

## Many Now Budget Sickness Expense

One of the questions that comes into the minds of many people when they think of hospitals is, "When sickness strikes me or a member of my family, will we have money to pay the hospital and doctor?"

The answer to this question was furnished by the hospitals and doctors themselves, a few years ago, when they organized the Blue Cross plan for hospital care, and the Blue Shield plan for medical care.

These companion plans, which operate in the public interest as non-profit organizations, enable people to prepay—budget in advance—the major part of their

hospital and medical expenses. The public has accepted the prepayment method of health care, and the growth in enrollment has been phenomenal. Now, more than 42 million people—one out of four in the United States and Canada—are enrolled in Blue Cross, and 22 million people are Blue Shield members.

In Nebraska, 236,000 are Blue Cross members, and 203,000 Nebraskans have Blue Shield protection. Blue Cross hospitals in Nebraska number 117, and 1,170 doctors—about 93 percent—are participating physicians in the Blue Shield plan.

Last year, Nebraska Blue Cross - Blue Shield exceeded all previous records for services to members, paying almost 3½-million-dollars in hospital and medical benefits. Blue Cross payments to hospitals for care received by 33,483 Nebraska mem-

bers totaled \$1,967,877, and Blue Shield benefits for 49,400 medical, surgical and obstetrical services rendered by physicians amounted to \$1,521,072.

The success of Blue Cross-Blue Shield is proof that the people, working together with their hospitals and doctors, can protect themselves against the financial shock of sickness.

### Just Within the Law—

Thanks to the fairy that spins the wheel of time, the hospital fund was enriched by 45-hundred-dollars accumulated through bingo games sponsored by the Catholic Daughters. A few months after the presentation of their check, bingo and other forms of gambling were outlawed in the state.

At a recent meeting of the O'Neill city council the Consumers Public Power district was authorized to install modern street-lighting facilities along Adams, Benton and Second streets adjoining the hospital grounds. The lighting plans will also include the O'Neill public school property, Holt county courthouse lots (north side) and other St. Mary's and St. Patrick's property.



**JUDGE MOUNTS TO TALK**  
District Judge D. R. Mounts of O'Neill judge of the Fifteenth Nebraska judicial district comprising Holt, Boyd, Rock, Keya Paha and Brown counties, is included on the dedication day program. Judge Mounts was a practicing attorney at Atkinson before assuming duties of the bench in O'Neill.

## Congratulations

St. Anthony's Hospital . . . a monument to a cooperative Christian spirit that has made America great.

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## Congratulations to St. Anthony's Hospital



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# We Congratulate O'Neill and Holt County

ON THIS OCCASION, the completion and formal dedication of the new half-million dollar St. Anthony's Hospital, we offer profound congratulations to the City of O'Neill, to the foresighted people of Holt County, to the Sisters of St. Francis. We regard St. Anthony's Hospital, modern in every detail and comparable to the finest metropolitan institutions of its type, as a much-needed asset to North Nebraska. And we extend best wishes.

CONSUMERS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

