

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

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NO. 35

## Commencement Exercises of the Class of 1932

Fifty-five Young People Complete Their High School Work—Dr. W. E. Sealock, Speaker.

From Friday's Daily

Last evening occurred one of the most important incidents in the lives of fifty-five of the young people of this community, that of graduating from the high school where for four years they have been rounding out their school education. For many it marked the completion of their educational work while for others it was merely the prelude to ventures into higher educational fields.

The auditorium of the high school where the exercises occurred, was filled in a few moments after the opening of the doors and many were compelled to stand.

Shortly after 8 o'clock, Miss Virginia Samek, member of the junior class, sounded the first notes of the War March of the Priests from "Athalia," to which the class of 1932 and the school officials entered and were shown to their seats on the platform of the auditorium.

Superintendent R. E. Bailey presided over the commencement and introduced the various participants on the program.

Canon W. J. H. Petter, rector of the St. Luke's Episcopal church, gave the invocation and benediction of the services.

The senior girls group, composing Dorothy Farmer, Anna Knieke, Loretta Taylor, Grace Piny, Helen Virginia Price, Catherine Terryberry, Helen Schulz, Irene Simons, Madge Garnett, Janet Vallery, Doris Peterson, Eleanor Swatek, Thelma Pitman and Mary Lois Wiles, were heard in a well chosen selection, "Have a Smile," by Rule. Miss Cora Williams, musical director of the schools was the accompanist.

The honor of the class orators are given to those who have attained the highest grades in their school work and which gave the salutatory to Miss Eleanor Swatek and the valedictory of the class to Miss Madge Garnett. Miss Swatek gave the opening greeting of the class, to whom as the speaker stated the occasion was one of the high spots of their life, it was the culmination of the sacrifices through grade and high school that the parents had made that the pupils might attain their schooling. To the greater part of the students graduation represented the start in actual work of life who were anxious to make their start in life but found that at this time the most critical of conditions faced them. The time today was one of greatest peril and in which all of the best would be required of the student. Miss Swatek praised the teaching that the class had received at the hands of the faculty and in the various lines of activity pointed to the fact that 22 had chosen commercial work while fourteen were normal training students. Manual training and athletics had also contributed to the varied work of the boys of the class.

Miss Madge Garnett, valedictorian, brought a forceful message as the farewell of the class to the audience. The speaker stated that the end of the high school life with the question "What Are You Going to Do," meant each member of the class. The class of 1932 had grown through depression Miss Garnett stated, it had entered high school in 1929 as the first blows of the nation wide economic crisis was felt, it had heard, it had seen and felt the four years that had grown constantly more severe. Leaving school now the class members faced overcrowded lines of activity in most all professions and trades. It was the advice of the speaker to follow the wisdom of Thomas A. Edison, "I have lived a long time and have seen many depressions, but our country has emerged greater than ever, be brave go forward."

The speaker of the evening, Dr. William E. Sealock, president of the Omaha Municipal university, took as his subject, "The Challenge to Youth." In his opening the speaker stated that education was an investment, one that must be made at a certain time of life or not at all, he cited views of Alfred E. Smith and President Hoover in message to youth

to secure all education possible. Dr. Sealock traced the development of mankind in the past years, the fact that all progress had been dearly bought, that today we lived in the age of the machine wherein the past had seen serfdom and compulsory toil as the part of a great many of the race. In this day when education and training had advanced there was a clearer conception of the fact that there was no limit to the possibilities of the development under the laws of God and of nature. Service to man had also been a development of the race in later years that had heretofore been ignored. To the youth the challenge of the day was the indifference of the people to conditions that prevailed, to the spirit that allowed the racketeer to grow to power, that act that there had not been a president elected by the majority of the eligible voters of the nation in fifty years. It was to the youth that the challenge to give more than lip service had been heeded, it was their task to combat the evils of the day and to carry on civilization to greater attainment in future years.

The boys quartet of the high school, Louis Knoficek, David Robinson, Otto Stodola and James Nowack gave a very appropriate selection, "Here's a Health to You Old High," a musical tribute to the school from which they were graduating.

Superintendent R. E. Bailey announced the scholarship award of the year, Miss Madge Garnett receiving the first and Miss Eleanor Swatek the second honors. The D. A. R. prize for the best student of American history, was awarded to Miss Madge Garnett, Mrs. Henry C. McMaken making the presentation.

Mr. Bailey also presented Harold Jordan, class sponsor, who gave a few brief remarks.

Dr. Frank L. Cummins then presented the diplomas to the class which comprised the following: John H. Becker, Harold I. Blodgett, Mary Ellen Byers, Mildred Cariburg, Lillian F. Chovance, Cecil W. Comstock, James F. Comstock, Henry J. Donat, Edward M. Eganberger, Walter Elledge, Dorothy Jane Farmer, Clarence W. Forbes, Mott C. Prady, Malinda A. Friedrich, Virginia L. Galloway, Madge Garnett, Opal F. Haley, Gwendolyn F. Hansen, Raymond J. Heigl, William F. Goble, Eleanor Swatek, Loretta R. Taylor, Catherine E. Terryberry, Charles Alvadore Tilson, Ralph O. Timm, Clarence Troy, Janet Vallery, Helen A. Warga, Edward F. Wehrbein, Mary Lois Wiles, Ann F. Zitzka.

Mr. Devoe is thirty-six years of age and has filled the position of superintendent at Oxford and Nelson and for the past five years has been at Geneva, where he has given splendid service and comes highly recommended to the local schools. He has received his educational work at the Kearney normal and the University of Nebraska, receiving both his bachelors and masters degrees from the state university. He has had excellent success in his school work in all of the cities where he has been serving.

Mr. Devoe is a former service man and married, the family comprising the wife and two children. Mrs. Devoe has been active in the social life of Geneva, being the president of the P. E. O. chapter of that city as well as prominent in the American Legion Auxiliary work. Mr. Devoe has been a leader in the American Legion at Geneva.

Mr. Devoe and family will locate here in the next few months and prepare for making their home here and the new superintendent become acquainted with the needs of the local school and to continue the efficient handling that they have had in the past years.

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## Lowell S. Devoe Named to Head Local Schools

Present Superintendent at Geneva Is Elected at Meeting Wednesday—Accepts Position.

The board of education of school district No. 1, which embraces the Plattsmouth city school system, met Wednesday afternoon and named as the new superintendent of schools, Lowell S. Devoe of Geneva, Nebraska.

The selection of Mr. Devoe was made by practically the unanimous vote of the board after the consideration of the very large number of applications that have been received in the past few weeks.

The newly elected superintendent was notified of the action of the board last evening and made his acceptance of the position at the salary of \$2,500 per year. He was here today to interview the board of education and to meet with the teaching force of the school before the staff of teachers start on their vacation.

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## HAVE SMALL TORNADO

The farm of Mike Kaffenberger, south of this city was visited by a small sized tornado last night shortly after 9 o'clock when the wind and rain storm broke over this locality. The high wind blew down a hog house, machine shed and one of the hen houses, a number of the chickens being killed by the wrecking of the building. The path of the wind just missed the large barn and the garage. The extreme high wind was seemingly confined to a very restricted path on the farm and none of the adjoining farms reported any buildings or trees damaged, although the wind was very high for a quarter of an hour. Mr. Kaffenberger and family were much alarmed as the force of the wind caused the house to shake for a time and it was feared that it might suffer the fate of the outbuildings.

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## BIRTH OF LITTLE SON

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Vandervoort was made very happy last evening when a fine little son and heir arrived to share the happiness of the home with the parents. The mother and little one are doing nicely and it is unnecessary to say that the happy father is the proudest man in the city. Mrs. Vandervoort was formerly Miss Edith Bullin of this city. The little one is the first grandchild in the James Bullin family and is the object of much admiration from all of the members of the family circle. The little one weighed 8 1/2 pounds. Miss Fern Pace, a school mate of Mrs. Vandervoort, is looking after her care.

## Jailbreaker Receives 'Pen' Sentence Today

William Soucke Who Escaped Jail and was Recaptured, Receives One to Two Years.

William Soucke, who early Tuesday morning made his escape from the Cass county jail, only to be captured a few hours later near Weeping Water, was today sentenced to the state penitentiary.

Soucke, who had been brought here for investigation, having been found in the residence of one of the farmers in the vicinity of Murdock, committed a grave error in his attempted escape. The charges that Soucke was to have faced were such that it was not thought that a conviction would be possible, when he placed himself on the spot.

In breaking jail Soucke made himself liable to a penitentiary sentence and which he received today. He was arraigned before Judge James T. Begley and renewed the plea of guilty that he had made in the county court Thursday. Judge Begley sentenced the prisoner under the indeterminate sentence law to one to two years in the state penitentiary at Lancaster. The prisoner will be taken to Lincoln as soon as possible and start on the serving of the sentence.

Clyde Clark, alias Frank Taylor who accompanied Soucke on the jail break, is still at large although it is hoped that he may be captured in the south to which section he was headed after the jail break here.

## LEAVES FOR ARKANSAS

This afternoon Mr. and Mrs. Robert Foster Patterson and little son, Samuel, departed for Morrilton, Arkansas, where they are to enjoy a short visit at the home of the parents of Mr. Patterson. They will spend a few weeks in the pleasantness of the southland and will then return to Nebraska. Mr. Patterson will enter the summer school at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln for the completion of some special work in connection with his receiving his master's degree from the Nebraska college.

## LEAVES FOR DUNBAR

Miss Josephine Janda, one of the talented members of the commercial department of the high school in the class of 1931, departed last evening for Dunbar where she will be engaged in stenographic work at a number of the business places, her first engagement being with the Weiler Ins. Co. Miss Janda is a daughter of Mrs. Josephine Janda of this city and has been recognized as one of the best commercial pupils from the local schools.

## UNDERGOES OPERATION

Mrs. Fritz Siemoneit, residing northwest of this city, was operated on Thursday morning at Omaha. Mrs. Siemoneit has not been in the best of health for some time and it was thought best to have the operation performed in the hope of securing permanent relief. Mr. Siemoneit returned this afternoon from the hospital and reports that the wife was doing as well as could possibly be expected under the circumstances.

## Grads Ask Dissolution of Bellevue

Seek to Have Records of Old Time College Turned Over to the Hastings College.

A movement for the dissolution of Bellevue college, old time educational institution of Nebraska, has been asked in a petition of some eighty-five former graduates of the Presbyterian school. The petition asks that the scholastic records of Bellevue be turned over to Hastings college, an educational institution maintained by the Presbyterian church and one of the best known colleges of the state.

Bellevue college was for many years a flourishing educational institution and was established through the endowment of Henry T. Clark, pioneer resident of the community. Several hundred have attended the school and in its best days many Plattsmouth men and women were students there and graduated from its college courses.

The college at the time of the world war was used by the U. S. government as one of the S. A. T. C. units in the state, this college as well as the University of Nebraska, being used for this work in 1917-18. With the close of the war the college activities were not resumed. Later the U. S. government used the buildings as a training school for veteran vocational schooling, this continuing over several years.

Since the abandonment of the vocational school there has been but little activity at the college, although two years ago an effort was made to revive the school by the establishment of a junior college, but this failed, the attendance not being large enough to warrant the continuance of the work.

If the records of the school are transferred to Hastings, graduates of Bellevue will be given certificates from the newer college and carried as Hastings graduates.

## RECEIVES HIGH AWARD

Bernard Galloway of this city, who was graduated at Peru State Teacher's college Thursday, has received a very pleasing recognition from the school. Mr. Galloway, in addition to receiving his bachelor of arts degree, was also presented with the B. E. Swenson award, a much coveted honor of the teacher's school.

This award was established in memory of B. E. Swenson, a student at the school who died several years ago and whose parents established the foundation to provide the award each year to one of the students. The honor is bestowed on the student who has shown the finest spirit of loyalty to the college, character and school standing as well as having lettered in two lines of athletic work.

The honor is a very pleasing one and Mr. Galloway was surprised and delighted Thursday when the award was made by Dean Dezell, of the medal and awarded to him at the graduation exercises.

Mr. Galloway is to teach at Dorchester, Nebraska, the coming school year.

## SHOW EXCELLENT TRAINING

In the county examinations held for the normal trainers of the local high school for teacher's training, several of the local young ladies have shined up splendidly. Miss Madge Garnett had a grade of ninety-two in her examinations while Miss Dorothy Farmer and Miss Mary Lois Wiles each received a grade of eighty-four for their work. Two of the high ranking students of the school, Miss Antoinette Koubek and Miss June Kell have not as yet completed all of their examinations, but are expected to show a high standing.

## SHOWING IMPROVEMENT

Hans Seiver, custodian at the Cass county court house, has for the past several days been engaged in a struggle with the flu and is still feeling the effects of the malady. Mr. Seiver was able, however, to be on the job and to get the heating system of the court house fired up to bring warmth to the various offices.

## ENJOY PICNIC PARTY

Last evening a number of the young ladies engaged in the business houses and offices of the city, joined in a very delightful picnic party at Naeves park near La Platte. The ladies motored to the picnic grounds and in the cool and inviting shade spent several hours most pleasantly. Games of all kinds were enjoyed and then the fine feast of good things to eat prepared by the ladies was served. Those who attended the picnic were: Mary Holy, Alice Taylor, Edna Warren, Eleanor Hiber, Pauline Nowack, Emma Egenberger, Helen Smetana, Lillian Koubek, Dorothy Stoboda, Marie Ulrich, Mary and Helen Persinger, Anna Sanders, Ruth Janda, Ida Kehne.

## Death of Frank Anderson of Pacific Junction

One of the Pioneer Residents of the West Dies at Home of Son, Claude Anderson.

Frank Anderson, 78, a pioneer resident of this part of the west, died Friday at the home of his son, Claude F. Anderson, 2309 South Thirty-third street, Omaha, where he had spent the winter.

Mr. Anderson was a resident of near Pacific Junction for more than sixty-five years and was one of the best known residents of Mills county, universally loved and esteemed by a large circle of friends.

Mr. Anderson came to Nebraska territory in 1856 and first located at Omaha. Recently he was a guest of honor at the Tribe of Yessir, when the first Omaha council session was re-enacted and he recalled many of the incidents of early days, including shooting of deer on what is now Farnam street. He also told of the Indians and of having crossed the Missouri river with his parents in a canoe paddled by Indians.

In late years Mr. Anderson had led a retired life and gave up much of his early activities.

The funeral services will be held at 2 o'clock Sunday afternoon at Pacific Junction. Burial will be at the Glenwood cemetery.

## FINAL HONOR ROLL

The following is the honor roll of the Plattsmouth high school for the final quarter of the school year. The young people who comprise the list have worked earnestly during the school year:

Seniors—John Becker, James Comstock, Cecil Comstock, Ed Egenberger, Dorothy Farmer, Malinda Friedrich, Madge Garnett, Marie Holcomb, June Kell, Anna Knieke, Louis Knoficek, Antoinette Koubek, Aulton Rolland, Helen Schulz, Irene Simons, Eleanor Swatek, Helen Warga, Edward Wehrbein, Mary Lois Wiles.

Juniors—George Adam, Margaret Lahoda, Francis Libershall, Emily Lorenz, Stuart Porter, Arlene Rager, Marsella Ramel, Mata Schackneis, Floyd Shanholz, Elinore Smetana.

Sophomores—Lois Bestor, Gertrude Brink, Martha Kaffenberger, Ellen Kelly, Dorothy McCarthy, James Robertson, Lillian Sedick, Dorothy Seimoneit, Ruby Sutton, Margaret Taylor.

Freshmen—Mildred Caey, Naomi Day, Charles Dow, Virginia Trively, Alice Wiles.

## SHOWING IMPROVEMENT

Mrs. Henry Mauzy, who has been ill for the past week, is reported to be somewhat better but still confined to the home. Mrs. T. J. Todd, a daughter, of Kearney, Nebraska, is here to assist in the care of the mother and to enjoy meeting the many old time friends.

## RECOVERING FROM OPERATION

Mrs. Floyd Fulton, who has been in Omaha at the hospital for the past two weeks where she underwent an operation has so far recovered that she was able to return to her home in Myrnard last Tuesday. The many friends of this young woman are wishing her a speedy recovery.

## Petitions for Revaluation of Real Estate

Action of People in Sending Petitions Would Simplify Work of Equalization.

The Cass county assessors recently at their meeting agreed to support a move for the reduction of the real estate valuations in Cass county some fifteen per cent. The matter can best be handled by a petition of the residents of the county for the reduction and which gives the board of equalization some definite basis on which to act.

The attorney general has given the state tax commissioner a verbal opinion that such a petition should be filed, but it is not necessary that every taxpayer seeking a reduction sign it.

In an opinion to James Stander, Chairman of the Cass county taxpayers' league, Sorenson said:

"Bearing in mind the constitutional provision and the powers granted them by 77-1702 it occurs to me that a county board of equalization will be justified in lowering real estate values this year for assessment purposes in cases where they find that the assessed valuation is greater than the actual valuation and much greater than the assessed valuation of other classes of tangible property which have the same actual value.

"If, however, real estate is not assessed at a proportion of its actual value greater than is other tangible property in the county, I do not see how any relief can come so far as the county tax is concerned by lowering the assessed valuation of the real estate throughout the county, for if that were done the assessed valuation of other classes of tangible property should be lowered also to conform to the constitutional requirement of uniformity of taxation and as there is about as much money required in any event for county purposes, if the assessed valuation is lowered, the rate of taxation for county purposes will necessarily be increased.

The attorney general's opinion, actually written by George W. Ayres, assistant attorney general, points out an inconsistency in the Nebraska statutes. One section, it says, provides for a revaluation every four years, beginning with 1926, the section providing the duties of the board of equalization provides valuation in 1912 and every second year thereafter.

The opinion rests on a provision in Section 1, Article 8, of the state constitution, which says:

"Taxes shall be levied by valuation uniformly and proportionately upon all tangible property."

## FISHERMEN TO MEET

The Missouri River Fishermen's association, composed of the residents along the Missouri river, interested in fishing, will meet in Omaha on Sunday, June 5th. The meeting will be for the purpose of discussing the proposed bill of Congressman Baldford for a change in the law governing the control of the Missouri river.

A large number of the members from this city are planning on being in attendance at the meeting and discussing the moves that have been made to eliminate the old law enacted in 1845 which gave the control of the Missouri river to the state of Iowa.

## VISIT IN MISSOURI

Rev. and Mrs. C. O. Troy and son, Clarence, are departing Sunday for a motor trip to Braymer and Hamilton, Missouri, for a visit over Decoration day. Braymer is the old home of Mrs. Troy and she is anticipating a most delightful visit with her brothers, one residing at Braymer and one at Hamilton. They are expecting to be back home Monday afternoon. There will be no preaching service at the Methodist church, the congregation joining with the Christian church at the Memorial day service in the morning and omitting the evening service.

Phone the news to No. 6.

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