

# The Voice

PUBLISHED WEEKLY

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

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**EDITORIALS**  
The views expressed in these columns necessarily, a reflection of the policy are those of the writer and not of The Voice.—Pub

## This Is Your Opportunity to Help

Much interest is being expressed as a result of the speech of M. E. Jacob which he gave at the Urban League's annual dinner meeting, Omaha, February 6th

(The Voice, March 22), in which he stated, "I think I have the solution of the inter-racial problem." The hope of the inter-racial situation in Lincoln, in Omaha and in Nebraska lies in the fact that more people are alive to the seriousness of the situation and are willing to do something about it. Even the casual observers are expressing awareness of the lack of opportunities given to the Negro. It is so unlike what one would expect of Nebraska.

The pre-conference meeting scheduled for April 2nd, is a great step in the right direction. Persons being victims of segregation or discrimination in housing, employment, public service, recreation or health are asked to meet at this time for an open discussion of the facts. This is an opportunity to make a real contribution to the work of the Social Action Council in determining community attitudes.

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

Among the thousands who thronged across Nebraska in the spring of 1859 to seek riches in the gold fields of the Rocky Mountains was E. H. N. Patterson of Oquawka, Ill. He recorded his observations for the benefit of his home town newspaper, and his diary was published by Lery R. Hafen in *Overland Routes to the Gold Fields* (Arthur H. Clark Co., Glendale, Calif., 1942). As a result, we have a valuable contemporary account, not only of the Colorado gold rush, but of the state of civilization in the Platte Valley during 1859.

Patterson had gone over the trail in 1850 and was much impressed with the changes that had been wrought in less than a decade. He was particularly struck with the progress of Omaha, where only empty prairie had greeted him in 1850. The territorial capitol, then in the process of construction, he described as "of magnificent proportions." The town, though, seemed "quiet," and, he believed, would be, "a very dull place" as to business, were it not for the Pike's Peak emigration passing through.

He followed the Military Road from Omaha to Fort Kearny, and commented favorably on the good work the government had performed in the construction of bridges. At the crossing of Pappilon Creek, he found a hotel. Elkhorn City was "beautifully lo-

cated, contains a post office, and looks as though it would some day become the nucleus of a thriving farming settlement."

Fremont did not impress our journalist quite so favorably, and he described it as "a Massachusetts settlement, which was originally quite small, and has grown 'beautifully less'."

Columbus he found to be "a little border village, containing ten or a dozen houses, including a tavern, store and post office." Exorbitant prices charged at the ferry across the Loup, prompted Patterson to describe it as "considerable of a humbug."

Once across the Loup, settlements began to thin out, but in four days he did come to "a German colony of two years standing, known as Grand Island City, containing thirty-five families, each possessing a separate homestead."

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