

The Voice

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"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 are necessarily a reflection of the policy of the writer and not of The Voice.—Pub

Seaton an Able Man

Few should be able to argue about the ability of the man chosen by Governor Val Peterson to serve a portion of the remainder of the late Kenneth Wherry's term in the senate.

Fred Seaton, a successful businessman who owns valuable newspaper and radio properties in the midwest, has been active

in Republican politics and it was he who led the successful campaign of Harold Stassen in the Nebraska presidential primaries in 1948.

Seaton belongs to a more liberal and non-isolationist element of the Republican party — a point which may be distasteful to some Wherry backers.

Doctor DuBois Acquitted

A United States Federal District Court, sitting in judgment of Dr. W. E. B. DuBois for "failing to register the Peace Information Center as a foreign agent," decided that there was no evidence which could be substantiated on which to base such a charge. Naturally we are gratified over the decision and regret exceedingly that such a flimsy charge could ever be blown up to such proportions in America against so distinguished a man. Indeed, America owes to Dr. DuBois, more than to any other living Negro American, a great debt of gratitude for his contributions to the spiritual and intellectual life of this nation. He is no ordinary student of human relations. The work of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is strong today because of the pioneering leadership—intellectual and spiritual—given to it by DuBois. Race relations have advanced in the direction of brotherhood because of the work of Dr. DuBois.

It is unfortunate, therefore, that after laboring so long so well in the cause of freedom and for a great America, we have citizens among us who are so fickle as to fall prey to such insidious propaganda. The pattern for such nonsense, of course, heads up in what we Americans have sadly come to know as the Red Hunt. No opportunity should be lost in running down Communists in the

Nation. But it is equally as important that the Government protect its honest and upright citizens from assassination by headline hunters. Dr. DuBois had no reason for being arraigned.

Miss Anderson's TV Debut Postponed

NEW YORK—(ANP)—The television debut of Miss Marian Anderson, originally scheduled for Ed Sullivan's Dec. 23 "Toast of the Town" program, has been postponed until Easter.

The St. Vincent Ferrer Boys choir, under the direction of the Rev. Paul C. McKenna, will replace her on the pre-Christmas program.

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

The celebration of Christmas today, with its month-long buying spree, its dazzling lights and elaborate gifts, is a far cry from the Christmas celebrated by the pioneers of old Nebraska. To point up the contrast, I'm going to quote a few Christmas day entries from the diary of James M. Patterson, a prominent merchant in the old Missouri River town of Rock Bluff, once a thriving community in Cass County, now a ghost town. The diary has been loaned to me by Dr. G. H. Gilmore of Murray, well known historian of Cass County.

On Christmas Day, 1861, the first year of the diary, Mr. Patterson wrote: "Clear forenoon & cloudy afternoon . . . fixed up cow stable, & after dinner went to the Store. Not much going on through the day. At night we went to the grand supper at the Church. Large turnout. I also was at the Dance a while."

The next year, Dec. 25, 1862: "Cloudy. Warm. Rained pretty hard all afternoon. We were all over to Ambroses to eat a Turkey. Very dry Christmas. Nothing going on . . ."

Christmas, 1866, was "rather dull" although the family ate a turkey and in the evening went to a dance for a while.

On Christmas eve, 1868, the family went to a dance. Mr. Pat-

erson's entry for Christmas Day: "Cloudy & not very cold. Nothing of importance going on. We were busy in the store. We had Turkey for Dinner . . . At night . . . played cards till about 3 o'clock in the morning."

In 1869 there was a dance on Christmas Eve and on Christmas Day: "Clear, pleasant day. I spent my Christmas in the store all day. Masons installed their new officers. I had to be installed by proxy, could not leave the store."

Christmas in 1871 was cold, with the thermometer showing six degrees below zero. Nevertheless, Mr. Patterson records that he took 10 hogs to Plattsmouth, and in the evening played pitch until three o'clock in the morning.

Christmas was cold again in 1872. Mr. Patterson wrote: "Cold. Thermometer at zero. . . . Ellen and the children went to Christmas Tree at the church. I staid home. . . . We had turkey for dinner . . ."

In 1873, the last year of the diary, the family spent the day before Christmas cutting up and salting down some hogs that had been butchered the day before, and in the evening, "all went to Christmas tree at M.E. church." The next day, Mr. Patterson was over town most of the day, "not

much going on," and in the evening, he went to a meeting of the Grange. The family had turkey for dinner.

Merry Christmas

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