

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

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## Tax Levy is Set at 1.76 by Board of Equalization

Is the Lowest State Levy in Fifteen Years; .39 of a Mill Under the 1935 Rate.

The state board of equalization and assessment Wednesday fixed Nebraska's 1936 state levy at 1.76 mills on the dollar valuation, the lowest rate in 15 years or since the board began to assess property at its full value in 1921. The new rate is .39 of a mill under the 1935 figure of 2.15 mills. This year's levy is designed to raise \$3,627,069 in state taxes on the basis of the grand assessed valuation of the state of \$2,060,835,158, as determined recently by the board from valuation of counties, railroads and franchises.

The board estimated the total running expenses of the state government for the next fiscal year at \$3,625,771 or \$738,067 less than the 1935 figure. Based on an assessed valuation of \$2,060,835, the 1936 levy will produce \$1,298 more than the \$3,625,771 needed to operate the state government for the next fiscal year.

State Tax Commissioner Smith said the absence of legislative and other emergency appropriations and this year's higher tax valuations were responsible for the cut. The commissioner explained that the second year of the biennium is less costly than the first due to the legislative session. Expenses of the 1935 legislature, including emergency appropriations, totaled about \$405,000.

Gov. Cochrane said the low levy was made possible thru increased valuations, principally upon personal property, and thru the lower estimated expenses for the operation of the state government. Motor vehicle values increased considerably this year due to a new law which requires payment of those taxes at the time annual license plates are purchased. The 1936 grand assessed valuations of the state was \$30,592,631 higher than the 1935 total, which was \$2,030,243,537.

Drouth conditions, the governor said, also were taken into consideration by the board in setting the levy as low as possible. "This levy," he added, "will be adequate to raise the necessary funds in connection with other receipts for the state general fund, to carry on state activities for the next fiscal year. A canvass has been made of state activities to ascertain what funds, if any, may be conserved and as a result thereof it has been determined that in excess of \$100,000 from appropriations to the board of control and departments responsible to the governor will not be used. Accordingly, this sum has not been taken into account in making the 1936 levy."

The board likewise disregarded the expense of the special session of the legislature held last fall, which was met from funds on hand in the state general fund. The state general fund balance on July 1 was \$630,724 and the balance in all current revenue funds was \$6,533,944.

Only in two years since 1921 have the levies been lower than 2 mills. They were 1924 and 1926, when the levy each time was 1.8 mills. Prior to 1921 property was assessed at one-fifth of its value rather than at its full value, making a comparison of levies of prior years with those of today impossible.

The board of equalization met for five consecutive days last week as required by law. State Auditor Ayres provided Smith with the quorum necessary to do business. Secretary of State Swanson was vacationing and State Treasurer Hall is convalescing from a broken leg.

Beer and liquor revenues estimated at \$1,138,007 and \$864,076 in miscellaneous collections for the general fund were subtracted from gross appropriation needs in arriving at the total to be raised from the 1936 property tax. The 1.76 mill levy will raise \$3,627,069.90.

From Friday's Daily  
G. P. Hell of Louisville was in the city for a short time today to look after some business matters and meeting the many old time friends.

## WILL ENJOY TRIP

C. S. Johnson, who has been making his home in Nebraska City with his daughter, Mrs. A. W. Propst and family, was here today to visit with the old time friends. Mr. and Mrs. Propst are moving in a few days to Jacksonville, Florida, to make their home in the future and Mr. Johnson will then start on a trip among the relatives and old friends. He is planning to visit with his brother at Eureka Springs, Arkansas, then with relatives and old friends at Davenport, Iowa, and Rock Island, Illinois. His plans for the future are still indefinite but he feels that perhaps he may once more locate in this city where he has so many old time friends.

## Cemetery Board Organizes for Taking Control

William F. Evers Selected as Chairman of Board—To Draw By-Laws and Start Plans.

The board of six members created by the city council to have control of the city cemetery in the future, have held their first meeting and perfected the organization and are now drafting the by-laws that will govern them in the handling of the affairs of the cemetery.

The officers of the board named were:

Chairman—W. F. Evers.  
Vice-Chairman—Fred H. Sharpnack.  
Secretary-Treasurer—L. W. Niel.  
The other members of the board are Judge A. H. Duxbury, J. C. Comstock and George A. Kaffenberger.

The creation of the board and its start of active operations represents the realization of the movement that has been urged for several years of having the cemetery taken from the control of the council and vested in a commission of the citizens who will have active charge and management of the cemetery for the future and who will make their yearly reports to the council.

The new board or commission will have the right of hiring all those who are employed at the cemetery, setting the prices of lots and the task of seeing that the cemetery is properly cared for at all times. There is also provided a fund known as the perpetual care fund to which the lot owners or other can donate and which will be devoted to the continuous care of the lots in the city of the silent.

## DEPART FOR VACATION

From Friday's Daily  
This morning Dr. and Mrs. R. P. Westover and daughters, Janet and Ruth departed via auto for the lake country of Minnesota where they will enjoy an outing of a short duration. They are planning on making their headquarters at Lutsen, Minnesota, which is located on Lake Superior, north of Duluth, in one of the most attractive spots at this season of the year. The resort is so far north that the Plattsmouth people are hoping to find a much cooler atmosphere.

## SUFFERS FRACTURED ARM

From Thursday's Daily  
This morning shortly after 6 o'clock while a Burlington freight train was passing through the local yards near the passenger station, a man riding on the train attempted to get off or fell from the train. He suffered the fracture of his left collar bone in the fall. The injured member was treated by Dr. O. C. Hudson and the man was able to continue on his way into Omaha, his destination.

## ATTEND SALES CONFERENCE

From Saturday's Daily  
Edwin Kalina and Robert Bestor were in Omaha today where they attended a conference held on salesmanship by one of the large wholesale hardware houses for the representatives of many of the Nebraska and Iowa retailers. The conference will also include a trip to the Missouri river for the entertainment of the members of the conference.

## Recreational Projects Getting Under Way

Much Interest Shown as the Various Projects are Organized and Prepared for Action.

The recreational projects sponsored by the WPA are now getting nicely under way here and a great deal of interest is being shown with fifty persons now enrolled and which will cover several lines of activity.

The formation of a band is one of the prime movements sought and which is under the direction of Peter Gradoville, well known musician, who is the supervisor of this section of the activities.

Mr. Gradoville has issued a call for all interested in the formation of a harmonica band to meet at the Central building at 2 p. m. on Friday for the purpose of discussing the plans. It is urged that no one buy instruments until the check is made of what instruments and key will be needed in the band.

There were thirty out Wednesday for baseball and much interest taken by the boys in this popular summer sport.

There are fifteen primary youngsters now enrolled and who are enjoying the supervised play which will be made a part of this feature of the recreational program.

## BEAUTY PAGEANTS

The scope and magnitude of the Miss Plattsmouth Beauty Pageant is growing beyond the fondest expectation of its promoters. Next Tuesday night, August 4th at the Cass theatre promises to be the leading event of the mid-summer season—a veritable highlight socially as well as a big boost for the coming Korn Carnival.

There are now at this date over 110 paid-in-full sponsors to this project and the committee is hard pressed to find a sufficient number of young ladies between 14 and 20 to represent these sponsors. However a sufficient number have responded so that we can safely say that Plattsmouth's most beautiful young womanhood will appear before the spotlight on next Tuesday night and the judges are going to have a hard time.

One thing sure, somebody is going to be Miss Plattsmouth and enjoy an all expense paid trip to the state fair and we feel sure be successful there in winning the "Miss Nebraska" title.

Two very special features have been added to this program, either one of which is well worth the 15 or 25c admission charge. One is the Kiddie Pageant of little girls 2 to 6 years, dressed their loveliest who will also appear before the spotlight. The other is a surprise feature which is a deep dark secret, but it's guaranteed to turn your liver over with side splitting laughs. Don't miss it under any consideration, or you will have regrets all the balance of your life.

And lastly, if the weather permits the plan now is to hold a dance at the American Legion building following the program at the theatre at which all the entrants will be honor guests. The Rhythm Kings orchestra will furnish music both at the theatre and for the dance. This dance will be open to the public, 35c for men and 15c for ladies.

## ENJOY PICNIC SUPPER

The members of the local court of the Catholic Daughters of America held a very delightful social meeting at the pleasant home of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Clويد on west Main street. The ladies had come with covered dishes of the good things to eat and which provided the means of a pleasant picnic supper which was served on the lawn of the home. The remainder of the evening was spent in playing bingo.

## GIVE PLEASING ENTERTAINMENT

From Friday's Daily  
The audition which is featuring Merchant's night, had as one of the attractions last evening the Meade vocal trio of Murray. The trio was very pleasing and showed the greatest charm in the songs they rendered.

## GATES LILLEY HERE

Gates Lilley, of Papillion, who with Fred L. Carsten of Avoca, are the candidates for the legislature from Cass and Sarpy counties, was in the city Wednesday to visit friends and looking after his political interests.

Mr. Lilley is one of the best known residents of Sarpy county where his family were pioneer residents and he has served there in several public offices. Mr. Lilley has served several terms as a member of the board of county commissioners of Sarpy county and also as a member of the legislature and in which he has served on the most important committees.

## Old Age Assistance Reaching a Large Number

June Sees \$2,725.96 Distributed to Residents of County from Social Security Funds.

The working of the old age assistance, dependent children and blind assistance under the state social security program is now reaching a very large number and well justifying this aid to those whose age had rendered them not able to produce.

The records in the office of County Assistance Director Paul Vandervoort, II, show that in the month from June 1 to June 30th, there was distributed \$2,725.96 to cover the various activities that fall under the general head of the social security program.

There has so far been 406 applications for old age assistance filed in the local director's office and of these some 350 have been passed upon and approved for the needed assistance. There are some thirteen that have yet to be acted upon and a number have been rejected or the parties have died and changed the status of the applications.

There has been thirty-one applications of dependent children made in the county since this part of the social security program was started, but in this part of the program a number are cared for under the mother's pensions.

There has been six applications for the blind assistance made and these are being cared for as rapidly as possible.

When the full program is working it is expected that the payments will reach over 4,000 each month in the county.

## FIND WOMAN WANDERING

Thursday afternoon Chief of Police Joe Libershal received the report of some strange woman being seen wandering in the vicinity of Garfield park and calling at homes in that section of the city seeking permission to leave packages at each place.

The chief questioned the lady and who gave the name of Helen Fleeme and her home as Columbus but her action was such that Thursday evening it was decided to have her detained until an investigation could be made to determine her condition and also her home. She was kept at the Hotel Plattsmouth last evening and today while the case was being investigated by Sheriff Homer Sylvester.

## VISITS IN CITY

From Friday's Daily  
George H. Heinke, well known Nebraska City attorney, was here today for a few hours to look after some matters at the court house and meeting his many friends. Mr. Heinke was for many years county attorney of Otoe county and has several times been in court here to assist in criminal prosecutions.

Clyde Rupe and wife, of Fairmont, arrived Wednesday for a visit with Mr. Rupe's mother, Mrs. Dora Mark, and his brother, George Mark.

A. O. Pearsley of Union, was here Wednesday to spend a few hours attending to business matters and visiting his friends.

## Farmers Face a Real Problem Due to Drouth

Necessity of Being Cared for Through the Resettlement Administration or the WPA.

There are being constant applications at the local re-employment office from farmers who are suffering from the drouth and now face the necessity of having to seek some other line of work. These farmers are largely renters and who in the face of the crop failure will have the greatest difficulty in standing the winter season.

The Resettlement Administration is expected to be able to aid many of the farmers in feed loans and supplies that might carry them through if the present acute drouth is maintained and the stock feeds badly depleted.

The local re-employment office has handled very efficiently the employment on various projects, with the list of those now at work showing a pleasing gain over the past week.

The farm lists that have applied at the office has been largely from the ranks of those who have been engaged in farm work and who for the past two years have been off the rolls at the office but who have suffered the loss of their occupation owing to the crop failures.

## PERCENTAGE OF TAX BEING COLLECTED HERE

In preparing a report for an eastern bond house last week, City Clerk Albert Olson unearthed some interesting information regarding the percentage of Plattsmouth taxes collected during the past three years, also the per centage of 1935 taxes that have now been paid (all personal tax now due and delinquent but only first half of real estate tax yet due, as second half does not become due until September 1st).

In 1932 the taxes levied for city use totaled \$57,734.00. To date \$50,812.98 of that amount has been collected, or 88 per cent.

In 1933 the city tax levy was calculated to yield \$47,480.24. Amount paid to date, \$38,726.54, or 82 per cent.

Yield expectancy from the 1934 levy was \$45,287.25. To date \$31,343.82 of that amount has been paid, or 69 per cent.

The 1935 city levy was made to yield \$47,176.18 if all taxes were paid. As stated above, the second half of this year's real estate taxes are not yet due, but to date \$27,982.98 has already been paid, or approximately 59 per cent.

The assessed valuation on which levy was made in 1933 was \$1,946,563, while in 1934 it dropped to \$1,882,818, going back up again in 1935 to \$1,979,410. This year's valuation although awaiting returns from the state board covering railroad and similar assessments before being complete, is expected to equal or exceed the two million mark.

## HAVE PLEASANT OUTING

County Treasurer and Mrs. John E. Turner, with their daughter, Dorothy Jean, have returned home from their summer vacation trip to the mountain sections of Colorado where they found it much cooler and pleasant. They spent a larger part of their time at Hugo, with Judge and Mrs. C. M. Somerville, the latter a sister of Mrs. Turner. While at Colorado Springs they visited the Garden of the Gods and viewed its many places of interest which included the grave of Helen Hunt Jackson, noted poetess of the late eighties.

## RETURN TO CHICAGO

Thursday evening Mrs. James Ptacek and daughter, Gertrude, and Master Stanley Marcelak, who have been spending the past three weeks here as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Yelick and other of the old friends, returned to their home in Chicago. They have enjoyed very much the visit here among the old friends, the Ptacek family having made their home here for a great many years before removing to Chicago.

## RETURN HOME

Betty Lou and Franklin Sedlak and Robert Ulstrup returned home last evening after spending the past three weeks here with their uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Max Vallery. A most pleasant time was had, a number of parties being given in their honor.

Mrs. Max Vallery and Mrs. Albert Janda entertained a group of children in their honor. While at Ashland, Robert and Ellen Ulstrup gave a swimming party and picnic at Linoma Beach. Mrs. P. B. Dunn gave a theatre party, seeing Shirley Temple at the Orpheum and later a picnic supper.

## Delegations Make Appeal for Road Projects

County Groups Seek Drouth Relief in Offices of Governor Cochran, State Engineer Tilley.

Delegations from several Nebraska communities Thursday appealed to Gov. Cochran and State Engineer Tilley for road construction projects as drouth relief measures. The officials informed the delegations there was little likelihood the state could start any such construction projects and advised the representatives to try to work out something with the WPA.

A group of northeast Nebraskans, headed by S. J. Finnegan of Lindsay, requested improvement of county roads with state highway designations 12 miles south of Battle Creek and 13 miles south of Tilden. Finnegan said the counties affected probably would match any funds which were available. Included in the delegation were residents of Battle Creek and Tilden and two members of the Madison county board, John Storek and Arthur Kohdekar.

Several residents of Hayes and Perkins counties requested grade improvement on a sandhill road from Hayes Center to Granton. They also asked for bituminous mat surfacing between Grant and Ogallala to connect with Lincoln highway, U. S. No. 30.

Extension of paving on highway No. 16 west of ahoov was sought by Saunders county representatives. Tilley informed them this has been on the highway department's program for some time and will probably get under way early next year. The group also asked for advice as to procedure on right-of-way problems on a road east of Ceresco, for which a contract has already been awarded.

## TO PRESENT PLAY

The Plattsmouth Dramatic club will present "The Jade Necklace," a 3 act comedy with an element of mystery involved, at the Cass theatre on Tuesday, August 25, the club's board of directors announced today.

Roy Olson, club president, will direct the play, which will have a cast of 8 people, chosen from the club's membership rolls. The play is the second to be produced by the organization since its inception last winter, and funds derived will be used to improve the clubrooms held by the club, to buy stage literature, plays and other articles necessary to the organization.

A tentative cast has been selected by the director, whose names will be announced later, as soon as arrangements are complete.

## VISITING IN IOWA

Mrs. Paul H. Wohlforth, of this city, is spending a few days visiting in Shenandoah, Iowa, where she is a guest of her sister, Mrs. J. W. Jones and family. Mrs. Jones was here to enjoy a visit with her mother, Mrs. Adah Moore and the sisters and brother and on her return was accompanied by Mrs. Wohlforth for a visit.

## TO VISIT IN CALIFORNIA

From Friday's Daily  
Mrs. D. C. Morgan, of Omaha, was in the city today for a few hours visiting with the old friends and looking after some matters of business. Mrs. Morgan reports that her sister, Mrs. C. D. Eades, has departed for Hollywood, California, where she will visit with relatives for some time.

## Nebraska Boy Admits Letter of Extortion

Grant Lad Says Asked \$25,000 from Father of Shirley Temple—'Deliver by Plane'.

Sterling Walrod Powell, 16-year-old farm boy at Grant, Neb., confessed Friday afternoon to writing an extortion letter asking 25 thousand dollars of George F. Temple, father of Shirley Temple, the juvenile movie actress, R. A. Alt, chief of the bureau of federal investigation in Omaha, said.

Powell, arrested at his home one mile south of Grant about 5 p. m., was taken to North Platte, where he was arraigned before United States Commissioner A. F. Streititz at 9 o'clock this morning. He was lodged in the city jail for the night.

The letter, written about May 9, instructed Shirley's father to have the money, in small bills, dropped from an airplane May 15 at a designated spot about one and one-half miles southwest of Grant or the life of his daughter would be endangered.

Apparently the letter was lost in the child's fan mail, her father said Friday, and was not opened until May 18, three days after the time specified for delivery of the money.

Its envelope missing, the letter, written on common stationery in longhand, was given immediately to the federal bureau. Through the bureau's Washington laboratories the stationery was traced to a drug store in Grant.

The arrest came after weeks of work by federal operatives from the Omaha office.

Says it Was a Joke.  
Confronted with the letter Friday afternoon, Powell admitted writing it, federal agents said, but denied that he ever went to the spot he had named to look for the money.

Small for his age, a sophomore last year in Grant High school, the youth is not an ardent movie fan, and his parents are in comfortable financial circumstances. Agents were unable to establish a motive for the lad's conduct.

He is the oldest of several children. Officers said he told them that he wrote the letter as a joke.

His parents have lived on the farm near Grant for the past four years, and he was regarded as a nearly model boy, Sheriff Bechtel said.

The Temples are touring in the northwest.

They were last reported in San Francisco on their trip up the coast. They checked out of a hotel in that city Wednesday.

Elaborately Guarded.  
The 7-year-old star has been elaborately guarded against possible kidnapping attempts. On July 17, her father gave an unwitting demonstration of the mechanical bodyguards at the Temple home.

He accidentally tripped a master switch that makes the Temple domicile "kidnap-proof," and bells clanged, lights blazed and a siren screeched.

The little actress' earnings are estimated at about 500 thousand dollars a year. Her father is manager of a branch bank. Her mother is closely associated with her daughter's film work.

## STILL CONFINED TO HOME

Mrs. Henry Starkjohn, who has been ill for the past month, is still confined to her home and under the care of physicians. Mrs. Starkjohn was at an Omaha hospital for some time but has now returned home and will continue her treatment here. She was taken very seriously ill while on a visit in the western part of the state and her case has been one that has proven very baffling.

## RETURNS HOME

Arleen Woods, who has been enjoying a visit of several weeks here at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank R. Gobelman, departed Friday evening for her home in Springfield, Missouri. She has greatly enjoyed the visit here and during her stay made many friends among the young people of the community.