

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA

MONDAY, JANUARY 7, 1946

NO. 144

## Mayor Hayes Proclaims January 7-31 As "Victory Clothing Days" Here

Mayor R. B. Hayes Monday issued a proclamation naming January 7 to 31 as "Victory Clothing Days". Old clothing to be shipped to people of war-torn countries will be collected in Plattsmouth during this period.

The Mayor's proclamation reads as follows:

**Proclamation**  
WHEREAS devastation and want is apparent with the homeless and looted people of Europe, the Philippines and the Far East, and

WHEREAS millions are now inadequately clad for winter weather, for health and for self-respect, and

WHEREAS this Nation today commences a Victory Clothing Collection to help alleviate such distress in those countries,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT PROCLAIMED that in the City of Plattsmouth, the period from January 7 to January 31, 1946, be designated as "Victory Clothing Days" and that the Citizens of the City of Plattsmouth, Nebraska exert their best efforts in contributing serviceable clothing for the distressed people of Europe, the Philippines and the Far East.

Dated this 7th day of January, 1946.

—R. B. HAYES,  
Mayor of the City of Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

**Chairman**  
Miss Ardith Hall, chairman of the drive, said that the main collection center will be on the first floor of the court house. The following churches will also act as collection centers: Presbyterian, First Methodist, First Christian, Holy Rosary, St. John's, St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed, St. Luke's Episcopal and the Independent.

Miss Hall said, "Let us set a goal for Plattsmouth of one article of clothing for every man, woman and child in the community."

**Clothing Needed**  
What is needed is used clothing for both winter and summer wear. Although clothing need not be in perfect repair, it must be useful to the people who will receive it. All types of washable garments should be washed but need not be ironed. Other garments should be clean and sanitary, but need not be dry-cleaned.

This is another opportunity for the American people to give assistance to needy and destitute people in countries which have been devastated by war. A total of 100,000,000 garments are needed.

**3 Damage Suits Are Filed Here**

James A. Chappell, Plattsmouth, filed suit with the district court Monday morning against T. W. Kothlow, Des Moines, Iowa, for \$5258 damages for the death of 5 year old David Chappell.

David Chappell was killed on November 8, 1945 when he was struck by the car driven by Kothlow. The accident occurred on Chicago Avenue.

The coroner's jury at that time handed down a decision which completely absolved Kothlow of any negligence.

**Kenneth Marcy**  
Kenneth Marcy filed suit Monday morning with the district court against Mrs. Emma Herman for \$675 damages done to his ambulance and funeral car in an accident with a car driven by Mrs. Herman on June 6, 1945. The accident occurred in Greenwood.

**Thola Hamblen**  
Thola Hamblen and Essa Hamblen have filed separate suits against E. G. Steckley and Grace T. Steckley, doing business as Steckley Seed Corn Company, and Howard Morris, each for \$5000 damages. The damages are claimed for injuries sustained in a motor accident between Hamblen's car and a truck driven by Morris.

**King Korn Klub to Elect New Officers At Meeting Jan. 15**

The annual meeting of the Kass County King Korn Klub has been set for January 15 at the Plattsmouth hotel dining room. Milo Price, secretary, said Monday. New officers will be elected and plans for the Carnival next fall will be discussed at the meeting.

"Letters of invitation are being sent to the 400 members of the Klub urging that they attend this important meeting," Price said. "The banquet will begin at 7 p. m. and we hope to have a short program in addition to the business session and election of officers."

## Miss Wetenkamp Elected President Of Otterbein Guild

Miss Marianne Wetenkamp was elected president of the newly organized Otterbein guild of the United Brethren church at Mynard at a meeting held Sunday afternoon. Other officers for the group include Miss Margaret Smith, vice president; Miss Mary Lou Fulton, secretary; Miss Wilma Mumm, secretary of literature; Miss Deloris Smith, secretary of stewardship and Miss Mildred Meisinger, thank offering secretary.

Ten members of the Otterbein guild of the United Brethren church in Omaha were present to assist in the lesson and business session of the afternoon meeting. Nineteen were served at the tables where evergreens and pine cones around lighted red candles were used as the decorating motif.

Eight charter members comprise the Mynard group. Their meetings will be held the first Sunday of each month at five o'clock in the afternoon.

**Blue Devils to Play Valley Tuesday; Keep in Practice**

Plattsmouth high school's Blue Devils will be back in action Tuesday night when they will go to Valley for their first conference basketball game. The team has been practicing nearly every day during the holidays, according to Coach Joe York, so they will be in good condition.

"Valley is going to be a pretty tough team to beat," York said, "but we'll try to do it. They have nearly their entire team back from last year."

Coach York said that he will be needing cars in order to get the two teams to Valley Tuesday. He has asked that anyone who can take some of the boys contact either himself or Burrell Evans, assistant coach. The teams should leave about 5:45 p. m. in order to get there in time.

The floor of the high school gymnasium was cleaned and reconditioned during the holidays.

**Clothing Store Here Reserves Stock for Returning Veterans**

At least one Plattsmouth store was a big jump ahead of the CTA's suggestion that clothing stores reserve their supply of suits and overcoats for returning veterans.

It was over a month ago that Wescott's established this policy in their store and have refused to sell these essential items to anyone except a veteran of World War II. The CTA made this suggestion over the weekend.

"We have felt for sometime," E. H. Wescott said Monday, "that the servicemen need these new clothes much more than those who remained civilians during the war. Most of our customers agree with us when we explain the situation to them. It may be necessary for the civilians to wear an old coat but in the case of returning servicemen most of them do not have their old clothing any more. It is impossible to supply the demand for both civilians and veterans."

**School Holidays End Here Monday**

Classes were resumed in Plattsmouth schools Monday morning after the long Christmas holidays. Milo Price, principal, said that the flu epidemic apparently is almost over because there were but few students absent.

There will be no more school holidays until "Good Friday" when the students will be off for one day.

**Edna Grosshans to Speak Here Jan. 14**

Miss Edna Grosshans, Omaha, will be featured speaker at the Junior Woman's Club meeting January 14. The theme of the meeting will be "The Home Beautiful", and Miss Grosshans will talk on interior decorating.

Miss Grosshans works for Orchard and Wilhelm furniture store in Omaha.

All members of the club have been urged to attend this meeting.

## Scientists Work on Biological Warfare Method and Defense

AMES, Ia. —(AP)—Dr. A. G. Norman, professor of agronomy at Iowa State College, believes the best defense against biological warfare project since its start in 1943, said last night that defense measures had been developed to a "reasonable" point. But the "top secret" nature of the work prevented his elaborating further, he said.

The agronomist said that the biological warfare experiments, working under the supervision of the chemical warfare service, had learned that a nation's food supply could be destroyed by introducing various crop diseases.

Explaining that it was necessary for the project to concentrate on offensive techniques first, Norman said that the scientists knew that a ravaging war could be waged against an enemy nation by infecting their crops and animals.

"Our discoveries will have wide adoption in agriculture as weed killers and herbicides," the scientist said, "and a great deal of information about plant hormones which are the growth of regulating substances has been added to the previous knowledge in the field."

Norman said that many biological warfare project workers were infected during chemical experiments, but that no illness was fatal.

**Enbargo on Hogs is Modified Monday**

South St. Paul, Minn., (AP)—The St. Paul Union Stockyard company announced the embargo placed on hogs last Friday has been modified so that no permits from commission agents will be required.

Effective at 11:55 p. m., January 8, as originally announced, the St. Paul Union Stockyard Company will accept hogs arriving by truck and all hogs loaded by railroads before 1 p. m. Tuesday, January 8, will be accepted, the announcement said.

The embargo was declared when hog receipts, which rose to nearly one thousand in three days last week, threatened to glut the market and arrived faster than they could be processed.

**Dies Sunday**  
J. R. Jones died Sunday afternoon at 4:30 in the St. Catherine hospital in Omaha. Funeral services will be announced later. The Sattler funeral home is in charge of arrangements.



**GANGSTER USES ST. LOUIS MODEL FOR SHIELD**—Mrs. David Litsis, 24-year-old St. Louis model, who was seized and used as a shield by Lawrence Drewler, 31, an East St. Louis gangster when two assassins advanced on him with shot-guns leveled, Mrs. Litsis broke away and ran, while the gunmen killed Drewler, who police say was the leader of a bank robbery gang operating in southern Illinois, Ohio and Indiana. (See press wires... NEA Telephone)

**Favor Big Cut in Federal Spending**

WASHINGTON, (AP)—President Truman and congress may differ on many domestic issues but they appeared united Monday on at least one major goal—drastic cuts in government spending.

Mr. Truman, it was learned, has reduced \$50,000,000,000 to about \$38,000,000,000 as a tentative budget for the 1947 fiscal year starting July 1. And he hopes for a balanced budget by the 1948 fiscal year. That hasn't been done in seventeen years.

**Narrow Gap**  
A \$38,000,000,000 budget would narrow the gap between anticipated government expenditures and income to about \$8,000,000,000 the lowest deficit since before the war. Barring new tax cuts and lowered industrial activity, government income next year is expected to be around \$30,000,000,000.

Richardson urged the dairy industry to ask President Truman to name a fact-finding committee to investigate the "nation-wide butter famine."

"The butter bootlegging is the latest result of a government do-nothing price policy that is causing the worst kind of inflationary black market," Richardson said.

He said the committee investigation was necessary so that congress and the people "can force government agencies to set price policies that will restore butter to the American table."

(Turn to Page 4, Number 7)

## Stassen Says OPA Must Adjust Prices

CHICAGO — (AP) — Harold E. Stassen, former governor of Minnesota, Monday called on the office of price administration to adjust its controls to the requirements of peace.

Stassen, speaking at the opening of the "colorcade of America" sponsored by the institute of carpet manufacturers and the home furnishings style council, said that OPA ceilings on building materials had not yet "reconverted to peace."

"I believe in OPA controls when, as now, commodities are scarce, but the controls must be intelligently and promptly adjusted to the requirements of peace," Stassen said.

Stassen, former navy captain, predicted that a study of the skilled labor market would reveal there was not a sufficient number of workmen in some building trades to do the work of re-housing America's "homeless heroes."

This, he said, was due partly to restrictive union regulations on apprentices.

**Heat Wave**  
The unseasonable "heat wave" pushing up from the south sent New York City thermometers to 62 Sunday, a Jan. 6 record.

Hospitals in the Mississippi-Arkansas area were still receiving injured, many of them not expected to live.

Hurling out of what the weather bureau termed a "very turbulent area" the first storm struck Coila, Miss., where Mrs. Ernest Shute, and her seven-year-old daughter were killed. Her husband and four other children were seriously injured.

**Tosses House**  
Rescue workers toiling in mud and continuing thunderstorms said that the Shute home had been picked by the wind and deposited as a mere pile of splinters.

Doctors at the Greenwood, Miss., hospital said that the four children were not expected to survive. The father, believed to be the least seriously injured, was still unconscious.

According to meager reports, the swirling wind struck next a Seven Pines, Miss., some 12 miles west of Coila leveling most of the buildings minutes after many of the residents had headed for storm cellars.

At Indianola, Ark., approximately 40 miles west, what the weather bureau said "probably" was another storm, or one of a series originating in the area, a three-year-old girl was killed. Parents of the child, Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Campbell, were also being treated at the Greenwood hospital.

**Woman Killed**  
At Lake Village, Ark., about 37 miles west of Indianola, another woman was killed and four men injured. Patrolman A. R. Connerly said names of the injured were not available.

Connerly said the wind had hit (Turn to Page 4, Number 6)

## Kidnap Six Year Old Girl from Bedroom; Ask \$20,000 Ransom

### At Least 34 Die From Tornadoes Over Weekend

By United Press

At least 34 persons were dead from weekend tornadoes as a mass of warm air moving northward collided with a cold front advancing eastward across the Mississippi valley. The eastern seaboard was bathed in unseasonable warmth.

The last storms hit southeastern Arkansas and west central Mississippi last night, killed at least five persons, demolished one town and injured scores.

Texas counted 29 dead from its Friday night tornadoes.

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## Midwest Floods are Under Control Again

ROCKFORD, Ill., (AP)—Hundreds of persons who fled their flooded homes in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin were moving back Monday as overflowing river waters receded.

Rising streams, fed by heavy rainfall and melting snow, forced 150 families in Rockford and its suburbs to escape in rowboats Saturday night. In some homes the water was from two to four feet deep.

A Rock river overflow disrupted rail traffic between Rockford and Beloit and Madison, Wis., and several highways in southern Wisconsin were inundated.

Ice cakes flowed freely down the Rock river Monday after authorities dynamited ice jams to hasten the flood recession.

## U. S. Recognizes Austrian Leader

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The United States Monday formally recognized the new coalition Austrian government of Chancellor Leopold Figl.

At the same time, President Truman sent a message of congratulations to Dr. Karl Renner upon his election as president of the Austrian republic. He expressed hope that Austria, first nation "annexed" by Hitlerite Germany, would soon resume her place as an "independent and democratic state."

Figl's cabinet, dominated largely by the richest people's party, was formed as result of the elections of Nov. 25. The four power (U. S., British, Russia, French) allied council for Austria recommended that it be recognized on Dec. 18.

The state department emphasized that recognition of Austria in no way weakened the supreme authority of the allied council.

"The council," it said, "will continue to operate in carrying out allied objectives in Austria. As the council proceeds with the task of eliminating Nazi influences and institutions in Austria and in the reconstruction of democratic life, it is hoped that a large scale reduction may be made in the number of occupation troops of the four states and that Austria may progressively acquire the status of an independent state."

The department also expressed hope that an "Austrian agent will arrive soon in Washington to discuss matters of mutual interest which do not affect supreme authority of the allied council."

**Use Ladder**  
A 7 foot six rung ladder was found leaning against the garage near the two-apartment yellow brick building. Police said it apparently had been used to gain entrance to Susanna's bedroom in the Degan's first floor apartment. The bedroom was at the rear of the house. The window, about seven feet from the ground, had been left open by the parents.

The girl apparently was taken away in her pajamas. Her other clothes were undisturbed.

The Degan's apartment is on the corner of a block of large houses surrounded by spacious lawns. The neighborhood, just off the north lake shore, is inhabited by a number of prominent persons.

Degan, receives \$7,500 weekly from the OPA, but the size (Turn to Page 4, Number 8)

## Labor Readies One-Two Punch in Fight for 30 Percent Pay Increase

By United Press

The nation's economy Monday faced its most critical test since the end of the war, as three big CIO unions aimed a one-two-punch in labor's fight for higher wages.

Unless settlements come within the next week to 10 days, an estimated 1,500,000 workers in the steel, electrical and meat packing industries may join the 376,000 already idle in strikes and shutdowns.

**Disputes**  
In disputes of nationwide scope:

1. Seven hundred thousand members of the United Steel Workers, second biggest CIO union, were scheduled to walk off their jobs Jan. 14.
2. Officers of the United electrical workers, next in CIO strength, set a Jan. 15 strike date for 200,000 members employed by General Electric, Westinghouse and General Motors.
3. AFL officials authorized 135,000 meat workers to join 200,000 CIO packinghouse workers in a work stoppage slated for Jan. 16.

**Wage Boosts**  
In all three cases, the unions were seeking wage boosts approximately 30 per cent to compensate for increased living costs.

Meanwhile, the threat of a nationwide telephone tieup became more serious as striking western electric employees pressed for an immediate sympathy walkout by approximately 250,000 telephone operators and installation workers.

A strike vote was in progress among members of the national Federation of telephone workers, and American communications and equipment workers,

employed in telephone installation, were scheduled to leave their jobs Tuesday or Wednesday.

**Watch Troubles**  
In Washington, top administration leaders eyed the troubled industrial picture with growing concern. Capitol hill developments pointed to an increase in steel and meat prices to avert paralyzing shutdowns affecting every American.

Leading representatives of both industries protested inability to increase wages without a corresponding price boost.

A fact-finding board for the steel industry awaited an answer from the U. S. steel corp. and the United Steel Workers (CIO) on an appeal to resume negotiations of union demands for a \$2-a-day increase. The steel company has rejected two such invitations by labor secretary Lewis B. Schwellenbach.

**Pledge Support**  
In an unprecedented action, officials of the amalgamated meat cutters (AFL) have pledged financial support to their CIO rivals in the meat packing industry and authorized members to join the Jan. 16 walkout if federal conciliation efforts were unsuccessful.

On the brighter side of the labor ledger, CIO glassworkers renewed contract negotiations with two major glass companies with a view toward ending a strike now entering its 13th week. The walkout crippled production in Pittsburgh plate glass co. and Libbey-Owens-Ford Co. plants in seven states.

In Chicago, the United farm equipment workers (CIO) postponed decision on a strike date of 30,000 international Harvester Co. employees, involving 11 company plants. The Union seeks a 30-per-cent pay hike.



The town of Palestine, Texas was the hardest hit by the tornado which ripped through in the early hours of Saturday, January 5. In the top photo, Sgt. and Mrs. Cox, grimly inspect their only piece of furniture left by the storm. A piano, Mrs. Jimmie Farris, extreme left, Cox's sister is helping Cox to search for his discharge papers and war bonds which were also lost. Cox's son persuaded he and his wife to remain in town for a picture show or they would have all been killed. In the lower photo is what is left of the C. E. Hendrick's grocery store. Mrs. Hendrick was found in a critical condition by the side of the store but search parties have failed to locate Mr. Hendrick. The toll of dead has risen to 29 in one of the worst disasters in many years. (NEA Photo)

Nebr. State Historical Society

## Use Ladder To Enter Apartment

**BULLETIN**  
CHICAGO, (AP)—Six year-old Suzanne Degan was kidnapped for \$20,000 ransom today and her distraught father broadcast an appeal for the kidnapper to return the child.

"If you have any sympathy or understanding in your heart you will return the child to the family," the girl's father, James Degan said in a statement recorded for broadcast every hour over a radio network.

"Please let me know what I can do, how I can contact you. I will give you the money. I will do anything to get my child back. If you harm her God will repay you. Please please, do not harm her."

Blonde Suzanne Degan, 6 year old daughter of an executive of the Office of Price Administration, was taken from her bedroom Monday by a kidnapper who left a note demanding \$20,000 ransom.

The child's father, James Degan, 38, is district price board executive for the OPA. He said he and his wife, Helen, 35, were awakened about 3 a. m. by the barking of two boxer dogs owned by a neighbor.

Degan said he heard Suzanne mumble, "I don't want to get up—I'm sleepy."

He said he thought the child was talking in her sleep, and her disappearance was not discovered until about 7:30 a. m., when Degan entered the bedroom to awaken the girl.

The ransom note, written awkwardly on a piece of greasy paper, was found on the bedroom floor. It instructed the Degan's to "get \$20,000 in five dollar bills and do not notify the police or the FBI."

Police withheld other contents of the note because they feared publication of the kidnapper's demands might cause them to harm the child.

**Make Good Progress On Formula to End China's Civil War**

CHUNGKING, (AP)—General George C. Marshall, U. S. special envoy, announced Monday that "good progress had been made" at the first formal meeting of his three man police committee to study a formula for ending Chinese civil war. The committee met for three hours at Marshall's residence. Marshall said another meeting would be held tomorrow.

The two man committee members, General Chow En Lai, representing the communists and General Chang Chen, government representative, commented that "things are going very well."

The committee meeting was attended also by Dr. H. S. Hu Mo, Chinese ambassador to Turkey.

Prior to the meeting, Marshall had held preliminary talks separately with the opposition leaders.

Authoritative sources said the main topic at the committee meeting was on a cease firing agreement and related subjects of restoring communications with the blockade and sending neutral investigators.

No definite decisions were reached, however, it was said.

**WEATHER**  
Partly cloudy today, tonight and Tuesday slightly cooler today south portion and southeast and extreme east tonight; low tonight 10 to 15; warmer Tuesday west and north portions.