

Kelly Green Prominent on St. Pat's Day; 'Bunko' New Game, but 'Yap' Better Title

By BARBARA BENNETT

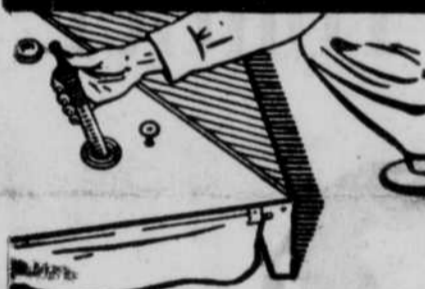
Hi kids. Friday everyone saw green, but it wasn't the envy kind of green. It was that good old Kelly green of St. Patrick's day. St. Mary's had a holiday Friday. And Friday night, Shirley Thiet sort had a party based on the St. Patrick's theme. A new game was introduced and it proved to be lots of fun. It's real name is "bunko" but the kids thought "yap" suited it better. The kids danced a n d r e f r e s h m e n t s w e r e served.

Did you ever hear of a double game of checkers? There were 4 kids working from each side of the checkerboard. It was a mess but a lot of fun. St. Mary's postponed its St. Patrick's day dance. The Boy Scouts had a pie social last week. There was a carnival with many different

Sons of Soil In Session—

On Saturday evening, March 4, a group of 6 boys gathered at the Bennet Sanders home to organize a new 4-H club. A. Neil Dawes, county agent, came out to help us and to explain the different projects from which we could choose the ones we wished to take. All 6 took forestry. Officers were elected: Robert Sanders, president; Gordon Slaight, vice-president; Roland Classon, secretary - treasurer, and Charles Pierson, news reporter. Leaders were John Ehterton and Bennett Sanders. Mr. Dawes showed us some very interesting slides of 4-H work, also others of the mountains and scenes of interest in western United States. Our next meeting will be held at the Pierson home. Mrs. Sanders served lunch after the meeting. — By Charles Pierson reporter.

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LEAGUE DOESN'T WANT CEILING HIKE

LINCOLN — Nebraska's tax commissioner believes the trend of the past 10 years toward improvement in property assessment and equalization will continue this year.

Philip K. Johnson said local officials may have difficulty discerning improvements made during the decade, but "when viewed for the state as a whole, it is apparent assessors and taxpayers realize the seriousness of the problem and are taking steps which should eventually provide a more stable and better equalized source of revenue."

The tax commissioner said prices of farm commodities have dropped somewhat but he believes this will be offset by an apparent increase in merchants' inventories and industrial equipment in the hands of manufacturers.

The League of Nebraska Municipalities has asked the legislative council to study municipal tax problems with a view to relaxing the legal restrictions on budgets of cities and towns with less than 5,000 population.

"So much remedial legislation is needed, it would save time and grief if the council would study the problems and make its recommendations to the 1951 legislature," C. E. Beals, executive secretary of the league, said.

Municipalities do not seek an increase in the present 18-mill ceiling set on second class cities and villages for general and incidental purposes, Beals said.

Present law specifies the amount of tax permitted for virtually every purpose in municipalities of less than 5,000 population, he said. As an example he cited the .4 mill permitted for sewer maintenance. "Almost every city is head over heels in the red on this," he said.

C. V. Price, the new head of the division of Nebraska resources, returned to Nebraska from a 24-day trip to Eastern states.

"Nebraska will get its share of any decentralizing eastern industries," he said, "however, we'll have to work hard."

Price said the state has a "good chance" of getting chemical, wool and precision instrument industries, should they be decentralized. Nebraska needs this type of industry, which would import its raw materials and employ available skilled labor, he said.

He warned southern states are providing tough competition because of non-union, cheap labor and low taxes, as well as sufficient power and water supplies.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Green and two children visited in Creighton Sunday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Neysens.

Among those attending the state basketball tournament in Lincoln over the weekend were: Jack Arbuthnot, P. B. Hart, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Dean and family, H. L. Lindberg and two sons, Marvin Miller and Ed Flood.

Otherwise, this was the week's statehouse news:

Capt. C. J. Sanders, safety patrol chief, said that if traffic deaths maintain the present pace, the 1950 total will more than double 1949. "This would mean more than 500 lives sacrificed to carelessness," he said. He based the conclusion on the fact that 36 fatalities were reported for the first 2 months of 1950, compared to 15 for the same period last year.

Bill Cunningham, supervisor of state game wardens, said arrest of game violators during January and February showed a "marked increase" over the first 2 months of 1949. Illegal possession of game led the violations.

Gen. Guy N. Henninger, state adjutant general, said he is preparing a master civil defense plan for Nebraska. It includes steps for restoring the public health service, utilities, the use of hospitals and similar activities.

State Superintendent of schools Wayne O. Reed has filed with the governor his annual report.

It shows that about 225,000 children attended Nebraska public schools during the 1948-49 school year. This figure included enrollments of 111,262 in city and village elementary grades; 53,861 in country schools and 60,393 in high schools.

The state education chief figures that enrollments in country grade schools have leveled off.

There are several unsolved problems, the report said: State financial support to efficiently organized school districts. Continued efforts for sound, economical districts. An adequate supply of qualified teachers. Curriculum in grade and high schools geared to meet pupils' needs. Creation of a board of laymen, and a superintendent appointed, rather than elected, as is now done.

Gov. Val Peterson made 4 appointments last week:

Earl J. Moyer, of Madison, reappointed to the state racing commission for a 3-year term ending March 3, 1953.

Neil Krause, of Albion, to the veterans' advisory commission for a 5-year term ending March 1, 1953.

L. W. Weaver, of Lincoln, to the board of examiners for engineers and architects for a 5-year term ending February 23, 1953.

Neal W. Brown, of Lincoln, to the advisory council of the division of employment security until July 1, 1953.

Two new applications for curtailed railroad service were before the railway commission last week. The Burlington wants to discontinue agency service at Saronville and substitute a custodian. The North Western asked for permission to discontinue permanently its Hadar station on the Norfolk-Winner line. Both roads said present expenses were not justified.

Road delegations are nothing new in the governor's office. Scarcely a week goes by that doesn't see a group of farmers and businessmen from some locality or other, calling on Gov. Val Peterson to do something about road conditions in their area.

But this week, the state highway department beat such a group to the punch. A delegation headed by Arch Mullin, of Valentine, met with Peterson and State Engineer Fred Klietsch seeking reconstruction of U. S. highway 83 north from Valentine to the Nebraska-South Dakota state line.

Klietsch told of preliminary surveys for the 9-mile stretch already have been made and the work will be done next year.

The monthly report of the state assistance department shows the state gave 23,931 needy old Nebraskans an average of \$43.78 last month. An additional \$107,000 was given for health services, which would boost the average to \$48.27.

The department said 8,705 youngsters were given average grants of \$34.77. Over ceiling health aids amounting to \$8,151 were given an additional 189, bringing the total cost of the aid to dependent children program to \$310,000.

The temporary school fund melloon has been sliced. The annual apportionment of the million and a half dollar fund was on the basis of 6,483 districts and 314,326 children between the age of 5 and 21 in the areas.

The total is \$200,000 greater than last year. County-by-county shares in the O'Neill region include: Holt, \$33,519; Boyd, \$10,992; Greeley, 9,367; Antelope, \$18,277; Wheeler, \$5,117; Knox, \$23,460; Keya Paha, \$7,421.

Attorney General C. S. Beck, 52, of North Platte, filed for election to the office he now holds. He's a Republican.

Beck, who has been with the attorney-general's office since 1939, except for the period he was in service, is filling the unexpired term of James H. Anderson, who resigned to enter private practice.

"Having been officially connected with the anti-gambling drive from its beginning," Beck said, "I shall continue it without abatement or relaxation."

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Nebraskans paid almost \$100,000,000 in 1949 property taxes, Tax Commissioner Philip Johnson reports. The exact figure is \$98,664,524.

Of every dollar paid, Johnson said, 19 99-10 cents will be spent by the state and the remainder locally.

School taxes accounted for the largest chunk of the tax total, 47.99 per cent; state taxes 12.33 per cent; city and village taxes 16.15 per cent; county taxes, 2.18 per cent; township taxes, 2.18 per cent; rural fire district taxes .18 per cent, and road district taxes .13 per cent.

Applebys are Hosts—
Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Appleby were: Mr. and Mrs. Fred Asher and family and Mr. and Mrs. Don Nissen and family, all of Page; Mr. and Mrs. Harry Appleby, of Inman, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Asher, of O'Neill.

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