

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

VOLUME XXVII

PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1907.

NUMBER 47

## LIVED HERE HALF CENTURY

Born in the State of Ohio, Where He Grew to Manhood, Then for Four Years

## HE MINED GOLD IN CALIFORNIA

After Which Returning Home and Marrying, He Came to Plattsmouth, then a Small Place, and Helped Make This a City Since.

### His Early Life.

In the year that Abraham Lincoln quit school and started on the real quest for the education which was to stand him in great stead in after years, herebefore he having been attending a school kept by Mr. Swaney, whose ability to teach the future president of the United States had now been exhausted, and because of the fact was somewhat sore, a child was born in Mansfield, Ohio, who in the years that were to come, should figure in the important events which should go to make up the history of this city. During the time when "Honest Abe" was furthering his educational attainments, by the reading of Aesop's Fables, Pilgrim's Progress, Robinson Crusoe, and the Bible, this little boy was just learning to walk and had received the name Perry P. Gass. Young Gass, like other young Buckeyes of his day, spent the first years in the schools which his time afforded, much inferior to the ones we have at the present. His father being a farmer he grew up on the farm and became well versed in the mode of farming in vogue in his youth. At the age of twelve, when Abraham Lincoln was serving his second term in the legislature of the state of Illinois, and was using his eloquence to have the state capital located at Springfield, and was an element in stopping the "log-rolling" which was looting the state, and became known as a member of the Long Nine from Sangamon county, this youth took his first trip away from home, being the assistant of a sheep man who came from Connecticut to Ohio to buy some 700 head of sheep, which young Gass helped drive overland to the "nutmeg state."

On his return trip he made his way to the Erie canal, and over its tortuous route his way to Buffalo, going at the rate of two miles per hour; part of the time, following the toe-path himself, and after seemingly a long time, arriving at the lake shore. Here he took shipping by a boat to Sandusky, Ohio, over Lake Erie. This was the first time that his eyes ever beheld so great a body of water, and its rounded service was the greatest evidence to him that the world was a sphere, of course, he had read it in the books of his school, but it did not make that impression on him that the sight of that great hill of water at which he looked from the wharf at Buffalo.

### Follows the Star of Empire

After returning home he again worked on the farm and attended school, and in 1849, at the time gold was discovered in California, he and Wm. Winterstein started to study medicine at the same school. The reports which were going all over the country about the wonderful finds of gold in the west, in the course of a year tore young Gass from medicine, and he with three companions departed for the Pacific coast in search of gold. Passing through St. Louis and crossing the Missouri river at a point between where Kansas City and St. Joseph now stands, and continuing a westerly course with a little veering to the north, passing through Kearney, then a military post, and from there the next place they touched was Salt Lake City, where they rested for a week or more, and while there Mr. Gass, then a man of 24 years of age, listened to Brigham Young preach—this was in 1850. They arrived at Sacramento in the fall. From this place they followed up the Sacramento river and then up another river running into it from the east, into the very heart of the Sierras, where they established a mining camp, placing some six hundred feet of flume for hydraulic mining, which after working for a long time proved worthless. As they did not get enough to pay expenses they sold their works for less than twenty per cent of what it cost them. Mr. Gass tells two stories of this valley: one to the effect that the mountains were so steep and

high that one could not see the sun for more than ten minutes a day, and that about noon—he gives a vivid description of the scenery here, where the gigantic rocks which made the mountains were piled in huge piles, it seemed to him a mile high. The other story was of a snowstorm which came one night so heavy that it crushed all the buildings in the town but one, and this one was saved by shoveling off the snow as it fell during the night.

### Returns Home in Ohio.

After staying here for four years he went to Los Angeles, and in conjunction with his brother, D. D. Gass, bought eighty acres of land joining the city and put it in barley, as that was selling at \$2.50 per bushel, and thought they would surely make a fortune, but outside of the memory of man for a similar occurrence, when the crop was fully started, the frost came and nipped the tender plant and they did not get anything. They then sold their holdings, and P. P. Gass started home, coming by the way of Lake Nicaragua and the Gulf, touching at Havana, Cuba, for coal, and thence to New York city, returning to Mansfield, Ohio, where he was united in marriage with Miss Hannah Winterstein in the fall of 1856. Very soon after they started for the west, and came as far as Iowa City on the railroad, that being its terminus at that time. Here he stopped for a while, and then moved to Red Oak, Iowa, where he met T. M. Marquette, whom he had known before and who was teaching school there. Here young Gass and his bride stopped for a few months, where he worked at the carpenter trade.

### Arrival in Plattsmouth.

When the term of Mr. Marquette's school was out he decided to come to Nebraska, and about the first of January, 1857, he departed, telling his friend Gass that as soon as he got to Plattsmouth, the place of destination, he would write him and tell about the place and what he thought of the town. In due time Mr. Gass got a letter, telling all about the city, its possibilities and its present condition, saying that he thought it would be a good thing for him to come. Contracting with a teamster so take him to Plattsmouth, they, after a tortuous and extremely hard trip arrived at East Plattsmouth (or Bethlehem, Iowa). This was in the early spring, and as the water was high, Mr. Gass stored his goods in a building on the other side of the river, placing them in the second story, as water was in the lower rooms. He with his wife and another woman named Johnson engaged passage in a canoe and crossed to this side. In order to get to town they had to come over the hills, and when getting on top of the hill just the other side of Happy Hollow, they encountered a squad of men in double file, which opened ranks for the three strangers, and after having passed the first few they were stopped and asked where they were going, and it being about dark, Mr. Gass and the two women were somewhat puzzled, as on close inspection all of the men were heavily armed. Great was the relief of mind of the small party when T. M. Marquette stepped out of the ranks and grasping Mr. Gass by the hand, saying at the same time, "Well, if this is not my old friend, Perry Gass." They were then allowed to pass, and came on down town. This was a very memorable night in the early history of Plattsmouth, for in that night a family by the name of Johnson entirely disappeared, who had been suspected of being members of a gang of horse thieves.

This first night's experience gave Mr. Gass and his new wife an idea that Plattsmouth was a pretty tough place, but which idea was entirely dissipated in a short time. The first position which Gass held in Plattsmouth was with John

Hatt, sr., not the market man here, but his father, now long since dead, and was carpentering on the Platte Valley hotel, which stood near where the Waterman block now stands. He worked at the carpenter trade and was a stationary engineer engaged in making "Nebraska currency," cottonwood lumber, for some time. After living here for five years he was elected sheriff for two terms, and was police judge for about twelve years. He was a clerk in the Surveyor General's office here for years, in fact, almost the entire time which the office was at this place, and was still working in the office when removed from here. During the earlier portion of the time he was in the office, Fred Dorrington, D. H. Wheeler and George Smith were also clerks—George Fairfield was the surveyor. In 1861, his wife's brother, Dr. Wm. Winterstein, came here from Ohio and made this his home until his death, a number of years ago. In 1888, Mr. Gass' wife died, and since, he and his daughter, Miss Olive Gass, have lived at the old homestead in the third ward, where the Gass family have made their residence for more than thirty-five years. Before, they lived in North Fifth street on a portion of the lot which now constitutes the home of Henry Herold. Two children have blessed the life of Mr. Gass and his good wife. A. E. Gass now with the Plattsmouth Telephone Company, and Miss Olive, who until recently has been engaged as principal in the high school.

Mr. Gass has, since he came to this town, been instrumental in its welfare, and was honored by its citizens in an election to offices successively for a number of years. Now a man of more than eighty years, is spry than many a man no more than half his age and as jolly as a school-boy, an inspiration to all who admire optimism, and a picture of manhood of advanced years.

## VERY TIMELY PREVENTION

### To Proclaim Quarantine on Cattle from the West

The Lincoln News says that Governor Sheldon is preparing to issue a proclamation establishing a state quarantine on cattle west of a north and south line drawn through Broken Bow, and to enforce it by appointing all government inspectors of live stock in Nebraska deputy state veterinarians whose duty will be to see that no infected cattle are shipped, except under proper restrictions. The United States has already declared such a quarantine against western Nebraska, but this does not apply on animals shipped to South Omaha or between other points in the state, so that it is ineffective to prevent disease from spreading without state co-operation.

Some time ago, the federal authorities served notice that if something were not done by Nebraska officials to control live stock distempers a quarantine would be declared by the government against this entire state. The conference at South Omaha this week, attended by Governor Sheldon and a large number of live stock men, was held to agree on a plan of action.

Without state quarantine rules, it has been possible to ship cattle or other animals to South Omaha, where many dealers are bought and taken to various parts of the state. In this way the opportunities for spreading disease were most favorable.

The United States inspection service bars all animals from a quarantine district from being sold at market points, unless the owner has a certificate showing that they have passed an examination and been found free from taint. Any stock shipped without previous inspection are thrown into quarantine on their arrival at market. These rules, of course, apply only on interstate shipments, but when the government inspectors become deputy state veterinarians they can enforce the same regulations inside the state of Nebraska.

### A Perfect Work of Art.

Mrs. A. M. Muoha, the celebrated Bohemian artist, who at present is in this country, is regarded as one of the greatest painters of the world. Two of his latest pictures are genuine works of art and were made to the order of Jos. Triner, the well known manufacturer of Tainer's American Elixir of Bitter Wine, for his wall calendar for 1908. This calendar will be mailed to any address on receipt of 15 cents in stamps, to cover the packing and mailing by Jos. Triner, 616 So. Ashland ave., Chicago, Ill.

### Poultry Wanted

Highest cash paid for poultry, delivered at Mynard any day in the week. Tel. 3 O. W. F. RICHARDSON.

### The Open Air Was Too Good.

Charles Burton, of Nebawka, was a guest in the Manspeaker for the past week, and was given an opportunity yesterday to return to his home in the south part of the county. After he got out in the glorious sunshine he looked around, took his bearings, and was advised by the officers as to when the trains were due to leave for his town. Before going he thought it would be better to wash a few cobwebs out of his throat with a little fire-water, and he was unable to shut off the flow until he had suffered an inundation, and as a result is now again in the "bastille" charged with being drunk again.

### Must Pay Back Taxes.

In the matter of the State of Nebraska vs. the several parcels of land, etc., and Herman B. Burgess, taken up to the supreme court from the district court of this county, the former judgment of the supreme court was vacated, upon rehearing and judgment of district court affirmed. The syllabus of the case is as follows:

1. An ordinance of the city of Plattsmouth recited that it was passed under and by virtue of an act which was afterwards declared unconstitutional. Irrespective of the power granted by the unconstitutional law the city council had the power under the previous statute to enact the ordinance. Held, that the mistake in reciting the power to act did not operate to deprive the city council of the power which it actually had under the existing law.
2. In an action under the scavenger law for the collection of delinquent city taxes the presumption is that the tax was legally levied and assessed and the burden is upon the defendant to plead and prove affirmatively facts showing the lack of authorities to levy the tax.
3. Where the existence of a municipal corporation is not questioned by the state it cannot be brought in issue by a private individual in a collateral proceeding nor can the validity of annexation proceedings be tested in such a suit where the evidence shows acquiescence in the proceedings and the payment of taxes levied by the corporation for several years.

### Another Member to the Happy Family.

The family of Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor and their two boys, who have lived so happily together, were doubly so yesterday, when a stork came their way with the sweetest little girl one could find during a day's travel. The little one and mother are both doing nicely, and this morning when we saw the fond father he was still smiling, and who would not, for the family now makes a hand had to beat, "two queens and three kings."

### Margery Long Dies of Typhoid

Word was received last evening, that the little grand-daughter, of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Osborn, Margery Long, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Long had died with typhoid fever, in Omaha. The little one has not been sick but a few days. Mrs. Osborn, its grandmother, was visiting at the Long home last Tuesday, and there was no cause for alarm at that time. Mr. and Mrs. Osborn departed this morning for Omaha to assist the sorrowing parents, in surmounting the troubles which overwhelmed them. It is not yet known when the funeral services will be.

### Lincoln Elks Dedicate Home.

Henry A. Schneider, of the Elks, holding the position of district deputy to the Exalted Ruler of the state, departed this morning for Lincoln, where the new home of the order at that place will be dedicated today. The Benevolent Protective Order of Elks bear the name of being "high rollers" and without doubt they will have a royal time at the dedication of the new quarters today. The office which Mr. Schneider holds makes it his duty to assume charge of the services of the dedication today.

### Will Ditch Farm Lands.

J. P. Falter, in conjunction with his partner, W. W. Coates, today let a contract for changing the course of the Four-mile Creek, which will require the moving of about 5,000 to 6,000 yards of earth, and will reclaim about 120 acres of the very cream of Cass county's farm lands. The work has been given to Geo. Porsal, who will begin upon the work at once. This will greatly enhance the value of this already valuable farm, which has heretofore been known as the "Methodist farm."

### They Expect to Marry

The records at the county judge's office show the issuance of a permit to marry, in favor of Theovold A. V. Mogenssen, aged 26, and Miss Karen L. A. Hansen, aged 24, of Weeping Water, and they expect to marry in the near future.

## THE FEATHERS ARE MISSING

### An Old Game is Being Worked On Some of the Innocent Across the River.

The Glenwood Tribune says that several people living south of Pacific Junction in toward Bartlett are mourning the loss of their feather beds, a luxury that they were just getting ready to enjoy as winter approaches.

It is the same old story of letting strangers have the feathers under pretense of cleaning them.

The base of operations of these particular feather thieves was Pacific Junction. A little more than two weeks ago a couple of young men rented a building of Mayor R. E. McDonald, saying that they were planning to renovate feathers and that their machine would be along in a few days.

The young men handed out cards to their prospective victims bearing the name of Myers Bros.

For several days they industriously canvassed the country in the vicinity of the Junction, using teams from the Junction livery barn for which they never paid. On Wednesday of last week, having sufficiently "feathered their nest," they proceeded to pack the feathers into boxes on which they attached rope handles so that the stuff could be taken as baggage.

They took the midnight train south to Kansas City that night paying excess baggage rate on 800 pounds. Pacific Junction people were suspicious of them and Chief of Police Ferrel telephoned to the depot police at Kansas City the next morning and learned that the young men had arrived there.

Mr. Ferrel made an effort to locate by telephone some of the victims, but the scamps had wisely gotten the feathers from people not having telephones and also living at some distance from the Junction. In the meantime no charge could be lodged against the men at Kansas City and they were thus enabled to get away.

At the present price of feathers, ranging from 50 to 75 cents a pound, it will be seen that the thieves made a pretty rich haul, amounting to upwards of \$400.

It was not till Wednesday of this week, which was a week after the disappearance of the men that a victim showed up at the Junction, this was Rev. Gearhart, a United Brethren minister at Bartlett. He appears to have been a bright and shining mark, as he asserts that he turned over to the young men 282 pounds of good feathers.

Mrs. Spidell, a widow lady of Bartlett was likewise fleeced. The young rogues posed as philanthropists before her. They told her they would clean her feathers free, and so she allowed them to tote off the downy substance.

The swindlers very considerably left the empty ticks in the McDonald house. These the owners can have by calling for them. A number of families near Bartlett will be sleeping on straw this winter.

It will be a safe proposition for Mills county people to demand a cash bond of the next smooth-tongued rascals that come along that ask to lug off a feather bed to be cleaned.

### Young People Enjoy Good Time.

Last evening Miss Marie Fitzgerald entertained a number of her young lady friends at her home, and the entertainment had only fairly been entered upon when they were surprised to have the door open and an equal number of young men drop in to spend the evening. The young ladies, while not expecting anyone for the evening, were equal to the occasion, and where the games, which were to be a part of the evening's entertainment were broadened to include the gentlemen. Social cards were indulged in, and music helped make the occasion more enjoyable. While other games which delight the heart of the young folks, the refreshments, added to, and completed the evening's entertainment. Those who were present to enjoy the occasion were: Misses Ethel Leyda, Jean Morrissey, Hester Gilmour, Ethel Ballance, Helen Kline, Georgia White, Margaret Scotten, Grace Fitzgerald, Esther Larson, Marie and Opal Fitzgerald. Messrs Frank Clويد, Bruce Rosencrans, John Clويد, Governor Dovey, Milford Bates, Ray Travis, Frank Smith, Will Fitzgerald.

### Enjoying Winter in California.

The Journal is in receipt of a card from T. E. Todd, who with his wife, are spending the winter in California, they write from Long Beach, where they are stopping at the present time and say they are having a delightful time.

### A Pleasant Evening Well Spent.

Last evening the pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. John Hiber was the scene of much merriment, when their daughter, Miss Frances, entertained a few friends in honor of Miss May Youtsey, who left yesterday for her home in Charitan, Iowa. Conversation, games and music caused the hours to pass quickly by and it was late before the guests took their departure. Delicious refreshments were served by Miss Hiber during the evening. Before going home all announced they had enjoyed a most delightful evening.

Miss Youtsey will return in the spring to continue her work as trimmer at Miss Anderson's millinery store.

The guests were Misses May Larson, Alice Ofe, Jessie Duffy, Yelinek, Hanes, Nora and Jennie Batten, May Youtsey and Annie Frye.

## FATAL DISEASES IN NEBRASKA

### Tuberculosis Leads a Fatal Contagion Agency.

The Lincoln News says that tuberculosis held its own during October as the most fatal contagious disease in Nebraska, claiming a total of twenty-four victims. Typhoid fever was second with fourteen, while seven succumbed to diphtheria, and one to cerebro-spinal meningitis. There were no deaths in October, so far as the records of the state health inspector's office show, from scarlet fever, measles or smallpox.

A compilation of October reports made by Miss Lulu Carlson of the health inspector's office show how the deaths due to contagion were distributed over the state. One-half of the patients who died from tuberculosis were in Douglas county, the damp atmosphere that hangs over the Missouri river being favorable to the breeding of the germs of that disease. The figures by counties are as follows:

Nemaha—Typhoid fever, 1.  
Hall—Typhoid fever, 1.  
Custer—Tuberculosis, 1; diphtheria, 1; typhoid fever, 1.  
Gage—Tuberculosis, 1.  
Greeley—Tuberculosis, 1.  
Buffalo—Cerebro-spinal meningitis, 1.  
Antelope—Diphtheria, 1.  
Cass—Typhoid fever, 1; tuberculosis, 1.  
Cuming—Typhoid fever, 1; tuberculosis, 1.  
Cherry—Typhoid fever, 1.  
Douglas—Typhoid fever, 4; tuberculosis, 12; diphtheria, 1.  
Jefferson—Diphtheria, 2; tuberculosis, 1; typhoid fever, 1.  
Lancaster—Tuberculosis, 5; typhoid fever, 1; diphtheria, 1.  
Otoe—Diphtheria, 1.  
Pawnee—Typhoid fever, 1.  
Richardson—Tuberculosis, 1.

### Smallpox Situation Better

From present indications we are out of danger from smallpox, and with ordinary precaution there will be no more cases of it here. The only recent case reported to us was Mrs. Sarah Lynn, at whose home the first case appeared several weeks ago, and her attack is in the very mild form of varioloid. She suffered little from this, but owing to the fact that she has been confined to her bed by other ailments for several months she has become very weak, yet she is now gaining strength and it is expected that her improvement will continue.

James Gruber and his wife have fully recovered, but are not yet out among the people. Mrs. Peter Clarence and Mrs. Ed Leach have passed the danger point and both are getting along nicely but they have several days yet to enjoy (?) their isolated home where they have been living the past few weeks—Union Ledger.

### Arrested Statutory Crime.

Sheriff Edwin Evans, from Albion, Boone county, came in last evening to accompany Miss Lillian Ford to Albion, where she is to be tried in conjunction with Wm. Hilgrith for a statutory crime. About a month since Chandler H. Ford secured a divorce from his wife, Lillian Ford, and with the evidence introduced at the trial for divorce the other crime was proven, and the charges at once preferred.

Sheriff Quinton made the arrest of Mrs. Ford night before last near Manley, and she was brought to this place and placed in custody of the wife of the deputy sheriff, Mrs. M. E. Manspeaker. Sheriff Evans, of Boone county, departed with her this afternoon for Albion.

### Fresh Oyster Season.

The fresh oyster season has arrived, and Perry's Restaurant is the proper place to find them in any style you like.