

# The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

"Dedicated to the promotion of the cultural, social and spiritual life of a great people."

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**EDITORIALS**

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by **JAMES C. OLSON**, Superintendent  
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The grand and glorious Fourth always has been enthusiastically celebrated in Nebraska, and the records of Nebraska's past are replete with accounts of Independence Day festivities. Though some of the early celebrations may lack a little glamour in the eyes of today's generation, it is true nevertheless that those pioneer Nebraskans, dependent upon their own resources rather than commercial entertainment, actually had as good a time (if not a better one) on the Fourth than do we of this generation.

Without a doubt, the Fourth of July was one of the most important occasions of the year in old Nebraska. Celebrations followed a somewhat established pattern, and the program, the big dance and the dinner were regular features. Celebrants came from miles around, frequently beginning their trip on the third and arriving home the fifth.

Occasionally, enterprising promoters used a Fourth of July celebration as a means of advertising and selling town lots. Lots in Omaha were advertised that way in 1854, and the same device was used at Decatur.

In the latter instance, "dodgers" were sent out through the county promising free meals and "surprise" amusements. The "surprise" was to consist of a war dance by Indians from a neighboring Agency. The Indians, however, decided to do a little surprising on their own and swooped down upon the gathering as if they were attacking the assembled whites in earnest. As a result, every last visitor packed up and fled, leaving the local citizenry with great quantities of food and town lots. The Indians weren't much interested in the

latter, but they did help dispose of the food.

Indians also figured in the first celebration at Falls City, in 1857, but their war dance on that occasion was strictly according to schedule. General Jim Lane, the noted Kansas Jayhawker, was the principal orator of the day, and a fife and drum furnished the music.

One of the smallest celebrations on record was that at St. Edward in 1871, the year the town was laid out. Only four men were present, but "speeches were made, songs sung and the Declaration of Independence repeated from memory."

The first recorded celebration in Lancaster (later Lincoln) took place in 1862. It began simply as a gooseberry hunt, but before the day was over Elder Young and a group looking for a site on which to colonize arrived, with the result that a regular patriotic

program developed, with Elder Young delivering an address on respect due the flag and the dangers of the Civil war.

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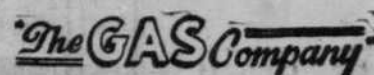
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## Negroes Enroll At Kentucky U. Without Incident

LEXINGTON, Ky (ANP).—

Last week 12 Negro graduate students enrolled at the University of Kentucky summer school without incident. Dr. Maurice F. Seay, dean and registrar, said most of them are teachers doing advanced work in education.

These students will attend the same classes as white students although Dr. H. L. Donovan, university president, said a "maximum of segregation consistent with equality of educational opportunity" will be maintained.

A recent decision by Federal Judge H. Church Ford in a suit filed by Lyman Johnson, Louisville high school teacher, opened the way for Negroes being admitted to the university.

Richard W. Axtell, specialist in labor law, five years.

Rev. Mr. Penick is the Negro member of the board.

## Summertime Is Visiting Time In Alliance, Nebr.

By Beatrice Motley.

Mr. Dan Meehan of Omaha was a recent visitor of Ed Meehan who has been confined at St. Joseph hospital for the past three months. Mr. Ed Meehan has been released from the hospital recently and is now the ward of Mr. Jenkins Butler.

Misses Marie and Coleta Williams of Omaha and Mr. David Batt motored to Alliance for a week end visit as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Woodlee. Marie Williams is a clerk's secretary in Sidney and is being visited by her sister Coleta.

Mrs. Thomas Hall and children, Joyce, Dale and Ronald of Denver, Colo., were guests at the home of Mrs. Minnie P. Motley the past week. Mrs. Hall is the former Janet Emanuel.

Mr. Al Matthews, Johnny McWilliams and Johnny Harding of Sidney motored to the city Sunday.

Mrs. Grace Harris was the picnic hostess in the city park Wednesday. Her guests were Mrs. Thomas Hall and children, Pauline Rochelle and Joseph Harris.

Mr. Joseph Harris of Los Angeles, Calif., is visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Harris, Sr., of Alliance. Joseph Harris has been working for his doctor's degree in California.

Mr. James Shores who graduated from Boys Town high school last Sunday, June 19th, is visiting in Alliance at the home of Bill Darnell. James was the mayor of Boys Town last year.

Mrs. Mills Lear and Barbara Sue Butler have returned from a short visit in Canton, Mo.

## FEPC Board Named

OLYMPIA, Wash. (ANP). Gov. Langle named five persons to the new State Board Against Discrimination in Employment to administer the state's new FEPC law.

Board members were selected for one, two, three, four and five year terms. Membership will be alternating with a new member appointed each year.

The five members selected are: The Rev. Jerome L. Toner, Olympia, one year; the Rev. Fountain W. Penick, pastor, Peoples Institutional Baptist church, Seattle, two years.

Mrs. Robert M. Jones, wife of a King county superior court judge, Seattle, three years; David E. Lockwood, president-manager, University Federal Savings and Loan association, four years; and



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