

The Fourth of July in Nebraska History

Memorable Incidents of Independence Day Occurrence Running Back to the Territorial Days

From Nebraska Almanac, 1939
Now in Preparation by The Federal Writers' Project, WPA

Memorable incidents have occurred in Nebraska on the Fourth of July. The first formal celebration of the day was held at "Bellevue City" (Bellevue) in 1854. The assemblage of pioneers, their wives, their children and their wagons gathered near the Indian Agency there, and at noon hoisted the American flag. Here it was predicted by one of the speakers that "this country will be, indeed the Eden of the world." The country was large enough to accommodate fifty million inhabitants, and the hearts of

the settlers were large enough to receive them. The physical, moral, and mental worth of everybody present was praised; toasts were given and everyone applauded.

In Brownville in 1858, the first circus came to Nebraska. Says the Brownville Advertiser: "The circus company having advertised to perform here on that day, it being the first appearance of that class of amusements, there appeared to be a somewhat general conclusion 'among the masses' to 'go in' and enjoy themselves."

On the Fourth of July, 1860, the cornerstone of the First Methodist Protestant church of Nebraska City was laid. The group met in a grove on Kearney Heights, where the exercises were opened by a hymn and a prayer. After an appropriate address, a procession was formed and marched to the building site. A box containing a copy of the Holy Bible and various other enclosures was deposited in a space fitted to receive it, and the cornerstone was laid. Some concluding remarks were made, a hymn sung by the choir, and the

ceremonies closed with a benediction.

July 4, 1864, the First Constitutional Convention met at Omaha. Sterling P. Majors was elected president on the first formal ballot. Immediately after organizing of the convention, a resolution was offered: "Resolved, that this convention adjourn sine die without forming a constitution." The resolution was carried by a vote of 35 to 7, and the matter of statehood was placed on the shelf for the time being.

According to provisions of the State Constitution, the first session of the legislature was to convene on the Fourth of July, 1866 (though the actual date for Nebraska's statehood is March, 1867). The session of eight days resulted in the election of United States Senators, as follows: Thomas W. Tipton having been nominated as a republican, and J. Sterling Morton as a democrat, twenty-nine votes cast for the former, and twenty-six for the latter, Thomas W. Tipton was declared duly elected. Twenty-nine votes having been cast for John M. Thayer, and twenty-six

for Andrew J. Poppleton. John M. Thayer was also declared duly elected as Senator.

The celebration of the Fourth in Lincoln, 1876, featured a tribute to the freeing of the slaves. Some ten colored men, clothed in rags and looking particularly woebegone, destitute and terror stricken, handcuffed, shackled and chained together with huge ox chains were driven along the street by a man representing an old-time slave driver. He carried a blacksnake whip, and his black chattels carried a banner reading: "1776 and Slavery." Following this party, with heads erect and buoyant tread, came a like number of Negroes, cleanly and neatly dressed, with limbs unfettered and glances free. They bore the significant banner, "1876 and Freedom."

The Populist Party was convened in Omaha on July 4, 1892. Two Indian bands furnished music, and delegates in Sunday suits began arriving at seven o'clock in the morning. Daniel Freeman, of Beatrice, "the original homesteader," presided the chair with a gavel made of

wood from his farm. The loudest and longest demonstration came when the platform was adopted. The platform included wealth for him that creates it, free and unlimited coinage of silver, postal savings banks, and prohibition of alien ownership of land. One of the sensations of the convention was supplied by an eastern delegate who arose at every opportunity, shouting Amen. When he mounted the platform to raise a point of order, he was found to be out of his mind; he had to be allowed to speak one minute to get him out of the hall.

In Omaha on the Fourth of July, 1897, a great bicycle race was held. Rain spoiled the one-mile professional race. The two-mile professional race was the most desperate of the day. It was won by P. G. Barnett, time: 5:05.

The Fourth of July, 1916, was celebrated in Fullerton when a concourse of people, headed by the Husar band, marched to the court house where a boulder in memory of the Pawnee Reservation was dedicated

and unveiled with impressive ceremonies.

During the A. A. U. championships at Lincoln on July 4, 1927, a new American record was set by Elkins, a University of Nebraska freshman. Elkins scored 7,574.42 points, bettering by 222.53 points the national record held by Harold Osborn.

On the Fourth of July, 1932, approximately 50,000 people were in Grand Island to assist Hall county in celebrating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the settlement of the county. On the site where 75 years before the first colony of Hall county settlers unfurled an American flag on the morning of July 4, 1857, a group of men and women raised the Stars and Stripes in tribute to the little group who first claimed this part of Nebraska for the white man.

Christian Youth Council Frowns on ROTC Units

Wish President to Declare a National Youth Peace Week Over Armistice Day

COLUMBUS, O., July 2 (UP)—A resolution recommending that appropriations for ROTC military units on college and university campuses be withheld was adopted unanimously today by the commission on international crisis of the Christian Youth Council.

The council's purpose was to vote later on the resolution cast by the 24 member commission. The group's meeting here in conjunction with the international convention on Christian education.

Other resolutions adopted today were:

Petition President Roosevelt to declare a national youth peace week over Armistice Day.

Pledge support to the non-partisan child feeding commission.

Deny the eastern student emergency fund committee military reserve.

Condemn bingo, burro, bridge and similar games, raffles and commercial gambling.

Set "millions of signers" to petitions supporting a congressional bill which would prohibit local, state and national liquor advertising on billboards and radios.

Counteract "growing militarism" at home and wars abroad, ask youths to stage an Armistice Day peace dedication and study means to implement anti-war action.

Dr. Carroll Morris, Plainfield, N. J., 22-year-old Princeton graduate who headed the commission was elected council president.

LOSES SUIT FOR ESTATE

LINCOLN, July 2 (UP)—The Nebraska supreme court today reversed and dismissed an equity action brought by Mrs. Dan Goodwin of Chicago who sought to be declared heir to the estate of her father Charles H. Fredrich, prominent Lincoln grocery store operator who died in 1935.

Mrs. Goodwin asked the court to enforce a verbal contract alleged to have been made between Fredrich and her mother Mrs. Edith Shorzn at Galesburg, Illinois in 1912 when she was 7 years old.

It was contended that Fredrich promised at his death to leave his entire estate to his daughter except for the one-quarter interest required by law to go to his second wife and widow.

The high court ruled that the alleged conversation lacked "the certainty and definiteness to constitute a binding present contract."

NEBRASKA FARMS BOOSTED

OMAHA, July 2 (UP)—Charles McCumsey, federal land bank president here, today announced improved crop prospects had boosted sale of Nebraska farms by the land bank and federal farm mortgage crop to 50 during June 1938 compared with 21 for the same month last year.

Total paid for the 50 farms was \$247,500 with an estimated 37 per cent cash paid before possession. Approximately 75 per cent of the buyers were neighboring farmers adding more land or tenants securing their own farms.

For the bank's district as a whole, comprised of Nebraska, Iowa, South Dakota and Wyoming, June sales numbered 128. Cash paid for land totaled over a half million dollars. The month represented a 70 per cent increase for the district as a whole over June 1937.

HOUD HOUR LAW INVALID

PHILADELPHIA, June 30 (UP)—The state supreme court ruled today that the special 44 hour work week law was unconstitutional.

The decision voided the major labor legislation of the 1937 state legislature and the "corner stone statute" of Governor George Earle's "little new deal administration" in Pennsylvania.

Under the act, no one employed in Pennsylvania industry could work more than 44 hours a week or 5 1/2 eight-hour days except on specific exemptions granted by the state secretary of labor and industry.

DEFICIT \$3,800 A MINUTE

WASHINGTON, June 30 (UP)—During the 1938 fiscal year, the federal government spent money at the rate of approximately \$14,600 per minute. Its revenue, on an average basis, came in at the rate of about \$11,862 every minute.

Thus, each minute of the day the federal deficit increased \$2,800.

The public debt, standing at the highest point ever seen on a fiscal year end is around \$285.55 for every man, woman and child in the United States.

TRUCKERS CONFERENCE RESUMED AT OMAHA

OMAHA, June 30 (UP)—Meetings between the Nebraska Commercial Truckers association and the general drivers union were to be resumed today in an effort to negotiate a new wage and hours contract covering the industry here.

The negotiations are being carried on under a 30-day "truce" signed June 20 after the union had called off a strike against Watson Brothers company.

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Wayne Lewis, Phone 530-J. ttd

OUR PHOTO-FLASHES



Coffee Industry Picks Queen—A storm of applause as this photo was taken swept Joan Carson, beautiful stenographer of the Hotel Commodore, into the title of "Miss Coffee." She was chosen by 1,500 members of the coffee industry from the prettiest girl employees of New York hotels, and will represent the industry during local Coffee Week. Inset shows Miss Carson with her crown of coffee blossoms symbolic of her title.



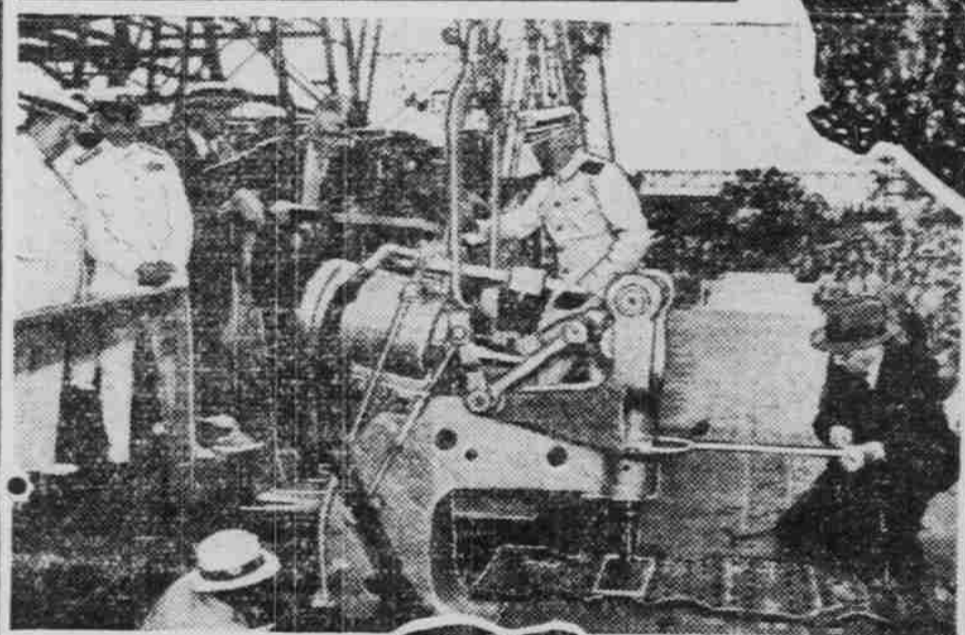
Big Guns of Polo Boom at Meadow Brook—Preparing for an exciting campaign, four of the nation's top polo stars are snapped at historic International Field in Westbury, L. I., in one of the weekly special matches. Left to right are: Stewart Inglehart, Elbridge Gerry, Earle Hopping, Jr., and Jimmy Mills.



For Garden Wear—A cool little blouse with mesh yoke and tiny puffed sleeves. Neat and immaculate, it will wash again and again, being made of soft knitting and crochet cotton.



Wrapped in Cellophane—is this dazzling package of loveliness, in the form of Harriet Haddon, San Francisco's gift to the cinema.



Keel for New Battleship—This photo shows the first rivet being driven in for the keel of the new battleship, U. S. S. Washington, at the Philadelphia Navy Yard.



No-Hit, No Run Mound King—Johnny Vander Meer, sensational hurler of the Cincinnati Reds, who made baseball history with two straight no-hit, no-run pitching performances, demonstrates the wind up and follow through of his powerful speed ball.



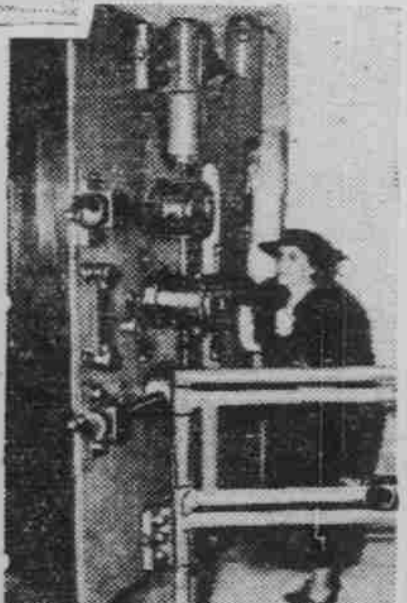
Maury Maverick looks at the world, and announces that our naval program is an invitation writing in Collier's, the Texas Congressman states that "instead of spending billions which may lead us into trouble abroad, we should spend millions on shore defenses to insure peace at home."



"Lost Division" Secure in snowy Peaks—Parzan, Spain—A detachment of the "lost" division of Spanish Loyalists, drawn up on the pass leading to headquarters. The men have fortified themselves in an almost invulnerable position among the high mountain peaks, commanding ten leading passes to France.



A La Fashion Mode—(1) White lace with flounced skirt and strapless decolletage is appealingly quaint. (2) Shimmering black crepe satin is veiled with hand-tied black silk fish net. The flaring tunic and back hemline of the overskirt accentuate the sheathed figure line. (3) Floating scarfs in two shades of green silk chiffon form a graceful drape or a long cape on this lovely gown of white mouseline de soie.



Vault for Silver Ready—West Point, N. Y. — Mrs. Nellie Taylor Ross, Director of the Mint, examines the 15-ton safe door entrance to the government's new silver depository here. The vault is 252 feet long, 166 feet wide and 22 feet high, with side walls of thick double layers of concrete.

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