

# The Plattsmouth Journal.

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## History of the Public Schools in Plattsmouth

Progress of City Schools From 1856 Up to the Present Time Reviewed by Miss Gass.

Editor's Note: In connection with the dedication of the inscribed boulder marking the site of the first school house erected in Plattsmouth, the Fontenelle chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution, asked Miss Olive Gass to write a short history of the schools. Miss Gass has been connected with the Plattsmouth schools as pupil and later as teacher, for over forty years. Her story follows:

By MISS OLIVE GASS  
(A former Plattsmouth teacher)  
Development is often a slow process scarcely discernible except by comparison of the subject in its embryonic state with the present order of things; and while such a comparison brings more vividly to our minds the advancement made, yet to the student of this subject, the steps by which this improvement was accomplished are well worth considering.

We find some very interesting facts connected with the early history of the schools and school buildings of our city.

We find the frame school house, the crude desks, the backless benches and the lack of many things which we now consider necessities. Those early school houses must have corresponded to the description given by Whittier when he says, "Still sits the school house by the road."

(A ragged beggar sunning.)  
Around it still the sumachs grow,  
And blackberry vines are running.  
Within, the master's desk is seen,  
Deep scarred by raps official.  
The warping floor, the battered seats,  
The jack-knife's carved initial.

The first public school in America was the Boston Public Latin School, founded in April 1635. In April 1935 Massachusetts celebrated the 300th anniversary of this event.

A bronze tablet at the old school bears this inscription:  
"From the seed planted here the whole American system of free education grew."

Probably the first school in Nebraska was the Mission school at Bellevue, established in 1848.

Cass county organized the first rural school in 1857.

The first school house in Plattsmouth was built in 1856 on Gospel Hill, at 11th and Marble streets, now designated as 11th and 3rd Ave. It was a one-room frame building erected by Mr. James O'Neill, grandfather of Mr. James Herold and Mrs. Dora Herold-Tidd, and Mrs. Ann O'Neill-Timm. The first school was a three-month's school, taught by Miss Mary Stocking.

The building was also used as a court room. Tradition tells us that as it was only a one-room building, the jury, in warm weather, often sat out under the oak trees to deliberate on their verdict.

The first regular certificate was issued to Miss Sarah Mitchell, March 26, 1860. The board of examiners consisted of Mr. Elbert, Mr. T. M. Marquette and Mr. D. H. Wheeler.

The earliest schools were all subscription schools, but in the year 1857 Mr. and Mrs. Gorrell had charge of what was called the city school, situated on the south side of Main street. The school was afterwards removed to the north side of Main street, the building occupied being about where the Gamble store, 506 Main now stands. This was also a public school and was taught by a Mr. White.

In 1859 the school was removed again to the south side of Main street. The building occupied was not built for school purposes and is the building at 541 Main street, now occupied by Mr. Frank Gobelman. The total enrollment at this time was 90 pupils. A Mr. Madison taught school in the building referred to above, and was assisted by Mrs. S. E. McElwain (nee Miss Sarah Harper) of this city. At this time all pupils had to buy their own books.

Members of the board of education were not compelled to hold mid-

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## DEMOCRATIC MEETINGS

A series of democratic meetings will be held over Cass county in the next two weeks which will bring many speakers of prominence and interest to address the voters. Meetings which have been arranged by Chairman George Nickles and the county committeemen and women are as follows:  
Rock Bluffs school, Thursday, October 22.  
Murray, Saturday, October 22.  
Louisville, October 27th.  
Elmwood, October 29th.  
Plattsmouth, November 5th.

## Plattsmouth Dock Ships a Load of Lumber

E. J. Richey Lumber & Coal Company Ships Barge of Lumber to Construction Company.

From Thursday's Daily—  
The Plattsmouth dock this morning was the witness of the first shipment of material from the dock and which may mark an epoch in the method of handling heavy material loads on the river.

The E. J. Richey Lumber & Coal company of this city, had a large order of lumber and material for the Waterways Construction Co., whose offices are located here, the material desired down the river where a part of the river improvement program is being handled. The lumber was taken to the dock by truck and transferred to the barge and which conveyed it on to the point of destination at Rock Bluffs.

These small shipments show that the waterway transportation is practical and in this case reaches a point of unloading which otherwise would have made necessary a longer and more expensive method.

## STOP HERE FOR VISIT

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Marek and son, Billy, of Detroit, were here Wednesday for a short time visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Gapeen, parents of Mrs. Marek. They were en route to Wymore, called there by the death of James Marek, father of Otto, and will remain there until the last of the week before returning to the east.

Mr. Marek is engaged in work in one of the large steel mills operated in connection with the auto industry and James and Covert Jean, also former residents here, are employed in the Michigan city.

## WILL EXHIBIT AT AK-SAR-BEN

Cass county 4-H club members are eagerly awaiting Ak-Sar-Ben. They have entered 34 baby beeves and 20 fat barrows for the 4-H show and if they win as many blue and red ribbons proportionately as they did at state fair, we know that they will make a good showing. Baby beef members have reserved some of their best calves for showing at Ak-Sar-Ben and feel confident they have good quality beeves to take into the ring. A number of the boys plan to stay together in a cabin near the Ak-Sar-Ben grounds for the entire week of October 23rd to 28th.

## LARGE DREDGE HERE

From Thursday's Daily—  
The U. S. dredge boat, "McGregor" arrived in this section today to look after some dredging work north of the city. The dredge, which is the largest water craft that has been sent up the Missouri river, will look after dredging near the St. Mary's bend where a canal connects the Missouri and Platte.

The boat carries a crew of fifty-six and who are working in twenty-four hour shifts in getting the river ready for navigation.

## BIRTH OF A GIRL

From Saturday's Daily—  
Last night at the St. Joseph hospital in Omaha Janet Carol Janda was born to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Janda. The little Miss tipped the scales at 8 1/4 pounds. Both mother and babe are doing nicely. She is a granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tone Janda and are very happy over the new arrival. Mrs. Janda was formerly Miss Rose Schiessl of this city.

## Boedeker Family Motors Thru Europe

Murray Benker and Family Have Great Experience; Visit Many Attractive Places.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Boedeker and their daughter, Miss Jane, returned home the last of the week from a European trip that took them some 6,000 miles by auto through all of the principal countries of continental Europe and gave them a real insight into the country and the people.

Leaving Murray in the late summer they had motored to New York and had their car placed on the vessel that they were to take to the old world, making their landing at Boulogne, one of the best known of the channel ports. They then motored on to Paris where they met the daughter, who has spent the last year there in musical work. In the beauties of the French capital city the family had a number of glorious days in viewing the historic spots so familiar to the student, the scenes where many of the memorable events of the world history has been played.

Starting on their motor trip, the party drove to St. Malo and the seaside resorts not far from the Channel islands, and from here they turned south into the farming sections of France and the manufacturing cities that furnish much goods for French export. The trip took them through Poitiers and as far south as Toulouse, one of the important cities of the south and where the Spanish atmosphere can be noted and which has been much more so since the Spanish civil war and the influx of refugees from stricken Spain.

One of the features that the family will long remember was the drive along the Mediterranean sea, beautiful scenery, lovely homes and resort centers and the cities of Marseilles and Nice, the soft and pleasant climate making it the playground of all Europe in the colder months of the year.

From the south France trip the party motored into Italy where they found many scenes of beauty and also noted the great strides that have been made in rebuilding, modernizing and the restoration of historic spots. The great art treasures of the cities, Florence and Rome, were viewed, and at Rome the Murray party visited the great St. Peter's church. They also toured east to Venice to enjoy its beauty and the sight of the grand canals, later going on to Milan and thence to Switzerland. They made the trip into Switzerland by the St. Gothard's pass.

They were at Interlaken and here was heard the reports of the war scares that had rendered all Europe a camp of fear for several weeks. On entering Germany, it was calm, however, no one discussing the probabilities of war and the residents of the various districts apparently unaware of the dangers. The party was asked to leave all foreign newspapers at the border and no literature allowed to be carried. The journey was continued to Munich, beautiful Bavarian capital city and on the Rhine to view the beauties of that stream. They were at Godesberg just a few days from the date of the conference of Hitler and Chamberlain.

The cities of Frankfurt, Cologne and other of the Rhine sections were visited and excellent service found in the hotels and the boarding places which are well kept.

The party crossed from Germany to Holland and Belgium to visit at Rotterdam, Amsterdam and at Brussels. Mr. Boedeker states that in Switzerland and Holland, two of the smallest European countries, that they were spotlessly clean and their villages and towns kept up wonderfully.

The Murray party while in Holland passed through the town of Doorn, where lives in his castle and under the protection of the Holland government, the once mighty monarch, Wilhelm II. They did not get to see the former German emperor as the condition of the European affairs had caused the kaiser to refrain from any public audiences or comments.

In reaching Belgium the party

found the war fear very great and the Belgian army mobilizing with the fear of the dark days of 1914-1918 still a vivid memory to the residents.

From Belgium the party returned to Paris and then to La Harve where they boarded the "Normandie," pride of the French maritime fleet for the return to the United States. On the return voyage the party experienced a very severe storm at sea and were just touched by the edge of the hurricane that did much damage in England.

## Many Attend Coronation of Apple Queen

Plattsmouth and Omaha King and Queen Members of Royal Party at Nebraska City.

From Friday's Daily—  
The coronation ceremony of the Apple Harvest Festival, held at Nebraska City last night drew large crowds and Plattsmouth was represented by an exceptionally large delegation to witness the beautiful climax of the first day and to take part.

Frank A. Cloldt and Miss Theda Martha Kaffenberger, 1938 king and queen of the Cass County Korn Carnival were invited guests and members of the coronation as were also W. O. Swanson and Miss Kathryn Hosford, king and queen of Ak-Sar-Ben of Omaha.

Miss Rita Kreifels, of Paul, Nebraska, was selected as the queen of the Apple Harvest Festival and had as her court a large group of duchesses and princesses selected from the young women of the Nebraska City territory.

Miss Amiee Jane Thomas, former Plattsmouth girl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman L. Thomas, was the lady in waiting to the queen. Little Miss Jill Woodbury, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Woodbury, was one of the trainbearers of the queen.

Following the crowning of the queen, remarks were made by the king and queen of the Cass County Korn Carnival and the king and queen of Ak-Sar-Ben in giving congratulations to the people of Nebraska City and the charming queen, all of the royal party being seated on the large throne platform.

The visiting members of the royal party also participated in the grand coronation ball that followed the crowning.

## HERE FROM ALVO

From Friday's Daily—

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Klyver of near Alvo were in the city today to look after some business in the hearing of the application for the probate of the estate of Peter Klyver, deceased. Mr. Klyver has resided on the farm near Alvo all of his lifetime and this was the third time that he has made a visit to Plattsmouth. They were accompanied by Attorney Carl D. Ganz.

## SAFE IN PRAGUE

Joseph F. Hadraba, local druggist, Wednesday received a message from his son, Ted, a member of the Department of Commerce commission at Prague, that they are all right. This was very assuring to Mr. Hadraba as the situation there in the more critical days of the territorial disputes made it very much of a worry as to the future in case of actual warfare.

## RETURNS FROM HOSPITAL

Miss Helen Warner returned home Wednesday night from Omaha where she has been at the Clarkson hospital recovering from the effects of a minor operation. She is feeling much improved and after a short period of recuperation expects to be able to take up her duties as deputy clerk of the district court.

## RETURNS HOME

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Fridlund who have been spending the week at the home of Dr. and Mrs. H. G. McClusky have returned to their home at Craig, Neb. Mrs. Fridlund and Mrs. McClusky are sisters.

## County Meeting of Federated Women's Clubs

Meet at Alvo Tuesday With a Large Attendance; Members Enjoy a Fine Program.

The annual county convention of the Federated Women's clubs of Nebraska was held at Alvo on Tuesday with a very large attendance of the members to participate in the fine program.

Miss Evelyn Wolph, of Nehawka, county president, presided over the meeting and presented the various participants in the session. The delegates were welcomed by Mrs. Hazel Mickle of Alvo, on behalf of the hostess club and the response was given by Mrs. Elmer Sundstrom of the Plattsmouth club, a past county president.

The program was quite extensive and included some very able addresses and special features which were furnished by the clubs of the county. The musical program comprised vocal and instrumental selections and in which many of the clubs were represented. The Golden Rod Study club of Mynard gave a group of three numbers during the program.

The theme was "The American Home," Mrs. L. S. Devoe of this city being the district chairman.

Presentations were made at the morning session of:

Miss Augusta Robb, Cass county chairman, American Red Cross.  
Miss Alpha Peterson, county superintendent of schools.  
Mrs. Ivan Balfour, county president of Women's Christian Temperance Union and state corresponding secretary.

Mrs. Ray Norris, district and state chairman of Rural Clubs and Rural Life.

Mrs. Marion Tucker, district chairman of Junior clubs.  
Mrs. L. S. Devoe, district chairman of American Home.

Rev. J. C. Lowson of Plattsmouth.  
Mrs. Everett Spangler, past county chairman Home Demonstration clubs.

Presentation of District Officers: Mrs. John Beetem, president, Douglas; Mrs. W. S. McGrew, vice-president, Louisville; Mrs. Arthur Jones, treasurer, Weeping Water.

The Alvo ladies prepared and served a fine luncheon at the noon hour that all enjoyed to the utmost and the ladies did their voting during the recess.

There were a number of very able addresses given, J. M. Quackenbush, county extension agent, gave a very interesting talk on the work of the extension department in the county and its fine co-operation received from the clubs of the county.

Rev. J. C. Lowson, pastor of the First Methodist church of Plattsmouth, was heard in a very inspiring talk on "The American Home" as the basis of the life of the nation in the rearing of the right kind of men and women to preserve the American ideals.

Mrs. Nelson Berger of Nehawka, was presented and gave a most interesting history of the Cass County Federation movement and presented a scrap book of press notices, pictures and other interesting data of the club life of the county. Mrs. Berger also introduced the past county presidents who were in attendance.

Mrs. W. E. Minier, past state president was presented and gave a glimpse of federation conventions of the past years.

Mrs. Maude E. Nuquist, of York, member of the state board of control, gave a most interesting account of the work of the board and of the Nebraska state institutions.

Mrs. Walter Kieschel of Tecumseh, state president and Mrs. C. R. Caley, of Springfield, state vice-president, also talked of the work of the state federation and its relation to the county organizations.

The election of officers resulted in the naming of the following:  
President—Mrs. G. R. Eveland, Elmwood.  
Vice-President—Mrs. J. H. Kokjer, Avoca.

Secretary-Treasurer—Mrs. John R. Hayes, Alvo.  
Those attending the convention from Plattsmouth were: Mrs. John West, Mrs. William Baird, Mrs. J. F. Wolf, Mrs. A. H. Duxbury, Mrs. L. S. Devoe, Mrs. J. E. Wiles, Mrs. Glen Vallery, Mrs. R. C. Jahrig, Mrs. Pete

Carr, Mrs. L. S. Devoe, Miss Alpha C. Peterson, county superintendent, Rev. and Mrs. J. C. Lowson.

## BIRTH OF DAUGHTER

From Saturday's Daily—  
This morning at 9:10 a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Carl Graves at the home here. The mother and daughter are doing nicely and the event has brought a great deal of happiness to the members of the family. The little one weighed 7 1/2 pounds.

## Eastern Star Entertains at a Chicken Dinner

Home Chapter Has Large Group of Distinguished Guests and Members of Nebraska Home

Friday evening the members of Home Chapter No. 189, Eastern Star, was entertained at a fried chicken dinner for a large group of distinguished guests and the members of the families of the Star members.

The banquet hall had been very attractively arranged and made a delightful setting for the pleasant occasion.

The committee in charge in addition to the delicious and appetizing dinner, had prepared a program which was enjoyed to the utmost.

There was an unusually fine group participating in the program and which comprised numbers by the Star members and their families.

A group of some fourteen of the members of the local Bethel of Job's Daughters gave several songs that reflected the greatest credit upon the talented young ladies.

Harlan, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Hennings, gave a very fine piano solo that added much to the interest of the program.

Mrs. Henry F. Nolting, whose piano-accompaniment numbers have so often delighted Plattsmouth audiences, gave a few selections.

Raymond C. Cook, past worthy patron, and well known vocalist, was heard in two fine numbers with Mrs. R. O. Cole as the accompanist. Robert and Elouise Cole were heard in a piano duet of unusual beauty and charm.

Mrs. Floyd Becker, worthy matron of Home Chapter, presided over the dinner and program.

The members of the visiting party here included Mrs. Clara Bathen, Mrs. Margaret McPherson, both past grand worthy matrons, of Lincoln; Mrs. Merial Smith, Omaha, associate grand conductress; William Cochran, associate grand patron and sister, of Auburn; Mrs. J. R. Pierson, Auburn; Mrs. Maloney, grand lecturer, Omaha; Mrs. Campbell, grand Martha, Omaha; Mrs. Cornell, grand Electa, Lincoln; Mrs. Gertrude Laughlin, district supervisor, of Grand Island.

There were forty-five residents of the Nebraska Masonic Home here also as guests of honor.

## FLOAT LAID AWAY

From Saturday's Daily—  
The float that has advertised the King Korn Carnival on many occasions through this section of Nebraska in the past months, was officially laid into dry dock today. Friday afternoon W. A. Swatek, assisted by George Conis, drove the float to Nebraska City where it participated in the parade of the Apple Festival. The float is being stored at the O. K. garage on Washington avenue.

## ATTENDING HUSKER GAME

From Saturday's Daily—  
Mrs. John Donelan is in Lincoln today with her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Karl Brown of Papillion. They are attending the Nebraska-Indiana football game at Memorial stadium this afternoon.

## WILL VISIT GRANDDAUGHTER

Mrs. V. T. Arn is to leave Monday for Edison, Nebraska, where she will visit at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Speece, the latter a daughter, and also will enjoy meeting the new granddaughter that has just arrived to share the joys of the Speece home.

## Ashland Has Power in Win Over Platters

Fast Attack in First Moments of the Game Give Visitors a 20 to 7 Win—Close Second Half

From Saturday's Daily—  
The Ashland high school football team of the 1938 edition is a team that can be depended upon to give any of the eastern Nebraska football squads some bad moments, as they demonstrated last night at Athletic park when they won from the Platters, 20 to 7.

The first score of Ashland came within four minutes after Captain Rebal planted the opening kickoff in the Ashland territory. Harnsberger, from his thirteen yard line raced to his forty-seven and then on the following play Atwood tore loose and made a brilliant end run that carried the ball to the Plattsmouth ten yard stripe. W. Robinson then tried the Plattsmouth line for four yards, being stopped by Rebal on the local six yard stripe. Atwood picked up three yards and then Weaver smashed through for the touchdown and the conversion was good on a line play for the seven points and the lead in the game.

The set up for the Ashland score came shortly after the ball was placed in play on the kickoff by Downing to Rebal, who fumbled and recovered the ball. Reed tried the Ashland line for two yards, but the team was unable to make material gains and Reed was forced to punt. Ashland staged a fast return, but was stopped by Steinkamp and Minor. The Ashland team then uncorked a fast lateral from Robinson to Atwood, netting them 27 yards.

This was followed by one of the most brilliant runs of the game when W. Robinson was away around the local end for 45 yards and a touchdown, he also making good the extra point. Thus the score at the close of the first quarter was 14 to 0 for the visitors.

With the opening of the second quarter the ball was put in play in the Plattsmouth territory and Harnsberger passed to W. Robinson for a twelve yard gain, the ball resting on Plattsmouth's nine yard line. From there Atwood scampered around the Plattsmouth line and was over for the touchdown, Ashland's third in the game. The attempt of L. Robinson to convert for the extra point was not good as Bill Armstrong charged in fast to break up the play.

Plattsmouth warriors after the opening quarter stiffened their defense and showed much more fire in the offensive, putting across their lone touchdown of the game just as the half was closing. It was set up as Reed fumbled and Ashland brought the ball to the Plattsmouth sixteen stripe, where Robinson fumbled the pigskin and Joe York recovered for the locals, the break that paved the way for the scoring, as the ball was now on the Platters 39 yard line. Allan White picked up four yards through the Ashland line and then Rebal passed to Steinkamp for a ten yard gain and Steinkamp latered to Warren Reed, who was down the field on a twenty-five yard race that carried him over for the touchdown. The scoring plays covered a sixty yard march into the enemy territory. The conversion was good and left the score at 20 to 7.

The defensive work of both teams was much better in the second half of the battle.

The Ashland team was threatening in the closing part of the game, but a penalty of fifteen yards checked their advance and while they were deep in Platt territory at the close were unable to score, leaving the final count 20 to 7.

There were a large number from Ashland here with their team, the group of enthusiastic followers filling one section of the field.

Preceding the game, the local high school band, under the direction of David Fowler gave a short concert and also paraded on the field at the half time.

Rubber Stamps, large or small, at right prices at the Journal.