

Hear Reports on State WSCS Parley

Mrs. Wallace B. Smith and Mrs. Ed Wayman featured African missions during the program and devotional period at the Woman's Society of Christian Service meeting last Thursday. The ladies met in the church sanctuary which provided a reverent setting for the program.

Mrs. Smith compared the African missions to a mountain top and the hymn, "Above the Hills of Time," was sung by Mrs. Grant Peacock.

The president, Mrs. Ralph Leidy, was in charge of the business meeting. A report was made showing 40 in attendance at the world day of prayer service and \$22.40 collected to be sent to the general department of united church women.

Four members of the society and two ministers attended the annual state WSCS meeting held at Lincoln Thursday and Friday, March 5 and 6. They were Mrs. J. LaVern Jay, district delegate; Mrs. Ralph Leidy, local delegate; Mrs. George Stuessi and Mrs. Wallace Smith, guests, and Rev. Wallace B. Smith and Rev. J. LaVern Jay, as visitors. The attendance totals at the meeting from the northeast district in-

cluded 25 societies represented, nine district officers, 30 delegates and 30 guests. The sessions were "very inspiring," according to reports from the delegates.

A special missionary gift of \$5 was voted to be presented by the group as "a memorial" to Mrs. Darrol Baker. Two supporters were planned to be served—one March 29, for the international relations club, and the other April 1 for the Wesleyan girls' glee club, which will present a program here that evening. Housing accommodations for the girls are being solicited. Anyone interested may contact Mrs. Leidy.

A donation of \$25 to help purchase a movie projector for the church was voted. The luncheon committee, including Mrs. O. W. French, Mrs. Claude Bates, Mrs. Elmer Hagensick and Mrs. Louis Reimer, served a St. Patrick's day lunch of shamrock white cake and coffee.

The next regular meeting will be April 9. Penny bags will be collected. Hostesses will be Mrs. Paul Shierk, Mrs. George Peterson and Mrs. Arthur Alm. A study on "Understanding the Bible" will begin April 8 and continue each Monday afternoon through the month of April.

Two Birthdays Noted— Mrs. Robert Davidson entertained a group of small boys and girls in her home Saturday afternoon in honor of the birthday anniversary of her son, Pat, who was 5, and her granddaughter, Patty Ann Banks, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Banks, who was 2. The afternoon was spent playing games and a lunch was served of ice cream and birthday cake. Those present were Don, Bill, Lucille Davidson, Lucy Nickolite, Dewey Newton, Sharyl Brady and Francie and Jackie Kelly.

Stanton Visitors— Mr. and Mrs. Emil Weyhrich, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Weyhrich, Judy and Randy and Mr. and Mrs. Pat Gallup went to Stanton Sunday to help celebrate the birthday anniversary of Leland Spry. The birthday dinner was served by Mrs. Spry. Other guests present were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Schnoor of Wayne.

System Needed for Priorities

'Political Roads' Are Out

By CLIFF SANDAHL
Chairman, Nebraska Highway Conference

One thing that has come to the fore through presentation of facts by newspapers, radio and television news broadcasts with respect to Nebraska's highway problem is the need for some kind of a system to determine where and what kind of roads should be built.

It is well known as to the history of Nebraska's highway system, first, that too many roads have been located and built because of political pressure put on the governor and the state engineer by so-called "influential" Nebraskans, and, secondly, that in an effort to meet such demands, plus the hue and cry to do something to get out of the mud and dust, too many surfaces consist of coatings much too thin to carry the terrific loads and impacts of today.

Gov. Robert Crosby has stated emphatically that "political roads" are out during his administration and State Engineer Harold Aitken has come up with a plan to follow through on that very promise—and that is what is called the sufficiency rating system.

But whether Nebraska builds roads on the basis of sufficiency rating or not, the fact remains that there must be some sort of system set up or the state will never get out of its highway middle. And, furthermore, once that system is set up—whatever it may be—Nebraskans must agree to abide by it and not try to "bend" it for this or that expediency.

What is meant by sufficiency rating? It is very simple, when broken down, for basically only three facts are involved: conditions, economic elements, and safety. A road that meets all requirements is given a rating. Here are the requirements, in terms of points:

Hard surfaced roads—condition 35 points; economic factors: (a) remaining life 10, (b) maintenance cost 15; safety: (a) surface width 16, (b) sight distance 10, (c) passing opportunity 7, (d) consistency (such as a sharp curve before a road suddenly narrows into a one-way bridge) 7; total, 100.

Gravel roads—condition 35 points; economic factor: maintenance cost 20; safety: (a) sight distance 10, (b) alignment (number of curves) 10, (c) surface adequacy 10, (d) consistency 5; total, 100.

This a road rating lowest in sufficiency is one where the need for improvements is most urgent. Numerous examples of roads in this category were presented to the legislature by State Engineer Aitken in his recent all-day appearance before the lawmakers. Those examples and others were derived from actual on-the-spot

scrutiny of every mile of road in Nebraska.

While Nebraska may have hard surfacing on quite a few of its main traveled routes, that does not mean that the state is in good shape roadwise for there is the factor of life expectancy to consider. As the life insurance actuary determines the average life of men so the highway engineer determines the average life span of concrete pavement.

Based on actual Nebraska experience, the average useful, economic life of concrete pavements on Nebraska highways is 23½ years, the road is excessively expensive to maintain and the traveling public is using a facility that is rough and actually hazardous.

Nearly 20 percent of the concrete, and other rigid type paving, on Nebraska state highways right this year, in 1953, will have served an average of 25 years without resurfacing. During this year, more than half of about 1,500 miles of the state highway rigid type pavements will have served 18 or more years without resurfacing.

If no more concrete paving were resurfaced in the next five years, over half of the concrete paving on the state highways would be 23 or more years old. Reconstructing and resurfacing of these concrete pavements will cost less money than building entirely new ones, but the restored facilities will not have as long a life expectancy as would entirely new paving.

O'Neill News

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Gillogly and daughter, Patsy, and Mrs. Marceline Reike were in Norfolk Friday on business. While there they visited in the Arthur Axford home.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wright and family were Sunday visitors in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Gillogly.

Marie Salisbury entertained Saturday evening at her home honoring Effie Stevens at a birthday dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Strong visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Mentzer, at Atkinson on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Tenborg of Emmet were Sunday evening callers in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Spry.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bay of Johnston were here on business Thursday. They also called in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Anderson.

Ned Allendorfer of Omaha was here Friday on business. Mr. and Mrs. Allendorfer recently sold their home at 904 East Everett street to Mrs. Harold Leise.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Asher were Sunday dinner guests in the Floyd Hershiser home.

Mr. and Mrs. Roger Rosenkrans and family of Dorsey were dinner guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Worth Sunday.

Leon Sargent and Robert Parks were Sunday callers in the Marvin Anderson home.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Bates of Emmet and Mrs. Ralph Leidy and daughter, Carol, were Sunday afternoon visitors in the John Kee home at Emmet.

Mr. and Mrs. George Layh were Sunday afternoon callers in the Ben Wetzel home.

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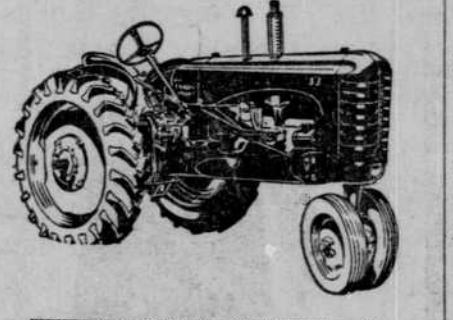
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