

# The Omaha Guide

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## Fire Is Always Eminent

Summer and early fall present special seasonal fire hazards which are of particular concern in small towns, forests, and agricultural areas.

Carelessness in the forests has destroyed millions of acres of magnificent timber—and has robbed the country of beautiful vacation spots. Under certain conditions, living trees become literally explosive. A large portion of forest fires are the sole and direct result of carelessness on the part of campers, hunters and fishermen. The most extreme care must be taken in disposing of cigarette butts, matches and other inflammables. They must never be thrown from cars. And, when you are through with a campfire, take every precaution to make sure it is out. Soak it with water, then bury it in dirt.

In towns, grass fires are a constant source of trouble—and some of them have led to conflagrations. Every community should have and enforce a law requiring property-owners to keep grass cut and every property-owner should cooperate wholeheartedly. His welfare—and perhaps his life—is at stake.

On the farm, constant vigilance is the price of fire safety. Wide firebreaks should be ploughed around the grain fields and haystacks. Barns and houses should be free of rubbish. Every care should be taken with gasoline and other burnable liquids. Most farms are far from fire departments and when a serious fire breaks out, heavy loss is inevitable.

The only way to lick fire is to work on the proposition that it is always imminent—and to act accordingly.

## Another Lesson In Economics

The quaint theory that it is possible to continually raise wages witnessing still another demonstration of the fact that wages and without raising prices was disproved long ago. Now the public is prices move together.

The current case is coal. As the Wall Street Journal said, "The American public will soon be 'chipping in' to finance the latest pay hike which John L. Lewis wrapped up for his soft coal miners." The probable average increase, once the situation stabilizes, will be about 85 cents a ton. That, along with some other factors, is expected to raise the price of steel by \$5.00 a ton. And when steel prices rise it is felt throughout all basic industry. The price tags on thousands of articles will be increased.

The desire of workers to earn more money is perfectly natural. But in the long run the welfare of industry is what will determine job security and workers' annual income. If, as on example, higher coal prices force consumers to substitute other fuels, the ultimate result will be a shrinking market for coal and fewer jobs for the miners. Again, if a wave of price increases brings on consumer resistance and a general decline in buying, the ill effects will be felt throughout the country—at the expense of all.

There is but one way wages can be permanently increased without prices being increased—and that is by higher output per worker to hold down cost of production. In the last two years, workers productivity in many fields has actually declined while wages have soared. The inevitable result has been price inflation and a cheapened dollar. The present coal situation simply indicates that still more price inflation is on the way.

## Little "Fat" In Retailing

Just how much "fat" is there in the retail merchandising business—that is, the difference between what merchants must pay for the supplies on their shelves and the price they charge their customers?

Unless you're an unusually well-informed consumer, you'll be astonished to learn how small the "fat" is. For example, one of the country's principal food chain systems recently reported that when consumers spend \$1.00 in its stores they actually got 96 cents worth of food, figured on the wholesale cost. The remainder—fourteen cents—is all the system retains to pay wages, taxes, rent and all the hundreds of other expenses incidental to running its business, including an extremely small profit on each sale.

It is obvious that all kinds of stores cannot operate on an equally small margin. Volume of business, special services rendered, the kind of goods sold, and many other factors regulate the amount of "fat" a store must have. But it is a fact that ninety-nine stores out of a hundred are operating on as small a margin as possible. The hundredth store, whose management is out to boube the consumer and charge all the traffic will bear, isn't long for this world—consumer resistance and competition will see to that.

Bear this in mind next time you are tempted to bame the show keeper for high prices. He dislikes them as much as you do—he is well aware that the system of mass production and mass distribution which distinguishes America from other nations is based upon keepin prices within the reach of all. He has voluntarily absorbed many higher costs and reduced his profits in an attempt to alleviate the inflationary spiral. But he can't do the impossible—which means that he can't operate at a loss.

"Discrimination, in any form, must be rooted out of our hiring and promotional practices."—Carroll E. French, director, NAM Industrial Relations Dept.

"If you don't want your elephant's head smashed, come get him out of my tulip bed."—Lansing, Mich., housewife, calling circus headquarters.

## Is the One He Walked Past Less Threatening?



## WE'RE MORE ALIKE THAN DIFFERENT

BY BLANCHE ALICE RICH

We human beings have some hard lessons to learn. They will not be easy to learn, but we can



BLANCHE ALICE RICH

learn them. We must learn above all the first lesson that all the earth needs to know; that Christianity and democracy center in love and brotherhood, that is in a sharing of a common humanity, in making room on this earth for all to live on it in human dignity and with self-esteem, in making room in our hearts for understanding, love and simple decency.

Here we are, several hundred million Americans of every race and nationality—engaged in the great adventure of building a Christian democracy of freedom and fellowship for all. If it is to be for all, it must be done by all. There's no race problem in the world so tough as the white problem. The white problem is a tough nut to crack. We whites must somehow get over our delusions of grandeur and our persistent habit of thinking of anyone or anything different from ourselves and our ways as inferior.

White people are the hardest people in the world to get along with. In a world of peoples we're a small minority. The colored peoples outnumber us enormously. And as for history, our civilization goes back a few centuries and the Chinese a few thousand years. But to hear us talk you'd think we were the whole show and we were going to tell the rest of the world's races how to live and where to get off. It was the white people who took away from the American Indian his country and from the Afro American his freedom; and now we make a virtue of following them to live in a subordinate position in this "land of the free and home of the brave." We asked them to fight for us all over the world for freedom and democracy and then said, "but don't you fellows expect to get it yourselves when you get back." This is a white man's country.

Yes, we're an onery lot. What's worse we can't get along among ourselves. Because we belong to a particular race, we want privileges for ourselves which we stubbornly refuse to grant to members of other races. We say, England is wicked because she won't give her freedom and because of the way she treats the natives in Africa. But "we don't talk about that" when it is pointed out that our own hands are

bloody because of the way some Americans behave toward certain racial, religious and cultural minority. We deny them jobs, refuse them equal opportunities and refuse to admit them to hotels and restaurants. There are the Jim Crow laws and customs. In seventeen states and the District of Columbia the laws forbid Americans to attend the same schools, use the same parks or swimming pools. Some even go so far as to forbid Christians to worship together unless they bow to the local god of race and sit in segregated sections. It was not in Hitler's Germany, but in a church in the United States of America and only a few years ago that the police entered a church building and made supposedly free Americans get up and separate themselves out by colors and sit in Jim Crow sections.

Anyone who reads the New Testament must understand that no man is right with God who is not right with man. And yet how strange it is that this aspect of the life and teachings of Jesus has become the most neglected area in our daily practices. We must know the facts about people—why they behave as they do and what they are like. But knowing all about them is not enough. We must be willing to act in the light of that knowledge even when it means we must subordinate personal interest to the common good.

Many of you should think of the fact, if you were blind, you would have to get some one to tell the race of most individuals you might meet—assuming that there was nothing in their speech to give a hint of any difference in race. The fact is that a great many of the ordinary prejudices that divide human family would disappear if the gift of sight were to be suddenly taken away.

It is strange. It is unreasonable and christian for anyone to let differences that are primarily visible and superficial raise such violent emotions within us. Do you want to let the gift of sight cheat you of the gift of brotherhood?

Even sight isn't worth such a price. In a world of radar, atomic bombs, and superfortresses, mankind faces an awful and urgent choice. We of this earth must learn to live together or perish. There is no time to wait or argue. Two hundred million people live on a planet on which man has conquered distance and has pried from nature, the secret of incredible power. The story is told in "Hiroshima" and in the statement that no place on the globe is more than sixty hours distance from one's own airport.

In the field of physical science we have reached the Atomic Age. In the field of human relations we haven't gone so far. Progress in the science of human relations waits on at least two things. They are knowledge and motivation. We cannot build a cooperative world on ignorance and error.

Science agrees further that all mankind is related, that all human beings are of one blood. In all normal human beings we find the same number of toes, fingers, teeth, muscles and bones. There

To Be Continued Next Week

## COMMUNITY LAW MAY TRIM ASSISTANCE

Nebraska's new community property act will have a "material effect" on many assistance cases, Assistant Attorney General Homer Kyle said Thursday in an opinion to Neil Vandemoer, director of assistance.

Income of a husband and wife will be divided evenly after September 7, when the act becomes law.

One of the conditions of old-age assistance is that the recipient have no child able to support him.

Mr. Kyle used as an example, a wife who has no income but whose husband makes four thousand dollars a year. The wife's legal income after September 7 would be two thousand dollars annually. Should she have parents on relief rolls they perhaps would no longer be qualified to receive assistance.

Mr. Vandemoer said he had no basis on which to make a definite estimate, but said there would be "quite a large number" of cases affected by the act.

In another opinion, Mr. Kyle advised State Banking Director J. F. McLain that building and loan associations are legally authorized to make mortgage loans insured by the Federal Housing Administrator, even though the note and mortgage is negotiable in form.

## BUSINESS COST

You, too, sometimes can deduct the cost of parties, liquor and presents for girls from your income tax. But—

A Bureau of Internal Revenue official warned Thursday that the Government must be convinced that your entertainment deductions were "ordinary and necessary," business expenses.

The law under which Howard Hughes claimed deductions for his entertainment spend is that simple—"ordinary and necessary."

However, the Government applies a strict interpretation. The expense must be both ordinary and necessary. The type of business, its customs and the size of the expenditure make a lot of difference.

Both individuals and corporations can claim entertainment deductions which come under the head of business expenses. Individuals must make an itemized return, however, whereas corporations can list entertainment as a lump sum—until it is challenged.

"In some businesses and professions, entertainment is an recognized part of the business," a Bureau expert said. "The traveling salesman, for example, must take prospects out to dinner, and there is no question that this is a legitimate expense.

But how could a ribbon clerk claim that lavish entertainment was necessary to his job?

There are no precedents on whether money spent to entertain companionship to a customer is an "ordinary and necessary expense." Nor has it been decided whether money spent to entertain public officials and Congressmen is deductible.

Egotism is an anesthetic. Nature gives to a man to deaden the pain of being a darn fool.

Reputation is a live and growing plant, requiring day by day nourishment and care.

The five senses—touch, taste, sight, smell and hearing—are hardly enough. We need two others—horse and common.

Knockabout Chairs If you have knockabout chairs in the sunroom or on "sabbatical leave" from the summer porch and their appearance is not everything you desire, consider making simple slipcovers for them. Use strong fabrics like ticking or oilcloth in fast colors, so they can be tossed regularly into the washing machine.

It's more important to know "What's What" than to be listed in "Who's Who".

Living a double life will get you nowhere twice as fast.



## Bugs In the Budget

By GEORGE S. BENSON  
President of Harding College  
Searcy, Arkansas



DID YOU KNOW that income of the federal government for the next fiscal year will be nine times, maybe ten times, what it was in the boom period of 1929? It will be at least seven times the receipts the federal government had in 1939. Weak nation it would be, indeed, that could not balance a peacetime budget with the receipt side of the ledger at enormous peacetime highs.

Just to balance the budget during boom times, however, is not enough. We must retire debt and reduce taxes. Looking at another angle, the federal government wants to spend more than four times as much as it did in any year of the Thirties, when deficit spending was in the habit-forming stage. Has it now become fashionable for our government to spend all it can get? Have we forgotten that the more we spend the more we shall have to tax?

Begin IF WE CAN'T, under At Home favorable conditions of high employment and prosperous trade, get hold of ourselves long enough to retire our national debt and cut our taxes, at what future time do we expect to do so? Is our budgeting so out of hand that Congress cannot gain control over it? Or is the public thus unmindful of the trouble we're in for under a tax load required by the spending of \$37,500,000,000 annually?

Both the President and the Congress have given evidence of honest desire to keep the expenditure side of the budget down. But the pressures that are applied from every direction call for spending more money. As a people, we shall have to exert great moral fortitude at this time if we expect an about-face in a spending philosophy grown almost traditional. We need not complain to the government for being spendthrift, if at home we insist upon being spendthrift about our pet projects. Economy begins first at home.

ALTHOUGH the war Everything has been over nearly two years, your government wishes to spend more in the next fiscal year alone than was spent during the whole of World War I. Of course, this is a dangerous era, and no one wants to hamstring our national defenses. The whole nation wants the occupation program to succeed. But more efficiency and the least possible waste of manpower and money should be the order of the day.

As late as November the War and Navy Departments were still employing more than a million civilians. Spending in every department, military or non-military, should be studied carefully. Everyone knows it is easier to keep on spending government money than to retrench. This is just as true of the national defense. Despite warnings of what may happen, Congress will do well to examine these expenditures.

Trimming down expenses is not an easy task for Congress. Snail's progress will be made unless the people make themselves heard. A big and wasteful budget now, carrying with it a tax penalty upon the enterprise of our people, could do much to start us down hill toward the kind of economy Russia has. Most Americans, I believe, would rather be allowed to spend their own money than have the government spend it for them.

## INCORPORATIONS LAG

Forty-four domestic articles of incorporation were filed last month making the year's total 406, compared to 416 the same time last year.

Domestic dissolutions totaled nine in July, making the year's aggregate 57 against 60 July 31, 1946.

City-two foreign corporation have been approved this year and 33 have dropped their authorization for doing business in Nebraska. Total fees for corporation filings were \$35,455 to date for the year. Corporation Clerk Harold Woten reported.

Corporations filing Tuesday: City Market, Inc., Lincoln, fruits, vegetables, capitalized at 30 thousand dollars. Incorporators: Raymond E. Waller, Oliver Marler, and Truman L. Loesch. Western Laboratories, Inc., Lincoln, materials testing, capitalized at 10 thousand dollars. Incorporators: Morgan Harper and Paul Sonderegger.

## FARM INCOME UP 22 PCT.

Total farm income was 22 per cent higher during the first seven months of 1947 than it was during the corresponding period last year, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics reported Thursday.

Marketing receipts at home were 27 per cent higher but Government payments fell off. Total farm income through July was

Receipts from livestock and livestock products were up 30 per cent and prices were up 32 per cent over 1946. Meat animal receipts were up 45 per cent, dairy products 20 per cent and poultry and eggs 10 per cent.

Grain receipts were up 50 per cent with grain prices 25 per cent higher.

If you're too far ahead of the procession you're just as much alone as if you were way behind it.

Handled Many Times Iron ore is handled five times from the time it is removed from the earth until it emerges from the furnace as liquid metal.

Only Huguenot Church Only Huguenot church in America is at Charleston, S. C. It was founded in 1687.

## THEFT ON THE INCREASE

Larceny is on the increase in Omaha, police reports showed Saturday.

The rise is not alarming. Some business firms say it is due to the high cost of living.

Perhaps the man who was nabbed trying to get away with a dozen diapers was trying to cover an area his pay check would not reach, police reasoned.

Maybe, they added, the men and women who daily take the small expensive items from store counters are seeking to fill wants their budgets won't permit.

But police let no emotions run away in talking about store burglaries. Whiskey, cigars, radios, wrist watches hardly come under the cost-of-living classification.

Police records show there have been 1,075 cases of larceny in the first six months of this year. Arrests have cleared up 343 cases.

There were 908 larceny reports last year, 735 in 1945. This year is about equal to the same period in pre-war 1940 and 1941. About a third of the cases are cleared up by arrests.

Larceny covers all reported thefts where there is no breaking and entering. Thus many minor thefts are lumped into the total.

The number of burglaries also is getting back to the pre-war figure. There have been 384 so far this year. This is a slight increase over the past two years. Robberies are up slightly over 1945 and 1946, but far below pre-war. There have been 40 so far this year.

Cash, cigars and whiskey, in that order, are the favorite loot in store burglaries, said police. Cigars are easily marketable.

Police cast a jauntied eye on some reports of liquor thefts. Dry Kansas is close and there are rumors around the police station that burglary reports sometimes blanket a liquor transfer.

Food store burglaries are not as common as in OPA days when ration stamps were choice loot. Significantly, there has been only one filling station burglary this year. Nobody needs gasoline stamps any more. Food stores, however, are noting an increase in shoplifting.

Most food stores are cutting down the height of their island displays so all parts of the store can be seen by a clerk at the check stand.

The many-itemed variety stores are not so fortunate. One store executive said his place is "taken" for \$5.00 to \$10.00 worth of merchandise daily.

Contenders for the 1947 crown include the man who walked away with a full set of golf clubs, another who lifted the fan cooling a store from its spot in the front window, or the men who stole two suits of clothes from a charitable organization.

## Primitive Origin

The universality of man's love of color was demonstrated early in antiquity. Each region and sub-region of the globe developed its own dye sources. It is estimated that nearly 1,000 different plants, vines, shrubs and trees were, at one time or another, employed for extracting dyes. However, only a few of the primitive dyes survived to ancient and medieval times.

