

THE OMAHA GUIDE

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Six Months	\$2.50
Three Months	\$1.75

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Six Months	\$3.00
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GET THE FACTS STRAIGHT

There is a good deal of misunderstanding concerning the meat situation.

As everyone knows, meat prices have risen. But so has the price of practically everything else. The price of some other foods—including such staples as cheese, rice, butter, and salmon—have advanced more than meat from the prewar (1939-41) level.

Nobody "fixes" the price of meat. The price is largely determined by what the consumers of the country are willing to pay for the supply which is available at any given time. About 2 million more people are working now than had jobs last winter. Third-round wage increases have given consumer purchasing power another boost. Thus, the demand for meat is stronger than ever.

On top of that, less meat has been available lately than came on the market last winter. That is the result of a normal seasonal factor, plus the fact that the corn crop was relatively poor last year and great quantities of feed grains were sent abroad in 1946.

As for the future, no one knows. It is predicted that we will have a bumper corn crop this year, which will be a spur to meat production if it occurs. And more adequate production is the answer. The total number of livestock on farms per 100 people in this country is near the all-time low. That is why loose talk about rationing and price controls, which always discourages producers, may actually force meat and other prices to go higher than would otherwise be the case.

Maintenance of the free market, with its incentives to producers, is the only way to guarantee an adequate meat supply at the lowest price possible in today's inflated economy.

NO LACK OF COAL

The idea that coal should be allocated by government order is certainly not supported by any available facts.

Last July 1, our coal stocks totaled 58 million tons—the highest figure since April 1, 1946, and some 8 million tons greater than on the same date in 1947. This is the result of high and sustained production. According to one of the top authorities in the field, "There is plenty of coal to take care of all the requirements of this country, plus export demands."

It is recommended that consumers lay in as much coal as possible between now and next winter when the heaviest strain on delivery will be made. That is simply a sound business practice, that industrial and domestic consumers have been following for years. Regardless of the size of our stocks, difficulties would occur if everyone demanded coal at once.

The record of the coal industry has been exceptional—and it has been achieved in the face of strikes and other labor disturbances which have made heavy inroads into production. The last shutdown, for instance, though of only five-weeks duration, cost the country 40 million tons of coal—and cost the miners \$100 million in wages. Yet, the issue which caused the shutdown could have been settled without stopping production if the union had so desired.

We have the most efficient coal mines in the world—and we have the highest paid miners by an enormous margin. They can get out the coal to meet the demand without governmental interference.

THE RIGHT KIND OF PROGRESS

The continuous furor over government electric power development obscures the fact that most of the nation's needs for electricity are being met by private enterprise—and that private dollars, not our tax dollars, are doing the job.

California is an excellent example. There America's biggest power-building program is going ahead at a cost of more than \$10 billion a month. The total expenditure of taxable dollars of private citizens will be over \$400 million, and when the job is done the largest private utility in the state will have a generating capacity eight times greater than Shasta Dam—and three times greater than Hoover Dam.

This is typical of what is going on throughout the nation—except in regions where the threat of socialized government competition or confiscation makes it impossible for free enterprise to shoulder the load. In the Pacific Northwest, for instance, normal private power development has been blocked, for the simple reason that investors fear government competition, with its penny bookkeeping methods, its tax subsidies, tax-exemptions, freedom from laws regulating private enterprise, and other artificial advantages which are paid for by all the people.

Those who live in the regions where the government has gone in for big-scale power development now find themselves dependent on the politicians in Washington for an essential service. Those who live in other regions, by contrast, are reaping benefits from electric expansion which isn't paid for out of public treasuries—and which isn't run by bureaucrats. That is real progress, not retrogression toward the socialized state.

Almost any efficiency expert can speed up another man's business.

Build Own Highways
Every citizen of Guatemala is required to contribute the equivalent of two weeks' work, either in money or in labor, toward upkeep of the country's road system. Guatemala, which grows a large part of the world's supply of bananas and therefore needs good roads, was among the first of the Central American republics to have a highway from border to border.

Everglade Wild Game
Wild game in the Everglades were forced to forsake their homes for high grounds as virtually incessant downpours inundated the whole vast area, reports Florida Wildlife. Coons, opossums, deer, wildcats and other animals fled before the rising flood-waters. In some sections young quail and turkeys were trapped by the water. Snakes also moved out of the flood areas.

UP-TOWN-DOWN-TOWN

NEW YORK VIGNETTE

by John Skinner

PASSING PARADE: The facts that the receipts of New York City hotels are estimated to be over \$1,500,000 daily and that the city mails 70,000,000 letters every 24 hours, would suggest that it is hardly an isolated community. Yet sometimes to an out-of-towner who has come to visit or to stay, it does seem rather lonesome—until he finds that remarkable newsstand at the north end of the old Times Building on Times Square. We stopped at this dispensary of papers from other cities the other noon as we have many times in the past and watched a never-ending line of people awaiting turns to ask for the St. Petersburg Times or the Harrisburg News or the South Bend Tribune or the New Brunswick Home News or any one of the almost 350 dailies they keep on tap.

WHADDY'ER READ? Maybe they read a small item in a New York paper which they know would receive much more attention in their home press, maybe they saw news from back there in the lighted bulletins constantly moving about the girth of the Times Building, or perhaps heard one of those "Newswheel" programs designed by Mutual's A. A. Schechter to bring listeners "news from where it happens as it happens," with a portion originating at the scene of a news or feature event near where they live.

FURTHER AFIELD: The same company maintains in a neatly and efficiently kept shop, within the building itself, a constant supply of newspapers from Mexico, Central and South America, Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Africa, England, Ireland and those portions of continental Europe in which they are at present available. It was interesting to note that in this city which has a large proportion of persons of Irish descent, there were no less than 16 different papers from the old country. And if you want reading material a bit more up to date from over there, both the London Times and London Telegraph give two-day service by flying over editions printed on almost tissue-like airmail paper. Anyhow, whether you come from Lima, Ohio, or Lima, Peru, or Athens, Greece, or Athens, Georgia, you'll very likely feel a glow of warmth at finding your home town paper right in Times Square. Many do.

TELEPHONE CO. NEWS
All telephone users on Omaha's South Side and in Ralston will have dial service by the latter part of next year, according to announcement today by C. D. Gietzen, district manager for the Northwestern Bell Telephone Company. Definite information has been received that the central office equipment required will be available late this year, he explained, and a schedule has been set up for changing the Market telephone office and Ralston to dial service in the latter part of July, 1949.

New dial central office equipment for customers served from the Market and Ralston offices will be installed in the new telephone building at 23rd and O streets where the South Side telephone business office is now located. The equipment will be of the cross-bar type, the same as is now being installed in that building for the ORchard office and that which has been in service in the PLeasant office on North 30th street since last November. The ORchard office will be placed in service early in September of this year. It will serve about 2,800 telephone customers in an area east of the Union Pacific tracks and south from Deer ark boulevard to K street and Missouri Avenue, extending to Q street east of the Burlington tracks.

"The change of the Market and Ralston offices to dial service next summer will reduce requirements for local telephone operators but along with the increase in number of telephones and telephone calls, more operators will be needed for long distance and at special switchboards," Mr. Gietzen said. "Over 78 per cent of all Omaha telephones now are dial and the total number of operators is greater than ever before. When the Market and Ralston offices are cut over to dial service, regular employed operators at the offices will be given other assignments."

Popping the Question
Most young men present their diamond engagement rings just before escorting a girl to a social affair, a recent survey shows.

TRAFFIC OFFENSES
The commonness of traffic offenses, which have contributed to 106 traffic fatalities and three thousand injuries for the first six months of 1948, is shown in the Nebraska Safety Patrol semi-annual report of Capt. C. J. Sanders.

Because their violations were of such a nature to endanger lives, 5,484 drivers were arrested and issued fines totaling \$61,026.14, which was accrued to the common school fund of Nebraska. Excessive speed, one of the chief causes of traffic accidents, led the number of arrests with 1,479. Going through "stop" signs brought arrests to 564, reckless driving to 357, driving while drunk to 343, driving without an operator's license to 628.

Three thousand, nine hundred ninety-three other motorists were given written warnings for minor infractions which help contribute to accidents. Fifteen thousand, five hundred seventy-seven motorists were given violation or "must repair" tags because their cars were being operated on the highways with faulty equipment. Improper or inadequate lights resulted in the greatest number of cards being issued.

Through the Patrol's activities, Nebraska and out-of-state drivers paid \$42,607.44 in fees for increasing hauling capacity license plates on their trucks and trailers.

In addition to the \$103,633.58 brought into state funds through fees and fines, the Patrol recovered 59 stolen cars for an estimated savings to Nebraskans of \$70,800.

The Patrol investigated and reported 1,195 accidents. Motorists in distress received the attention of the Patrolmen with 7,773 being given various forms of aid. Three thousand, three hundred six dangerous obstructions were removed from the highways.

To complete the semi-annual report, 650 safety programs were given by the Patrol.

BROTHERLY BEHAVIOR
"There are two sides to every story." That phrase is good to remember for it invites understanding and appreciation, justice and fairness.

One side: boys hiding behind trees, peering around porches, crawling under ledges and terraces. Then a suddenly-pointed pistol (of wood, cheap metal, plastic) and an exultant cry of "I got cha!"

Play Pistols
Probably that is one of the favorite pastimes in your neighborhood, also. I've seen tots of five years, and even of three toting guns and play pistols, often with a holster. They wave the weapons menacingly at passers-by and "shoot 'em up" as realistically as is possible, reacting scenes from fovies and comic books.

Another side: graduation comes, un-announced by the boys and unexpected by the entire community. Sudden transition to the real McCoy: live firearms, deadly weapons, potential and actual killers (irrespective of whether murder charges can be filed).

Two boys (8 and 10 years old) steal rifles and ten thousand rounds of ammunition and terrorize Fosston, Minn., all one night. A sheriff's posse believed they battled adult gang. A 14-year old boy recently "got 20 years." We wish these were isolated cases.

Posing Problems
An 11-year old boy out in Martinze, Cal., shot and killed a lady 42 years, owner of a grocery store, with a 22-calibre rifle. The purpose was to get money with which to go to camp, along with other boys. In real hold-up fashion, theurchin put on a red shirt, blue jeans and a handkerchief over his face.

When the boy said, "Stick 'em up! This is a hold up!" the lady replied "You can't fool me. I know who you are." She didn't know who he was at that moment, a very dangerous child. And she was fooled, for he killed her.

Policemen heard the boy testify "She was a nice lady. She used to give me comic books and soda pop."

Because of his age, the maximum penalty under the law is life imprisonment. For a boy of 11 years! Thus a wasteful life, society's loss, heart-broken family, countless thousands of dollars loss to the taxpayers.

If you were the judge what kind of a verdict would you render? If a government official, would you vote against the sale and use of such a plaything? If a manufacturer, would you stop making such things? If a parent, would you provide other toys?

"There are two sides to every story."

WDL TO HELP SHARE-CROPPER CASH U. S. CHECK

Little Rock, Ark.—C. T. Nooner, Negro sharecropper, is unable to cash a \$204.29 U. S. treasury check because his former landlord refuses to co-sign it as required. The check is an indemnity payment for cotton losses made by the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation of the Department of Agriculture.

In addition to refusing to co-sign the check, the landlord has evicted Nooner, seizing all his livestock and six bales of cotton which are worth more than the \$600 which the landlord claims Nooner owes him. The WDL plans to help Nooner collect this difference and also to help him cash the U. S. check.

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THEY SAY IT WON'T GO UP? By MACKENZIE



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