

FORTY YEARS AGO IN PLATTSMOUTH

First Shovelful of Dirt Thrown on Burlington Road in Ne- braska, July 5, 1869

A special from Lincoln, under date of July 5, 1869, has the following to say in reference to Plattsmouth forty years ago: Forty years ago today ground was broken for the Burlington & Missouri railway in Nebraska.

It was at 11 o'clock in the morning of July 5, 1869, that the first shovelful of dirt was thrown at Plattsmouth. The then pioneer town and stage station was in gala raiment and spirits and several thousand people, a penderous crowd for a frontier settlement, had assembled to witness the event and participate in the attendant festivities.

The late John Fitzgerald, who did so much toward girdling this part of the earth with railroads, had just completed the making of the big cut for the Burlington main line at Glenwood, Ia., some ten miles east of Plattsmouth, and had come across to begin a contract for sixty miles of the new line in Nebraska. That sixty miles was to begin at Plattsmouth and extend to a point five miles west of Lincoln. It is said that there is now standing a post to mark the termination of that original sixty-mile undertaking.

Fitzgerald's big crew of laborers constituted a material part of the great assembly at Plattsmouth and every laborer in it was accorded signal attention and honor on that day by the proud people of Plattsmouth and its surroundings. The men were given the freedom of the city, and there was nothing too good for them. They were the heroes of the occasion.

Tom O'Connor, now in business in this city, and ever since that day a citizen of Nebraska, was one of the young men in the party and is full of reminiscences of the primitive celebration. He recalls the prodigal generosity of the Plattsmouthians of '69 with considerable enthusiasm, even to the distribution of barrels of whisky through the adjacent groves, each with a tin pint cup attached, whereat anyone might slake his thirst and stoke up his enthusiasm. There was plenty to eat and everything was free and welcome.

Prayer and Whisky.

Mr. O'Connor recalls that it was Mayor John Simpson of Plattsmouth who threw the first shovelful of dirt. Prayers for the success of the undertaking had been uttered, but he is unable to say which really did the most toward speeding the tremendous project, the prayers or the whisky. But the whisky cut considerable figure just at that time.

After the mayor the shovel was manipulated by the mayor's wife, then his daughter, and then by Mr. Fitzgerald. Following the latter Tom O'Connor took a hand at the shovel. It was after a space of some 500 or 600 feet long had been cleared and leveled by the shovelers that the first

ties were laid, followed by the initial rails and the driving of the first spike. It was the wife of the mayor who undertook to drive the first spike. Numerous bands played during the ceremonies and there was plenty of shouting and singing.

Labor was at that time quite easily obtainable because of the fact that work on a big section of the Union Pacific had just been completed and the men drifted toward the new works. Hence it was that in just a year from the initial work at Plattsmouth the first excursion train was run to Lincoln over the new line, and the event was duly celebrated at this end on July 4. True, the line did not reach clear to Lincoln at that time, but it was within hailing distance. The grade had reached this city, but the track had only been laid to Stevens creek, a point about seven miles east of the city, where for many years afterward a side track station was called Newton.

Travel on Flat Cars.

It was in the early morning that a train load of enthusiasts left Plattsmouth to traverse the Platte valley to Stevens creek on flat cars. They were met at that point by people from the capital city and escorted into Lincoln in carriages.

"I remember that there was a celebration here that day," says Tom O'Connor, "but I don't remember much about it. I do remember, however, that one of the first things I did was to go up to the old capitol building and chip off a piece to send back to my old home in Pennsylvania. The capitol was a frame building and easily chipped."

It was shortly after that Fourth of July that the road was completed into Lincoln, where it took thirteen or fourteen years to complete it into Denver. For many years the main line did not touch Omaha. The trains of the road were run across the river at Plattsmouth and up the Platte valley to this city, while a stub train from Oreadopolis, four or five miles from Plattsmouth, connected with Omaha. It was in the early '80s that the line from Omaha to Ashland was built, what was long known as the Ashland cut-off, and main line trains were sent around through Omaha.

Tom O'Connor recounts with a great deal of pride his participation in the installation and construction of the Burlington in Nebraska, with which he was afterwards for fourteen years connected as a conductor. He enumerates several other Lincoln people who were present at the initial ceremonies at Plattsmouth. Among them is Julius Pepperberg, the well known cigar manufacturer at Eighth and O streets, who was then in business in Plattsmouth. Another is Ed McGeer, a farmer living near Davey, and a man named Dulenty, now living in Lincoln, who was one of the Fitzgerald force in that day.

Trains to Carry Signs.

Electric lighted signs displayed from the platform of the rear end observation car will hereafter blazon the course of two Burlington trains running between Lincoln and Chicago. The public got its first glimpse of them yesterday. "Burlington Route" is the inscription which one of the signs will flash out to the world behind in its journey. The other is "Chicago-Nebraska Limited." The letters are large enough to be read easily 200 feet away in daylight and nearly as far at night. They are painted white on a red background, the whole being enclosed in a Russia iron fence about two feet square, painted black. The illumination at night is furnished by four electric lights inside of the box-like structure. Current is supplied from the interior of the car and can be turned off or on at any time by moving a lever at the switchboard. In daylight or in darkness, the signs will be conspicuous.—State Journal.

Will Play Fast Ball.

The Glenwood baseball team, one of the speediest ball teams of Western Iowa, and a team which has been given all comers good and plenty defeats, will play the Plattsmouth team next Saturday, July 10. This game ought to be a fast one, for both teams are now in fine fettle and playing fast ball. Plattsmouth has a quartette of pitchers in Atkins, McCauley, Mason and Richey

who ought to be able to hold the Glenwoods down in good shape, while Glenwood is equally strong in the box. The game promises to be one of the best of the season and deserves to be witnessed by a big crowd. The Plattsmouth boys think they will take the visitors' scalp.

File Your Papers.

The candidates who yearn to serve the people as public officers should take due notice that the time for filing notice of their candidacy before the primaries expires on Saturday, July 17. The law provides that all applications for places on the primary tickets shall be filed thirty days before the primaries, which are to be held on the third Tuesday in August. There have been no applications filed so far and very little talk of any candidates in the field except those as printed heretofore in the Journal. Some doubt exists as to whether the candidates for county judge, county superintendent and other offices covered by the non-partisan act of the last legislature should go on the primary ballot or not, as the matter is still in the Supreme Court.

Plattsmouth vs. Glenwood on Saturday, June 10. A good ball game and two good teams.

Charles Miller, his son John, and John Miller of Omaha, who has been visiting with him, returned to Omaha this afternoon.

Missouri Rises Again.

The Missouri river is keeping up the pace set by the rest of nature, and last night started on the upgrade again, making the fourth rise for this year, something out of the ordinary. The rise last night was small, but it is the starter for what may develop into a big rise before it ends. Reports from up the river indicate a rise of a foot or more already in sight, with heavy rains over the entire drainage basin of the Missouri. There have been very heavy rains, causing floods in the mountains, which will drain very largely into the Platte, Yellowstone and upper Missouri, and if these all arrive together there is good prospect for the river nearing the danger line.

Reports from across the river indicate that the farmers in the bottoms below Pacific Junction have been having a lot of trouble controlling Keg creek, which is diked below that point for the protection of the farm lands. This dike has been threatening to break for several days on account of the high water from the recent heavy rains and farmers have been busy hauling material with which to strengthen it.

From the morning papers it is learned that great property loss and some lives lost, has been the result of the rains and the resulting floods in Missouri, Kansas and points in Iowa. The floods have been especially severe in Missouri, as will be seen by a glance at the telegraph pages in the Journal. Pattonsburg, Chillicothe and many other towns of large size are under water, which is still rising. Kansas City is again threatened with a great flood from the rising Missouri and Kaw rivers, and a gloomy outlook seems in store for the people living in the lower valleys of the two rivers. Plattsmouth people, after reading the accounts of the loss and disasters which are overwhelming the other cities in the Missouri valley can now realize that they really are fortunate that their losses in past years by flood were no greater than they were. So far this year matters in this line have not been bad here, although excessive rainfall has taken place on several occasions. The excellent effects of lowering the streets saved the city from one flood, and in that alone paid for its cost. Our people can now sympathize with those in other cities who are suffering.

Departs for Los Angeles.

T. S. Clifford departed this morning for Omaha, from which city, in company with District Deputy W. S. Canada, he will proceed to Los Angeles, Cal., where he is a delegate to the Grand Lodge of the B. P. O. E. Mr. Clifford is for J. U. Sammis of LeMars, Ia., for Grand Exalted Ruler, August (Garry) Hermann of Cincinnati, O., is a candidate for the same position and a warm fight is being waged for the honor. The eastern lodges seem to be strongly for Hermann, while the western and southern lodges are for Sammis. Mr. Clifford expects to be absent for two weeks or so, and will visit in San Francisco and Denver before his return. He has relatives on the coast with whom he will make a short visit. The Grand Lodge at Los Angeles bids fair to be the largest attended and the most successful ever held in the history of the order. Great preparations have been made for the entertainment of the guests and the sum of \$100,000 has been raised to see the program arranged is carried out. Several points on the route to the coast have also made arrangements to show visiting delegations a royal time, including Salt Lake City, which has an elaborate program mapped out for all week for the entertainment of delegations passing through the city. Detroit, Mich., will receive the next Grand Lodge.

To Construct Forty-Five Miles.

Thigh Broken.
A 7-year-old son of John Janel, living on Maiden Lane, near Rock street, yesterday had the misfortune to have his thigh broken. The accident occurred while the little fellow was attempting to get on a moving wagon. In company with his father he had been watching the loading of wood on a wagon, which the father was driving to the house. After seeing the wagon loaded and while it was under way, the boy sought to climb on it. His leg was caught between the spokes of the revolving wheel and the thigh bones snapped in two. A surgeon was speedily summoned and the broken limb was set. The little fellow suffers intensely from the pain, but it is believed the thigh will set all right and that he will eventually be out and about again.

Don't Forget This.

Saturday evening, July 10th Philip Hill will give a barn dance at his home six miles west of Myard. Everyone is invited and a good time assured to all who attend.

In District Court.

Judge Pemberton of Beatrice Tuesday held district court and heard the case of Clark vs. Fleischman et al., having been called in by Judge Travis on account of the fact that the latter was acquainted with the facts in the case and did not care to take charge of the hearing on that account. The entries of Judge Pemberton in the case follow:

The order entered on June 13, is set aside and re-argument of the motion ordered. The motion to appress the deposition of Thos. M. Howard overruled as the admissibility of the testimony of said witness will be passed upon in the trial of the case. Plaintiff excepts to the order overruling said motion. Defendant demands trial of issues of fact to a jury which is refused by the court for the reason that the defense set up in the fourth paragraph of the amended answer is wholly equitable and said paragraph virtually admits that the legal title to said land is in the plaintiff.

Yesterday Judge Pemberton and a jury composed of Oliver C. Dovey, Charles Gerlach, Lyman James, Geo. Horn, Matt Jirousek, Dave Amick, Peter Campbell, Q. K. Parmele, W. O. Ogden, J. F. Hennings, D. A. Miller, and Geo. W. Snyder, are hearing the case of Lau against Hall. This is a damage case in which Lau seeks damages in the sum of \$10,300 against Hall for keeping a vicious stallion. The stallion jumped upon Lau who had entered its presence and trampled him, inflicting severe injuries to him. He alleges the animal was vicious and not properly looked after by Hall, its owner, who also failed to provide safe baiters and other harness for restraining the animal. There is a vast array of witnesses from Elmwood, Eagle and Alvo and that vicinity and the case will be sometime in trying. Lau is represented by Hon. Geo. W. Berge of Lincoln.

A case filed with Clerk of the Court Robertson yesterday seeks a judgment against the C. B. & Q. Ry. in the sum of \$1,186 for damages to a stallion, horses and household goods which plaintiff had shipped from a point on the C. & N. W. Ry. to Cedar Creek. Plaintiff alleges that while the car stood in the Plattsmouth yards on March 22, 1909, the servants and switchmen of the defendant snatched the car about with unnecessary violence so that the stallion was injured so badly that it died and the remaining articles were also put out of business.

The Burlington has let a contract for the construction of forty-five miles of railroad from Thermopolis to a point a few miles west of Shoshoni, on the Northwestern's Leander line. McArthur Bros. of Omaha got the contract. This firm is said to have recently bought much of the railroad machinery used formerly by Kilpatrick Bros. & Collins of Beatrice.

The cost of this line will be between \$3,000,000 and \$4,000,000, making it one of the most expensive pieces of railroad work in the west. This great expense is caused in a large measure by the fact that for eleven miles through the Big Horn gorge the line will have to be cut along the ledge of almost perpendicular rocks far enough above the water of the river that it may cross the Boysen dam now installed at the entrance to the gorge.

The construction of the line between Kirby and Thermopolis is now in progress.

"We don't hear much about the Platte valley line these days," says a Burlington man, "but what do you suppose Jim Hill is spending millions for on lines in Wyoming that can be made valuable only by being reached by the low grade Platte valley line, if he does not intend to build that road?"—State Journal.

Have Fine Time.

A merry load of young men Sunday drove out to the home of Geo. Meisinger, the third, and had a royal visit with this excellent gentleman and his estimable family. The party consisted of Messrs Victor Anderson, A. H. Koubek, Joe Libershal and Frank Koubek and the boys returned more than delighted with the fine time shown them.

Mrs. Meisinger had prepared a splendid dinner for the boys, and they did it ample justice feasting in only the manner in which city men eat when they get up against a real fine country dinner. They had every thing the season afforded and it was all splendidly prepared. In the evening they drove home after a delightful day, the two who had driven out in the front seat in the morning riding in the rear seat coming back by the simple expedient of changing the buggy tongue from the front to the rear of the buggy. Anyway they say they did although it is more probable the young spring chicken they had went to their heads and merely made them think so.

New Land Chances!

FLATHEAD INDIAN RESERVATION: Register at Kalispell, Mont., on the Great Northern Railway.

COEUR D'ALENE RESERVATION: Register at Coeur d'Alene, Idaho. (Buy tickets to Spokane.)

SPokane Reservation: Register at Spokane, Washington.

Registration dates July 15th to August 5th, inclusive. This is another of the remaining few chances for this generation to obtain good government lands. Call on nearest ticket agent for descriptive leaflet, showing conditions, excursion rates, train service, etc.

The Burlington-Great Northern, Spokane and Seattle train takes you through the wealth producing Wenatchee fruit country, and shows you the wonderful upper northwest empire; every mile is interesting.

BIG HORN BASIN: A splendid choice of the government irrigated lands is still left to homesteaders in this fast growing country.

320-ACRE MONDELL LANDS: Thousands of acres of these larger sized tracts are now available for free homesteading in eastern Wyoming and are going fast.



D. CLEM DEEVER, General Agent,
Land Seekers Information Bureau, Omaha, Neb.

Brantner Wins Case.

Matthew Gering on Saturday received a letter from the Clerk of the Iowa Supreme Court stating that the case of Gilliland vs. Brantner for attorney's fees which had been pending in that court of appeals had been decided in favor of Mr. Brantner. The case was brought originally in Mills county by Shirley Gilliland, an attorney of Glenwood, who claimed a lien and attorney's fees against a judgment which Ed. Brantner of this city had secured against the Burlington railroad for personal injuries. Brantner had contracted with Gilliland to assist Matthew Gering in prosecuting the case, and agreed to pay him \$200 for his services. Gilliland considered his services worth considerably more than this and sought to enforce his claim in court. The decision of the supreme court is a sweeping victory for Brantner, the court saying among other things the amount \$200 is too low but if was the contracted price and must be accepted by Gilliland in full. A tender of this amount had been made Gilliland by Brantner at the trial in the lower court and, the court holds this was sufficient to throw the costs made after the tender on Gilliland who thus loses his contention and also the costs. Matthew Gering represented Brantner in the case and was pleased at the victory.

Sees Mother Grow Young.

"It would be hard to overstate the wonderful change in my mother since she began to use Electric Bitters," writes Mrs. W. L. Gilpatrick of Danforth, Me. "Although past 70 years she seems really to be growing young again. She suffered untold misery from depression for 20 years. At last she could neither eat, drink or sleep. Doctors gave her up and all remedies failed until Electric Bitters worked such wonders for her health." They invigorate the vital organs, cure liver and kidney troubles, induce sleep, impart strength and appetite. Only 50c at F. G. Fricke & Co.

The undersigned has about 40 acres of good grass to rent for pasturing horses only. Good running water and plenty of shade. One dollar per month per head.

C. Bengen,
7 1/2 miles south of Plattsmouth.

Submit Case to Jury.

The case of Lau vs. Hall, which has been occupying the attention of Judge Pemberton and a jury in district court for several days, reached its conclusion this morning when it was argued and submitted to the jury.

The plaintiff in the case was represented by Attorney Matthew Gering of this city and Attorney W. Berge of Lincoln, while Attorney Byron Clark of this city looked after the interests of Mr. Hall. The entire case, which was one for damage for injuries sustained by the plaintiff from defendant's stallion, was bitterly contested. The whole issue seemed to be as to whether the defendant had exercised due care in keeping the animal and a delicate question arising as to what would constitute due care. The direct testimony on the case seemed to leave the matter standing upon the evidence of the plaintiff and defendant alone, although there were many other witnesses upon various phases of the case.

Matthew Gering opened the argument for the plaintiff and made a clear and logical presentation of his side of the case. Byron Clark followed for the defendant and also presented the case for the defendant in an able and lucid manner. George W. Berge closed for the plaintiff and his argument was a good one, in thorough keeping with his established reputation as an attorney and an orator.

Judge Pemberton's instructions were decidedly brief and to the point and almost wholly eliminated the evidence in the case save as outlined above. They were regarded a very fair by those who had heard the case.

A Night Rider's Raid.

The worst night riders are calomel croton oil or aloes pills. They raid your bed to rob you of rest. Not so with Dr. King's New Life Pills. They never distress or inconvenience, but always chase the system, curing colds, headache, Constipation, Malaria, 25c at F. G. Fricke & Co.

Shorthorns for Sale.

Three good registered Shorthorn yearling bulls for sale. Also good fresh milk cows. Mark White.

In these hot Summer days you need a shirt almost every day in the week.

We have soft collar shirts in a soft thin silky material, in six shades, white, tan, cream, gray, blue and pink

\$1.25 and \$1.50 Values for \$1.00

In neckband shirts we have the famous Ferguson-McKinney and Wilson Bros. brands at \$1.00 and \$1.25.

Manhattans at \$1.50, \$1.75 and \$2.00

Glad to show you; we know you'll buy if you once look.

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