

Reunion Brings Memories of Rock Bluffs' History

Election Held There in 1866 Had Great Bearing on Admission of State and Constitution.

The following from the State Journal and Star of Sunday tells of the part that the pioneer town of Rock Bluffs played in the history of Nebraska:

When the reunion picnic was held at Rock Bluffs last Sunday, the tales were all of the past; there can be little thought of things in the future.

Nearly eighty years ago, Rock Bluffs, overlooking the Missouri river, had all the promise in the world. Steamboats on the river tied up there; it was a freighting center; improvements of the day were under way; buildings necessary for a civic life were being put up; it was a rival of Plattsmouth.

But that was a long time ago, and the Rock Bluffs population today numbers half a hundred, and the village lives in its memories, some of them rather exciting.

Incorporated in 1856
Rock Bluffs was incorporated January 26, 1856 by an act of the territorial legislature, and North Rock Bluffs was the result of a later legislative effort. On November 3, 1858, the two were consolidated and it was in those years that the town was a formidable contestant for high honors in Cass county. By 1876, when the population was around 175, the decline had begun, although stores, a mill, a smith, and a post office were operative still. The building of the Burlington at Plattsmouth and the falling off of river traffic combined to reduce the prominence of Rock Bluffs.

The United Presbyterian church of Rock Bluffs was the first church building to be erected in the county, and the members were justly proud of the cupola rising far above the bluffs and the sluggish river below and of the bell weighing more than 400 pounds. It was incorporated by the legislature in Omaha City, January 4, 1861, with the charter members including John and Robert Latta, William H. Royal, David R. Storey, William L. Thompson, and others. This building was removed to Murray in 1889.

Old Church Razed.
It was in August, 1916, that the brick Methodist church, the only permanent building remaining in Rock Bluffs, was razed, but at that time it was a hay barn. The church was dedicated September 15, 1870, and its 20 by 40 feet represented one of the town's best structures. Moses Hiatt had been chairman of the building committee, class teacher, and superintendent of the Sunday school at the time of the dedication.

When Nebraska Indians had "made manifest their purpose to commit hostilities upon the pioneers of Nebraska; some of them openly threatening to root out the frontier settlements," as Acting Governor Thomas B. Cuming expressed it in his proclamation of December 23, 1854, and had attacked and would attack the Oregon and California wagon trains, the black-haired executive called upon the territorialists to organize volunteer regiments for protection. Thomas Patterson, pioneer Cass county surveyor, was captain of the Rock Bluffs Home Guards; W. Y. Laird, first lieutenant; and Martin M. Neff, second lieutenant. In the October following the organization of that group in August, James Kidwell was chosen captain of another company of guards; William Rakes, first lieutenant; and William Ellington, second lieutenant.

Gilmour First Mayor.
The first mayor was William Gilmour, but Mr. Gilmour figured in one of the state's—or territory's—most historic incidents, when he and H. Hutchenson, members of the election board, took the ballot box, holding the ballots on the question of statehood for that precinct, home to dinner.

At the election in June, 1866, the few Nebraskans were voting upon whether Nebraska should give up its territorial status. Upon that vote depended with which political party it should become a state, and was casting ballots for potential state officers. Sentiment was rather evenly divided, and feeling was acute.

In Rock Bluffs precinct, 107 votes were cast for the democrats and 49 for the republicans, which meant that six democrats would go to the legislature from Cass county, to cast their votes for democratic United States senators, according to the order of the day. The law declared that the ballot box should be in sight of the voters on election day from 9 o'clock to 6 o'clock, but when a ballot box had gone out for food, it wasn't in plain sight of everyone.

When the canvassing board met, all the Rock Bluffs precinct votes went into the wastebasket, because of the ballot box situation. This action gave the six republican candidates of Cass county a majority, with the result that the legislature elected the two republican senators. Had the Rock Bluffs vote been counted, the democratic representatives would have gone to Washington. Rock Bluffs had been opposed to statehood, but with the throwing out of the ballots, Nebraska joined the union.

Receipted Bill.
Dr. G. H. Gilmore, now a resident of Murray, has a receipted bill for \$6.20 in groceries sold by Peter A. Serpy and Co., to Colonel Patterson, the first resident of Rock Bluffs and on whose land part of the town was laid out. It includes four pounds of coffee, \$1.60; six pounds of sugar,

RELIEF LEAD TO DETERMINE EXTENT OF WPA PROJECTS

Those present at Saturday's WPA meeting held at Weeping Water were informed that the prime consideration in granting WPA projects will be the number of people on relief in any given community, the work (with the exception of minor supervisory and technical planning and laying out) going wholly to certified relief recipients. For that reason, the bulk of the jobs will go to more populous centers, those attending were advised.

Under CWA, registered unemployed persons were eligible for jobs.

The government's plan is to put every able bodied relief recipient on a job where he can make his own way, either at the security wage scale of \$32 a month for common labor or under the prevailing wage and hour regulations for public works financed from the WPA appropriation.

Those not able to work will become regular county charges the same as that class has been for years. Those who are able, but balk at doing the work assigned them, will find themselves entirely off the relief roll.

When a worker is offered transfer from security wage jobs to the higher paid going wage classification he, too, must accept or be stricken from the relief roll entirely.

Cushion jobs, so-called because of their elasticity or ability to be started or stopped, speeded up or slowed down, will be given preference in allowance of security-wage projects, the delegation was informed.

A typical illustration is cited. A road paving or river job might be shut down temporarily because of bad weather, whereupon men could be transferred to the cushion job, workable in almost all kinds of weather. A few days or weeks later, the prevailing wage job could be reopened, and men would be promptly be transferred back, leaving the security wage job to rest for the time being, or proceed slowly with greatly reduced force.

Governmental subdivisions were also urged not to be backward about putting in some of their own funds for work they would eventually have to do within the next decade, without the advantage of federal aid.

\$1.00; lye to the amount of 60 cents; and four gallons of whiskey, \$3. It is dated at Plattsmouth March 12, 1862.

The Murray physician also has a deed made to his father for three lots at 40 cents per lot. The deed was filed for record at 9 o'clock in the morning, April 8, 1862, in the county of Cass and in the Territory of Nebraska, but the purchase had been made four years earlier. There could have been little talk of the high price of real estate in the late '50s, but even so probably excellent opportunities were passed by.

Rock Bluffs had an inn, for the Nebraska Herald of April, 1866 relates that Park G. Dodson had purchased it and "is prepared to entertain all who may favor him with a call. Dodson won't be outdone in the hotel line."

School Opens.
Although the happy career of Rock Bluffs as a flourishing community already was marked for its close, the Naomi institute announced its spring term was to open March 21, 1871. "Good boarding" was reasonable, school books were furnished without cost, and all the particulars could be obtained from J. D. Patterson. The ad said "Pupils of either sex will receive a thorough and systematic instruction here." The primary scholars had special attention.

More of the Rock Bluffs that was disappeared in 1922, when a log cabin built by Robert Stafford in 1860 burned. When Rock Bluffs was one of the thriving communities along the Missouri, the Stafford home was very luxurious, with its second story and its heavy stone foundation. In 1863, it was sold to James Patterson, son of Thomas Patterson.

Today, there is a cluster of homes there. The steamboat whistles are less noisy. Another town is the county metropolis. It will never be much larger; it may never be much smaller. But there is something in living in a town where hungry officials changed the political course of a state for many years.

MEASURE MAY FACE VETO

Washington.—The amendatory measure setting up administrative machinery for the Taylor grazing act was the only major piece of western legislation awaiting presidential action. The bill, which would permit inclusion of 142 million acres of public lands in grazing districts, has been at the white house more than a week.

There were indications at the time the changes in the grazing act were approved by congress that they did not find complete favor with the interior department which is charged with administration of the law. Whether the delay in presidential action on the amendments presages a veto was a matter of conjecture.

Cass county residents should buy everything possible in their home town. If you can't be supplied there, come to Plattsmouth, your county seat and logical large town trading point.

Murray

Leghorn Pullets, 30 cents each at Leesley Hatchery, Greenwood, Nebr.—Mrs. Fred Drucker and daughter, Miss Dorothy were in Omaha last Friday, visiting with friends and doing some shopping.

Ephraim Oaks and son, of near Liberty, were visiting relatives and old friends in Murray several days during the past week.

Guy Wiles and family were in Lincoln Tuesday, where they attended the state fair and renewed acquaintance with old friends.

The Library Board has arranged to have the library building painted and otherwise improved, the work to be started in the near future.

R. A. Noell and wife moved last week to the Melvin Todd farm, a short distance north of Union, where Mr. Noell will be employed.

Workmen are constructing a cave at the home of Mr. Bailly on the farm owned by Mrs. Harrison Smith, which is located on the Plattsmouth-Rock Bluffs road.

Parr Young and family went to Omaha last Thursday, where they were looking after some business matters and the family was visiting with friends for the day.

Robert Long, who has been working for Ivan Balfour on the farm southwest of Nehawka during the past few weeks, completed his work there and returned home this week.

Bert Jamison, of Weeping Water, was looking after some business matters in Murray Tuesday forenoon. He said he and the good wife planned to attend the state fair at Lincoln on Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kennedy were guests for the afternoon and evening last Sunday at the home of their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Creamer, where they enjoyed a fine visit and a delicious supper.

A number of the people of Murray were in Union last Sunday to attend the reunion of members of the Queen family, held at the home of A. D. Crunk. Mrs. Crunk was a Queen before her marriage.

John Hart, of Omaha, who deals in fish and similar commodities, was in Murray Monday of this week with a load of fish which he was selling, and also visited with his friend, Newton L. Grubbs, the blacksmith.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Claggett and daughter and the mother of Mrs. Claggett spent the day at the home of Georgia Creamer, Mrs. Claggett being a niece of Mrs. Creamer.

Mrs. Joe Campbell is on the sick list this week. We hope she will soon be herself again.

George Egan, of Niobrara, was a visitor in Murray Monday, stopping here a short time while on his way with a truck load of CCC boys from the Niobrara camp to attend the state fair at Lincoln. There were 42 in the group, all of whom were pleased with the privilege they were to have of attending the big show.

George Nickles and W. G. Boedecker were at Weeping Water last Saturday, where they attended the meeting called to discuss WPA projects that might be secured in this county. They were interested in learning what might be undertaken in Murray under this new work relief program that will provide jobs for the unemployed.

The tube that carried the water under the crossing between the Christian church and lumber yard, has given out and a new one was placed there this week, the work being done by Herman Wohlfarth, road overseers, assisted by Tom Jennings and as well George Nickles, who was out lending them some aid in getting the job completed.

Mrs. Ona Lawton and son, Lyle, of Omaha, were visiting in Murray over Labor day and Tuesday, during the vacation of Lyle from his work in the city as an employee of the Home Owners Loan corporation. They were guests at the home of Mrs. Lawton's brother, Albert Young and wife, and also transacted business matters during the time they were here.

Ivan Deles Dernier and Alfred Gan-

semer were in Weeping Water last Saturday, where they were attending the WPA meeting held at the Farm Bureau office, being interested in getting some assistance in the way of providing better farm to market roads in this part of the county, which appears to be one of the favored types of projects under the new work relief program.

Jasper Queen, who has been visiting here for the past week or more at the home of his sister, Mrs. Font T. Wilson, in company with his wife, departed for Los Angeles, where he is making his home at this time. While here they enjoyed a splendid visit with the relatives and old friends in this part of the country. They are making the trip by auto and seek to take advantage of all the good weather possible, enjoying the sights as they go along.

Murray Schools Open

The Murray schools opened Monday with a good attendance, in fact there were more registered than attended during the last school year. The teachers this year are Prof. Greer, superintendent; Lola Davis, in charge of the intermediate grades, and Miss Catherine Long in charge of the Primary room.

For Sale or Trade

I have a good 1929 Chevrolet coach in extra good condition. See me for price.—Van Allen, Murray, Nebr.

Enjoyed Visit in Missouri

While Jasper Queen and wife were here from the west for a visit and to attend the Queen family reunion, they made a trip down to Bolivar, Lowery City and Fairplay, Mo., where they have relatives, and were accompanied by the Misses May and Neta Wilson and Robert Sedlock, of Plattsmouth. They enjoyed a most pleasant visit with the folks there, whom they had not seen for a number of years, and also enjoyed the fine scenery down that way, even though the California members of the party had seen much in this line on their trip here. There is something about the Missouri scenery that is different and impresses itself on all who visit that part of the country.

Parents Made Happy

Earl Terhune, who visited at Humboldt, where Mrs. Terhune has been staying with her parents the past few weeks, reports that the stork brought them a fine baby boy Sunday afternoon at 5:45, the first to come into their home. The new arrival tipped the beam at six and a half pounds. Both mother and son are doing nicely, and with good nursing the father is expected to pull through. Congratulations, young man, and may you live to see many happy years.

Death of John Hoschar, Age 83

John Hoschar, a brother of L. C. Hoschar and uncle of Dan Hoschar, who has conducted a blacksmith shop at Seymour, Iowa, for many years past, working at his trade up until a short time ago when he secured a younger man to take charge of the business, passed away last week at the age of 83 years. His brother and nephew went over to attend the funeral.

Visiting with Friends Here

Frank Ozbun, who worked here a number of years ago for the Murray

Garage, when it was operated by A. D. Bakke and was located where the Garage of Murray now is, but who has been making home at Waukeo, Iowa, for a number of years, was a visitor in Murray on Labor day and was visiting with his many friends here. He was accompanied by Mrs. Ozbun and their daughter, Marion, as well as by his father, E. E. Ozbun, and aunt, Mrs. M. S. Briggs, at whose home they were guests for over the week end and labor day.

Purchases Albin Cafe

B. J. Wagener, of Hidden Timber, South Dakota, has purchased a business in Murray, the deal being under way for several weeks and being consummated on last Saturday when Mr. Wagener became the owner of the cafe and amusement parlor which has been owned and operated by Harry Albin heretofore. The place has been doing a good business and will be managed by a son of Mr. Wagener, who has been making his home here for the past month or more. Mr. Albin has not yet decided what he will do, but for the present he is still in Murray, but is looking about for some business proposition.

Seek Aid for Library

Mesdames W. L. Seybolt and J. H. Farris, who composed a committee representing the Murray Public Library, were over to Weeping Water, where they were attending the meeting held at the Farm Bureau office to discuss possible WPA projects, looking to the end of securing assistance for the Murray library. It is the desire of the members and all interested that additional books be obtained for the use of the library and it is hoped some means can be devised to this end.

There is at this time something over 600 books and some new ones are to be purchased as soon as the selection or same can be made, for there is suf-

ficient money on hand to take care of such purchases. The improvement of the library building, etc., as well as repairing of books, cataloging, etc., are all matters that could be handled under WPA.

At the last meeting for election of officers all of the present ones were continued in their respective places for the coming year, they being: Mrs. W. L. Seybolt, president and Miss Lola Davis, secretary-treasurer.

The board reports that at the present time there are two books missing, "Little People" and "The Lantern in Her Hand." Anyone having or knowing the whereabouts of either of these books, please bring same in or communicate with the library.

SHRADER REUNION

On Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Shrader and family the reunion was featured by the fine picnic dinner in which all of the families had come with well laden baskets of the good things to eat and which made a most appreciated feature of the occasion. The reunion was concluded by singing.

Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Claggett and daughter, Alma, of Denver, Colorado; Mr. and Mrs. B. M. Gerlach and son Shrader and daughter Georgiann of North Bend, Nebr.; Mr. and Mrs. T. B. Shrader and Baby Marland Yvonn, all of Herman, Nebr.; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Gaur of Cedar Creek; Robert Shrader Nehawka; Mr. and Mrs. Alex Rhoden and son, Shrader, daughter, Geraldine, Mr. and Mrs. Don Rhoden, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Albin and son, Delbert, daughter, Marlene, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wolfe, all of Murray; Mrs. Alma Yardley, Mrs. Georgia Creamer, Mae Shrader, Velma Shrader, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Yardley and daughter, Helen Lula, all of Plattsmouth; Harley Maneer, Alex Campbell, John Notleman, Joe Kracha.

Suppose that motor manufactures pursued the same practices as many city and states. Suppose a man who had been driving the Smith car wanted to trade it in for the new Jones model, and discovered that it had a different kind of transmission, required a different kind of fuel, and presented major points of difference in other respects. Such a policy would be no more absurd than is the existing policy of our governmental units in adopting traffic codes that are utterly at variance with those of a town or state 10 miles away.

The Uniform Vehicles Code and Model Municipal Ordinance, prepared by traffic experts, could and should be adopted by every town and city. This would not only give the motorist a break—it would immensely expedite the efficiency of our police and traffic patrol departments, and make an important contribution to the cause of highway safety.

Journal ads bring you news of timely bargains. Read them!

UNIFORM DRIVING LAWS NEEDED

One of the greatest barriers to fair and efficient enforcement of traffic laws is the lack of uniformity in the traffic codes of different states and towns.

As one traffic authority recently pointed out, when he drives from one state to another, he doesn't have to stop and change his nickels, dimes and dollars into other and different kinds of money; but, if he wishes to operate his car in accord with the law, he must at once revise his driving habits. He leaves a state where the maximum speed allowed is 40—and then must remember that he must hold his car down to 30. He has been accustomed to traffic lights and signs placed on corners—now they are overhead in the middle of streets where he is liable to miss seeing them entirely.

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In Plattsmouth advertisers have never been refused the little "extras" that mean added interest in their stores. No Plattsmouth store has ever requested a story concerning new store improvements, new store services or any other matter of interest that he has not received it from the Plattsmouth Journal without charge. No such request ever will be refused.

The Plattsmouth Journal has one prime purpose and that is to be of service to every advertiser—no matter whether that advertiser carries a full page advertisement or a single column one inch advertisement. Being read in 3,000 homes each week, the Journal offers an unexcelled medium through which store news may be told to the prospective buyers of this trade territory.

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