

Thousands Enjoyed Hospitality of King Ak in 1924; 1925 Prospects Bright

Ak-Sar-Ben Year Successful, With Prospects Bright

Samson Den Show, Races, Fall Festival Enjoyed by Thousands in 1924.

In 1924 Ak-Sar-Ben was conspicuous in its activities of good fellowship and entertainment in an civic affairs of Omaha.

The year was successful for Ak-Sar-Ben from many standpoints; the membership reached 3,775, not as many as in 1923, but what was lacking in numbers was made up in enthusiasm. Fourteen presentations of the show, "Bullifornia," were given at Ak-Sar-Ben. A total of 7,470 witnessed these performances as members and his majesty had the honor of entertaining 9,441 visitors. The largest attendance was on July 26, when 1,375 visitors witnessed the special performance put on for the international convention of Lions club.

Fall Festival Success.
The fall festival program was perhaps the most successful that Ak-Sar-Ben has ever held. Fully 250,000 witnessed the fall street pageant, and it was judged the most beautiful ever staged in the history of Ak-Sar-Ben. A conservative estimate was made that 35,000 drove into Omaha October 1 by automobile.

The coronation ball, the crowning feature of the festival, was witnessed by 2,330 men and 2,453 women. From a financial standpoint the year was satisfactory, as the receipts were within a few hundred dollars of the disbursements.

This Ak-Sar-Ben Exposition company, during 1924, held three successful race meetings. The spring meeting of 21 days was the far the most successful running meet ever held in this part of the country. Nearly 600 horses competed for prizes aggregating \$85,000. The fall festival running meeting was well attended and satisfactory.

Army Field Meet.
In addition to this, through the courtesy of the Seventh Corps area of the United States army, a track and field meet with army maneuvers was held October 2. Fully 12,000 enjoyed this program, no charge being made for admission. Perhaps the greatest polo tournament ever held west of the New England states was staged here, Ak-Sar-Ben, in conjunction with the United States army, staged the first horse show at Ak-Sar-Ben field, which was well attended.

The board of governors feel encouraged at the prospects for 1925 and the members are determined to make it an outstanding year in the long history of the organization.

Eugenics Law Has Dealt Heavy Blow to License Mart

Only 886 Permits to Marry Issued in Douglas County in 1924; Iowa Gains.

The Nebraska eugenics law dealt "Cupid" Herbert Stubbendorf a cruel blow.

Once "Cupid" worked busily all day long and frequently was called from his home at night to issue marriage licenses.

But now—wedding bells may ring; brides may blush; bridegrooms may nuptial their rings, but most of it is done in Iowa.

"That law has taken my battling average down from 3,941 to 886," mourned Stubbendorf, as he compiled his yearly records.

The eugenics law went into effect August 1, 1923. The table shows how marriages in Nebraska have been affected:

January	1921	1924
February	204	41
March	181	39
April	184	29
May	218	24
June	256	147
July	206	44
August	87	29
September	82	81
October	85	82
November	61	60
December	61	60
Total	1,956	886

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The First and Original Cold and Grip Tablet

Proven Safe for more than a Quarter of a Century.

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Price 30c.

How Omaha's New Livestock Exchange Building Will Look



South Omaha will have one of the most modern buildings of its type in the country when the new Livestock Exchange building, now under construction, is completed. The cost of the building will be more than \$1,000,000.

The main floor will be on a level with the new viaduct, which is now being built. The main entrance will open on a lobby 60 feet square, with a high ceiling. At each end of the lobby will be offices for telegraph and telephone, and elevators. The north wing of the main floor will be occupied by the Stockyards National bank and the south wing on this floor will be arranged for offices.

On the ground floor, below the main floor, will be housed the railroad offices, occupying all of the north wing, and the cafeteria, kitchen, bakery and postoffice in the south wing. The basement will have shower baths and locker rooms for tenants and their employees, as well as a storage space.

All of the floors from the second to the seventh, inclusive, will be occupied by offices for commission men.

The Union Stockyards company will occupy the entire north wing of the eighth floor and the south wing will be given over to hotel rooms. In the north wing of the ninth floor will be an auditorium with a seating capacity of 1,000, with stage and dressing rooms. In the south wing will be a large dining room, with kitchen. Both the dining room and auditorium will be two stories in height, so that two additional floors for office can be added later, if necessary, by abandoning the dining room and auditorium.

CORN IS HELD FOR PAWNEE FEEDERS
Table Rock, Dec. 31.—Pawnee county seldom raises sufficient corn to meet the demands of local feeders, but this year the Farmers' union elevator of Pawnee City, which already has 6,000 bushels in storage, expects to fill the building to its capacity, 10,000 bushels. This corn will not be shipped out, but will be held in storage to supply the demand of Pawnee county feeders next summer.

Value of Year's Omaha Products Is \$388,018,541

Total Worth of City's Manufactures Is \$6,205,385 Higher Than in Previous Year.

The value of manufactured products produced in Omaha in 1924 was \$6,205,385 higher than the total for 1923, according to statistics compiled by the bureau of publicity of the Chamber of Commerce.

Among the manufacturers showing the greatest gain are the packing houses, which increased \$10,446,952 and the butter and creamery houses, which increased \$1,156,465.

Following is the total amount of products manufactured in Omaha during 1924:

Alfalfa products	2,680,000
Auto tires and tubes	2,024,415
Automobiles and accessories	19,907,475
Bags	2,754,000
Blank, store, office furniture	1,270,449
Beverages	2,104,192
Books and shoes	1,250,000
Boxes	2,092,859
Bakery products	1,982,000
Brick and cement	2,719,521
Butter and creamery products	24,201,292
Candy	1,052,000
Clothing	2,645,000
Chemicals and drugs	1,214,523
Cigars and tobacco	112,000
Cleaning and dyeing	242,000
Clothing and furnishing goods	1,528,951
Coffee, tea and spices	385,000
Cooperage	488,000
Crankers	2,020,000
Electric light and power	5,010,000
Electric goods	526,000
Farm machinery	2,143,150
Flour and mill products	11,439,808
Furniture and home products	1,850,000
Furnaces and stoves	2,325,000
Furniture and bedding	2,532,000
Gases	2,225,000
Hardware and electrical	2,812,130
Hats, caps and gloves	479,000
Ice making machinery	384,125
Ice cream	1,522,420
Iron and steel	2,629,000
Leather and shoe findings	625,000
Lays and tin	1,805,000
Machine tools and equipment	2,378,000
Machinery and tools	1,540,000
Mill work	751,000
Miscellaneous	2,020,000
Miscellaneous	2,321,270
Machinery and equipment	1,802,000
Oil and grease	1,802,000
Paints and varnishes	2,625,000
Packing house products	19,530,527
Printing and publishing	9,422,796
Shirts	81,760
Signs	45,700
Spooler products	43,700
Soap	1,247,523
Stock food	2,082,524
Structural steel	1,122,130
Tents and awnings	1,212,000
Women's garments	1,122,000
Water service	1,122,000
Total	388,018,541

Increases for 1924 1924 1924
Total 1923 338,112,126
The factories employed 34,420 men and women in 1924 and had a combined payroll of \$54,583,953.

One Thousand Rabbits Killed in Lodgepole Hunt
Lodgepole, Dec. 31.—Over 1,000 jack rabbits were killed in this vicinity Sunday and as many more got away from the hunters. The rabbits have been hung up and frozen and will be shipped to Omaha for distribution. These pests have practically destroyed a number of corn fields which were not picked before the snow covered the ground.

Pianist Joins Chautauqua.
Beatrice, Dec. 31.—Miss Frances Green, pianist of this city, left yesterday for Valley Falls, Kan., where she will join Miss Jane Goudar, a reader. The two will travel on the road for several months in the interest of the Riddpath-Horner lyceum bureau.

John M. Bone, 78, Dies.
Beatrice, Dec. 31.—John M. Bone, 78, for 40 years a resident of Nebraska, died at his home in West Beatrice after a brief illness. He is survived by his wife and a number of children, all grown. He had been a resident of Beatrice for 10 years.

Scully Land Taxes \$15,392.
Beatrice, Dec. 31.—V. R. Johnson, agent for the Scully lands in Gage county, Nebraska, and Marshall county, Kansas, paid into the treasurer's office here the sum of \$15,392.94 as taxes for the Scully holdings for the year 1924.

350 Convicted by County Attorney; 298 Guilty Pleas

1924 Report Tops Record for Four Years in Douglas County; 798 Complaints.

In 1924 the county attorney's office secured the greatest number of convictions in district court that have been obtained within the last four years, according to the annual statement of County Attorney Henry Beal. Two hundred and ninety-eight defendants pleaded guilty in 1924; 41 were convicted by juries, and eight were found guilty after trial by courts.

Loan Association Distributes Big Dividend in City
\$1,300,000 to Be Shared by 90,000 Members in Semi-Annual "Melon" Slicing.

The semi-annual melon cutting feast of the shareholders of the building, savings and loan associations of Omaha is now on. Dividends totaling \$1,300,000 have been declared out of the earnings for the last half of 1924, and are being disbursed among the 90,000 or more members in cash or credits.

This is the largest distribution made by the 12 associations of the city for any half year. Dividend disbursements for the year aggregate \$3,500,000.

Normal prosperity was the chief characteristic of the year's business in loans for home building and buying. During the first half of the year demand for home loans fell short of the supply of funds. Several associations restricted the inflow of investment money and reduced the amount of idle money by reducing the loan rate to 6 per cent. The reduction stimulated the demand for building and buying during the last six months sufficiently to absorb the surplus of idle money.

A year ago the resources of the 12 associations totaled \$71,613,422. The new year finds them with resources aggregating \$89,250,648, a gain of \$17,637,226, in 12 months.

Following are the official figures: Resources
Omaha Loan & Building... \$31,207,719
Cooperative Savings & Loan... 22,827,818
Central Building & Loan... 10,912,800
Nebraska Savings & Loan... 3,919,523
Commercial Savings & Loan... 2,864,956
Bankers Savings & Loan... 1,122,870
Prudential Savings & Loan... 1,122,870
State Savings & Loan... 114,487
Union Building & Loan... 240,484
Standard Savings & Loan... 209,897
Metropolitan Building & Loan... 41,000
Total... \$89,250,648

During these six years Nebraska associations made loans for 14,947 new buildings, mostly homes, or about 40 per cent of the total business of that period.

Cozad.—Mrs. A. L. Davis, 25 years a resident of this vicinity, is dead. Her funeral was held Friday at the Methodist church.

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Table Rock, Dec. 31.—Pawnee county seldom raises sufficient corn to meet the demands of local feeders, but this year the Farmers' union elevator of Pawnee City, which already has 6,000 bushels in storage, expects to fill the building to its capacity, 10,000 bushels. This corn will not be shipped out, but will be held in storage to supply the demand of Pawnee county feeders next summer.

Additions to Gas, Water System Total 83.1 Miles

Many Major Improvements at Utilities Plants Are Completed in 1924.

The water department of the Metropolitan Utilities district laid 29.3 miles of six-inch and 2.6 miles of eight-inch service mains during 1924, which increases the water system to 444 miles.

The gas department laid 24.9 miles of pipe, ranging in size from four to 16 inches. There are now 391 miles of mains in the gas system. In addition, the gas department laid 26.3 miles of service pipes between mains and property lines.

This makes a total of 83.1 miles of pipe laid by water and gas departments during the year.

Gas services installed numbered 2,052; total now being served, 45,800; water taps made, 2,630; total water services, 43,700.

During the year the new filter plant at Florence was completed at a cost of \$648,764; also 50,000-gallon high service pump at cost of \$160,357, and 50,000-gallon low service pump at cost of \$101,079.

Other major improvements during the year were reported as follows: Building for high service pump, \$73,075; building changes for low service pump, \$10,965; fireplace roof over boiler house, \$33,538; repairs to north intake, including traveling screens and suction line, \$83,513; 36-inch pumping line from basin B to basin 4, \$27,580; 42-inch line from filter plant to pump station, \$16,315; 48-inch main from Florence station to Twenty-eighth avenue and Plant street, \$23,883; 36-inch main in alley, between Poppleton avenue and Pierce street, \$28,212 to Twenty-fourth streets, \$34,522.

New Extension Planned.
It is proposed during 1925 to extend the new 48-inch main from Twenty-eighth avenue and Plant street to Thirtieth and Hamilton streets, a distance of 21,000 feet, at an estimated cost of \$714,000. This new main, when completed, will give the city additional protection in time of special need or emergency. During the coming year the south intake at the Florence station will be rebuilt at a cost of \$35,000.

The gas department is now completing a 4,000,000-cubic foot gas holder on a 25-acre site adjoining the gas plant on South Twentieth street. This holder will be the city's additional gas capacity and will be connected with accompanying gas plant additions and improvements, involves an expenditure of \$800,000.

During the first nine months of 1924 the average daily water consumption was 26,846,000 gallons, compared with 25,429,900 for 1923.

Average daily gas consumption for first nine months of 1924 was 4,560,000 cubic feet; during 1923 average daily was 4,251,500.

Beginning January 1 the gas department will begin a new schedule of rates, which will be a reduction of 5 cents for first thousand feet and 10 cents for each succeeding thousand feet. The present schedule, for instance, carries a charge of \$5.70 for 5,000 feet in a month; the new charge will be \$5.25 for 5,000.

During the last year General Manager Lensen established a new system of washing the basins at Florence. The basins are washed often than under the old system, leaving no chance for heavy accumulations of sedimentation.

GOVERNOR SMALL HELD TO ACCOUNT

Springfield, Ill., Dec. 31.—Circuit Judge Burton today signed the formal decree, holding Governor Small, Verne Curtis and the estate of Edward Curtis, former state senator, accountable for all interest collected on notes of Chicago packers to whom state funds were loaned during the governor's incumbency as state treasurer.

The signing of the decree followed the court decision on the bench yesterday, with the exception that the decree provides that more evidence may be taken by the master in chancery in determining the amount due the state.

Motions praying an appeal to the supreme court were filed by Attorney Werner Schroeder, counsel for the governor; Verne Curtis and Mrs. Etha Curtis, for the Edward Curtis estate. The attorney general's office will oppose the motion of appeal, Clarence N. Boord, special assistant attorney general, announced.

Happy 1925 to You
And Start it With a
New Year Dinner
Main Dining Room 12 to 3 and 6 to 9
\$2
Randall's Royal Fontenelle Orchestra
Dancing During Evening Dinner
In the Indian Grill
New Year Dinner \$1.50
12 to 8:30 p. m.
HOTEL FONTENELLE

1924 Alimony Bill Here \$193,268; Damages Asked Exceed 11 Millions, Total Granted Was Only \$303,220

Damages amounting to \$11,582,706.03 were asked in cases filed in district court during 1924, but only \$303,220.31 in damages were awarded by juries, according to a statement issued by Robert Smith, clerk of the district court.

The total amount of damages asked in cases where verdicts were returned in favor of the plaintiffs was \$11,330,875.72, while the amount returned in favor of plaintiffs aggregated \$301,973.31, about 30 per cent of the sums asked.

Defendants in damage suits were awarded \$1,348 during the year. The state of Nebraska won 41 of 62 cases tried by jury. Jurors favored

Omaha's Schools Cost Taxpayers \$4,500,000 a Year

Enrollment Is 38,883, With 7,962 in High Schools; 1,300 Teachers Are Employed.

Omaha's public school bill amounts to nearly \$4,500,000 a year. The estimated budget for the current fiscal year, beginning August 1, 1924, was \$4,443,735.

The last school district levy was 11.5 mills, which, applied to a valuation of \$326,002,636, will yield \$37,749,933 in taxes for school purposes. The remainder of the school budget is obtained from miscellaneous sources.

Total enrollment during the last complete school year was 38,883, of which 7,962 was in high school. Total enrollment this school year to date is 36,873. There are 1,300 members of the teaching staff.

The principal improvement during the year was the completion and opening of the North High school on West Ames avenue. This school now has an enrollment of 774. Jefferson school, Thirty-eighth and Valley streets, was opened last September. The school census taken last June shows a total of 50,231 persons of school age; in 1923 the total was 48,555 and in 1922 there were 46,483.

At the November election the voters authorized the sale of a \$2,500,000 issue of school district bonds to provide for a building program. The committee on teachers and course of study went on record as in favor of giving preference to the needs of elementary schools. New schools probably will be built in the Farnam, Saratoga, Walnut Hill, Sherman and Belvidere districts and additions made to other elementary schools.

On Monday night, January 5, Mrs. A. H. Fetters, Leo Beveridge, Mrs. M. A. Holtman and Mrs. Hazel Dunbar will take their seats as members of the board of education.

Judgments paid during 1924 total \$648,401.13, while alimony paid during the year amounts to \$102,265.21. The divorce rate for 1924 was just a step below the marriage rate, 853 divorces being granted and 886 licenses issued in the county.

Forty Years at Bench Followed by Operation

Humboldt, Dec. 31.—John Klossner, pioneer harness maker, was taken to the Falls City hospital Monday, where he underwent an operation for double rupture. Mr. Klossner is 74 years of age and has been at his work bench every day, except Sunday, for more than 40 years, with few exceptions. His son, John W. Klossner, is associated with him at present.

Nearly five years have elapsed since the railroads began to operate under the terms of the Transportation Act of 1920. During all of this time the railroads have been on trial. The public has been waiting to determine whether the new system would work, whether the railroads under it would be able to improve their facilities and service and establish themselves for the future.

For the first three years business conditions were unsettled, and the new system of regulation could not be said to have had a fair trial under normal conditions. In the two years that have just ended, conditions generally have been more nearly stable. Business has increased, prosperity has returned, and there has been an unprecedented demand for transportation service. These two years—1923 and 1924—constitute a reasonably fair test of private railway operation under the Transportation Act.

What have the railroads accomplished in these two years? They have put their properties in better condition than ever before in their entire history. In the two years they have raised and spent more than 2 billion 136 million dollars for improvements and extensions, in addition to large maintenance expenditures. These recent expenditures of more than a billion dollars a year for improvements and extensions compare with a pre-war average annual expenditure of only about half that amount.

With their improved facilities, the railroads have handled in the last two years the greatest volume of traffic ever known, and they have done so in a most satisfactory manner, with practically no shortage of facilities. By every test of operating efficiency, the railroads in these two years have improved immensely the character of their service to the public.

The railroads, however, cannot stop where they are. They must continue to keep pace with the growth of business. Their capacity is a limitation upon the country's prosperity, and they must grow if our greater population of the future is to have its full measure of prosperity. This dependence of prosperity upon adequate transportation makes the question of future railway growth a matter of the greatest public concern today.

The railroads have proved their confidence in the continued fairness of the public by making extensive investments for better service. By the result of the November election the public has indicated that it has confidence in the railroads. The railroads are going to strive to retain that confidence as their most valuable asset. They are planning now to spend 1 billion 100 million dollars for improved facilities in 1925, having an abiding faith that the public will permit them to realize a fair return upon their increased property investment.

In the improvements scheduled for 1925, the Illinois Central System, as usual, will be found in the front rank of progressive American railroads.

Constructive criticism and suggestions are invited.

C. H. MARKHAM,
President, Illinois Central System.

Omaha's Bonded Indebtedness Is \$36,606,940

City Will Retire \$285,008 in Obligations, Meet \$554,317 Interest in 1925.

The outstanding bonded indebtedness of the city of Omaha, including school district, water and gas plants, is \$36,606,940, and as follows:

Municipal general bonds, \$11,983,488; municipal special assessment bonds, \$4,297,452; school bonds, \$8,423,000; water bonds, \$6,892,000; gas bonds, \$5,000,000.


The city has a sinking fund of \$716,798.74, which to meet bond maturities during 1925 the city will retire \$285,008 in bonds and will have bond interest obligations of \$554,317.65.

The water department of the Metropolitan Utilities district has a sinking fund of \$1,320,166, which is increasing yearly and which will be used to meet the bonds when due. The gas department sinking fund is \$523,195, which is also a fund to be increased out of plant earnings for the payment of the plant. Water and gas bonds specifically carry provisions that they shall be retired from plant earnings.

Buffalo Banquet Planned

Beatrice, Dec. 31.—Dudley Scott, president of the Isaak Walton club of this city, called a meeting of the members for the purpose of holding a buffalo banquet here early in January.

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