particularly the Universal Service bill now before congress. This bill, aimed to take the profit out of war, by providing for conscription of both men and resources, stabilization of prices, etc., if war should ever occur has been an objective of the service organizations for several years and came very near being passed at the last session of congress.

Concluding her talk, Mrs. Nutzman asked that the members contact Nebraska congressmen with their viewpoints on this legislation.

Accompanying her were Mrs. Ruth Lundberg, district secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Irene Ross, county chairman and Mrs. Ann Topf, unit president, all of Nehawka. Mrs. Ross advised it would be possible to secure safety pictures for showing and urged action be taken along this line.

Local guests included representatives of patriotic and civic women's organizations; Miss Caroline Baird, D. A. R.; Mrs. Elmer Sundstrom, Woman's club; Mrs. E. H. Wescott, Garden club and Mrs. R. B. Hayes, W. C. T. U. Mrs. Mary N. Creamer, a charter member of the local unit, now here on a visit, enjoyed meeting with the organization.

At the business session, a resume was given of the reports on Child Welfare and Rehabilitation work that have just recently been sent to department headquarters covering the past year. The finance committee also discussed plans for the banquet the organization will serve Monday night.

Delicious refreshments concluded the afternoon's meeting. February meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. Henry Soennichsen with an Americanism and National Defense program.

### DEATH OF YOUNG WOMAN

From Saturday's Daily—  
Following a long period of ill health, Mary Ann Hadraba, 22, daughter of Mr. Joseph F. Hadraba, of this city, passed away early this morning. She has been in failing health since her graduation in 1934 and her passing was not unexpected.

The deceased was born and spent her lifetime in this community and where she had many friends among the school associates who will learn with regret of her death.

She is survived by the father, three brothers, Theodore, of Praha, Czechoslovakia; Robert, of Los Angeles; Edward, a student at the University of Nebraska; and one sister, Frances Hadraba of this city. The mother preceded her in death several years ago.

The funeral services will be held at the Holy Rosary church on west Pearl street on Monday morning at 9:30 with the interment at the cemetery west of the city.

The Sattler funeral home will be in charge.

### SHOWS SOME IMPROVEMENT

Mrs. Roy Benedict, who has been in very poor health for some time and has suffered from a complication of troubles followed by pneumonia, is reported as some better. She has been confined to her home for some little time.

### MINISTERS MEET

On Thursday afternoon the ministers, Rev. G. A. Pahl, Rev. J. W. Tautzler, Rev. J. C. Lawson met with Rev. H. G. McClusky at the manse primarily to welcome and become better acquainted with the Rev. J. C. Lawson, the new pastor of the Methodist church. Problems for the betterment of our city were discussed. Mrs. McClusky served delicious refreshments. A pleasant and profitable fellowship was experienced by all.

## Plattsmouth Girl Married at Los Angeles

Miss Hilda Johnson, Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Johnson, Wedded to Edw. J. Thee.

Hilda Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl A. Johnson, prominent residents of this city, became the bride of Edward J. Thee of Sacramento, Calif., at a quiet ceremony Dec. 20, 1937 at Los Angeles. The marriage lines were read by Rev. A. G. McMurphy. They were unattended.

A navy blue crepe dress and matching accessories were worn by the bride. Gardenias formed her corsage.

Miss Johnson was born and reared in this community, is a graduate of Plattsmouth high school with the class of 1929. She then attended Peru State Teachers college at Peru. Following this she taught in the Cass county schools for five years. In the summer of 1937 she made her home with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Staats of Pasadena where she was employed until her marriage as a receptionist in the G. Edwin Williams Studio of that city.

Mr. Thee is the son of the late Conrad C. Thee of Dover, Missouri. He is employed as foreman for the United States government at the Sacramento Wiers. He and his bride are making their home at the Lauppe Apartments, 1323 K St., Sacramento.

### INVITED TO DOANE

Plattsmouth high school is one of the twenty schools who have accepted the invitation to the forensic week-end, February 18-20, extended to them by Doane chapter of Pi Kappa Delta, national forensic fraternity. Other schools include: De Witt, Geneva, Hastings, Wilber, Lincoln, Norfolk, Edgar, Omaha North, Omaha Tech, Omaha Benson, Omaha Central, Omaha Creighton Prep, Kramer High (Columbus), Kearney, Crete, Grand Island, Holdrege, Auburn, and Beatrice.

Invitations were issued to sixty-five selected high schools and these first twenty who responded closed the list of entries. This is the second annual meet. Last year's initial one was a success from every standpoint, with seventy-five students entered from a selected group.

The meet will include divisions in debate, extemporaneous speaking and original oratory.

### "HOKE" IN HOSPITAL

Plattsmouth friends of Garold Holcomb, a former commander of the American Legion post here, will regret to learn that he is at the Haines U. S. Veterans' hospital. Mr. Holcomb has not been well for some time and was ordered to the hospital to take treatment for several weeks. He has been the superintendent of the large waterworks plant at Kankakee, Illinois, since leaving this city.

Friends wishing to reach Mr. Holcomb may do so by writing care Haines U. S. Veterans' hospital, Haines, Cook county, Illinois.

### TO ATTEND WEDDING

From Thursday's Daily—  
Mrs. George Conis and children departed this morning for St. Louis where they will attend the wedding on Sunday of Sam Conis, Perry, Iowa, and Miss Bessie Patton of St. Louis. They accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Gus Stavron of Nebraska City, all being relatives of the young people. Mr. George Conis is leaving Saturday to attend the wedding ceremony.

## Platters Again Score Victory Over Oteans

By Score of 38 to 30 the Blue and White Maintain Place Among the Unbeaten Teams.

From Saturday's Daily—  
Plattsmouth 38, Nebraska City 30. This score of last evening's game suggests to the local fans that the victory streak of Plattsmouth high has been stretched to six straight wins.

The versatile Ray Wooster again gained high scoring honors as he dropped 9 shots safely, and with 2 free shots he accounted for 20 precious points. The remaining points were divided among Miller, Reed and Hayes in that order.

It is not always the player that piles up the scores, that should receive credit for the win, because too much stress cannot be placed on the fact that it was great teamwork and love for the game, such as was exhibited by Miller, Jacobs and Rebal, that keeps a team in the win column.

The score at the end of the first quarter stood at 16 to 9, in favor of Plattsmouth, but after a scoring outburst by Nebraska City's Kastner and Eaciser the two fighting quintets were deadlocked in a 20 to 20 tie at the half.

In the second half, Plattsmouth launched an attack that soon placed them out in front and they were there to stay, scoring 18 points and allowing the opposition but 10.

Eaciser led the opponents offensively with 12 points and Kastner second by contributing 8. Martin was a spark defensively, as was Carpenter.

### Box score:

Plattsmouth (38)				
	PG	FT	PF	TP
Wooster, f	9	2	2	20
Rebal, f	0	0	1	0
McCarty, f	0	0	0	0
Jacobs, c	0	0	0	0
Hayes, c	2	1	3	5
Reed, g	2	3	2	7
Miller, g	2	2	2	6
15 8 10 38				

### Nebraska City (30)

	PG	FT	PF	TP
Eaciser, f	5	2	2	12
Conler, f	0	0	0	0
Kastner, f	4	0	3	8
Dukes, f	1	0	0	2
Carpenter, c	0	2	2	2
Porter, c	0	0	0	0
Petz, g	2	0	3	4
Martin, g	1	0	2	2
Fogolsen, g	0	0	0	0
13 4 14 30				

### Platter Seconds Lose

The two second teams put on a battle that was well worth the price of admission alone. The game was one that was see-sawing back and forth continually until when the final whistle was sounded Nebraska City was found to have a slight edge of 21 to 17. Minor led in this encounter, scoring 7 points. Noble, Wall and Davis played heads up basketball throughout their tenure in the game. Rhoaden and Seltz officiated at this game, Houston of Creighton working the main contest.

The local business men were guests of the team last evening and together with the large crowd that jammed the local "stadium" they got their fill of some real basketball, such that was witnessed by their lusty cheers at every hair raising play.

Next week the team tangles with College View.

### SUES FOR DAMAGES

From Thursday's Daily—  
An action was filed this morning in the office of the clerk of the district court entitled, Madge Newton vs. Charles Ayres and Maxine Ayres. The action is for damages as the result of an auto accident which occurred on the Greenwood-Louisville road the past summer.

The plaintiff in her petition asks the sum of \$5,000 for damages for the breaking of her index finger and the cutting of tendons of a hand which it is alleged has rendered the hand useless.

The petition alleges that the defendant Maxine Ayres was driving the car which was owned by Charles Ayres, and it is further alleged that the car was operated in a manner contrary to the rules of the road.

Phone news items to No. 6.