

The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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EDITORIALS

The views expressed in these columns are those of the writer and not necessarily a reflection of the policy of The Voice.—Pub.

Cross Burned At Harvard U.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. — Harvard officialdom has been reluctant to discuss publicly the burning of a fiery cross on Monday, Feb. 11 around 11:30 in the evening in the front of Hollis and Stoughton halls within the Harvard Yard.

Negro alumni of the famous university have expressed grave concern over the incident, whether a "malicious prank" or otherwise, since the cross, emblem of the infamous KKK, was burned near the two dormitories where six Negro freshmen reside.

In spite of the statements of the Boston papers this week that the incident first came to light this

past week, young Alan Howe, captain of the Freshman track team, notified several Negro alumni in Boston of the cross burning almost immediately after the incident. Later that week at a meeting, originally called to celebrate Negro History Week, the Negro undergraduates demanded that some action on the part of the university should be taken.

The undergraduate paper, the Harvard Crimson, whose representatives were at the Negro History Week meeting where the incident was thoroughly discussed, this week stated in part:

"That the event really occurred is beyond doubt. Many in the Yard witnessed it. What the motives were—malice or a very poor joke—cannot be learned immediately. It was most likely a 'wise guy' stunt of freshmen who are more guilty of ignorance than actual malice—ignorance because they could not have possibly realized the full import of their act. The strongest effect fell on the Negro students who felt the full impact of hate and terror associated with a burning cross. There is no sentiment which so bluntly represents the worst sentiments in America. The people who did this have allied themselves with ignorance and their act makes no one laugh."

THE EVANS

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by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Antelope County

Antelope County in northeastern Nebraska obviously was named for the fleet-footed animal which used to be found in Nebraska in great numbers. There's an interesting yarn, though, as to just why it was so named.

The name was given by Leander Gerrard of Columbus, who served in the state senate in 1871. In the summer of 1867 or 1868, so the story goes, Mr. Gerrard, who was active in promoting the settlement of northeastern Nebraska, was in the area occupied by the county with a group of home-seeking tourists. They ran low on food, but Mr. Gerrard came to the rescue by shooting a fine antelope. This circumstance occurred to him when he was preparing the bill for the organization of the county, and he applied the name, "Antelope."

Another and more exciting version of the story has it that Mr. Gerrard was in pursuit of Indians who had stolen some livestock around Columbus when he shot the antelope.

A number of factors contributed to retard the early settlement of Antelope County. One was the conflict between the county commissioners and the B. & M. Railroad over taxes on the lands in the county granted the railroad in lieu of lands along the road's right-of-way which earlier had been granted to the Union Pacific.

The earliest town of significance, and the first county seat, was Oakdale, laid out in 1872. A small, one-story frame court house was built in 1873 at a cost of \$650. It burned in 1875, and was not replaced because of the desire of some of the citizens to remove the county seat to Neligh.

Neligh was founded in 1873 on land that had been purchased from the Chicago and Northwestern Railroad the year before by John D. Neligh. The town grew rapidly and for a time was a favorite hangout for cowboys and such notorious characters as Kid Wade and Doc Middleton. An important factor in the growth of Neligh was the location of the U.S. land office for the region there. Likewise, the early mill

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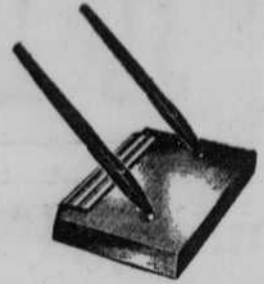
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was a drawing card for business. The cultural life of the new town was greatly enriched when the Congregationalists established Gates College there, a flourishing institution in the eighties and nineties.

As a result of this growth, Neligh was victorious in the long contest with Oakdale over the county seat, and after five bitterly-contested county seat elections, the seat of government finally was removed in 1883.

A good sketch of Antelope County by Mrs. R. J. Hering will be found in Who's Who in Nebraska.



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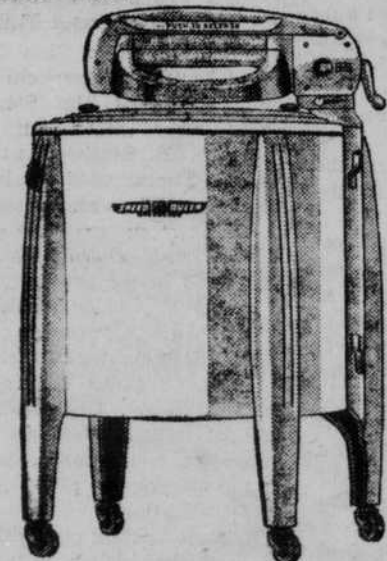
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