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Huge Fire Losses Spur Observance Of Fire Prevention Week

Fire destruction in the United States threatens to break all records this year. As the nation and *The Omaha Guide* prepare to observe Fire Prevention Week, October 5 to 11, by proclamation of President Truman, the local fire department called on all citizens to join in the annual city-wide drive against fire.

Fire Chief B. Meister cited estimates of the National Board of Fire Underwriters that U. S. fire losses may exceed \$700,000,000 by the end of this year, the highest in U. S. history.

This \$700,000,000 loss will be twice the destruction caused by the burning of San Francisco, and nearly three and one-half times the devastation done in any year of the Luftwaffe's blitz on Britain.

Deaths by fire also may set a new record with the 552 deaths in the Texas City disaster added to the 10,000 annual death toll.

According to estimates made by President Truman's conference on Fire Prevention, the United States suffers more than 831,000 fires annually, an average of one fire every 38 seconds. To combat this menace, the nation has to maintain a huge army of municipal fire fighters—800,000 of them—to guard life and property.

By presidential proclamation and by order of state governors, Fire Prevention Week will be observed in nearly 10,000 communities in effort to focus public attention on the need to save lives and resources from fire.

PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION

Whereas, each year preventable fires claim the lives of thousands of our citizens, both young and old, and cause permanent disability or painful injury to countless others; and

Whereas, the destruction by fire of our natural and created resources has almost doubled during the past decade, and cost this nation more than five hundred and sixty million dollars in the year 1946; and

Whereas, this ravage, if unabated, threatens an even more calamitous loss of life and waste of material wealth; and

Whereas, the program promulgated at the President's Conference on Fire Prevention held at Washington in May, 1947, is designed to assist in stemming the tide of death and destruction from fires:

Now, therefore, I, Harry S. Truman, President of the United States of America, do hereby designate the week beginning October 5, 1947, as Fire Prevention Week.

I earnestly request every citizen to eliminate all possible causes of destructive fire in his home and in his place of business, and I urge that vigilance against fire be extended beyond Fire Prevention Week and be zealously continued all throughout the year. I invite State and local governments, the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, the National Fire Waste Council, the American National Red Cross, business and labor organizations, churches and schools, civic groups, and agencies of the press, the radio, and the motion picture industry to cooperate fully in the observance of Fire Prevention Week with the objective of initiating a fire prevention campaign continuing throughout the year. I also direct the appropriate agencies of the Federal Government to assist in very feasible way in arousing the public to the seriousness of the fire problem.

In Witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Seal of the United States of America to be affixed.

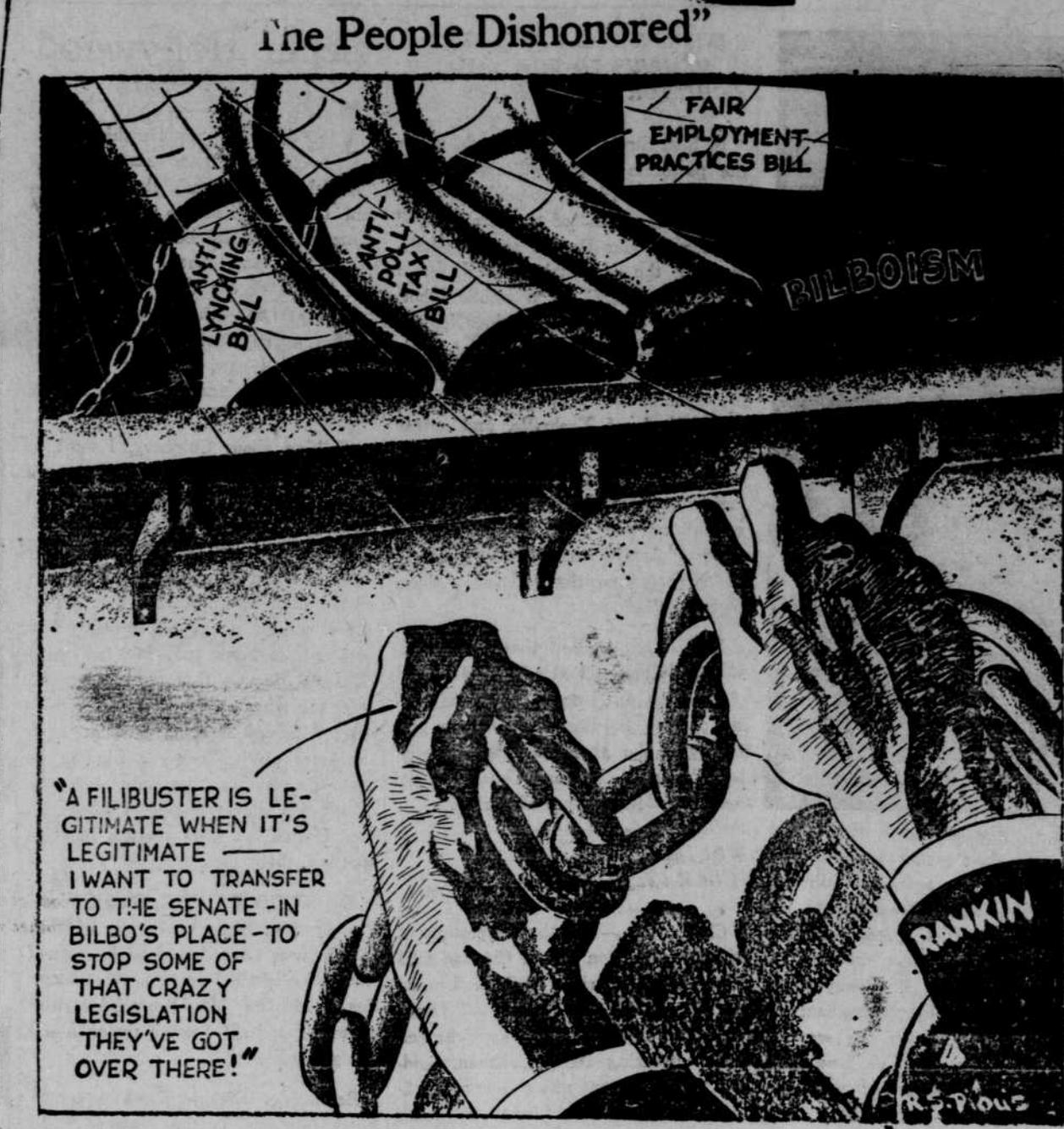
Done at the City of Washington this fourteenth day of August in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and forty-seven, and of the Independence of the United States of America the one hundred and seventy-second.
HARRY S. TRUMAN

Mechanical grocery store that eliminates clerks, cash registers and cashier-checkers has been patented by Memphis man, National Patent Council reports. The store is based on a miniature adding machine, called a key register, carried by customers from shelf to shelf. When the shopper inserts the key register into an attachment on the shelf it adds the sale and releases an item from the locked stock of goods.

The store has only one attendant. He inspects the final amount shown on the key register, collects and puts the money in a drawer. Inventor claims grocers can operate with this mechanism on a five percent profit margin.

Oscilloscope, built into the cabinet of a phonographic recorder, permits voice of a singer or the tones of an instrument to be "watched" while the record is being made. Invention has been patented by two Californians, says National Patent Council.

A radio system for distance and velocity measurement has been patented by New Yorker says National Patent Council.



Water ...

The parched earth in the country is gasping for water and watches every rain cloud as it floats by in the sky with a wistful eye, meanwhile the hot Nebraska zephyrus makes one think fondly of past blizzards. The City earth has a much easier time, all it needs to do is to turn its covering of emerald green lawn to a rusty brown. The house owner sees his lawn in trouble and turns a valve and lo! a sprinkler throws a steady stream of water until the parched earth cries enough.

This long spell of hot dry weather has made a real problem in distribution for the water operating department of the Metropolitan Utilities District.

The management determined, if it was humanly possible, to supply every one with their requirements of water without regulating the demand. This was accomplished by working every main, every pump to the limit of its capacity and extending the filter plant beyond its registered rated capacity. The morale of the crews never broke, although on some of the hottest days they were forced to work around the clock. The water department were not only out for a record but determined to outlast the weather. The new main built last year, when it was possible to obtain supplies helped. This year when six miles of main now under construction are completed our problems of water distribution should be completed for years to come.

Here in a nut shell is our August pumping record, 1,842,070,000 Gallons of water. The nearest approach to this record was back in the drought year of 1936 when in July we pumped 1,475,300,000. The first 23 days of August we averaged 62,870,000 gallons a day. This was higher than the previous day top record made August 2, 46 which was 62,600,000. The all time high for one day was made August 7, 47 with 71,600,000.

The average daily high temperature for August according to the weather Bureau was 94 degrees. Average low 72 Degrees. This however is nothing to get excited about, why in July 1936 fourth year high registered 114 low 54 degrees. This is one reason why Nebraska weather is not discussed in polite society. A New Yorker happened to be in Fremont one evening of that July 1936 when the thermometer only registered 105. He paced up and down the lobby of the Pathfinder Hotel, finally stopped before a native, who was seated enjoying the comparative cool spell. "How large is this town?" Inquired the New Yorker. "10,995" proudly replied the native when they are all here. "What in God's name keeps them here?" Inquired the perspiring New Yorker. "The native replied wearily "It is just too damned hot to move."

CAN YOU GUESS THESE?

1. What film star's real name is Dona Mae Jaden? She's a native of Tacoma, Wash.
2. What very rugged hero of the cinema played hopscootch in "Hands Across the Table" and changed a baby's diaper in "The Lady is Willing"?
3. In Warner Bros' forthcoming pioneer thriller, "Cheyenne" Dennis Morgan won a poker had with four sixes in one "take". How many takes might have been required if he had used an unstacked deck?

HAMPTON APPOINTS SEVEN IN GENERAL STUDIES

HAMPTON INSTITUTE, Va.—Appointment of seven new Hampton Institute instructional staff members in the Division of General Studies—four of them in the Communications Center was announced by the college with the opening of the fall term September 6. Other new staff members will be announced in the near future, an administration spokesman said.

The four new Communications Center staff members are Dowling M. Bolton, Instructor in Speech; Dr. Harry L. Faggitt, Associate Professor of English; Mrs. Mary Neal Hopkins, Assistant, Communications Center; and William Kearney, Coordinator of Audio-Visual Aids.

Mr. Bolton, a specialist in radio writing and possessor of a B. A. degree from LeMoyne College and an M. A. degree in Speech from Northwestern University, taught at Virginia Union University last year. Dr. Faggitt holds a B. S. degree from Hampton and M. A. and Ph. D. Degrees from Boston University. Mrs. Hopkins and Mr. Kearney are both 1947 Hampton graduates.

The three other new instructors in General Studies are: Miss Dorothy Lewis (B. S., M. Ed., and further study, University of Pittsburgh), chemistry; Williston Hobbs (B. S., M. S., Howard University), mathematics; and C. Emerson Smith (B. A., University of Richmond; B. D., Union Theological Seminary, Richmond), Applied Religion. Mr. Hobbs came to Hampton from the Howard staff and Mr. Smith from the staff of Davis and Elkins College.

Cecil T. Lewis, Acting Director for the Division last year, has been appointed Director for 1947-1948. He will be on leave of absence during the second semester.

The new appointment in audio-visual services implements a plan to improve the services through a new building and new equipment for the Communications Center. The \$70,000 FWA-financed structure, nearing completion, will help the college in its plan to bring every student to an established level of proficiency in written and spoken English.

DID YOU GUESS RIGHT?

1. Janis Paige.
2. Fred MacMurray.
3. Approximately 54,132. Four sixes come up once in that many deals, according to the law of probabilities.

WHY, MR. POWELL!

Put down William "Life With Father" Powell as Adolph Menjou's rival for honors as a best-dressed man. It has just been discovered that the veteran actor never carries matches because they cause his pockets to bulge!

HOLLYWOODODDITY

Raoul Walsh, famed throughout the world for having directed many of Hollywood's great outdoor adventure classics—lately "Silver River" for Warner Bros.—is strictly a city fellow by birth and by rearing. He was born and educated in New York City.

FLYNN BLEACHED

Errol Flynn, whose hair was bleached several shades lighter for Warner Bros. "Silver River," will keep it that way for his next film, "The Adventures of Don Juan," which will be in Technicolor.

Clever From Italy
Crimson clover was introduced into the United States from Italy in 1816.

CLEVELAND NEGRO CITIZENS COUNCIL FIGHTS FOR CLERK

The Cleveland Negro Citizens Council learned this week that the case of Joseph P. Bryant, Jr., former postal employee, will be made a national issue by the National Alliance of Postal Employees. The biennial convention of the Alliance, meeting in Cleveland recently, made the fight for the reinstatement of the falsely accused former postal clerk the number one objective of the postal organization by taking positive action to assure the ultimate success in this case which has already attracted national attention.

Joseph Bryant, formerly employed as the only Negro window clerk in the exclusive Shaker Square Station of the Cleveland Post Office was removed from that assignment by postal inspectors who charged him with fraudulently demanding and receiving 72 cent postage stamps to secure his dismissal found Mr. Bryant was not guilty of the charges upon which the Department based their action in his dismissal.

The Post Office Department perfunctorily refused Joseph Bryant's application for reinstatement after he had been exonerated by the Federal Court, however, after a tremendous storm of protest raised by the Cleveland community and echoed throughout the nation and on the floor of Congress, the Department announced on July 29, that the case is being reviewed. Since that time no official word has come from the Department, although it has been reliably reported that Mr. Bryant has been offered his reinstatement on the condition that he first renounce in writing all claims to any back pay. The offer is said to have been rejected.

The Cleveland Negro Citizens Council was formed out of representatives of interested Cleveland organizations, primarily to carry on an intensive campaign in close cooperation with the local Branch of the Alliance, to gain simple justice for Joseph Bryant. The NAACP, Urban League, Future Outlook League, religious, civic and labor organizations are all represented in the Council whose activities have aroused the support of all responsible individuals and organizations in the community. The magnificent response has included action by both central labor bodies, members of the Congress and the cooperation of both the white and Negro press. All recognize the inherent threat to the fundamental right of trial by jury and the power of the courts to protect an innocent victim from the effects of false charges.

The Council was greatly heartened by the news of the action of the National Alliance convention which, after unanimously passing strongly worded resolutions of protest against arbitrary actions of the Post Office Department and of all-out support to Joseph Bryant, proceeded to set up a committee responsible only to the convention and charged with the duty of taking whatever steps are necessary until the verdict of the Federal Court is fully implemented.

The Cleveland Negro Citizens Council has advised the National Alliance Committee that the Council will cooperate fully with the Committee on the Bryant case and has in turn been advised that Dr. George M. Johnson, Dean of the Howard University School of Law, has also offered his services in any capacity. Dr. Johnson is a member of the Supreme Court Bar. Thus, it becomes apparent that with the Cleveland community solidly behind Joseph Bryant and with the Postal Alliance, counseled by Dr. Johnson, spearheading the fight for his reinstatement on a national scale, the ingredients for ultimate victory are at hand.

Lynching Is Murder ...

Continued from Sept. 20th.

The federal Government and the State of Georgia are not ready to apprehend white men who lynch Negroes. They are not ready to stop lynching. Any mob, anywhere in the South, know in advance that it can lynch a Negro and that in nine hundred and ninety nine times out of a thousand, nothing will be done about it. It is a racial matter based on color. If Jews, Germans, Danes or any other nationality were lynched, something would be done about it—immediately.

There are millions in America who would not participate in the lynching of a Negro but who would not lift a finger to create an environment that would make the lynching of a Negro possible. There are perhaps millions in America who would not be one of mob to testify against a lynching if they knew the lyncher by name.

It all means that there are millions of people in America of whom it can be said they condone lynching. In this sense, many of us, good people, educated people, and congressmen are part of the mob.

The twenty men who lynched four helpless Negroes last July will never live in peace with themselves again. As long as they breathe air, their consciences will prick them. It will haunt them day and night. Every Negro they see from last July up to the very moment they close their eyes in death will serve to remind them that one day "We lynched four Negroes." Every time they pick up a newspaper or a magazine and see the word Negro, it will serve to remind them what they had done. Everytime they close their eyes and in their dreams they will see and hear the screaming voices of the four Negroes pleading for mercy.

They will see the bodies of the lynched—black, innocent, helpless, dangling. They will never be at peace with themselves again. It will even affect their children as they will have to suffer deep-seated prejudice against Negroes, of atone in their souls for the sins of their fathers, or bear forever the thoughts that their fathers lynched Negroes. It is a terrible load to carry around.

The public seems to have the opinion that lynching is caused by sex or "racial integrity." It is a very convenient publicity material for leaders of the American Lynchings, but sex attachment is infact one of the smallest causes among even the alleged causes of this barbarous form of repression. Lynching has always been the means of protection, not of the white women, but of profits.

Is there a way out? Some of the leaders of Interracial Commission are Ministers and there are a few courageous-ministers and Bishops who have taken an active stand against lynching. Unfortunately they are too rare.

Lynching—means—rule by rope and faggot (faggot is a bundle of sticks) instead of by orderly and civilized processes—has far too long been a curse to American and an affront to decency and humanity.

I hope all who reads this poem by "Isabelle M. Taylor" will give it a thought!

The Lynching
The moon lights the wooded death spot,
To the shame of the wide spreading tree,
The leaves wail in rustling protest,
Their whispered threnody.
A cloud veils the moon into darkness,
The stars shine less brightly,
And the voice of the dying black man
Cries, "Hast Thou, too, forsaken me?"
See how the battered body jolts
In a heap when they cut it down—
See how the red, red, blood flows
From the black man on the ground.

LOYAL PARENTS

Mr. and Mrs. George MacDonnell made a special trip from Austin, Tex., to Burbank, Calif., to watch their daughter Kyle make her screen debut in "That Hagen Girl" at Warner Bros.

U. S. SAVINGS BONDS DIVISION

During the month of August, Nebraskans invested eight million nine hundred and nine thousand dollars in U. S. Savings Bonds, according to Leonard R. Hall, state director of the Treasury U. S. Savings Bonds Division. Of the August total for Nebraska, five and one-quarter million dollars was in Series "E" Bonds, Hall stated. Purchases of Series "F" and "G" Bonds in August totalled three million 665 thousand Dollars.

Residents of Douglas County invested a total of \$2,022,194.04 in E, F and G Series U. S. Savings Bonds, during the month of August. "Nebraskans have invested more than 106 Million Dollars in U. S. Savings Bonds since January 1, 1947," Hall said, "This fine sales record has been accomplished with the help of Nebraska bankers, who have continued to recommend government bonds to their customers as an ideal form of investment for surplus funds."

Wages and Baskets

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

A REAL BASKET of food, according to the American Federation of Labor, is a good unit to use in measuring income. That is, how many baskets of food will your wages buy? The Federation's "Monthly Survey" for July has put together some interesting figures comparing wages in America in 1940 with wages in Europe in 1940. These figures are in terms of baskets containing items for adequate nourishment. An American family of five would need about four of these baskets a day.

One hour's work by a factory worker in the United States in 1940, according to the A.F. of L., would buy 2.83 baskets. In Britain an hour of work would buy 1.26 baskets. In France, 1.11; in Germany, 1.02; in Italy, .65; and in Russia, only .40. This means that the American worker could buy with his wages seven times as much food as a Russian could with his in 1940.

Measure of THESE FIGURES Freedom are in keeping with personal observations in Europe in 1936 and again in 1946. The amount of food a worker could buy with his wages was in direct proportion to the amount of freedom that a worker enjoyed in his own country. Russia had the least individual freedom and the lowest wages. America had the most freedom and the highest wages.

More than 20 years of Communism in Russia, under a totalitarian state which owns and operates the tools of production, has failed to change the ratio in comparison with America. The "Monthly Survey" is right when it comments that history has proved that "free enterprise under a democratic form of govern-

ment provides the highest living standards for workers." Workers are becoming aware that their best opportunities lie in preserving individual opportunity—freedom to own property and to create and operate an industry or a business.

Threats I FEAR, however, that Today the American public does not understand some of the threats being made upon this very essential factor in the American way of life. I am interested in seeing industry pay the highest possible wages. America must continue to provide the best for the most. But I see dangers threatening the very things that enable Americans to buy more baskets of food than the workers of any land.

1. High taxes are cutting off investment of new venture capital. This will prevent expansion and growth. New tools and new industries will not be available to provide jobs.

2. An extravagant federal budget continues to spend and to create inflation. This restrains men from venturing and investing.

3. Industrial relations are unsteady. This instability again makes capital afraid to venture. Taxes must be lowered enough that the ordinary man can keep a larger percentage of his earnings, and so that men will be inspired to invest and venture out into business enterprise. We need to overhaul the federal budget, to get rid of wasteful and inflationary government spending. We need firm but friendly industrial relations. If these things were achieved, they would do much to preserve the essential ingredient of our system of high wages and high standards of living in this land of the free.

PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICE

KANSAS CITY, Mo., — Maximum reimbursement to next of kin toward actual burial expenses for deceased of World War II to be finally interred in private cemeteries in the United States or in foreign countries under Public Law 383 has been ordered increased from \$50 to \$75 as of Oct. 1, Col. M. A. Quinn, Commanding Officer, Kansas City Quartermaster Depot, has been informed by The Quartermaster General, T. B. Larkin, Washington, D. C.

Col. Quinn said that this increase would affect all cases under the government's return or reburial program inasmuch as final burials in this country and overseas would not be under way until during October.

In addition to the reimbursement toward burials in private cemeteries, the government provides transportation to the final destination, the caskets and headstones.

Forms next of kin will use in applying for the reimbursement up to \$75 will be left with next of kin by the military escort accompanying the remains.

Although the first return of World War II dead is scheduled for October, Col Quinn pointed out that the Army and Navy Departments in Washington still are engaged in mailing out letters of inquiry to next of kin to poll their desires regarding final disposition of the remains of their loved ones.

"This mailing," the colonel said, "will continue over a period of several months. We have inquiries every day from next of kin who say they have not received the letters. Next of kin will receive such a letter when the cemetery in which their deceased is buried is reached in this program."

WHAT NEXT?

Oren Haglund, former famous athlete and now an assistant director at Warner Bros. Studios, has an elaborate inter-office communication system between his house and his dog kennels. When the canines take a notion to howl at the moon, he doesn't have to get out of bed to tell 'em to "Shut up!"

School Principals to Hold Meeting in Richmond, Va.

RICHMOND, Va.—To form an effective liaison between college officials and elementary school principals, the Department of Elementary School Principals of the Virginia Association for Education, which holds its 60th annual meeting here October 16, 17, and 18, has arranged an all-day discussion program for Wednesday, Oct. 15, a day prior to the convention.

Educators at most of the colleges in Virginia, West Virginia, and North Carolina which furnish teachers for the state, have been invited to participate in the discussions. L. E. Snyder of Roanoke, president of the department, will preside; and P. J. Chesson of Norfolk will lead the discussion.

Mr. Chesson has been directing for more than a year a study of teacher selection, employment policies and new teacher success in the state's elementary schools and training and apprenticeship requirements for student-teachers in the colleges. A preliminary survey of this report showed that many of the persons who accepted teaching positions in the past few years have been handicapped because they were trained for teaching positions other than the particular elementary grades to which it was necessary to assign them.

One of the aims of this meeting will be to work out between public school administrators and colleges an improved system of guidance which will seek to direct students to take teacher-training in the area in which, because of school population and need, they are more likely to receive employment.

"It is the purpose of this division's annual session" declared J. Rupert Picot, executive secretary of the Virginia Association for Education, "that by mutual sharing of experiences and policies between college officials and elementary school principals plans may be effected for improved standards for Virginia education."

READ THE OMAHA GUIDE

LOOK OUT BELOW!

By MACKENZIE

