

The Plattsmouth Journal

ESTABLISHED 1881

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RONALD R. FURSE Publisher
FRANK H. SMITH Editor
VERN WATERMAN Advertising Manager

Helen E. Heinrich, News Editor.
Merle D. Furse, Plant Superintendent
Harry Wilcoxon, Manager Job Department

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EDITORIALS

IT'S TIME TO ACT

It is deplorable that it takes a death at the intersection of Sixth and Main streets to bring to the attention of highway officials the seriousness of traffic conditions at this busy corner.

For several years Plattsmouth city officials have urged the installation of traffic signals at this point to eliminate one of the most serious hazards for motorists and pedestrians that exists between Omaha and Kansas City. Not only does the intersection carry the entire load of downtown traffic, but also is the intersecting point of Highways 34 and 75, one of the busiest thoroughfares in Nebraska.

Hundreds of cars, trucks and busses pass this busy corner at every hour of the day and night. It not only carries a heavy motor traffic, but it is also a focal point for at least fifty per cent of the city's pedestrians. Hundreds of school children cross this busy street three times each day. Half the city's population must cross Main or Sixth streets to and from their homes.

City officials have done their best to cope with this problem. Police are stationed at the corner to assist school children in crossing, but with through traffic on Sixth it is not enough. Signal lights should and must be installed without further delay.

The Journal believes it a direct responsibility of the State Highway Department to make this installation. The heavy load carried by the two highways, added to city traffic is directly responsible for the dangerous condition that exists.

LET'S GO PLACES THIS SUMMER

That's the opening line of a most seasonable letter that passed across our desk this Tuesday morning.

Continuing, the letter got us all steamed up by adding . . . "Yes, in spite of war talk, high prices, shortages—you can get away from it all! And you have such a grand selection of places which you can visit . . . mountains, beaches, forests, wide-open spaces. . . . See the world's most popular beaches . . . Alaska . . . San Francisco . . . The Riviera . . . Canadian Rockies . . ."

We were stunned by the generosity expressed in this colorful missile. The wife had the bags packed, the dog had been farmed out to the neighbors before we discovered they had overlooked enclosing a check to cover expenses.

IT SAYS HERE

High building costs can be curtailed to some extent by ingenious planning, foresight, and some compromise, according to the building forum in a popular magazine.

"Your cue today is to use less cubage, but make it work harder," the article states in part. "Get a spacious effect with big windows, 'open plan' terraces that extend the indoors outdoors. If your dream house budget is limited, eliminate the basement, have a dining alcove instead of a dining room, a car port instead of a garage. Choose a low pitched roof. Select a new-type heating unit that can be tucked into a niche, under the stairs, or even in the attic. Build your house close to the ground or on a concrete slab, saving cubage, steps and terraces."

And, if you still can't afford it, we might suggest you purchase an army surplus pup tent. It would probably be just as comfortable.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

TEN YEARS AGO

Miss Minnie Guthman won first honors and Mrs. R. W. Clement second at the Afternoon Bridge Club entertained by Mrs. Henry McMaken at her home . . . Many residents viewed total eclipses of the moon at an early morning hour . . . Music Department of the schools under direction of Mr. Lee Myers gave a recital at the high school . . . Four Cass County boys were selected to Boys State—they were John F. Arnold, Louisville; Donald Nelson, Murray; Arthur C. Everett, Weeping Water; and James A. Lake, Elmwood.

TWENTY ONE YEARS AGO

Mrs. L. L. Wiles, Mrs. John W. Crabill and Mrs. J. E. Wiles were hostesses at a pruniphal handkerchief shower honoring Grace Beeson . . . Kathleen Trooper was selected as Queen of the May by the members of the high school at their May Day fete . . . Miss Marie Fitzgerald entertained a group of friends at a bridge party at her home near Mynard . . . Mrs. Frank Barkus was elected president of the Central Building PTA . . . Missouri river swollen to flood tide with a rise of 3 feet and 7 inches flooding bottomlands.

Furse's Fresh Flashes

It's the girl with the most check who blushes the least.

Scientists find that persons under the influence of liquor sunburn more easily than sober people. Maybe that's the reason for the "off-color" look the next day.

Right now the average man can hardly wait until his wife nags him into getting out and cutting the lawn.

A girl who's worth a million doesn't have to look like it.

Scientists are right. Man did develop from the monkey. Pay one week's grocery bill and you won't argue about it.

A style authority insists that men need more color in their clothes. We think green is nice—especially in the pants pocket.

Many politicians who start out to name names wind up just calling them.

Women are still told to remove their hats in theatres. That is, if the usher can recognize them.

Saying you have no bad habits makes you almost to good to be true.

Flies travel at the rate of five feet a second, but it will take them all this coming summer to pass you up.

Nobody can uplift anybody by stepping on their necks.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

Copyright, 1948, By The Bell Syndicate, Inc.)
DREW PEARSON SAYS:

IF SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE ANDERSON HADN'T REVERSED FARM LEADERS REGARDING CROP SHORTAGE, EUROPE MIGHT BE COMMUNIST TODAY; ANDERSON UNCOVERED TEAPOT DOME SCANDAL; BAN PRESIDENT LED TO STABLE PRICE OF SUGAR.

(Ed. Note.—Clinton Anderson, retiring secretary of Agriculture, today receives the brass ring from Drew Pearson, good for one free ride on the Washington Merry-Go-Round.)

WASHINGTON—Several editors have said some nice things about this columnist in connection with winning the Italian elections. However, the real man who won the elections stepped out of the Truman Cabinet this week and went back to New Mexico to run for the United States Senate.

For if Secretary of Agriculture Clinton Anderson had not made a certain, vital decision regarding farm policy at the end of the war, starvation and communism both would be rampant in Italy today.

Few people know about that decision. It came at the end of the war when American farm leaders had visions of farm surpluses and falling prices. Wanting to avoid a farm slump, the killing of little pigs and the plowing under of cotton, farm leaders urged less production.

But secretary Anderson said no. This was a tough decision to make. For if Anderson was wrong, it meant that he would be cussed out by farmers for years to come. Carefully he read the reports of David Houston, secretary of Agriculture under Woodrow Wilson, for guidance. Houston gave him none.

Nevertheless, Anderson finally demanded that farmers increase, not decrease production—which is the big reason why we have had enough grain to feed Europe.

NO PICTURE FARMER

Clint Anderson has been one of the most refreshing and variegated personalities in the turbulent Truman administration. Once when asked by the March of Time to pose with a pitchfork, he said: "I'm an insurance man, not a farmer." Actually he has a cattle ranch back in Albuquerque, has made a lot of money at insurance, voted against all insurance measures in the house of representatives.

Though wealthy, he has made some of the most effective speeches in congress championing labor and blasting lush business profits. FDR was one of his idols, and the Anderson Library on the late president is one of the best in the country.

Coming to New Mexico from South Dakota because of lung trouble, Anderson first worked for the Albuquerque Journal where he uncovered the first tip on the Fall-teapot dome scandal. This was the fact that the then secretary of the Interior had received a \$25,000 stallion from Harry Sinclair. That started the train of circumstances which finally upset the teapot dome lease, brought two resignations from the Collidge cabinet and sent both Fall and Sinclair to jail.

Later, Anderson went into insurance. Became the biggest individual insurance man in his state, then was elected to the house of representatives. Now Anderson is going home to run for the upper branch of congress—the U. S. Senate.

Though Anderson says he was a better congressman than cabinet member, actually he did an outstanding job as secretary of Agriculture.

SOLVING SOAP SHORTAGE

Not only in regard to grain, but sugar, copra and cotton was he most farsighted. During the first months after the war, the world, desperately hard up for soap, received no coconuts from the

"Now if I Can Stay Out of the Rough!"



Philippines. Plenty still grew there, but weren't being harvested. So Anderson induced the Army and Navy to send small boats up Philippine rivers and trucks to inland plantations—until enough copra was carried out to solve the world's fat and soap shortage.

The end of the war also found the U. S. commodity credit corporation with 7,500,000 bales of surplus cotton. Not only was the taxpayer likely to be stuck for this cotton, but the surplus had a depressing effect on the market.

So Anderson conceived the idea of selling it to Japan and Germany for the manufacture of textiles. Both countries needed a nonwar industry, and textiles were the best answer. Anderson sold Japan and Germany the cotton; the American cotton farmer benefited; Europe and Asia got badly needed clothing.

Sugar Salesmanship
One of Anderson's greatest triumphs was his purchase of two Cuban sugar crops at the same time. Sugar then was scarce, and in order to keep prices down, he wanted to buy both the 1946 and 1947 Cuban crops. But the Cuban's said no, and Agriculture department emissaries got nowhere with them.

Finally Anderson, himself, went to Cuba, called on President Grau San Martin.

"This is a situation where Cuba can win the good will of the United States for a long time," he told the Cuban president. "Cuba faces the alternative of having sugar prices shoot way crash—or of keeping them steady. A boom and bust such as after the last war isn't going to do you any good. But if you cooperate with us now, we'll remember it."

President Grau said he agreed, but that Cuban workers were afraid the price of U. S. wheat, lard, etc. would go up, so they would find themselves paying more while sugar sold for the same low price. So Anderson proposed an escalator clause by which the price of sugar would increase if the cost of American lard and wheat increased.

The president of Cuba agreed. In 72 hours Anderson had closed a deal which other emissaries had not been able to sign in six weeks. That is one reason why the price of sugar has remained so stable.

Most people think that running the department of agriculture is a matter of putting out booklets on soil conservation, boll weevil and how to preserve vegetables. But it isn't. And in these days, where crop shortages can cause communism, the U. S. A. has been lucky to have as secretary of Agriculture a farsighted statesman.

Cornell University Four-H Club specialists, carrying their home improvement project throughout New York state, teach country women everything from how to build a closet to making a desk out of an old-fashioned washstand.

Nazi's Wife Sues For War Spoils

VIENNA AP.—Hans Wittke was the appraiser of the Nazi authorities in Vienna. Whenever a Jew was compelled to rid himself of his belongings in favor of an "Aryan," Wittke fixed the amount of compensation to be paid to the Jew.

Hans had his own price-fixing system. He wouldn't appraise a fur coat, valued at \$2,000 for more than \$2. He himself "bought" a house, a villa, a great many works of art, valuable furniture, furs for his wife and what not.

At the approach of the Red Army, the Wittkes moved to more western regions. But that didn't help them much. Hans was arrested and is now under indictment as a bad war criminal. Liese, the appraiser's wife, returned to Vienna where the Wittkes had sublet their apartment to the Voglhuber family. The

Voglhubers did not expect to see the Wittkes again. So they took possession of the former Jewish furs, jewelry, lingerie and what else the Wittkes left behind.

Mrs. Wittke now is suing the Voglhubers. She asks compensation for the valuables they appropriated. But for the \$2,000 fur coat her husband had appraised at \$2, she does not ask for only \$2. She asks for the entire \$2,000. Whether she'll get it depends on the timing of the trials.

Should the sentence in the Voglhuber trial be pronounced prior to the trial in the war crime trial, she might get some com-

Hoffman's First Big Job Is Recruiting, Not Recovery

BY PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent



WASHINGTON—(NEA)—Paul Hoffman has been Economic Cooperation Administrator for a month. He has performed no miracles in that time. If, as a result, Congress and the American people begin to lose interest in Marshall Plan operations, that's bad.

Hoffman's first month has been spent in recruiting. He has had to build a \$6,000,000,000 organization from the top down. Jobs could have been filled with punks in a hurry. But getting \$50,000-a-year men to take jobs paying \$15,000 a year is hard.

At the end of his fourth week, however, Hoffman feels he has nearly all his key jobs filled. Howard Bruce as his deputy. Wayne C. Taylor as director of operations. Averell Harriman as roving ambassador in Europe. William C. Foster director of missions.

It may be July before Administrator Hoffman can announce any action on recovery projects, which is the important part of his job. The relief part of the program is an old story. The U. S. has been feeding people ever since the war was over. Shipping out a million bushels of wheat is no longer news.

No one is more aware of this than Hoffman. That's why he is banking heavily on Ambassador Harriman's first quick trip to Europe. He is to be gone about 10 days. In that time it is hoped he can look over whatever specific plans OECC—the 16-nation Office of European Economic Co-operation—may have.

THERE is a suspicion it may not have very many. But if Ambassador Harriman can find 10 or 20 good projects sure of contributing to recovery, he can bring them back to Washington and say, "Here's something we can go ahead on." Hoffman can then begin to function constructively.

He believes it important that the European recovery organization stay in Europe. Most countries want to send missions to Washington to throw their weight around. Hoffman is fighting that off. Their job is over there, not over here.

It is a job for all Western Europe, not separate countries. There is a pretty-well-founded suspicion that the first estimates made by the 16 European nations' experts on a country-by-country basis are not very realistic. Many of the projects they have counted on will have to be cut down or cut out.

It's impossible to plan every detail a full year ahead. Some of the plans that look promising on paper may be found to yield small results. Others that don't look good at the start may show surprising results. When they do it will be necessary to shift funds from bad projects to those that pay off.

FOR instance, one of the big items even after the original Paris conference estimates were scaled down by the Harriman Committee and State Department was for \$60,000,000 worth of freight cars from the U. S.

Knowing how scarce freight cars were in the U. S. and how long it would take to get deliveries, Administrator Hoffman wondered why the Europeans couldn't use trucks. He discovered that it was against the laws of most countries to have trucks cross national boundaries. The solution for that one, in Hoffman's mind, is not to order more freight cars but to tear down European trade barriers.

Another obstacle being encountered is an attitude, found among some British pessimists, that the recovery program isn't going to work. They say that at the end of four years, if all goes well, Europe will be about where it is today. The problem will then be what to do next.

The answer to that one is that this isn't any four-year program. It is now a one-year program. If it doesn't show results in the first year, there isn't going to be any more money. The quicker Europeans realize that, the better off they'll be. In the meantime, Mr. Hoffman deserves a full year in which to show results.

But if Wittke is sentenced as a war criminal and his belongings "acquired" during the Nazi regime are confiscated, she will not be able to sustain her claim.

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