

GOOD HORSES—Always catch the eyes of all. The exhibit this year will be much larger than ever at the Nebraska State Fair, August 31st to September 7th.

VAST AND ANCIENT CITY OF PAWNEES DISCOVERED AT O'NEILL, NEBRASKA

Relics Tell Tale of Indian Village on Elkhorn River.

Three Cornfields, Two of Them Abandoned, Hide Story of Civilization of Days Lost in Dim Past.

(By J. B. O'Sullivan in Omaha Bee-News.)

O'Neill, Neb., July 1: For more than 50 year stone and bones tools and bone pieces of strange size and shape have been found over a wide area in the vicinity of O'Neill. Little thought was ever given the matter until a year ago. At that time the writer accidentally came across a pecking stone made of a material that greatly resembled diamond. Since then a wealth of tomahawk heads, axes, spear and arrowheads, knives, scrapers, bones that were boiled in oil and a myriad of other material, the use of which seems a mystery, have been unearthed.

The ancient city of the Pawnee Indians, who spent hundreds, and perhaps thousands of years here on the banks of the Elkhorn, now lies buried beneath three cornfields. Two of them were abandoned 40 years ago as the ground is river sand and blew around like so many feathers. During the memorable year of 1893, several feet of the top soil was removed. The third field is now in use, but is weedless, and an ideal surface in which to find artifacts.

Three trails are still to be seen that leads toward the Niobrara, and one leading to Dry creek. It is presumed they lead up to the headwaters of this creek and then across the sandhills to the Loup, since the Nebraska Historical society has found remains of the Pawnees along this stream.

This town is thought to be a thousand years old at least. Not a single sign, such as iron, glass or copper is revealed. An expert estimates that about 1,000 people comprised the population.

The houses seem to have been close to the stream and undoubtedly were partly underground. Traces of them have been discovered half way across the Jim McDermott field. The village was a half mile in length by two city blocks in width.

Arrow heads, pecking stones and fire flints have been taken from the river bank under six feet of soil that seems to have lain undisturbed for centuries. A skull taken from this sepulcher revealed an arrow head in the left side that must have caused

death. This specimen crumbled.

Not the least interesting material taken out is the pottery. Much of it is highly decorated with the point of a tooth, and some is basket pottery. A basket was made of cat-tail stems, or small willow branches, then the mixture of sand, ashes and powdered clamshell was plastered on the inside. It was baked, and then burned or fired, and the impression of the basket remained on the outer side. All this material found bears a coat of rich red paint on the inside. It is claimed that pottery makers of this town found a secret way of making paint that lasted indefinitely. Several pieces plainly show decorations put there with the thumb nail. The material is black and brown, with now and then a piece gray. Nuggets of coarse quartz sand may be seen in all of this product of the aboriginal potters.

After examining some of the material, H. W. Dorsey, chief clerk, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, remarks: "It is very interesting to know that you found this remarkable material so far north and west."

Teeth, in a good state of preservation, are very numerous and are thought to be those of buffalo, deer or elk. Some are sharpened like a chisel, while others seem to have served as arrow heads. Much glass-like material, cut to serve as ornaments, has come to light.

A very interesting find is a petrified bone tool about two inches in length. It is notched and shows plainly many nicks as though someone hammered the edge of a sharp rock. It must have been soft at one time. Now it is adamant.

Several years ago before this village was revealed, the writer picked up an oiled buffalo head near this mystic city of the hazy past and tossed it aside, intending to get it later. A man from Lincoln came along and took it to Nebraska's windy city. It is a jewel of a specimen. Experts say it was a sacred head used in some tribal ceremonial.

The writer has in his possession a wolf, snake, bear and man's head cut true to life from red jasper flint that seems to have been taken from the quarries along the Republican river. It is believed these were used by Pawnee children.

The work on the arrowheads of these people is marvelous. Body, tang and barb are cut as neat as a jeweler would fashion them. Some spearheads, scrapers and knives are made by the chipping method, while the pecking stones are all made by the stroking process. They are cut as you would shape a piece of soap. About 100 of these stone fingers have

been picked up.

One striking fact about this old town is that no suitable supply of stone is in the vicinity. Some archaeologist maintain this was not true at the time the town was inhabited.

It is supposed by some that the sandhills may have been stone and since disintegrated. If this supposition is wrong, it is certain, then, that all the stone used by them for artifacts was carried a hundred miles or more. The closest known quarries belonging to the Pawnee Indians is located near Franklin, Nebraska. The fact that the Pawnees had possession of this dark brown jasper flint, which is easily worked, gave them a great advantage on the battlefield and gave them great prestige. Some whites have asserted that these Indians could lie on bare ground and vanish. Others claim the whites did the vanishing.

Some lumps of ocre, charcoal, ashes, natural glass from Colo., bird points of chert, moss agate awls, needles, punches, two and four-bladed knives, a badly broken statue of some form that looks like a flapper in chalk rock, pieces of pipe, hammers, tommy-hawks and chips of a dozen kinds of material comprise most of the specimens. Many of the knives will cut like a razor.

The water is plentiful and cool. Wood is abundant and the ground high. The earth is very soft and agriculture would have been a sine-cure without stirring the soil. Cutting the town in two sections, from north to south, and worn six feet deep by travel and erosion, lies a trail that appears ideal for the migration of wild animals, as well as being a highway for man. Here, on both sides, one could lie in the blue stem and pot a buffalo, deer or antelope. This may account for the enormous number of broken artifacts found here.

A representative of a nationally known archaeological society has promised to visit the site this fall. His opinion, after looking at some of the material, is that the village may be one of the oldest ruins ever found on the continent.

SUPERVISORS' PROCEEDINGS.

O'Neill, July 7, 1928, 10 a. m. Board of Equalization met pursuant to adjournment. All members present but Skidmore.

Board called to order by the Chairman. Minutes for board of Equalization for June 26, 1928, read and approved.

Mr. J. A. Donohoe appeared before the board in response to notice to the Northern Nebraska Power Company to appear on this date to show cause why the valuation of the one-half of the power on the Niobrara river assessed in Holt County should not be raised.

On motion of McKim seconded by James the valuation of the above power dam in Holt County was fixed at \$120,000.00.

At 12 o'clock Noon, on motion board of equalization adjourned until 1 o'clock p. m.

JOHN SULLIVAN, Chairman.
E. F. PORTER, Clerk.

O'Neill, July 7, 1928, 1 p. m. Holt County Board of Equalization met pursuant to adjournment. All members present but Skidmore.

Board called to order by the Chairman.

O'Neill, Neb., June 27, 1928. To the Honorable Board of Supervisors of Holt County, Nebraska.

Gentlemen: Your petitioner, the undersigned, respectfully avers that she is the owner of the E 1/4 SW 1/4 and S 1/2 35-33-13 in Holt County, Nebraska, and that the assessed valuation on said land for the years, 1924-1925-1926 and 1927 has been greatly in excess of the actual value of like property in the same vicinity for the reason that the Assessor made an error in assessing said land as cultivated land, when it should have been assessed as pasture land.

THEREFORE, petitioner asks for a reduction in valuation on said property to \$1,000.00 which would equalize said property with other properties of like actual value and that the County Clerk be directed to retax said land for said years on a valuation of \$1,000.00.

Statement verifying error by Assessor is hereto attached.

LAVONA GALLAGHER.
By R. E. Gallagher, Agt.

O'Neill, Neb., June 27, 1928. To the County Board of Holt County, Nebraska.

Gentlemen: In assessing the E 1/4 SW 1/4 and SW 1/4 and SE 1/4 35-33-13 in Saratoga Township I made an error in assessing it as Cultivated land when it should have been assessed as pasture land: Therefore, I ask that same be corrected accordingly for years 1924-1925-1926 and 1927.

OTTO NIELSON,
Township Assessor.

On motion the prayer of the petition was granted and clerk instructed to rewrite the taxes in accordance therewith.

O'Neill, Neb., June 27, 1928. To The Honorable Board of Supervisors of Holt County, Nebraska:

Gentlemen: Your petitioner, the undersigned, respectfully avers that she is the owner of Lots Number 9-10-11-12 in Block 26 in O'Neill, Nebraska, and that the assessed valuation on said lots for several years last past has been greatly in excess of the actual value, and if like property in the City of O'Neill.

THEREFORE, petitioner asks for a reduction in valuation on said property to \$800.00, which would equalize said property with other properties of like actual value.

Respectfully submitted,
MRS. AGNES NEYENS,
By R. E. Gallagher, Agent.

On motion prayer of the petition was granted.

On motion the improvement on lots 19 block 7, Hallocks Addition to Stuart was reduced from \$400.00 to \$300.00.

On motion the valuation of Campbell & Son's Stock of Lumber in Atkinson city was reduced from \$12,400 to \$10,000.

At 4:30 p. m. on motion the Board of Equalization adjourned to the call



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"I mean Deep-Rock, the 100 per cent pure paraffine motor oil."

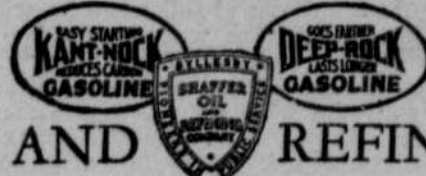


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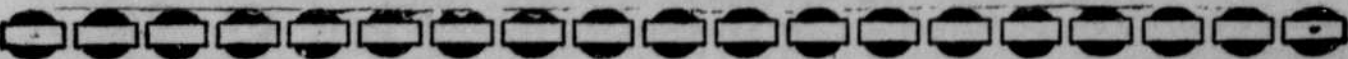
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of the Clerk.
JOHN SULLIVAN, Chairman.
E. F. PORTER, Clerk.
O'Neill, July 10, 1928, 10 a. m. Holt County Board met pursuant to adjournment and according to Statute. All members present.
Board called to order by the Chairman. Minutes for June 27, 1928, read and approved.
Mr. Chairman: Whereas, under the provisions of Chapter 169 of the Session Laws of Nebraska for the year 1927, the First National Bank of O'Neill, Nebraska, The O'Neill National Bank of O'Neill, Nebraska, First National Bank of Stuart, Nebraska,

and the First National Bank of Atkinson, Nebraska, was assessed upon the shares of stock on a basis of 70% of the actual value of said shares:
AND WHEREAS, each and all of said banks heretofore paid the taxes so levied and assessed against them, at the same time claiming part of the assessment, thereof was invalid, and each of said banks did therefore, in accordance with the Second Subdivision of the Section 6018 of the Compile Statutes of Nebraska for the year 1927, serve a written demand upon the treasurer of the state, county city village, township, and school district, for the benefit or under the authority

or by the request of which the same was levied for a refund of the proportion thereof which said banks claimed to be invalid, which said written demands are now on file with this Honorable body.
AND WHEREAS, the Supreme Court of the State of Nebraska has recently held in the case of The State on the relation of O. S. Spillman, Attorney General, Plaintiff, vs. Ord State Bank, Ord, Nebraska, defendant, County of Vallon, State of Nebraska, Claimant and Appellee, vs. I. A. Kird, Receiver of the Ord State Bank of Ord, Nebraska, Appellant, Case No. 26047, (Continued on page nine)

A MAN doesn't have to plead with creditors for extension of time when he has established credit at his bank by maintaining a substantial account

The O'Neill National Bank

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits, \$125,000.00

This bank carries no indebtedness of officers or stockholders.

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Edward S. Early, O'Neill