

## THE FATHER OF WESCOTT'S SONS MAKES A TALK

Reviews the Intervening Years From the Time He Came Here to the Present.

The celebration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the C. E. Wescott's Sons business career in Plattsmouth opened today under the most favorable auspices. Throngs of well-wishers, old friends and customers frequented the store all the morning, and offered their congratulations to the Messrs. C. C. and E. H. Wescott.

Mr. C. E. Wescott, founder of the firm, was unavoidably detained by a washout on the Denver & Rio Grande railroad in Colorado, and will not arrive until tomorrow.

A retrospective view of the thirty-five years career of the Wescott family in this city forms an interesting bit of history connected with the business life of Plattsmouth.

Mr. Wescott said: "My memory may not serve me perfectly, and all records in books, etc., were swept away by the floods, but we landed in Plattsmouth in April, 1879, and opened up April 25th for business in a little one-story frame building owned by Henry Boeck, and made vacant by Schicketanz, the barber. It was the only available room to be had on Main street, and obtained largely through the persistent demands and kindness of Mr. Boeck. The location was between Third and Fourth, just east of Shannon's livery barn, and about where the Wetenskap building now stands.

The firm name was Wescott & Powell. Business improved beyond our expectations, and also beyond the capacity of our room. In October, 1879, the opportunity presented of getting a larger room and better location between Fifth and Sixth streets, on the north side of Main, owned by Thomas Shryock.

A change in the firm occurred January 1, 1880, by Mr. C. A. Powell retiring, and a fire which consumed the building, and also every dollar of stock, occurred on January 29, 1880, the loss being \$5,600. Fortunately there was \$2,000 insurance on stock, and after settling with my creditors I had \$850, my little family up on High School Hill and the wide, wide world before me.

Supt. Touzelin of the B. & M. gave me a pass to Chicago, and to my joy I found that my credit was not impaired. Encouraged, I at once returned to Plattsmouth to seek a new location, and succeeded in getting the little frame building, 16x24, that rested on posts on the lot where Eastwood's hardware store is now, and owned by Mrs. Rockwood.

While Jim Coleman was stopping up cat-holes, making tables and shelves, I was off to Chicago and bought my new stock, amounting to \$1,550, and on April 15, 1880, I flung the doors open to the public, and in no uncertain way, declared myself ready to devote my whole time and energy to serve the people, and "no monkey business."

It was a small beginning and fraught with much to repel and discourage me in way of strong and bitter competition. And the harder thing to bear—the cruel inhumanity of some people who delight to kick a man who is down, and struggling for his life. But my blood was up—my wife and baby boys were on my heart—my soul in the contest—and that kind of pressure most always wins, especially when right and justice are in the balance.

About the next thing that happened to your "Uncle Edward" was, one bright day, I think in September, 1883, they hitched onto my frail little store and pulled it around the corner into Fifth street, almost wrecking it,

to clear the ground to erect the Rockwood block. Again I was out in the cold—but luck favored me, and in October I secured and moved into a new brick building on lower Main street, owned, I think, by A. B. Smith. In the meantime, during the fall and winter of 1883-84, the Rockwood block was completed, and on March 1, 1884, we occupied the new room, which continued to be our home for eighteen years.

In February, 1902, I acquired, by purchase, the Frank Carruth building, on the corner of Fifth and Main streets, and which is today, I am glad to say, our permanent location for business.

This, I believe, brings us down to this auspicious hour, covering all that need be said concerning the life-history of this firm in Plattsmouth.

I may be permitted to say, however, that much more might be injected into this little story, relative to the ins and outs, ups and downs, incident to the multitude of experiences during thirty-four years of strenuous, busy life. But I will only add that I feel a just pride in the knowledge that this store has continuously advanced from the start. It has stood for all that is good in management and fair dealing. Its good name and reputation is what we love and cherish, and are sure its future is in hands that will protect it.

## MEETING OF GAS AND ELECTRIC MANAGERS

The Hotel Riley Scene of the Gathering—Banquet Last Night.

From Wednesday's Daily. Yesterday and today there has been a meeting of the managers of companies in Iowa and Nebraska controlled by the Continental Gas and Electric corporation of Cleveland, Ohio. The occasion has been in the nature of a get-acquainted gathering of men in charge of gas and electric light plants controlled by the company named. The gentlemen in attendance at the meeting were as follows:

W. H. Abbott, vice president Continental Gas and Electric Co., Cleveland, Ohio.

F. H. Roberts, general manager Red Oak-Plattsmouth transmission system, Red Oak, Ia.

Fred Kidder, general manager Red Oak Gas Light Co.

J. B. Harvey, general manager York Gas and Electric Co.

T. C. Messplay, new business manager, York, Neb.

Thomas Rice, manager Gage County Gas Co., Beatrice, Neb.

L. J. Klein, Beatrice, Neb.

R. J. Ritchie, manager Peoples' Gas Co., Shenandoah, Ia.

R. N. Pritchard, manager Electric and Power Co., Shenandoah, Iowa.

O. A. Bell, new business manager, Shenandoah, Ia.

F. E. Kopecky, general news business manager, Red Oak.

H. T. Boehner, manager Light and Power Co.

R. C. Wood, supt. of construction, Red Oak, Ia.

W. E. Sweezy, manager Nebraska Lighting Co., Plattsmouth, Neb.

H. F. Viot, Omaha.

Charles Granden of Burgess-Granden Co., Omaha.

J. W. Bateman, C. W. Chestnut, F. W. Johnson, Western Electric Co., Omaha.

After the men assembled in Plattsmouth yesterday they were addressed by Mr. Abbott, vice president of the company, and he told the meeting of present conditions and what it was proposed to do in the near future in developing and improving the various plants in this territory.

A banquet was served at the Hotel Riley last evening, which was highly enjoyed by those participating. The sessions, both social and business, were all held at the Hotel Riley.

## ANOTHER CASS COUNTY LEAGUE BALL GAME

Cedar Creek Loses a Close Game to Manley on the Locals' Grounds.

(Contributed.)

One of the best games of ball played this season was pulled off in the Cass County league circuit between Manley and Cedar Creek on the locals' grounds. It was a pitchers' battle, in which Connor had the best of it until the ninth inning, when his support faltered, coupled with a very rank decision by Manager Tighe, who umpired for the visitors, the occasion being a walk given to a Manley batter when there were 3 balls and 2 strikes, and Connor put a fast one square across the plate at the waist line. Even the visitors own players were inclined to think it was a good strike. However, it is a cinch it is impossible for a manager to give a clean and unbiased decision in a pinch without showing his desire to be with his team, and therefore it would not be a bad rule to disbar any manager to officiate as umpire.

Let it be as it was, it was as good a game as could be asked for if played by professionals all around. The first round was the only one to be noticed in the defense of the locals, when Scheider had two bad errors that cost one pearl, but as this same "gook" was the first man to face Mr. Miller he rapped the sphere for a clean 3-sacker over the left fielder, and also in the third inning he took a single and a score when the famous local favorite, Harry Carl, rapped the pill for another 3-sacker, which he tried to stretch into a homer, but was caught by a perfect throw by a remarkably close margin. After this there was nothing to it but a pitchers' duel, each twirler working like a clock. Connor may be an offcast, but we welcome Mr. Connor to our lineup and our little berg would not exchange with the Pa Rourke for the pick of his twirling staff, which is some strong expression of what is thought of the "portsider" as a twirler and ball player.

The old war horse, Phil Hirz, was back in the game at his old station at the second corner, and the way he played this position was a miracle, considering his being out of the game for nearly two years, but he must have had numerous dreams about the game or he could not have come up to the standard of excellence as he did.

As stated before, everyone played ball all the time and it should have had been a 1 to 0 victory. The first of the ninth, with one man down, Umpire Tighe presented Manley with a base on balls, three strikes, and then our standby, Walt Salsburg, over-confident of taking his man on a pop-up fly to shortstop, dropped the ball and placed the second man at his station. It was then that Mr. Miller won his own game by placing a clean kick, scoring the two runners ahead of him, and after a short single scored himself.

The two twirlers stacked up like this:

Connor—Struck out, 11; base on balls, 1; hits, 4; hit by pitched ball, 0.

Miller—Struck out 8; base on balls, 2; hits, 3; hit by pitched ball, 0.

The number of bases gained by the hits were 7 for Cedar Creek out of 3 hits, and 5 out of 4 hits for Manley. The score by innings:

Cedar Creek . . . 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0—1  
Manley . . . . . 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 3—4

Batteries—Cedar Creek, Connor and Wolff; Manley, Miller and O'Brien.

You will see some tall scrambling to beat Manley on the Cass County league circuit, for they play ball all the while and are as hard hitting a bunch as you will run up against in amateur ball. Watch the prediction.

## THE GREAT CITY OF THE MIGHTY WEST

J. N. Wise Writes of Some of the Great Institutions of Chicago.

The following very interesting letter has just been received here from our former fellow townsman, J. N. Wise, who, with his wife, has been enjoying a visit at Chicago with their daughter, and Mr. Wise gives some very pleasing facts of the great city, which are most interesting, as Mr. Wise is a close observer and takes a great interest in all matters that tend for the advancement of his fellow citizens:

## DECORATION DAY WILL BE OBSERVED

Manner in Which the Program Will Be Carried Out on That Memorable Day.

As announced in these columns some days ago, the efforts of the G. A. R. post to observe Decoration day in an appropriate manner, are to be supplemented by the assistance of the Commercial club, the public schools and the D. A. R.

Superintendent Brooks is cooperating with the committee from the D. A. R., and the matter is receiving more than for some years past, the attention of the children.

The special music for the afternoon's program at the Parmele will be furnished by a large chorus of children from the grades, who will sing the old patriotic songs. They are being drilled on these songs and are much interested in their part of the program.

As a special feature of the observance of the day, the D. A. R. will give a declamatory contest at the Parmele in the evening at 8 o'clock, which will be offered free to the public. This program has been contemplated by this society for some time, and their offering it at this time is most appropriate and will be very much appreciated by the old soldiers and the public generally. The several numbers composing the contest will be rendered by members of the High school and will be largely patriotic in character. A lively interest is already manifest on the part of the contestants and some excellent work in the declamatory line is expected. The D. A. R. has offered a medal to the winner in such a contest, to be given for five consecutive years, and the winner of the first one will be announced at the close of the program at this time. An award of the money prize offered earlier in the year in the seventh and eighth grades for a composition on "The Revolutionary Period" will also be made upon this occasion. Music for the evening will be furnished by a large chorus from the High school. Both choruses are rehearsing and will render the old patriotic songs as they have not been rendered for some years. The chorus work is under the direction of Mrs. Mae Morgan.

## Big Platform Dance.

There will be a platform dance at the Koukal grove, near Straight's pond, northwest of the city, on Saturday evening next. There has been a fine dancing platform erected here and the managers will see that the best of order is maintained. The music for the dance will be furnished by the Svoboda orchestra and everyone is invited to come out and have a good time.

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Chicago, May 16, 1914.  
Editor Journal:

Would your readers enjoy, through the columns of the Journal, a few items of more than ordinary interest concerning some of Chicago's great things?

Chicago is on the borders of Lake Michigan, in the great state of Illinois, but then your readers know that. Chicago is a great city, and the Journal readers know that also. However, there are some things that make Chicago great that many of your readers do not know.

Mr. Wise and her husband have been enjoying a few weeks' visit with their daughter, Mrs. Jackson and family. During our visit we have seen and learned of many of the wonders of this great city. The parks constitute one of the most enjoyable of the adornments of the city. They are beautifully green and attractive, and afford recreation and enjoyment to their thousands upon thousands of visitors.

The magnificent public libraries, art museums, Lincoln park, conservatories and zoo, Field museum of art and sculpture, art institute galleries and paintings, sculpture and art collections, together with numberless other places of absorbing interest afford endless enjoyment and education without cost to the public.

The street railways, surface and elevated, carry their millions of passengers with extraordinary safety and comfort. These two systems are independent, one of the other. But the merging of the two into one is under consideration, and I have no doubt the consolidation will be brought about within a very few years. The next step will probably be a subway service. The city receives from these corporations 55 per cent of their net earnings. How much revenue the city treasury derives from this service I am not prepared to say, but one can easily imagine that it amounts to a vast sum.

The Chicago school system is very fine. We all know what the public school system of America is, as every neighborhood and hamlet throughout the country enjoys the benefits which our public schools provide for our oncoming army of children and youth. But there is one feature of Chicago's educational or High school system which has impressed me more, perhaps, than any one ordinarily found in the course of High school education. I had the pleasure about two years ago of visiting the Lane Technical school, where everything is taught that is necessary to equip a young man for the activities of life, from the preparation of the molds in the foundry to the finished product as the iron comes from the lathe in the machine shop. Everything in machinery and woodwork, drafting, mechanical engineering, wireless telegraphy, chemistry, etc. This High school is for the education of boys only.

Since that visit there has been erected in the north part of the city a fine building three stories in height and covering ten acres of ground, making thirty acres of

floor space, in which 2,000 pupils are receiving their training. This building contains the largest High school auditorium in the United States, with one exception. The floors are divided into rooms where everything is taught as I have described in the Lane school, and in addition music, domestic science, cooking, needle work, the languages, telegraphy and telephony. This school is provided with swimming pool, baths, athletic conveniences, etc.

A week ago we had the pleasure to attend a concert and to witness the activities of the students in the several departments in this great school. The auditorium in which the concert was given was filled with 2,200 interested mothers, fathers and friends. Twenty-two violins, besides base viol, cornets, flutes, drums and 150 pupils, boys and girls, filled the stage. It was an inspiration to witness the perfection of training of these boys and girls. While 2,200 persons were enjoying this concert, a like number were visiting in the halls and other parts of the building. I am proud to have a grandson in each of these fine schools. This new school is the "Nicholas Senn."

After visiting these schools the thought came to me what wonderful opportunities are here laid open to young men and women to prepare themselves for future usefulness in the battles of life. Then my thoughts run back to the days of my boyhood, when opportunities like these were not within the reach of any save the children of the rich, and even they were far short of the conveniences and opportunities of today.

J. N. Wise.

## CELEBRATION OF ANNIVERSARY DRAWS CROWDS

Large Crowds Attracted by the Wescott Thirty-Fifth Anniversary Celebration.

The store of Wescott's Sons is a very busy place today, as the anniversary celebration is on in full blast, and from early morning until late at night the store was crowded by an enthusiastic crowd of friends and customers. Today is boys' day and the firm has given a fitting recognition of Young America in the giving of prizes. From 8:35 to 8:45 each boy was given a lead pencil, and for ten minutes at noon a cap and whistle were given away. From 4:30 to 5 o'clock every boy who brings his mother with him to the store will receive a pair of link cuff buttons, and the lad that can show his teacher's certificate that he has not missed a day of school will receive a ticket to the air dome free. The collection of relics of the times when the store was established is attracting a great deal of attention from everyone who passes by, and each day something more interesting is brought out to add to the collection. The firm yesterday received a large bouquet of American beauty roses from the Byrne & Hammer Co. of Omaha as a remembrance of the occasion, and this morning a bunch of thirty-five magnificent white snowballs were presented by Mr. and Mrs. M. Whelan to the Wescott firm. A message was received this morning announcing that Mr. C. E. Wescott would be here tomorrow morning on No. 6 to take part in the celebration.

## Farm for Sale.

Farm of 121 acres, 5 1/2 miles northeast of Union; 14 acres hay land, 20 acres pasture timber, rest in cultivation; well improved. Price right if taken soon. Address Miss Etta Nickels, Murray, Neb.

Try a sack of Forest Rose flour. Your money refunded if not satisfactory.

## GRADUATING CLASS TO GIVE TWO PLAYS

Class Plays Are Being Rehearsed by Students for Presentation at the Parmele.

The students of the senior class of the local High school have been for the past few weeks busily engaged in the preparations for the closing exercises of the schools, and among them the class plays which the talented members of the class of 1914 will offer to the public of Plattsmouth for their approval on Tuesday evening, May 28th, at the Parmele theater. "A Kentucky Belle" will be one of the plays offered, being a comedy of the present day, laid in the blue grass region of old Kentucky, with all the settings of fair ladies and brave men that has characterized the reputation of that state. The play is a short one, but well suited to the young people, and in their hands will be given a most pleasing rendition. The cast of characters for this play will be as follows:

- Miss Hariah Douglas, a maiden lady . . . . . Emma Cummins
- Isabel Douglas, niece of Miss Douglas . . . . . Nora Rosencrans
- Marie Van Harlerger, friend to Isabel . . . . . Helen Gass
- Col. Wm. McMillian, suitor to Isabel . . . . . Norman Dickson
- John Cason Gordon, alias Jack Carson, a wealthy student of sociology . . . . . Byron Arries
- Miss Madden, a train nurse . . . . . Lillian Dwyer
- Dr. Blake, a middle-aged practitioner . . . . . Harris Cook
- Mrs. Gordon, mother of John Cason Gordon . . . . . Lillian Dwyer
- Miss Gordon, sister of John Cason Gordon . . . . . Helen Gass
- Four telephone linemen . . . . . Rehal, Meisinger, Cook, Lutz
- Cindy, negro maid . . . . . Harriet Clement
- Henry, negro boy, engaged to Cindy . . . . . Chester Tuoy
- Young men of the village . . . . . Hunter and Richardson

The second of the playlets to be given by the class will be the farcical entertainment, "A Commanding Position," a most pleasing selection for the purpose of keeping the audience in a good humor with themselves, and the young people have gotten the production down to where they feel that they can present it to the amusement-loving public of the city. The cast of characters for this offering is as follows:

- Miss Skinfint . . . . . Violet Freese
- Marian Young . . . . . Gladys McMaken
- Ethel Chloride . . . . . Josie Kiser
- The Doctor . . . . . Viola Haynie
- Mrs. Murphy . . . . . Cressie HaHekenberg
- Mrs. Softly . . . . . Pauline Palacek
- Jane . . . . . Mildred Snyder
- Chorus of Nurses—Lydia Todd, Edna Morrison, Gertrude Hill, Helen Hadraba, Freda Wallengren, Ruth Beverage, Mildred Snyder, Rose Jirousek.

Patients—May Glenn, Violet Freese, Leta Jacks, Elizabeth Holly, Lillian Bajack, Nora Rosencrans, Helen Gass, Helen Egenberger.

Several neighbors of Mrs. Murphy—A negro, a German, an Italian—Harriet Clement, Elizabeth Holly, Ruth Beverage.

Social visitors—Edna Morrison, Helen Hadraba.

Ten Little Children—Lydia Todd, Edna Morrison, Mildred Snyder, May Glenn, Violet Freese, Ruth Beverage, Helen Hadraba, Freda Wallengren, Harriett Clement, Leta Jacks.

Chorus of Mothers—Gertrude Hill, Rose Jirousek.

## Motorcycle for Sale.

In excellent condition, good as new. Big, powerful 2-cylinder, developing 7-10 H. P. Need the money. Must sell at once. See Ed Steinhauer at Journal office.