

The Plattsmouth Journal

ESTABLISHED 1881

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Sound-Dollar Statistics

There are a lot of interesting figures and statistics floating around these days, bearing with them fearful or wonderful implications. Follow them, in the serene confidence that figures don't lie, and you may possibly find yourself in the midst of half-truths and erroneous conclusions.

For example, there is the Bureau of Labor Statistics figure showing that the American factory worker's average wage in May was at a new high of \$1.07 an hour, or \$42.67 a week. Then there was the New York Stock Exchange announcement that earnings of 475 leading American companies averaged 37.5 per cent less in the first quarter of this year than in the same period of 1945. What's more, 110 of those companies had losses after taxes.

We can just see some heads wagging over those amounts and percentages. For it might seem to those heads that labor was killing its source of golden eggs, getting richer and richer at the expense of industry, which provides jobs.

Or it could mean to those wagging heads that a radical government was trying to force businesses to the wall. Or it might even mean that a conservative government was trying to make labor fat and contented to high wages, and thus force labor's thinking and votes toward the right.

Statistics that permit such not-too-far-fetched conclusions obviously don't tell very much. The BLS figures on earnings neglected to express them in terms of 1946 buying power.

The Stock Exchange figures also fail to tell a good many things. For instance, how typical were the first-quarter earnings of these 475 companies in 1945? What was the relation of these companies' first-quarter earnings in 1946 to their average for the same quarter in, say, 1935-40?

What was the reason for loss after taxes of the 110 companies? Strikes, reconversion, increased labor costs, OPA regulations, or other factors?

It may seem that some of the various statistics hurled at us today are deliberately calculated to mislead. But it may be suspected that their incomplete information often arises from the more innocent habit of thinking of the dollar as an entity of unchanging value, rather than in terms of what it will buy or in its relation to other dollars of other days.

Maybe that is short-sighted thinking. But there is cause for cheer in that habit of thinking too. For as long as the dollar remains in our minds as a concrete thing of value in itself, to be reckoned with and sought after, we are on pretty solid ground—and a long way from ruinous inflation.

Q—What is "transonic" speed?
A—Speed between 600 and 900 mph. This is the transition area between subsonic and complete supersonic speed, with speed of sound at 760 mph.

Q—Will wheat grow in any region?
A—Yes, in the tropics, at sea level, on mountain tops.

Q—Do many states require vision tests before issuing hunting licenses?
A—None do.

Q—Why is the grapefruit so called?
A—The fruit often grows in clusters, similar to grapes.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DEWE PEARSON

WASHINGTON—It might be a healthy thing if the Mead committee investigated more of the E-awards handed down to manufacturing firms by the army and navy. Senator Mead's committee already has shown how wires were pulled by top officials to get an E for the Erie Basin war profiteers at the same time lesser army officials, who knew conditions first hand, were recommending against it.

Another fishy case occurred when the navy gave an E to national industries when it and its affiliate, Durham Manufacturing corporation, were under indictment for war frauds. The company was actually being prosecuted by U. S. District Attorney Alex Campbell at Fort Wayne, Ind., when, right in the middle of the trial, the navy came across with it.

The trial had started in November, so the navy knew all about the alleged war fraud when it gave the award on Dec. 17, 1945. Furthermore, the war then over, and there was no need to give the company an incentive for further production.

However, someone in the navy apparently pulled the wires, and the E award, coming at just the psychological moment, had a powerful effect on the jury.

Nazi's Pre-Pearl Harbor Trap

For some weeks, certain senators have been skillfully pulling back-stage wires to kill the Kilgore committee which has been probing nazi activities and their link with Americans. A brief and confidential peek at what's in the nazi files now makes it quite clear why senators are secretly battling so hard to squelch Senator Kilgore's investigation.

U. S. army and Justice Department officials have been extremely busy interviewing German officials, from Hermann Goering down, and the results are amazing. They show various high-up American leaders and businessmen to be either woefully naive or else deliberately playing into the hands of a dictatorship which had already started to conquer Europe and which was certain to be at war with us.

For instance, in Foreign Minister Ribbentrop's captured files was found this revealing memo regarding America's first Charles Lindbergh: "It is better not to mention Lindbergh's name anymore. He's more useful to us if we keep his name out of the press—as he has asked us to."

Anti-Roosevelt Plot

Nazi officials have been quite frank in telling about their operations with Americans. Actually, a statement attributed to Goering, published two weeks ago, that he was ready to spend \$5,000,000 to defeat Roosevelt in 1940 was an understatement. What Goering really said, according to U. S. officials who interviewed him, was that he would gladly have spent \$150,000,000 to defeat Roosevelt if he could have been shown any good way to do it.

Another German, Dr. Heribert von Strepel of the German embassy in Washington, when asked what the nazis had done in the way of propaganda, responded: "The biggest thing was when Goering's agent came to me with that plan to defeat Roosevelt."

This was the plan involving the late W. R. Davis, and independent oil operator, who had known Goering for some years, sold oil to the German navy, and who told the Germans he had four Americans he could use to defeat Roosevelt in 1940.

The only name on this list which Goering could remember was that of John L. Lewis. However, other German officials who had been in on the hanks supplied the additional names—Senator Burton K. Wheeler of Montana, Jim Farley and Herbert Hoover.

Obviously, none of the above had any German connection or probably any idea they were to be the tools of a potential enemy. However, some of them were careless, to say the least, in the way they played into German hands.

Wheeler Defends Nazi Agent

Senator Wheeler, for instance, held various secret conferences to defend George Sylvester Viereck when on trial for sedition, despite the fact that Viereck obviously was guilty. Wheeler also made a speech defending the late Senator Lundeen, after Lundeen was exposed for delivering speeches written for him by a German agent.

The ease with which intelligent Americans fell into the nazi trap is, of course, something they want hushed up now. But the day may come when the same sort of danger faces the nation and when the public should have an example before it of what goes on behind the scenes. That is why Senator Kilgore of West Virginia is pressing for his investigation.

That is also why those great friends of the Chicago Tribune—which also fell into the nazi trap—isolationist republicans—Senators Curley Brooks of Illinois and Wherry of Nebraska, are trying to kill the Kilgore committee. Even Senator Scott Lucas of Illinois, a democrat, apparently thinks twice about the Tribune and doesn't want to vote the committee any real cash.

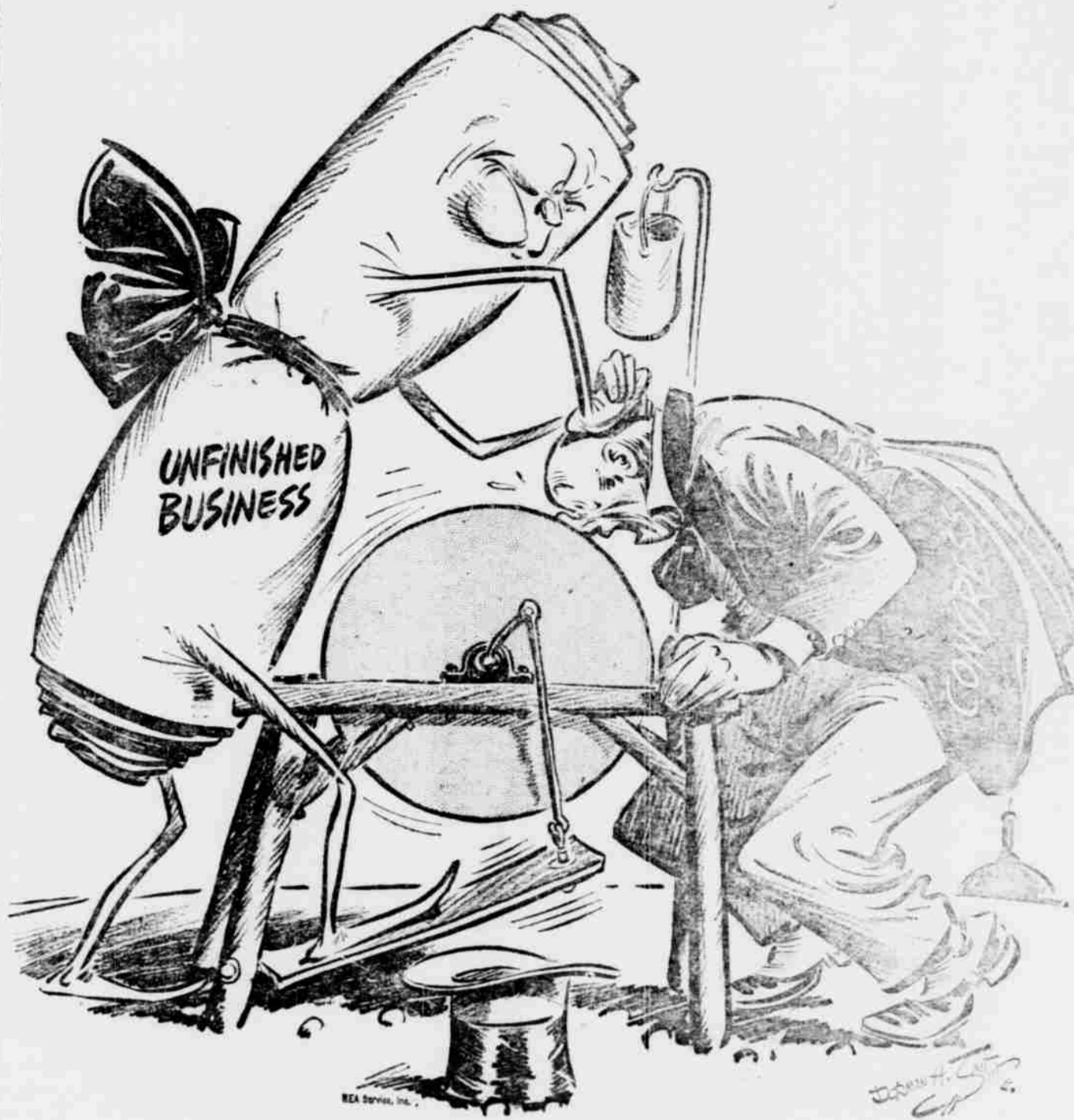
Finally, GOP Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire, whose state is anything but isolationist, for some strange reason is trying to strangle the Kilgore investigation. Maybe it's because Bridges is a buddy of Senator Wheeler's.

Lewis' Anti-Roosevelt Speech

While John L. Lewis does not pose as an international expert, it wouldn't have required a mental giant to know that oil man Davis was playing awfully close to the nazis. Davis was shadowed by the State Department and by British secret service in Bermuda and Portugal on his way to Berlin in 1939. And when he arrived back in Washington after his talks with Goering, FBI men covered his apartment at the Mayflower hotel. Davis told all this to John L. Lewis at the time, whereupon Lewis picked up the phone, called Assistant Secretary of State Berle, and complained at the way Davis was being shadowed.

Later, Lewis called at Berle's home and discussed the whole matter with him. Despite this, Lewis stepped squarely into the Davis-Goering trap to use him to defeat Roosevelt in the 1940 election and allowed Davis to pay his famous \$50,000 radio hook-up in which Lewis urged labor to desert FDR.
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The Last Few Days Are the Hardest



Louisville

Mrs. Bessie Core

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Johnson, who make their home at Mrs. Lena Nessen's went to Sidney, Iowa, Saturday night to visit relatives. Johnson is working on the new addition to the Farmers elevator here.

The Golden Circle club had its annual picnic at the state fisheries Sunday. A picnic dinner was served.

Mrs. Sylvia Urwin and family spent Sunday at the state fisheries. Mr. and Mrs. John Rhoden of Plattsmouth, visited Mrs. Rhoden's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hochel Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Meisinger and daughter visited in Louisville Sunday at the home of Mrs. Glen Miller. Mrs. Meisinger is a sister of Mrs. Miller.

Bertha Sash called at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Adam Rentschler, last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Amick and son, Bill, and a niece of Mrs. Amick's, all from Omaha, called on Louis Gadway, Sunday, and had a swim at the lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Rentschler and some friends visited Camp Harriet Sunday where their daughters are and also called on their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adam Rentschler.

Dr. and Mrs. H. W. Worthman and Elwood Pankonin and Willard McShane drove to Omaha Sunday evening to bring back Bob McShane who has been working on the new Pankonin building, which is being remodeled.

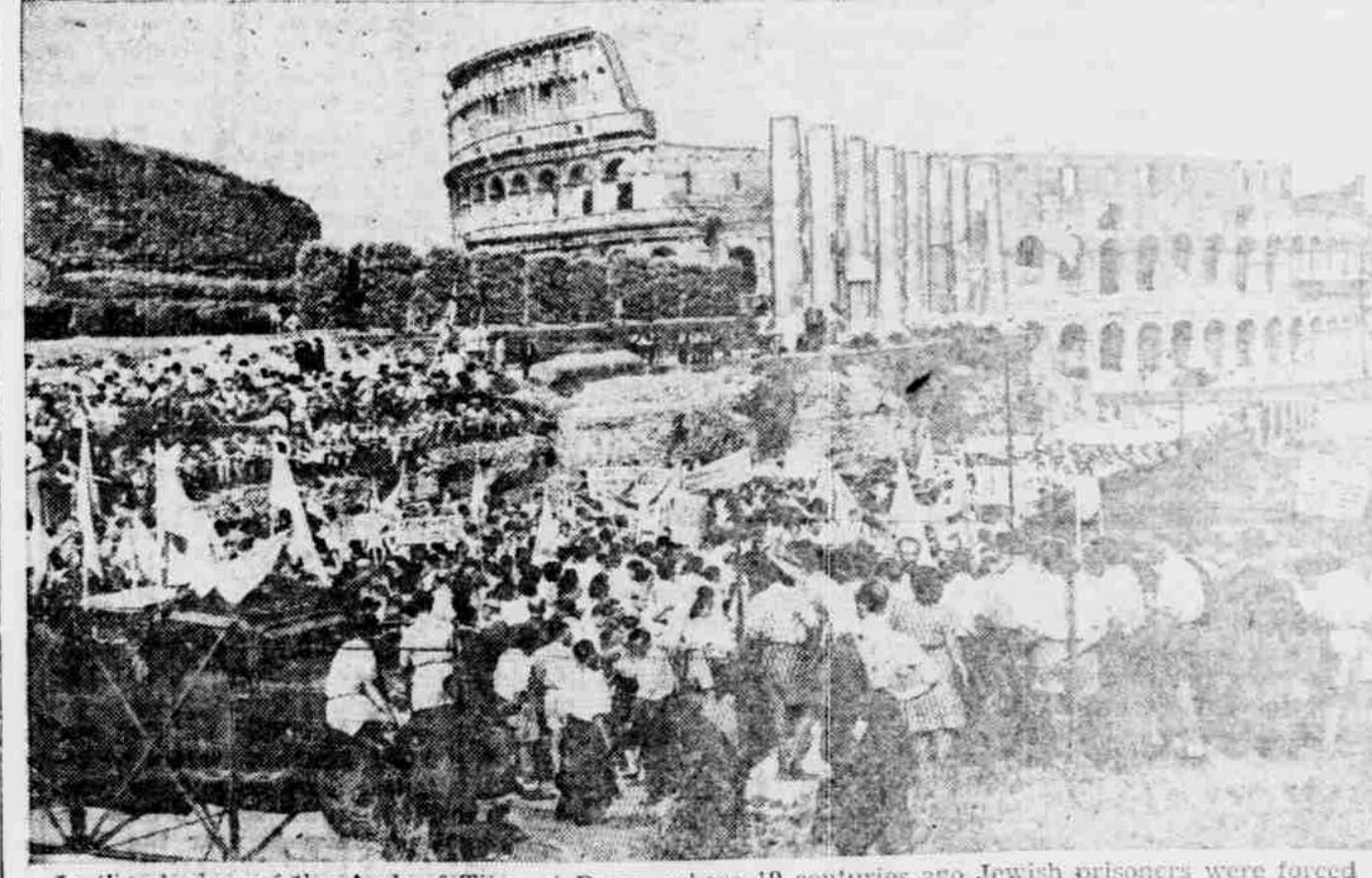
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Heard and family visited Mrs. Heard's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Meisinger Sunday, in South Bend.

Louisville enjoyed a steady rain Monday afternoon and evening. Besides helping the gardens, it made the temperature more comfortable.

Mrs. Stanley Hall and family of Stella are visiting Mrs. Hall's mother, Mrs. Sylvia Urwin and family.

Glendale had its picnic in the city park by the bridge Sunday.

Read Journal Want Ads



In the shadow of the Arch of Titus at Rome, where 19 centuries ago Jewish prisoners were forced to march as slaves by Emperor Titus, a crowd of 3000 Jews protests English policies in Palestine.

At the Movies

Clark Gable makes a welcome return to the screen in "Adventure," which opens Sunday at the Cass theater, with Greer Garson co-starring in the most exciting teaming of the year.

As the tough, open-shirted boss of a Merchant Marine freighter, Gable comes back in the virile type of role which kept him among the ten best box-office bets for ten years, while Miss Garson makes an abrupt about-face from her recent costume characterizations to play an utterly captivating modern girl.

The story of "Adventure," heavily charged with both drama and comedy, has Gable and his pal Thomas Mitchell, on a big shore leave in San Francisco. Mitchell, who has made certain promises when his life is saved following a shipwreck, fails to keep them and, as a result, believes he has "lost his soul." In an effort to convince him otherwise, Gable enlists the aid of Miss Garson, playing a rather prim librarian.

Her primness soon wears off when she and her roommate, Joan Blondell, spend a riotous evening with Gable and his crew and Miss Garson finds herself involved both in a dance marathon and a free-for-all barroom brawl. She also finds herself very much in love after a whirlwind courtship with Gable at a little farmhouse. It is not until after their impetuous marriage, when Gable prepares to shove off on another cruise, that Miss Garson realizes she is married to a man who will spend very little time with her, and decides the whole thing was a grave mistake. Gable leaves but returns in less than a year to discover he's about to become a father, and the twisled destinies of the pair are resolved in an emotional climactic scene.

The warmly moving story of a beautiful woman's desperate search for happiness, is grippingly told in Warner Bros.' latest film drama, "My Reputation," which opens Wednesday at the Cass theater. Starring Barbara Stanwyck, the film features a generally excellent company of supporting players including George Brent, Lucile Watson, Warner Anderson, John Ridgely and Eve Arden.

Rites Today for Once Eagle Man

EAGLE. (Special)—Funeral services were held Thursday morning in Lincoln for David M. Hursh 78, of Bennet, former Eagle resident, who died Sunday afternoon in Lincoln.

Burial was in the Eagle cemetery.

Rev. R. E. Rangelier, former pastor of the Trinity Lutheran church here, was in charge of the services.

Mr. Hursh was the brother of Mrs. William Osenkop and W. H. Hursh of Eagle.

Wheeler Defeat Slap at Truman

WASHINGTON (AP)—A representative reaction among the democratic leadership here Thursday to the defeat of Sen. Burton K. Wheeler in the Montana primary was: It is too bad that President Truman had anything to say about the contest.

Wheeler was defeated for the democratic nomination by Loeff Erickson, former Montana state supreme court justice.

Defeated Wheeler

Mr. Truman definitely entered the primary fight on the side of Wheeler last week, defending him against charges that Wheeler was an enemy of railroad labor.

At the same time, Erickson had the backing of the CIO Political Action committee and CIO President Philip Murray, plus James Roosevelt, son of the late president.

The Erickson victory produced

EDSON'S WASHINGTON COLUMN

BY FRED EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(AP)—The whole year's worth of war bonds, so freely purchased in 1945 and 1946, and apparently to be sold in 1946, sales of all types of war savings bonds were not a billion dollars greater than redemptions.

The period of war-bond cancellations, reconversion, has come and gone; a long, hard year of strikes has come and gone. And still only 20 per cent of all bonds sold are held by their owners.

Finances released by the Treasury's War Relocation Administration show that in 1945, 20 billion dollars were cashed in, and 20 billion dollars were outstanding.

If the percentage run-in sounds high, it can be explained by a number of factors not visible in the figures themselves. Reasons given by people who have cashed in their savings bonds include: source material on what has happened to the financial condition of large numbers of people in the last year.

The number of people who are buying bonds on reconversion plans has fallen off. The high was 27 million last November. Today it is 15 million. But the idea that all, or a large part, of the war-time earners have had to turn in their bonds does not appear to be correct.

Those who have cashed their bonds are not necessarily the hardest hit by strikes. In the Pittsburgh and Detroit areas, where the centers of steel and auto stocks that listed nearly 100 million redemptions actually declined during the shut-down period.

Workers whose earnings in these industries were better than average weathered the strikes without having to sacrifice savings. Large income groups did not fare so well.

When their earnings declined, the poorer people, who bought bonds heavily during the war, had to cash in first, and they're out of the bond-buying market now.

For the first six months of 1946, sales of "E" Bonds in the 10th states of Nebraska, Kansas, Iowa, and the District of Columbia, plus the average-income District of Columbia and the state of Massachusetts, were greater than redemptions. These are the best records.

WEST VIRGINIA, Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Kentucky—the big coal-producing states—have great records, with only 20 to 25 per cent of the bonds owned there cashed in, despite the coal strike.

In general, Southern and Western states have the lowest records, with from 25 to 35 per cent of 1945 people's bonds cashed in.

Southern California and Michigan, which were big aircraft-production centers, also experienced heavy cashing-in of bonds in the first half of the year. But much of it is believed to have come from migrant war-workers who cashed in their bonds, then used the money to go back where they came from.

Treasury will put on another drive to sell bonds next fall. They hope that by that time there will be enough stability so that sales will again exceed redemptions.

THIS CURIOUS WORLD

A FEW STARFISH PRODUCE ABOUT 200 MILLION EGGS ANNUALLY.

KWIZ KORNER

IF YOU BELONGED TO THE NATIONAL SPELEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, WOULD BE INTERESTED IN WHAT?

CAVES SCYTHIAN AMATEUR OPERA

ANSWER: The exploring and cataloging of caves.

NEXT: What is our largest rodent?

Boy's Sport Shirts

\$1.00

BOYS POLO SHIRTS

50c

We're Trying to Keep Prices Down

Wescott's

Since 1879

Boy's Sport Shirts

\$1.00

BOYS POLO SHIRTS

50c

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