

The Voice

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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

Prayer of Thanks

(Editor's Note: Great writing speaks for itself. "Prayer of Thanks" is that kind of writing. It is the work of Jean Loomis, a School of Journalism senior from Omaha.)

We thank thee, God—
for the brightness of un-filled days that make us want to sing, and
for grey skies and coldness that send us to sit in warmth besides friends;
for the laughter of children and youth that gladdens our hearts, and
for the tears that cleanse our souls and help us to share the grief of others;
for the right to condemn what we dislike and to shout to the skies the praise of that which we admire, and
for the mature judgment of others which helps us to moderate our own and guides us to values of worth and truth;
for the praise and regard we receive when our task is well done, and
for the punishment given us when we fail to do our best;
for the church of our choice, where we can worship as best suits our needs, and
for all the other churches which cause us to realize our views are not all that exists;
for the beauty of a mountain meadow, so close to the skies that our spirits rise to meet them, and

for the stench of a city dump, which symbolizes the ugliness of some of our work;

for the peace and contentment that comes after a table of good food and pleasant talk, and

for the confusion and turmoil, always present in our lives, which force us to seek spiritual haven from material things;

for travel and faraway lands, where we find excitement, and
for the same surroundings, year upon year, which make us find ourselves.

Morris Brown Gets Business Manager

ATLANTA—(ANP)—Two Morris Brown college alumni have been appointed as business manager and assistant business manager of the school.

Charles W. Moore, honor graduate in the 1950 class, is the new business manager, and Mrs. Mary Norman Stephens, a 1947 graduate, assistant.

A former instructor in book-keeping at Atlanta Tailoring school, Moore has also worked as bookkeeper for the Komco Textile Manufacturing Co., New York.

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

The pioneer towns of territorial Nebraska created a heavy demand for building materials of all sorts. Prior to the coming of the railroad, all building material that could not be produced locally had to be brought up the Missouri river by steamboat. This was expensive as well as slow, and very early the Nebraska pioneers made strenuous efforts to supply their building material locally insofar as possible. The sawmills discussed in an earlier column developed to meet this demand.

Another type of building material much in demand in Nebraska was brick, although local suppliers do not seem to have developed so rapidly in this field as they did in the lumber business. At least, in 1860 the territory had only one brick-making establishment significant enough to be listed in the federal census of that year. It was located in Cass county. It had a capital investment of \$250, employed six men, and produced \$600 worth of bricks per month.

Though this establishment was small enough, I would hazard the guess that other Nebraska communities also had brick makers during the fifties. Many of the early concerns were very small and burned only enough for a few buildings. On occasion, a kiln would be improvised in order to burn brick for a single building.

By 1870, the industry had picked

up considerably. The federal census of that year shows a total of 17 brick-making establishments in the new state of Nebraska. They employed 109 persons, to whom they paid a total of \$20,874 in annual wages. The total capital value of the industry in the state was \$22,900, and the annual value of the brick produced amounted to \$61,865.

There is some discrepancy in the figures reported in the census of 1870. The breakdown by counties accounts for only 10 of the 17 establishments listed in the general statement covering the industry. Of these, three each were in Dakota and Richardson counties, and two each in Dodge and Douglas counties.

The county enumeration, for example, seems to have missed the brick-making industry flourishing in Nebraska City. At least, in the summer of 1865, more than 1,000 cords of wood were piled up there ready for use in burning bricks, and the Nebraska City News estimated that several million bricks would be burned during the season.

Building stone was available in certain sections of Nebraska, and some of the brick-making establishments also dealt in that commodity.

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