

ESTABLISHED 1881
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Furse's Fresh Flashes

We suspect the "mad hatter" set the price on the missus new spring bonnet.
It won't be long now until the bathing beaches will begin looking like a flock of magazine covers.
A psyclologist suggests rubber heels to combat spring fever...

Disarmament Problem



experienced and loyal postal employees more money. We're going to lose them to private industry" he reminded Vursell that he had voted for postal pay hikes himself.
Missouri's Bill Cole chimed in soon a heated 3-way battle was in full flare...

EDITORIALS

BOOST THE FIREMEN

Although the current drive for funds for the local Volunteer Fire Department have met with considerable success, according to Fire Chief Henry Donat, more funds can be used for the purchase of badly needed equipment.
Individuals and business groups of the city have contributed on a generous scale during the past few weeks, however, contributions from the rural areas near the city have lagged...

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

WASHINGTON—Notes from the secret republican house caucus—Big debate over federal aid to education, also salary raises for postal employees. Speaker Joe Martin was opposed to both.
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American Legion Poppy Day, May 1

Disabled veterans at Lincoln Hospital are rushing completion of memorial poppies which will be worn throughout 1948 in honor of the war dead on Poppy Day, May 1, according to Mrs. Louise Baumgart, chairman of Hugh J. Keams unit of the American Legion Auxiliary.
The local Auxiliary unit already has received the poppies which will be distributed here. All of the little red flowers are individually shaped by hand, providing employment for veterans unable to do other work.

Mrs. Fred Lugsch Honored Guest

A neighborhood birthday party was held at the home of Mrs. J. E. Petersen, April 22, in honor of Mrs. Fred Lugsch, Assistant hostesses were Mrs. George Lushinsky and Mrs. G. A. Lagerstrom.
The afternoon was spent in visiting and playing games. Winners were high score, Mrs. John E. Schutz, second, Mrs. Lydia Walton of Omaha, consolation prize went to Mrs. Hilda Johansen.

ROAD LEVY COULD CARRY

Many persons are lamenting the fact the proposed one-mill rural road special levy failed to carry at the recent election, due to the fact that a large percentage of voters failed to mark this special ballot.
From our point of view we are not greatly disappointed over the outcome. First, the voters marking the ballot revealed their willingness to add to the road fund by a near two to one majority. This indicates to this writer that Cass Countians will go along on a sound road building program.
Second in talking to many who went to the polls April 13, a number were not sold on the levy being used for the specific purpose of constructing rural road roads. Many felt any money raised by general taxation should be used through the regular road and bridge fund and spent in the areas most in need of repair and rebuilding, regardless of its location or purpose.

Taft's a Communist

Loquacious Congressman Fred "Doc" Smith of Ohio fired a blast at the Taft-Ellender-Wagner housing bill. "It's a communist measure," sputtered Smith.
"Well, we're all entitled to our opinions," retorted Ohio's George Bender. "But this is the first time I knew that Bob Taft (sponsor of the bill) was a communist."
The caucus howled.
GOP leader Charlie Halleck pleaded with Colleagues not to force bills out of committee by singing discharge petitions. (He had reference to margarine)...

Plant Trees Near Holy Rosary Church

In this Arbor Day time of the year, many of the local people have been busy in sewing grass seed, planting their gardens and setting out trees for the further beautification of their home or buildings.
Father Edward C. Tucheck, the

'Off-the-Record' Muzzles Truman's Best Speech

WASHINGTON—(NEA)—There's altogether too much good news around this town being put "off the record." For instance: The best speech President Harry S. Truman ever made in his life was an "off the record" one of some 15 minutes before the closing session of the American Society of Newspaper Editors convention here in Washington.
More than 200 editors were present, 100 Washington correspondents and 500 other guests. They all know about it and are telling their friends about it. But not one line of the subject matter has so far busted into print or on the air.
Truman had previously been on the record and on the air in a short, set speech to the editors about the need for his anti-inflation program. He read from a manuscript somebody else had written for him. It was cold headcheese without pickles or mustard—important, but flat, dull and nothing you could sink your teeth into.
When the President went "off the record" he dropped his lecturing attitude. He talked slowly and naturally. He had pause, pause and emphasis. He made sense. His audience applauded him wildly.
The silly part of this whole performance is that there wasn't anything the President said "off the record" that couldn't have been put on the record. It would have done the American people good to hear it. It would have made perfect material for Voice of America broadcasts to Communist as well as non-Communist countries overseas. It would have made bigger headlines than the President got for his anti-inflation talk. It would have done Harry Truman a lot of good, personally and politically.
But under the unwritten rules of this newspaper and radio business, "off the record" remarks of an official are not printed or broadcast in any way. The real purpose of "off the record" statements is to keep writers or commentators from putting out incorrect information. "Off the record" press conferences are also called to brief correspondents on news coming up for future release. This provides background so that reporters can write intelligent pieces.
"Off the record" remarks therefore do have a real usefulness at some times. Where the system goes wrong is that much of the material given "off the record" might just as well be put "on the record."
In the first place, as in all other businesses, there are a few bad actors in press and radio work who make a specialty of breaking the rules by disclosing "off the record" information. In one form or another, most "off the record" dope gets printed eventually.
Secondly, the "off the record" practice operates as a kind of peacetime censorship. It was never meant for that.
FINALLY, the truth hurts only criminals, and if the tradition of a free press means anything, it is that there should be full access to all sources of information and freedom to print it.
President Truman's "off the record" speech to the newspaper editors was the perfect example of this system gone wrong. Dealing with American peace objectives, the defense program and relations with Russia, it was a frank statement of principles that the American public and the world is entitled to know about. It isn't too late yet to put such remarks on the record.
The editors had two other demonstrations of this same thing at their Washington convention. In luncheon meetings, they heard Secretary of Defense James V. Forrestal and Undersecretary of State Robert A. Lovett talk "off the record" on national defense policies and relations with Russia. There wasn't anything they said that couldn't have been put on the record, either.
If most of the restrictions now placed on "off the record" material were completely done away with, the press, radio and the public would be a lot better off.

Dies in Montana Following Stroke

Mrs. W. E. Hickey of this city received word of the death of her brother, Charles E. Kippinger, 88, at his home in Missoula, Montana, following the effects of a stroke suffered a week ago. Mr. Kippinger spent most of his lifetime in Lincoln and is known to many of the Plattsmouth people as he visited here in 1946 with Mrs. Hickey.
Mrs. Kippinger died in 1936 at Missoula and since that time the husband has continued to make his home in that city.
There is surviving his death, one son and two daughters, Clarence Kippinger of Omaha, Miss Mary Alice Kippinger of San Jose, California, Mrs. John A. Swanson of Pendray, Montana.

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DOWN MEMORY LANE

TEN YEARS AGO
John E. Turner filed for reelection to office of County Treasurer. Dr. and Mrs. F. G. Burgess enroute to their home at Cedar Rapids, Neb. from a winter spent in Texas, were visitors at the home of Mrs. J. A. Donelan, sister of Mrs. Burgess. Holy Rosary and St. John's parishes held marble tournament under auspices of CYO, with winner being Ivan Smith and Tommy Doody of St. Johns and E. Gradoville and Bill Reddie from Holy Rosary. Rain and windstorm caused some damage in this vicinity. M. W. A. sponsored a Modern Youth club.
TWENTY ONE YEARS AGO
Richard Avar, former resident and well known musician departed from Omaha with his family to make their home in Vancouver, British Columbia. W. D. McMahon, local commercial department instructor was selected to teach summer school at Peru. Grounds at Sattler Funeral home were being landscaped. Senior, Junior Sophomore and Freshmen classes participated in tree-planting ceremony in parking at school as a feature in observance of Forestry Week. Dr. G. L. Taylor, well known Murray veterinarian received position at Columbus, Ohio. IOOF Lodge observed 126th anniversary of order with H. P. Rankin of Lincoln as speaker. Base Ball park east of the Burlington passenger station given much needed repairs.
A Kentucky Colonel always closed his eyes when he took a drink. When questioned concerning his habit, he explained: "The sight of good likah, suh," he said, "always makes my mouth watah, suh, an' I do not like to dilute my drink, suh."

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