

The North Platte Semi-Weekly Tribune.

THIRTY-SIXTH YEAR.

NORTH PLATTE, NEB., NOVEMBER 2, 1920.

No. 85

HALLOWEEN IS CELEBRATED

NOT BY DESTRUCTION BUT BY MANY NOVEL SOCIAL EVENTS

Although Halloween did not come until Sunday night, the young folks began celebrating it a week or more before that date. Some of the little boys soaped show windows and some pranks were played in some parts of town but the main celebration started about the middle of the week and closed at a late hour Saturday night.

On Thursday evening the North Platte Country Club was host to about sixty-five guests. The evening was spent in playing games and pulling off amusing contests. It is reported that J. J. Halligan took first prize in one of the contests, the object being to successfully carry peanuts on a knife. A light lunch was served at the close of the evening. All reported a good time.

The Eighth Grade in the Junior High School held a masquerade Halloween party at the Franklin Auditorium, Friday evening. As usual with school parties, the young people had a noisy time and enjoyed the stunts and games. Refreshments were served after the masks were removed.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Cornwell entertained sixteen couples at a card party Saturday evening. Mrs. Ray Lannin won the first prize for the ladies and J. C. Perkins won the first gentlemen's prize. After the games, a hot supper was served with place cards of Halloween colors.

Charles Hayes, living at 414 W. 9th entertained a number of boys and girls at his home Saturday evening in Halloween fashion. Games and music

made up the program for the evening followed by refreshments at a late hour.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cramer entertained Friday evening at their home on West 5th Street, at a Halloween party. The evening was spent in games, fortune telling and dancing. Music was furnished by Van Doran's Novelty Orchestra. At the close of the evening a two-course Halloween lunch was served.

A party was held at the L. D. McFarland home, 2005 E. Fourth, Saturday evening. Games were the chief amusement with the guests masked until late. A nice lunch was served.

The Lookout Campfire Girls had a masquerade party at the home of Dorothy VanCleave, Saturday evening. Many interesting stunts were arranged and a good lunch served. Several teachers in the city schools were guests.

Miss Mary Ellsworth entertained the members of the Senior Class of the local High School at a masked Halloween party at the Harry Cramer home Saturday evening. The rooms were decorated in Halloween colors and the evening was spent in games, music and dancing. This was the first function given by the Senior Class and all report a fine time.

Members of AK Chapter P. E. O. Sisterhood of this city and their husbands were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leslie R. Prior at Maxwell, Friday evening. The decorations were in Halloween colors. At eight o'clock they sat down to a three course dinner. Assistant hostesses were Mesdames Prosser, Davis, Twine, Scott, Morey, Romigh and Beeler. On account of a late train the guests did not leave Maxwell until a late hour.

Wilma Coghill entertained a number of her school friends at a birthday party Friday night. Her home was decorated with Halloween colors and

ghostly figures made up a part of the entertainment. Games and refreshments were served by the hostess and the guests left at a late hour, having had a very enjoyable evening.

A Halloween party was given by the Travel and Study Club at the H. C. Brock home, last night. The members went in costume and the stunts and games were much enjoyed. Four new members were initiated. The decorations were in the Halloween colors and ghosts and Jack-o-lanterns were much in evidence.

Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Ogier entertained last evening at their home at a seven o'clock dinner and miscellaneous shower. This party was given in honor of Miss Irma Scherbaucker who is to be married Nov. 24th to Bart Kernan of Hastings. Miss Scherbaucker was a former resident of this city. There were twenty-six guests. The decorations and color scheme was carried out in blue and gold. Chrysanthemums were used as decorations. A three course dinner was served. The remainder of the evening was spent in games and contests.

Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Green entertained a few friends at their home Sunday evening. This party was in keeping with the Halloween season.

The War Mother's Club invites all ex-service men and their ladies to a party and dance at the Masonic Hall on the evening of November 11th, Armistice Day at eight o'clock. Refreshments will be served.

Group meetings of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Baptist Church will meet next Thursday, Nov. 7th as follows: Bible Group with Mrs. John Lincoln 1207 W. Third St.; Ann Hazeltine Group with Mrs. Nels Winters 1223 W. Fifth Street.

The Christian Aid Society will meet in the church basement Thursday afternoon.

Ed Duggan, of Elsie, was a city visitor yesterday.

ELECTIONS ARE HELD TODAY

EYES OF THE WORLD ON THE UNITED STATES PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION.

Today is Election Day. We are to select a President for the next four years and one-third of our United States Senate is to be chosen for a six-year term. In the various states minor officers are to be chosen and some County and precinct officials will be selected.

Cox and Harding have each made the best campaign possible. Neither was a national leader before nomination and neither has stirred the people to any enthusiasm. Nebraska is considered safe for Harding so that national speakers were not sent here. The campaign has been dull and listless on both sides. Discerning people have known all along that we will have a League of Nations in either case and so they have watched with some amusement the play of politics around the League as the center.

Nebraska is to elect a Governor. Each side claims the victory before a ballot has been cast and each side is going to be surprised at the vote given Wray. The other state officers will probably follow the leader unless there are some surprises to the politicians. We are to elect six congressmen from Nebraska but we are most interested in the one from our District. M. P. Kinkaid is expected to succeed himself.

In the County we have a race in the First Commissioner District with three candidates and four candidates in the Third District. Only one can

win in each District and opinion is very much divided in each case. We are also to elect a Clerk of the District Court, a County Judge and members of the State Legislature. The two uncertain elements entering into the election are the Non-Partisan League and the Woman's Vote. The Non-Partisan League has endorsed the candidacy of Arthur G. Wray, who is running as an Independent candidate and in a number of cases the League has decided to support a Democrat or a Republican for some particular office. In some cases it nominates one of its own members. It is not expected that the women's vote can be delivered to any party although the politicians like to talk as though it can. There will probably be more scratching of ballots than usual and it will be done by most thinking people. Before another issue of the Tribune, we will probably all know who is elected and who was defeated.

FUR SALE

We have today with us and for today only, a fur representative representing one of the largest fur lines in New York City, anything and everything in the line of fur and coats, wraps, sets and separate pieces now on display and on sale at our store. This is a rare opportunity to see wonderful furs. These are offered at a big discount on regular prices.

BLOCKS STORE

The Parent-Teacher Association of the Junior High School will at the Franklin Auditorium Wednesday afternoon at 3:15. A good program has been prepared. Mrs. C. F. Spencer, the President, is urging every parent to enroll in this association at once.

The Episcopal Guild will meet in the church basement on Thursday afternoon. The work committee requests that the members be there promptly at 2:30.

BOYS WILL SING AT KEITH

FATHER FLANAGAN AND HIS BOYS TO BE HERE NEXT SUNDAY

We have before us the announcement of an entertainment to be given in the Keith Theatre next Sunday evening by Father Flanagan and his boys. They come to us from Father Flanagan's Home located in Omaha. We are to hear the boys sing and see the pictures which they have. This home handles hundreds of boys each year, saving them from the reform schools and prisons. We are to have two hours of entertainment and it is free. A large crowd is expected.

APPLES—APPLES!

A car of apples on track—a straight car of Michigan Baldwins selling at \$2.35 per bushel or \$2.00 per bushel in five bushel lots. Come and get them at the car.

W. H. McDonald and Ray Langford who attended the meeting of the American Bankers' Association in Washington last week, returned home Friday. They visited in New York city four days on their return trip and report everything quiet along business lines with good prospects ahead but recovery necessarily slow.

An aviator flew over North Platte this morning, going through a number of stunts and coming rather close to the tops of the buildings. It was reported on the street that it was the same aviator who was arrested in Omaha last week for going through similar stunts.

Don't forget the Christian Ladies' Bazaar in Derryberry & Forbes' window, November 12th and 13th.

THE GAS PROBLEM

Serious problems face your Gas Company. They affect both the Gas Company and the city at large. If solved, as we believe they will be with your assistance, good service for all will result. Failure to solve them can mean only the slow decline in the service of a public necessity—your local gas plant. These problems are not local in nature. They are, in the main, problems which thousands of gas companies throughout the United States are facing today because of steadily mounting prices and decreased production of materials essential to the making of gas, namely coal, oil and coke. Scores of communities all over the land, recognizing this situation, have come to the rescue of their gas companies by granting higher rates.

George B. Cortelyou, former Secretary of the United States Treasury, and President of the Consolidated Gas Company, New York, recently sized up the situation thus:

"The emergency is immediate and far-reaching. It embraces the entire industry. The economic conditions—many of them of world-wide extent and influence—affecting the supply of coal, oil and other essential materials required in the manufacture of gas, of labor and of the funds needed to maintain and develop our properties, are not bogies invented by the industry to secure preferential treatment, excessive rates or unwarranted returns upon investment. They are plain facts. All over this land today gas companies, great and small, are rendering, often under most adverse conditions, this service so vital to the welfare and comfort of our people. What they need and should have, in the interest of the public, is the reasonable certainty of adequate rates, a sufficient supply of coal, oil and other necessary supplies, and such manufacturing and operating conditions as will utilize and conserve these materials as well as contribute to all other possible economies of production and distribution."

While prices of all materials used in making gas have jumped up within the past few years, these increases were beyond our control and we were compelled to pay raise after raise just as the rest of the business world was compelled to pay them or quit business.

In making gas, the three principal commodities used are oil, coal and coke, and in the manufacture of gas they are the greatest element of expense over which no gas company has any control. Here is a table showing the increase in the cost of these commodities:

1915	Present Cost
Coke—per ton \$8.66	\$19.05
Coal—per ton 3.25	7.33
Oil—per gallon .052	.132

Where the Gas Company has control over costs, they are kept down. Where it has no control and where it must buy against the whole nation competing for coal and oil, it had to pay the prices economic conditions imposed upon it, no matter how hard it might endeavor to do better.

You are doubtless aware that the present rate (\$1.50 per 1000 cu. ft.) was established in 1915 when conditions were normal. As a result of the constantly increasing cost of production, the gas company is now losing money. During the year 1919 we used a large quantity of supplies bought at very low prices on contracts made before war price advances. Regardless of this, the net revenue for 1919 was only about 3 per cent on the capital invested in the property. This year will produce a loss of about 4 per cent. No company, no matter how strong they be financially, can continue to lose money.

To attract new money on the rate of return now being received is impossible. New money must be obtained always if our property is to be maintained in condition, needed extensions made and new equipment provided to grow with growing North Platte. Gas and Electric plants in growing cities, continually requiring additions and extensions, do not make enough profits to pay for the additions and extensions, even if all profits are used for the purpose and the stockholders are paid no dividends. Money must be provided somehow if these additions and extensions are made. People will not buy a stock which will not pay a dividend. Those with money to lend will not lend it to a borrower who is losing money in his business.

Now your Gas Company should make additions to its plant and extensions of its mains. We cannot borrow money on a showing that we are losing money, nor sell stock on such a showing. We must be able to show that at least we are not losing money, and to do that we must have a better price for the gas we sell. If we cannot get money to make needed additions and extensions, the service must suffer. The whole city will suffer from the effects of poor service. Good service has always been our main object, and you know that North Platte has had as good service as any city in the west. We cannot keep up good service without the money to pay expenses. We cannot borrow the money, nor sell stock, to raise money to pay the expense of good service when all we have to show

is losses. The Good Service we have given in the past has been one of the biggest things helping to boost North Platte. It is in your hands to say whether we shall be paid a living price for what we have to sell, or whether we shall struggle along under losses which mean poorer and poorer service.

No other city in Nebraska is favored by lower rates than we have in effect here. The rates now being charged in the cities of Nebraska having gas plants are as follows:

Fremont	2.60	Kearney	2.03
Ord	2.50	Grand Island	2.01
Fairbury	2.25	McCook	2.04
Norfolk	2.25	Columbus	2.00
York	2.25	Nebraska City	1.90
Blain	2.25	Hastings	1.81
Beatrice	2.10	Omaha	1.75
Plattsmouth	2.01	Lincoln	1.50
North Platte			1.50

It is our intention to ask for a rate of \$2.00 per 1000 cu. ft. and it will be observed that this rate is less than the average of rates being charged in other cities of this state.

The increased rate, providing no further increases in coal, oil and coke take place, will yield sufficient revenue so that the company can keep its property in good operating condition, make at least a part of needed extensions and provide good service.

You would not ask your butcher to sell you meat so low that he would have to go out of business. You would not insist that your grocer sell you potatoes at less than cost. You want your merchant to make a fair profit so he that he can sell you good goods. We do not believe that there is a man or woman who wishes to discriminate against the merchants in gas any more than against the merchant in groceries and meats. Because a business is of a semi-public nature, such as the gas company is no indication that the fair minded buyer wishes to see it starving to death on low returns. The Gas Company needs your help in this very critical situation.

Your acquiescence in an increase in rates during the present emergency will be reflected in the prosperity of a company which is so essential in the physical development of this city. In return for helping us in this emergency, we give you our word that service will be improved and that as soon as the cost of coal, coke and oil goes down, the rate will be reduced in direct proportion.

North Platte Light & Power Co.