

State Capitol News

Half of True Value New Yardstick; Reporter Off-Base? Phone Rates Up

LINCOLN—Nebraska's county assessors got "the word" here this week. This year's assessments for tax purposes are to be at 50 percent of actual value. Does that mean the assessors are to go through their books and halve all the valuations? Not on your tinfole, said Gov. Robert B. Crosby, chairman of the state board of equalization. It means that the tax officials are to determine the true value of all classes of property and assess on the basis of half of that value. For most classes of property, this means an increase in valuation. For others, notably in motor vehicles, it means a decrease.

It Happened In NEBRASKA---



DINING on the Chicago-to-Omaha train was a real treat in 1881—for the food-lover, and for the pocketbook! The menu listed 12 courses... included 30 different meats and fishes, 12 vegetable dishes, 12 separate desserts. One could order as many of the items as desired on each of the 12 courses. Cost of such a feast was exactly 75 cents!

Today it's a real treat to see the way Nebraska taverns are conducted. The owner is a respected businessman, as reflected in his place of business. It is clean, orderly, not merely tolerated but wholeheartedly patronized.

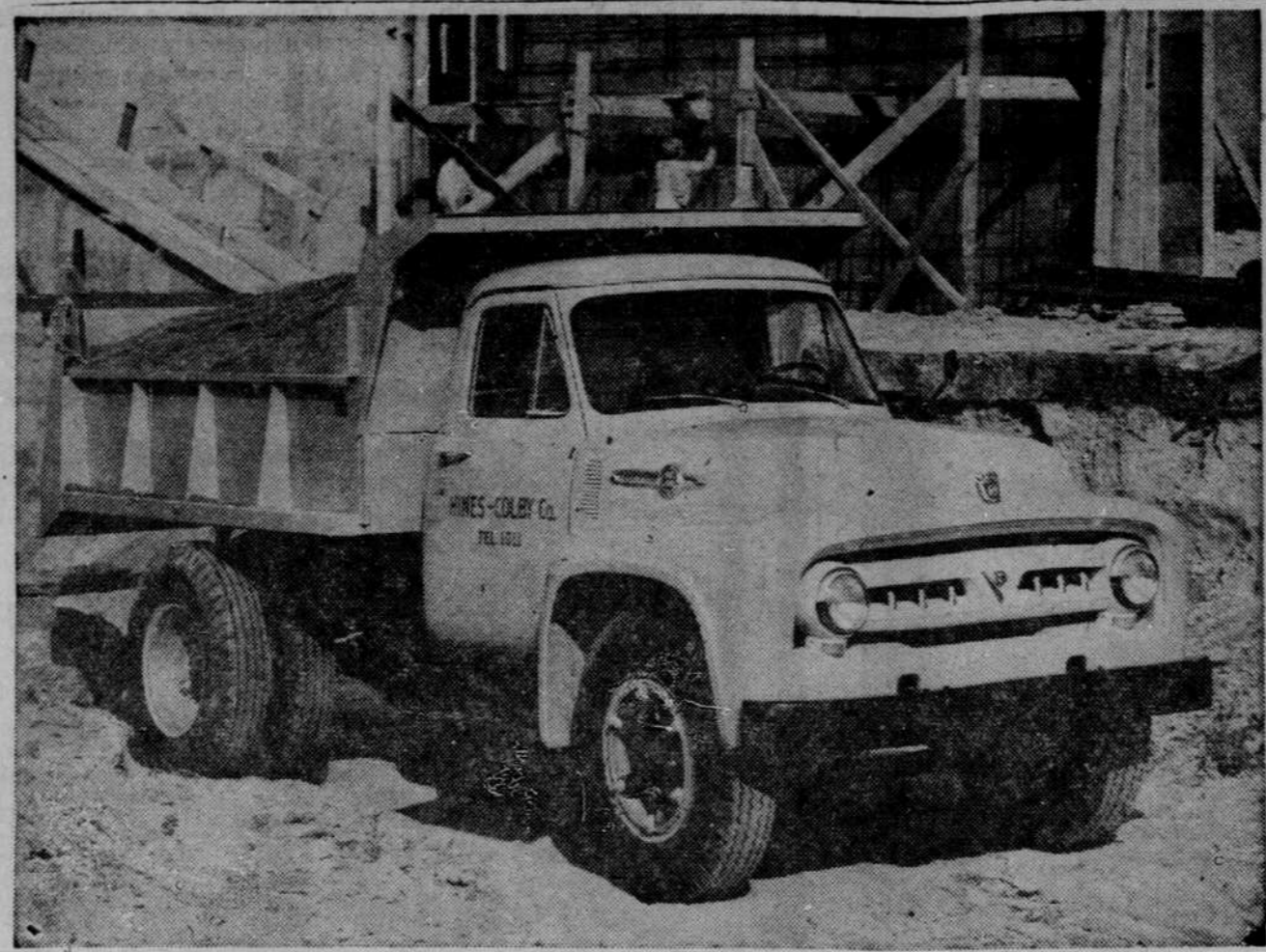
NEBRASKA DIVISION United States Brewers Foundation 710 First Nat'l Bank Bldg., Lincoln

AT AUCTION

THESE BULLS ARE FROM THE WELL-KNOWN Ray Delanty Herd 16 - Reg. HEREFORD BULLS - 16 ONAWA, IOWA THURSDAY, MARCH 12 ALL COMING TWO YEARS OLD

ALL OF THESE BULLS are in good range condition. Mr. Delanty has been selling Registered Hereford bulls at our market for several years and always brings a top set of individuals. THIS OFFERING of Registered Herefords will be sold in connection with our regular Thursday sale. Come early and look them over.

O'Neill Livestock Market PHONE 2 - O'NEILL, NEBR.



New Ford Truck Coming Friday

The F-900 is the new heavyweight leader of the 1953 truck line—the biggest truck ever built by Ford. Powered by a Cargo King overhead valve V-8 high compression, low friction engine, it has a front axle capacity rating of 8,000 pounds and a rear axle rating of 21,000 pounds. Its wide range of wheel-bases makes the F-900 suitable for all types of extra heavy-duty on or off-road work. Its maximum GVW is 27,000 pounds and maximum GCW 55,000 pounds. The 1953 Ford trucks will go on display Friday at the Lohaus Motor Co. showrooms here.

The decision to set the values at 50 percent came after the legislature passed LB 272 which provides the new formula.

As he signed the bill into law Governor Crosby said: "This presents an opportunity for public officials and the people in Nebraska to begin an honest and equal system of taxing property. This opportunity is made possible by the legislature's action resulting from the supreme court decision in the Johnson county case."

It is the duty of county assessors and all taxpayers to cooperate as provided by the new law. The state board of equalization is determined to conscientiously follow this new law, when in July it begins the task of equalizing between counties and between classes of property.

"We believe that some legislative assistance will yet be forthcoming at this session. It is imperative that the principle of LB 89 reasonably limiting the amount of tax dollars that can be collected this year and next be enacted. We do not want this earnest effort to equalize the tax burden to result in any extravagant spending of public money. We expect during these two years

that citizens at all levels of government which imposes taxes will be watchful. The success of any effort for good government depends on the alertness of its citizens.

"We anticipate the early passage of LB 302 (the annual assessment bill) so that real estate values can be adjusted according to the new law."

Stormy—No bill in this session of the legislature had a stormier trip from introduction to the governor's desk. The revenue committee killed it but it was raised on the floor. Sen. Terry Carpenter, who had voted for it, tried to knife the bill but failed. Then on final reading, he sought to have it sent back to the committee but this, too, failed.

Even after the bill had passed, 33-9, it wasn't out of danger. The next day, Sen. C. C. Lillibridge of Scottsbluff twice tried to get his colleagues to reconsider their action. He failed, 22 votes to 15.

Although Sen. Karl Vogel of Omaha, revenue committee chairman, had told the legislature on a number of occasions that before LB 272 could become effective, it would be necessary to amend the statutes in 100 places, the advice went largely unheeded.

So the committee this week is having drawn a bill to change the language in the 100-odd sections. The new bill is needed because the language in the various sections varies from "actual value" to "dollar value" and "assessed valuation." To try to apply the new law to those varying sections, Vogel said, would "mean chaos."

Yardstick—While the legislators grappled with the immediate assessment problem, Sen. O. H. Liebers of Lincoln unexpectedly withdrew his bill which Governor Crosby had endorsed as a possible long-range solution.

Liebers told the revenue committee he was dropping his LB 562 because the tax situation is so complex, remedies shouldn't be undertaken until all the angles have been figured. The bill would have provided that the average sale of farm land over a 20-year period, compared to the current selling price would be used as a ratio to determine the percentage value of all

other property in the state. Liebers said he would introduce a resolution asking that his proposal be studied by a seven-member governor's committee composed of three legislators, and a representative each from agriculture, labor, the professions and industry.

Bingo—To the surprise of nobody, the government committee this week officially gave its blessing to Sen. Terry Carpenter's local option bingo bill. The measure proposes a vote next year on a constitutional amendment legalizing the corn game.

Rule—The legislature's rule committee this week was to take up a rule which doesn't appear on the books. It's the one which forbids newsmen covering the legislature to report how individual senators vote on bills in committees.

Stanley A. Matzke, commentator for KRNV, was called on the carpet by the agriculture committee after he had broadcast the vote of the committee in killing the poultry marketing service bill.

Sen. Tom Coffey of Alma, who at first, demanded "pretty drastic action," conceded after Matzke had played a tape recording of his broadcast that "it wasn't as vicious as I thought."

Dean Pohlenz, capital reporter for the Lincoln Journal, who has long assailed the rule in his column, told the committee it was doing reporters no favor by allowing them to attend the executive sessions because the unwritten rule tied their hands. "We'd be better off to wait out in the hall and pick up the vote any way we could," he said.

Boost—It costs more to use a telephone this week on the Northwestern Bell system in Nebraska. The railway commission has granted a rate increase, effective last Saturday. The boosts range from 25 to 50 cents on residence phones and from 40 to 80 cents on business phones per month.

A commission spokesman said the increase is about 30 percent less than the company asked.

Visits Oakdale, Norfolk—Miss Lee Bartos spent the weekend visiting friends at Oakdale and Norfolk.

Rock Falls News

The Valley club met Saturday evening, February 28, at Floyd Johnson's. All of the members were present except the Frank Schultzes, Herb Underwood, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Rakes, Pat Gallagher and Don Breiner were guests. High score was won by Mrs. Don Hynes and Herb Underwood. Low score was held by Pat Gallagher and John Schultz.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Vequist and family were supper guests at Albert Sterns on Wednesday evening, February 25.

The Pinochle Pirates met Friday evening, February 27, at Francis Curran's. High score was won by Mrs. Arthur O'Neill and Roy Margritz. Chuck Felver and Mrs. Albert Sterns held low. Roy Margritz also won the traveling prize. The next meeting will be at Lyle Vequist's Friday, March 13.

A birthday anniversary party was held at district 33 in honor of Miss Leah Serck Friday afternoon, February 27. School patrons who attended were: Mrs. Lyle Vequist, Tommy and Janice, Mrs. Henry Vequist, Mrs. Wilbur Smith, Mrs. Louis Brown and Cindy, Mrs. Albert Widfeldt and Jimmy. A lunch of cake, ice cream and jello was served to the not very surprised teacher and pupils. Miss Serck received several gifts.

Mrs. Lyle Vequist visited her mother, Mrs. Celia Grutsch, a short time Saturday afternoon, February 28.

Betty Curran stayed from Friday evening, February 27, until Tuesday morning, March 3, with Brenda and Bonnie Margritz.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Margritz and girls took their brother, George Schwindt, to Royal Wednesday, February 25. They were dinner guests there at John Deines' and supper guests at John Schwindt's that day.

Ardell Curran helped Bill Clauson scoop out the road Friday afternoon, February 27.

Guests at Blake Benson's from February 18 to 28th: Mrs. Mamie D. O'Neill was a Eddie Benson stayed a week at Blake Benson's recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Benson and family were guests Sunday, March 1, at Blake Benson's.

Orville Thorsen was a dinner guest Sunday, March 1, at Fred Ernst's.

Lois Ann Peterson was a guest at Jim Karel's Sunday afternoon, March 1.

Mr. and Mrs. Chuck Felver were guests Wednesday evening, February 25, at Orville Miller's.

Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Yantzie and son were guests on Friday, February 27, at Levi Yantzie's.

Thursday, February 26, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Yantzie and Gene visited Levi Yantzie's.

Mrs. Lloyd Gallagher and Pat visited Levi Yantzie's Monday afternoon, March 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Curran and family were guests at Oswald Druke's Wednesday evening, February 25.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Taylor and children were guests at Lyle Vequist's on Monday evening, March 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Taylor and children visited the Wilbur Smith family Thursday evening, February 26.

Mrs. Henry Vequist was an

Weather Restricts Lodge Attendance—

CHAMBERS—Winona Rebeckah lodge met Friday evening, February 27, in regular session with the noble grand, Bernice Read, in charge.

Not too many members ventured out but those present discussed ways and means to clean the hall and refinish the floor and also practiced the unwritten work.

The Sandhills Foremost

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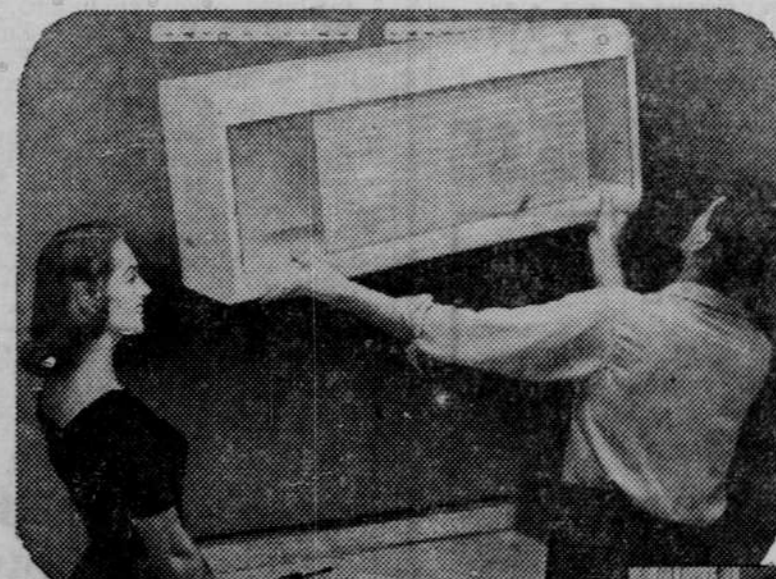
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