

Raft of New Laws into Effect

LINCOLN — A whole raft of new laws went into effect this week. That's because Monday was 90 days after the close of the 1953 legislature. The 274 laws which passed without the emergency clause became effective then. The 95 which passed with the emergency operative when Gov. Robert Crosby signed them during the legislature session.

One that has caused more talk than most was the bitterly-fought truck weight tolerance bill. The state highway department fought against its passage, claiming heavier roads would have to be built. Proponents of the measure said the extra weight talk was exaggerated and that actually it meant stiffer penalties for overloading trucks. They pointed to the provision that trucks caught with more than the 5 percent weight tolerance on wheels and axles or the 3 percent tolerance on overall gross weights would have to unload on the spot down to the legal limit. The bill was passed over Governor Crosby's veto.

State Engineer L. N. Ress has made it clear he intends to have the state safety patrol enforce the law "to the hilt." He said there will be no "tolerance" on the "tolerance."

A truck caught with one pound over the extra weight allowed by tolerance will have no excuses. The trucker will unload right at the weighing station. Exceptions will be explosives and inflammable liquids which nobody would want to have handled on state property, Ress explained. Also some consideration will be given refrigerated shipments, but only to the extent that the driver can drive to the nearest locker plant and unload.

Traffic Point System— A new point system for traffic violators went into effect Monday. When a driver gets 12 demerit points over a two year period, his license will be revoked for a year. Roy Blazek of the state motor vehicle division said it has been found that the threat of taking a driver's license away is the best deterrent to traffic violations (not including parking or truck overloading offenses) to 12 for third offense drunken driving.

Other new laws of interest to the average person include that he may now plead "nolo contendere" in Nebraska courts. This means "I do not wish to contest." Previously one had to plead guilty or not guilty. Its chief virtue would be in motor vehicle accident cases where you could plead nolo contendere and be fined and yet not have the plea operate against you in civil damage suit later.

If a person is hauled into court, he may now put up a cash deposit as bail instead of a surety bond as formerly required. This applies also to appeals from police courts. This is at the citizen's option and is not up to the judge.

Outstate Hearings— The state liquor commission this week held some hearings away from Lincoln for the first time. The public hearings as to whether certain liquor licensees should be penalized for breaking rules and laws were held at North Platte. State Liquor Commission Chairman Tal Coonrad of Sargent said he thought it was only fair for the commission to come out to meet the liquor licensees once in a while instead of always demanding they come to Lincoln. Also this would equalize somewhat the expenses for outstate licensees.

Naturally it costs them more to go to Lincoln, especially if they take an attorney along, than it does for a licensee in the eastern part of the state, Coonrad pointed out. The entire commission, Coonrad, Carl Linn of Hastings and

Nathan Pont of Stanton, took the trip.

Bypass Question— A group of businessmen in the Nebraska US 30 highway association got a shock when State Engineer L. N. Ress told them there was a possibility that US 30 might be taken around several towns if the passage through town isn't made better. The group with Governor Crosby and Ress came to the statehouse to meet to talk over the question of bypasses. Their fears had been aroused by the state highway department's proposal to bypass Kimball.

Ress said that US 30 in on the planning boards as an eventual interstate highway. This will mean four 12-foot lanes of traffic freely moving at all times. He told the association members that they would either have to be prepared for this or lose the highway through their town. Members of the delegation were unanimous in expressing opposition to taking the highway out of their towns. Paul Billesniachy of Sidney said that western towns would be willing to take all parking off the street which the highway takes through the city. H. D. Pratt, Grand Island hotel man, said all parking could be cleared so there would be a four lane highway through that central Nebraska metropolis. Some members wondered why there was this effort to hurry tourists across Nebraska, pointing out that every day they stay longer the more money they leave behind.

But Ress said that the situation is fast becoming intolerable in some towns and that the towns will have to get something done or be bypassed.

Engineering Fees— Reports are that some western

Nebraska communities which have built roads by "local contribution" are unhappy with a state highway department policy of charging engineering fees. They figure that when they "pass the hat" and get half the money and the federal government gives the rest the least the state could do would be to donate its engineering services. Ress explained the department's policy this way. Every time the state contributes money under present laws to build a road it is liable to continue maintaining it. To keep from being stuck, the state just doesn't donate. Also, the department is short of engineers, especially with its present big road building program. And Ress said it is hoped that the counties will set up their own engineering services in planning their "farm to market" road systems.

Mary Anne Winchell Heady SMA Seniors— Upper classmen at St. Mary's academy have elected officers for the current term: Seniors: Mary Anne Winchell, president; James Schmitz, vice-president; Catherine Christon, treasurer; Joan Langan, secretary.

Double Celebration— Tommy Hickey and Gene Yantzie were guests-of-honor Monday at a double birthday party in honor of their third birthday anniversaries. The party was given by their mothers, Mrs. Francis Hickey and Mrs. Bob Yantzie, at the home of Mrs. Yantzie. There were 40 guests present. Each guest received balloons and toy favors.

Phone us your news — 51.



Wed at Spencer
Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Fuhrer (above) were married Saturday, September 5, at the Methodist church in Spencer. Rev. Marjory Johnson read the double-ring ceremony. Before her marriage, Mrs. Fuhrer was Miss Enid Gelbraith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Gelbraith of Spencer. The bridegroom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gust Fuhrer of Bonesteel, S.D.—O'Neill Photo Co.

Geography Class to Meet Saturday— "Geography of Nebraska," an off-campus course from Wayne State Teachers college, will meet for the first time Saturday, September 19, at 9 o'clock. Fred Dale is teaching the class, according

to Holt County Supt. Alice L. French.

"Teaching Reading" class will meet again Saturday, September 26. The dates have been checked in both offices, and this will be called the second meeting.

7th Birthday— Master Rickey Hill entertained seven guests in honor of his seventh birthday anniversary on Tuesday, September 8. Ice cream, cake and kool-ade were served. Rickey received many gifts. He

is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Hill and was confined to St. Anthony's hospital and his home most of the summer because of a compound leg fracture, which resulted from a fall from a tree.

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