



O'Neill Gift Center Stems From Need, Great Pressure

By Mrs. N. D. Ickes

One of O'Neill's greatest gift centers is tucked away in a most obscure place with little hint of the hidden beauty of one of the world's best gift item sellers, ceramics.

No arrow points to the attractive display on table and shelf in the large show room and work shop combined that is known to only a few who have learned of its location through a desire to try their hand at creative art as expressed through the manipulation of clay, the painting and baking in special kilns that produce the finished product known as ceramics.

Mrs. Gale Taylor began her work under pressure of a friend's urging when she and her husband operated a motel and filling station at Elm Creek. Finally, after a lot of coaxing she went to have a look-see just to please her friend and was surprised to see how easy it was to do, or looked to be, so she returned and purchased the material for her first piece and to satisfy herself that she did or did not have talent in that direction.

Painting with the lady who owned the shop she discovered that, for her at least, it was as easy to paint a piece of ceramic as it was to paint anything as ordinary as a box.

Mrs. Taylor made ceramics, of her own making, her gift item that Christmas of '57 and she was launched in the ceramics business.

Early in 1958 they sold the Red Top motel and Texaco station and purchased the Jim Earley ranch 14 miles northwest of O'Neill. The first of March they moved there and about the middle of the summer she and Mrs. Robert Gallagher bought a small kiln and began work together. They organized a class of the neighbor ladies and worked on the Taylor front porch.

About the first of November they opened their shop in the back room of the Beauty Land building. They found it necessary to buy a larger and automatic kiln. Mrs. Gallagher checked out of the business a year later.

September 1 they opened a shop at Atkinson and were there only two days a week. Mrs. Don Scott was proprietor on Saturdays and Mrs. Taylor had the Wednesday shift. At this time Mrs. Taylor has both days at Atkinson.

In the summertime she holds classes for children, sometimes as young as five years old but the younger ones take a lot of supervision. She also has a ladies class and a Friday night class.

Once started on a project they come in and work at their convenience.

Her slip is purchased in Grand

sets, ash trays, candy dishes, clock cases, planters. The artist is limited only by the scope of his imagination.

An unusual Christmas tree features a single bulb in a hollow tree with colored marbles set into the candle scones. This country is horse minded so many pieces feature a horse. Linda Shelhamer has fashioned many lovely pieces.

Some of the clay is rolled out like pie crust then a rubber mold is pressed into it. It is then draped over a jar and shaped and set then painted and baked for trays, fancy dishes and various odd shaped pieces.

Mrs. Taylor took a load of finished items to Wichita, Kan., Tuesday to fill the orders she received at ceramic parties she held three weeks ago at Wichita, Stockton and Phillipsburg, Kan., her old home.

She has two parties booked this week at Wichita and Phillipsburg. The parties are conducted in the same manner as a Stanley party.

The cream of the crop are the old fashioned imitation China head, arms and legs dollies and stuffed bodies. These are dressed in muslin pantslets and dresses in the fashion of sixty years ago and are sure to appeal to grandmothers and granddaughters alike.

Mrs. Taylor also has many oil paintings. A 40 by 60 inch scene is painted on a wall in her ranch living room. The Taylors have sold the ranch and the painting will become the prize picture in the Skrdia home the first of March, 1961. The Taylors are undecided as to their next move.

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For most of us our education in ceramics has been sadly neglected. A visit to the Taylor shop will be a pleasant and informative one.

Ewing News

By Mrs. Harold Harris

Thirteen Ewing high school seniors will receive diplomas at the commencement exercises on Thursday, May 19, at 8:00 p.m. at the auditorium of the Ewing public school.

Dr. O. F. Moore, professor of education, Wayne State Teacher's College will deliver the address, "Let's Go Forward". The Rev. W.W. Elliott of the Ewing Methodist church will give the invocation and the benediction.

Members of the graduating class are: Evelyn Scholl, Leon Hahlbeck, Coralee Schmier, Tom Koenig, Ronald Cloyd, Harold Parks, Lois Kaczor, Charlotte Wright, James Jefferies, Gary Eacker, Bill Bauer, Catherine Woslager and James Miller.

Miss Ina Bennett entertained the picnic of the Royal public school on Sunday attended by the patrons of the school.

Mrs. Tams has taught the past two years at Royal. She has accepted a position in the Battle Creek public school for the coming school year.

Mrs. Edna Lofquest accompanied by her aunt, Mrs. Lillie Meyers at Clearwater were guests on Mother's Day at the home of her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Meyers at Clearwater.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hutton and family were honored guests at a farewell party held Monday evening at the annex of the United Presbyterian church. Mr. Hutton showed slides of the National Glacier Park where he and his family have spent several summer vacations. A delicious lunch was served by the ladies of the church.

Mr. Hutton has resigned his work as coach and teacher in the Ewing public school and has accepted a position in a National Park.

The morning worship hour at the United Presbyterian church was in charge of the youth group Sunday morning. The youth choir gave a special number. Sharon Johnston read the scripture. Miss Sandra Shrader gave the prayer. Kay Bergstrom read the sermonette. Douglas Shrader, Sharon Johnston and Diana Shrader gave the morning message in three parts.

Sunday, May 22, Floyd Butterfield will be in charge of the morning worship hour.

Mr. and Mrs. Eldred Skidmore of Rocky Point, Wyo. and Mrs. Vera Anson of Ewing were guests on Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Butler. The Skidmores also called on other friends and relatives in Ewing. They left Sunday to spend some time visiting relatives in Iowa.

Mrs. Anna Savidge accompanied her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bartak and family to Bartlett Tuesday evening where they attended the graduation exercises. Miss Judy Bartak who attends the Wayne State Teacher's College was also in attendance. Judy Bartak was a member of the graduation class.

Mrs. Kittie Fry spent Sunday at the home of her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Shrader and family.

Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eben Grafft were Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Hadfield of Belgrade, Mr. Hadfield is a brother of Mrs. Grafft.

Mrs. Edna Lofquest accompanied by Mrs. Alfred Doud of Ewing, Mrs. Lillie Meyer and Mrs. Bernice of Clearwater were transacting business in Norfolk on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lofquest and family spent the weekend visiting at the homes of William Lofquest and Mrs. Edna Lofquest in Ewing and at the Reu-

ben Meyer home in Neligh.

Sunday afternoon callers at the home of Mrs. Edna Lofquest were Mrs. Lottie Lofquest, Mrs. Charles Munson, Mrs. Duane Philbrick and children, all of O'Neill.

The proceeds of the Poppy Day sale Saturday, May 14 in Ewing were \$47.00. Mrs. H. R. Harris chairman, wishes to thank the members of the American Legion Auxiliary for their help and also the school girls who canvassed the town and sold poppies on main street during the evening.

Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferies on Friday were Mrs. Mark Muff of Spencer, Mrs. Carolyn Muff of Omaha, Stevie, Mardie and Carmen Cuddy of O'Neill, Mrs. Wilman Daniels and Sherry of Ewing, Mr. and Mrs. V. Cratty of Neligh.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meyer of Clearwater visited on Monday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferies. Evening guests the same day were Sp4/c and Mrs. Delbert Carl jr. who had just arrived in Ewing. Sp4/c Carl jr. for several months and on expiration of a 30 day leave will be sent overseas for service in the U. S. Army.

The eighth graders of the Ewing public school accompanied by their teacher Mrs. Beulah Black went to O'Neill Saturday to spend the day. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Funk helped to furnish transportation for the group. Their first stop was at the O'Neill Photo Company where individual pictures were taken. Dinner was eaten at Slat's Cafe and at the bowling alley by the boys. They visited the Independent office. Shopping also took up a part of their time at the county seat. Members of the class are: Karen Woeppel, Sandra Tellender, Sharon Spangler, Judy Spangler, Joan Spangler, Mary Karen Funk, Florine Black, Billy Hobbs, Marilyn Johnston, Larry Minarik, Kenny Brian and Eddie Rotherham.

Dean Pofahl, manager of the youth baseball teams in Ewing, announces that the boys are in need of more suits. Any player or sponsor who may have a suit, please contact Mr. Pofahl or take it to him.

The American Legion team is also in need of suits for the season. Mr. Pofahl says these will cost approximately \$10.00. Anyone who wish to donate funds for the purchase of a suit or a suit carrying advertisement would be much appreciated by the players as well as the manager.

Sunday afternoon, the Ewing Legion team beat O'Neill, score 3 to 0. The O'Neill Pony League beat Ewing, score 10-4. Jim Kropp was the pitcher for Ewing.

Capitol News - Hospital Costs Lower In State Than Nationally

By Melvin Paul
Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN—The average cost of building hospitals and nursing homes in Nebraska is below the national level.

That's the report of Keith Bellby, hospital construction and inspection engineer for the State Health Department. Bellby measured costs on the basis of square feet per bed totals.

Nationally, he says, it costs \$20.37 to build nursing homes, as against \$18.65 for Nebraska. The average per bed figure nationally is \$9,402 compared with \$7,718 in Nebraska.

For hospitals, the engineer noted, Nebraska costs are \$25.56 per square foot and \$14,594 per bed. Nationally, the tab is \$28.10 per square foot and \$19,956 per bed.

Bellby says that construction costs in rural areas are below the national average because of cheaper labor and a functional design that doesn't have "costly gingerbread trimmings."

Nebraska hospital building has climbed considerably in the last decade and health department officials say trend now is to modernization and additions to existing structures.

Because of the increasing number of aged in Nebraska it is expected that there will be more nursing homes built in the state in the next 10 years.

The general trend is to use regular dwellings for such homes.

Blue Sky
Year after year many Nebraskans are bled out of thousands of dollars by "blue sky" artists.

The phrase developed as a descriptive one for persons who sold people a "hunk of the sky" or in other words, nothing, then skipped town with the money.

In Nebraska blue sky complaints are investigated by the Bureau of Securities in the State Banking Department.

The bureau was transferred to the banking department in 1959 from the Department of Insurance.

According to officials of the agency, sale of securities by unlicensed persons has increased materially in recent years. The department makes inquiry and investigation of the sale of securities over to prosecuting authorities.

Harold Johnson has for many years been head of the bureau.

He says many people who lose their savings or substantial amounts of money do not report this because of the fear of embarrassment. In recent years much of the solicitation for sale of securities in Nebraska has come from Canada.

Johnson says whenever someone is suspicious of a salesman wanting to unload stock, a check with the bureau can determine if the person is licensed to do business in Nebraska.

His office registers securities qualified for sale in Nebraska, as well as registering brokers, dealers and salesmen, and investigates securities violations and frauds.

It's a full time job and the work load became increasingly heavy when Nebraskans began to have more money to spend.

Nebraska lawmakers concerned with fraudulent sale of stock as early as 1913 when the first "blue sky" law was passed.

Enforcement at that time was given to the Railway Commission, transferred to the Insurance Department in 1937 and then to the Banking Department.

Highway Commissioner
There is a new member of the Advisory State Highway Commission.

He is Kirk Mendenhall, former mayor of North Platte, named to succeed the late Ray Ogier of North Platte. This restores the full membership of the seven member group.

Other members of the commission are J. R. McBride of Minden, Thane Davis of Hyannis, C. R. Watson of Mitchell, Chris Metzger of Cedar Creek, Merle Kingsbury

of Ponca and Joe Votava of Omaha.

Marking An "X"
The next session of the Legislature will be asked to take up the problem of voting on write-in candidates in an election.

At point will be a move by the Republican party to eliminate the requirement that an "X" be marked in the space provided after a voter has written in the name of a candidate.

In a recent opinion, the State Supreme court held that a write-in vote would be invalid unless accompanied by a mark in the box provided.

Attorney General C. S. Beck said the 1963 Legislature required the mark for clarification purposes to determine if the voter actually wanted to cast a ballot for the name written in.

Another voting matter likely to be taken up is whether the current law on voting machines and electronic counting devices should be amended.

The Legislature provided that counties which have large cities could use such machines but there now is equipment that tabulates votes on ballots but the ballots must be taken to where the machine is.

There is a question as to whether present law would permit moving of ballots from precincts to a central location.

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