

THE OMAHA BEE

MORNING-EVENING-SUNDAY

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N. B. UPHDKE, President
BALLARD DUNN, Editor in Chief
JOY M. HACKLER, Business Manager

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Omaha Where the West is at its Best

WHERE THE KING'S PLUME LIES.

Samson stuffed the local mail bag with 4,000 notices to the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, notifying them that 1925 is another year. Good King Ak of the triple X wants each and every one of them, but he knows that the password that was potent last summer will be as useless next summer as a second hand in a jackpot. You cannot open on it.

Just why should the summons be heeded? Because Ak-Sar-Ben is a measure of Omaha's prosperity, business activity, social life. It is one institution that reflects the conditions of the community. Not of Omaha alone, but of the region around Omaha, on whose activity the success of the metropolis depends. From the first it has been made plain that the great festival is not an exclusively local affair, but that it considers and relies upon the interest of all the region near and far that is included in Quivera.

A season of real work faces Omaha. Enough already has been announced as settled upon to make certain that all hands will be kept busy. Many millions of dollars will be laid out in ways that will serve the general good. No need to particularize on this at this time. It is on the docket that the highly satisfactory record of last year will be exceeded in all respects during the next year.

Ak-Sar-Ben's part in this is two-fold. First, the institution reflects the energy of the live-wire men who make up the city, the go-getters who keep the wheels turning. At the Den each Monday night from June to September, these men meet in communion such as they have nowhere else. Relaxation is the order of the hour, and business is for the time set aside. Yet each one realizes that in the gatherings at the Den is to be found inspiration and encouragement. One thing only is emphasized out there, and that is the greatness of the kingdom.

For the second part, there is the unlimited advertisement of the city, continually flowing from the existence of the most unique institution of its kind ever known. Nothing in the world quite equals Ak-Sar-Ben. Visitors who attend one of the Monday night shows go home with a new notion of the Omaha spirit. They are impressed with the quality of community energy that makes the existence of such a show possible through the years. No other single agency has been as influential in the development of the city in all ways.

The thirty-first year of the royal line of Ak-Sar-Ben opens most auspiciously. Early approach to the coming season of doings at the Den is well timed. Out of the response, which should be both prompt and enthusiastic, the workers will build for the summer. Gus Renze and his gang have never flagged in their zeal, but they do appreciate support. The first Monday night in June will be a welcome occasion, for it will bring together not only the wheel-horses of the kingdom, but as many of the ardent believers in the benefits of boosting as the old building will hold.

For that is the real secret of Ak-Sar-Ben. A knocker soon changes his nature in the atmosphere at the Den.

CERVANTES AND OTIS SKINNER.

If you want to know why "Sancho Panza" is such a delightful comedy, it will be worth your while to study the careers of the author and the actor who gave the child of fancy the solidity of flesh and blood. One will find in this such harmony between the great Spanish writer and the great American actor as will certify the reason for the common understanding between them if that may be said of a living man and one who was laid away three centuries ago.

Cervantes was a soldier of fortune in the truest sense. He was a soldier, a sailor, an actor, a slave in Algeria, anything but a quiet, peaceful citizen of the dominion over which Philip ruled and the Inquisition exerted its influence. Yet, with all his adventures, he was never accused of crime, nor does the record disclose that he ever committed one. He was a gallant man, who faced fortune bravely, and took whatever she allotted him with a face that never resembled that of his greatest hero. The trade of writing did not pay well in Spain in those days, and it gives no surprise to find Cervantes in jail when he began the work that won for him immortality. But he was in jail because of the fault of another and not his own.

Otis Skinner's adventures have been those of a player, going about the land, enacting many roles for the delight of the people. He has found his greatest success in comedies, wherein he has had opportunity to present the man who wins by reason of his wit. In a long line of these he has built up a remarkable list of real triumphs. Finally, in Sancho Panza he has found an epitome of the homely wisdom and bucolic wit of the humble. Cervantes used the solid sense of Sancho as a background for the fantasies of Don Quixote de la Mancha, and from the two constructed, if not a real allegory of life, at least something far beyond a mere burlesque. Those who can not discover this quality in the chronicles of the don miss its whole message.

Skinner does find in Sancho Panza the thing that Cervantes intended to put there. It is the sympathy

between their habits of thought that enables the one to so clearly and happily interpret the other. It is a good thing for the American people that we have an Otis Skinner eager to devote his talent to the illumination of the common tie between men as expounded in the simple philosophy of the goatherd who was not swept away from his solid footing by temporary grandeur.

ONE DAY OF REST.

More power to the Omaha retailers who have petitioned the city council for an ordinance extending the Sunday closing law.

The big stores are now closed on Sunday. Now come the smaller stores and ask that an ordinance be passed that will close, on Sundays, all jewelry stores, all pawnbrokers, all dealers in men's furnishings, in shoes and in merchandise of like character.

There are 54 big stores affiliated with the Associated Retailers.

For years and through voluntary action they have closed their stores on Sunday, giving a day of rest and recreation to their 4,000 employees.

Grocery stores to the number of 700 are open only six days a week. Because of this some 3,500 are given a day of rest. Barber shops are closed on Sunday. Ordinances directing closing for both the grocers and the barbers have been sustained by the courts.

Therefore, the city council has ample warrant both in principle and in law for adopting the ordinance now being requested by the jewelry houses, the pawnbrokers and the men's furnishing shops.

It is of course, to be regretted that these smaller places cannot agree to a voluntary program, as have the larger stores. Practice, however, shows that they cannot. It is a splendid indication that they have petitioned for the ordinance, that will thus become the common rule for all.

BEST TIME FOR PRAYER.

A world-wide week of prayer, beginning with this morning, is announced by the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America. It will proceed along a carefully arranged schedule, to be used all over the world, wherever there are adherents to the tenets represented in the council. Not in a mood for scoffing, or with lack of reverence, we would inquire, Why?

Those who profess Christianity, and those who hold to faith of some other sort, alike have trust in prayer. They make their supplications for aid, they voice their adoration and confess their iniquities and misdeeds, addressing the god in whom they trust. Daily for some, once a week, maybe, for others, but all in prayer. Is it possible that a chorus will be more efficacious? One of the sublimest, because the humblest, of prayers devised by man comes down from John Chrysostom. "O God! Who hath given us grace with one accord we make our common supplication unto thee!" But, it goes on, the prayer is "to fulfill now the devices and desires of each" according to the wisdom and grace of the Most High. Not according to human will or wish.

Such a prayer will be answered. Its author, wiser than many who have succeeded him, knew that. He also knew that believers will pray according to their limitations of selfish interest, and that such prayers frequently should not be answered. Finally, he knew that the efficacy of prayer depends entirely upon the piety of the one who prays. And in this sense piety is used in its best meaning. It is the earnest desire for divine aid or favor, the sincere resolution to amend, sought to be expressed by words.

A week of prayer should not relieve from the injunction to "watch and pray," continuously and daily. Nor should it be needed to pray that right things be brought to pass, for all who really pray instinctively do the right thing, as they see it. And in the end there is the rub, the thing that has kept man at all times from having a common formula for prayer. The best time to pray is when one can, in the words of the litany, approach "the throne of heavenly grace with a pure heart and a humble voice."

"HE WAS GOOD TO ME."

A 17-year-old girl spent New Year's day in a southern jail, waiting for officers from another state to take her for trial on a serious charge. Her young husband was killed a day or two before resisting arrest on a train, and she was captured.

It was the end of a perfectly lovely romance. He was known to the underworld as "Handsome Billy." She met him casually over at Des Moines only a few weeks ago. He admitted to her that he was a thief by trade, a fugitive from justice, an escaped convict. Her mother tried to interpose between the girl and the crook, but the latter won. The girl left home and was wedded to her romantic hero.

From town to town they journeyed, seasoning the honeymoon's sweetness with little bits of robbery, incidental to the meeting of hotel and other expenses. Finally, he took a sawed-off shotgun and went to a bank in New Orleans. He returned with gold and silver money, which he poured into his bride's lap, and she smiled lovingly at him as she played with the loot. There was the flight, the pursuit, a husband shot and the wife captured.

Down in Louisiana bank robbers do not get off as lightly as in some other states. This young woman is going back to face a trial that means a long term in the penitentiary. For a few hours of delight in the company of a criminal, she will pay the best years of her life. Her girlhood, her young womanhood, all will be sacrificed. The home, the husband's love, the babies, all that is worth while, will be denied her. Instead of being a loved wife, an honored mother, a respected and trusted neighbor, she will be just a number on a penitentiary roster.

"He was good to me!" That was her comment when spoken of to her dead criminal-hero. Will the memory of that goodness sustain her through the dark years ahead? Or will her pillow be drenched with tears of regret for something that can not be helped?

Just another beacon along the highway of life, to warn the passing plodders. We hope that girls who are coming on will take note of this one's experience, and shun the danger.

Governor Bryan dissents from a supreme court decision, but that will not materially affect the result.

If the lawmakers do nothing else, they should put the jail feeding graft to rest with the dodo.

Well, how did you like the rabbit?

The Effects of Good Roads on Your Business

Speech by Arthur C. Thomas before Omaha Rotary Club.

We hear a great deal nowadays about the \$45,000,000 plan of the Nebraska Good Roads association. We are inclined to say: "That is a lot of money to spend," whereas we should say, "That is a profitable investment." Do you realize that such an expenditure will bring about \$9,000,000 of new money into the State of Nebraska from the federal treasury and that a large share of this is really a contribution from eastern tax payers to us? And if part of this money is raised by a bond issue the bonds will probably be sold in the east, and that will mean more new money.

You get from \$22,000,000 to \$40,000,000 of new money in circulation in Nebraska. It will keep turning over and over and the good it will do will be incalculable.

Where, where, where this money spent on roads goes to. The first thing necessary on a road program is to get the roads to grade. In rocky country that means cutting down hills and leveling the valleys. In level country it means digging ditches and throwing up a road bed from the sides. The first process is cutting down hills and leveling valleys.

The prevailing price on such work is around 20 cents a yard. Incidentally now is the time to do such work. Personally I believe the price of moving dirt is going up. It has been going down gradually since 1920, but I believe we have reached bottom and the trend should be upward. It would be the part of wisdom for the State of Nebraska to let as many grading jobs as possible be done under actual tests. In the case of concrete roads the added item of expense is cement but a large proportion of the cement used in Nebraska road construction is produced or can be secured at our own cement plant at Superior.

In the case of brick roads the added item is brick and very little of this is produced in Nebraska. However, if the \$45,000,000 plan is adapted I estimate not over \$7,000,000 or about 15 per cent will be spent outside the state of Nebraska.

Now I have devoted most of my time to what becomes of the money spent in roads, and every man in this room will have a very little share. I don't mind telling you that has been a small item with dirt moving contractors recently.

It may interest you to know that a large percentage of all profits from dirt moving contractors in Nebraska and Iowa come to Omaha, because Omaha is one of the leading centers of dirt moving contractors in the United States. Omaha contractors are working in New York, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois and almost every state west of the Mississippi. If some one wanted to build a new airline highway from New York to San Francisco the job could be let in Omaha and finished in two years.

The figures I have used have been devoted to dirt roads because that is the class of work I know the most about. However the same thing could be applied to other types of construction. Take gravel roads for instance. An added item of expense is the gravel which would all be purchased in Nebraska.

You don't hear so much about gravel in Nebraska as you do about concrete and brick because, for one reason the gravel producers are not so well organized, at least so far as publicity efforts are concerned. Sometimes you hear that gravel roads can not be laid in the sandy soil in the western part of our state. If you will put a layer of clay between the sand and gravel such a road is practical and will last a long time.

The Auburn Herald says a woman of that city bought an alarm clock with a luminous dial, but forgot to tell her husband about it. He woke up in the night, thought he saw a bat or something crawling over his bootlegger and canceled the order.

The issue between Mayor Lowenthal and Chadrone and the Chadrone Journal has reached the open letter stage. Editor George Snow punches a mean typewriter when he is stirred up.

Glenn Trumbo, who has been associated with Ray Hyason in the publication of the Bridgeport Herald, has retired from the firm and will seek a lower altitude in hopes of benefiting his health. Mr. Hyason will continue as sole owner and editor.

The Bloomfield Monitor has entered upon its 35th year. Editor Needham says he has been running it long enough to know just what to do with the free publicity stuff that comes in marked "release on receipt." He releases it into the waste basket instantly. That's more than some publishers have learned in all the years of their service.

The Fremont Tribune notes a Great Change. A few years ago the first big snow meant getting out the bobblets and sleighbells. Now it means getting out the tire chains.

F. D. Stone, editor of the Hartington Herald, has been sailing for months. He has spent his time in Mexico, then came back to camp for a time in an Omaha hospital. Now he is sufficiently recovered to do a little editorial work and give some attention to business. The brethren rejoice because of his convalescence.

Stack Service is an unselfish service—always lending every aid to lift the burden of sorrow that must come to all.

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SUNNY SIDE UP

Take Comfort, nor forget, That Sunrise never failed us yet. Celia Thaxter

Charles Hercules Van Wyck was a member of congress from a New York district before he moved to Nebraska and set about winning a seat in the senate. Nebraska never had a wiler, shrewder politician than Van Wyck. And, by the same token, the state has had few men who were his equal in forthright ability. There were giants in those days—Van Wyck and J. Sterling Morton, between whom there was not only political feud but a personal enmity. Upon the supreme bench in those early days sat such men as Samuel Maxwell, O. P. Mason and Amasa Cobb. John M. Thayer, beloved of Grant and colonel of the First Nebraska regiment in the Civil War, was twice governor. His lieutenant colonel, Thomas J. Major, was afterwards lieutenant governor. Of all those named Tom Majors is the only survivor, and he is still hale and hearty and seemingly good for many more years.

Wandering about the old state house the first of the week, after looking over the new building, we were flooded with memories of the old days. There was the famous Majors-Howe feud, that used to furnish plenty of newspaper dope. But somehow or other both of them residents of Nebraska county, always managed to come to the legislature together, one to the house and the other to the senate. The "third house" was always in evidence in those days. Charley Magoo, Tom Cook, Walt Seelye, Brad Slaughter, Tobe Castor, are some of the names that come readily to mind.

Those were the days when the Platte river was really a dividing line. When it came to the election of senators really more attention was paid to position relative to the Platte river than to the abilities of the candidates. It still has some bearing on conditions. But what a joke it has always been! When Norris Brown was elected senator it was maintained that the North Platte country was entitled to the honor, and Norris lived at Kearney. He was north of the Platte, all right, but Kearney is within about 40 miles of the Kansas line, just the same.

When Governor Bryan was forced to appoint eight republicans as presidential electors it struck a lot of Nebraskans as rather funny. But something like that happened several years ago. G. M. Hitchcock was the last United States senator elected by the legislature. All but two or three candidates for the house and senate had pledged themselves under the then existing law to vote for the senatorial candidate receiving the majority of the preferential vote. E. J. Burkett was the republican candidate. Burkett was defeated at the polls, but the legislature was republican. Then was given the spectacle of republican legislators voting to send a democrat to the senate. The late Peter Jansen was one of the two or three legislators who had not signed the pledge to abide by the preferential vote, and he cast a futile vote against Hitchcock.

The old state house will soon be a thing of the past. Fortunate it is that its old walls will not be able to talk. If they could, and did, some reputations would be blasted forever. A lot of money has changed hands under the old capitol dome.

We're for Dr. Rolla G. Reynolds of Columbia university stronger'n horse-radish. Dr. Reynolds told the assembled educators at Omaha that the stuff they prepared for the newspapers lacked human interest and punch. And he told 'em a hard truth. Having piloted a country newspaper for more years than we like to recall, we are prepared to go even further than Dr. Reynolds. About the only stuff that will equal the educator's newspaper copy in points of dryness and sadness is the stuff the ministers send in as "church news."

Speaking of school news, we'd like to have a compilation of editorial opinion—we mean country newspaper opinion—on the kind of copy the school students turn into the school columns. Speaking again as an experienced country newspaper man, we insist that the comma is precisely unknown to the average student, the semi-colon is known only by hearsay, and the colon an absolute stranger. When the superintendent of schools writes something for publication it is pedantic, sawdust dry and absolutely without a gleam of humor.

So to Speak. Peyton Boswell, the art critic, was talking about French fashions.

"The French dressmakers," he said, "tried to bring back the long skirt last year, but it was no go. The women wouldn't have it. This year in Paris and Cannes the skirts are shorter than ever. Yes, this year's skirts are ultra. In fact, you might say they are knee plus ultra." —Pittsburgh Chronicle-Telegraph.

Yesterday. Hush! Do you not hear it, see it? Look behind you, see, 'tis there, As it follows on your footsteps— Follows, follows everywhere.

'Tis the ghost of all your has-beens, All you've done and all you've said, Thoughts with which you've built and fashioned, Though forgotten, yet not dead. It is calling through the silence, 'Neath today's loud voice it puns An inseparable companion, Soul's eternal orisons. And it bids you make its lessons Footsteps up to better things: Like the crawling of the moth worn Upward to its spreading wings. Reading of'er the blotted records, Help us while we kneel and pray; Help us bless today, tomorrow, Oh thou ghost of yesterday. —Carolyn Renfrew.

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V. A. BRIDGE, Cir. Mgr. Subscribed and sworn to before me this 4th day of October, 1924. W. H. QUIVEY, Notary Public

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Eight wonder golf courses to woo you from dawn to sundown; surf bathing in lukewarm waters; six hundred varieties of fish—the tropical kind—to tantalize you; polo, hi-li, tennis, greyhound racing, quirts and roque. Annual Mid-Winter Regatta will be held in March. Horseracing inaugurated this winter on the new Million Dollar Track. Nor can you forget

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And too, Miami, with its wonderfully mild and beautiful climate and genuine tropical surroundings, is an "above average" city. It's growing so fast that it can't be stopped and from a residential viewpoint it spells perfect perfection with five letters—M-I-A-M-I.

Today, there are 115 hotels, 350 apartment houses and 5,000 bungalows and cottages to choose from—tomorrow there will be more. Transportation facilities greatly increased. Through train from Chicago, St. Louis, Detroit, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Kansas, New York and Washington. Through Pullmans from all large Northern cities east of Kansas, including Quebec and Montreal, Canada. Direct Florida Seaside Service.

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