SECTION TWO
CASS COUNTY'S
NEWSpaper

THE PLATTSMOUTH JOURNAL

UNITED PRESS
AND
NWNS SERVICE

THE PLATTSMOUTH, NEBRASKA, SEMI-WEEKLY JOURNAL
Thursday, March 3, 1949 PAGE ONE

The Plattsmouth Journal

— ESTABLISHED IN 1881 —

Published semi-weekly, Mondays and Thursdays, at 409-413 Main Street, Plattsmouth, Cass County, Nebraska.

RONALD R. FURSE.....Publisher
FRANK H. SMITH..... Editor
HAROLD TUCKER...Advertising Manager

O. C. Osterholm, Plant Superintendent
Harry Wilcoxen, Manager Job Department
Helen E. Heinrich, News Editor
Helen Mrasek, News and Circulation

NEBRASKA Press ASSOCIATION Member NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: $3.50 per year in Cass and adjoining counties, $4.00 per year elsewhere, in advance, by mail outside the city of Plattsmouth. By carrier in Plattsmouth, 15 cents for two weeks.

Entered at the Postoffice at Plattsmouth, Nebraska as second class mail matter in accordance with the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

EDITORIALS

MEDICAL-CARE INSURANCE?

The American Medical Association, spurred by the accusation of 136 members that it had failed to develop a program for improved medical care, has come forward with a twelve-point program which is generally believed to be an effort to head off the President's universal medical-care insurance plan.

The Association, said to represent 150,000 physicians, recently levied an assessment of $25 against each member to finance its campaign against the compulsory proposals by receiving attention in Congressional circles. We will not attempt to discuss the program offered by the Medical Association until a complete copy is available for study. It should be apparent however, that if the Association has a fund of more than $2,000,000 to finance its fight against medical care insurance, the public will be advised as to its position.

It has been somewhat surprising that some doctors throughout the nation fail to make a difference between the economic problem related to medical care and the medical problems relating to the treatment of patients. Certainly, if the government confines its efforts largely to a program of insurance to meet the economic disaster that disease inflicts upon individuals and leaves the treatment of patients to doctors, the medical profession has nothing to fear except the possibility that a greater number of patients will be able to pay for their medical treatment.

Of course, it would be unwise to pass final judgment upon the proposal of the Medical Association or that of President Truman or Senator Taft, until these programs are outlined in complete detail. It may develop that there is some possibility of "socialized medicine" which might produce some mediocrity in the skill available to serve the sick and there likewise exists the possibility that, however well-planned such an insurance program may be, it may turn into a bureaucracy to encroach upon the field of physicians in the treatment of the patients.

★ ★ ★

IN THE INTEREST OF THE U. S.

Wartime lend-lease shipments to thirty-eight Allies cost the United States $50,205,229,788 in the seven-year period from March 11, 1941.

The figures are from a report made by the President to Congress, which discloses that aircraft and aeronautical supplies constituted the most expensive item and that the next category covered vessels and other watercraft.

While this is a tremendous sum of money, it would be a mistake for the people of the United States to accept the theory that it represented a gift to other fighting nations. Mainly, the assistance was in the national interest of the United States and is to be justified solely on the basis of our self-interest.

One should not overlook that the justification for the European Recovery Program is not humanitarian, or representative of an idealistic attempt to help mankind. It represents cold-blooded calculation as to the interest of the United States. These require that, if possible, the Western nations of Europe become self-supporting from an economic standpoint and strong enough to defend their territory from aggression. These goals, if achieved, mean much to the security and safety of the United States.

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DOWN MEMORY LANE

TEN YEARS AGO

Margaret Davis who for two years had corresponded with Mary You, a young girl living in the Hawaiian Islands, was the recipient of a box of jewelry, a bracelet, string of beads and purse, made from the seeds collected by the donor on the islands. . . . Kenneth Tefft, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Tefft of Avoca, was awarded honor as champion speller of Cass County schools in spelling contest held here, conducted by Dr. Roy Eaton of Omaha, originator of the Eaton spelling book. Edward Gradoville of this city placed first in written contest and Imogene Van Every, third. . . . Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Johannes of Nebraska City entertained members of staff of Joe's New Way stores and Mullen meat market at a dinner party at the Grand Hotel in Nebraska City.

★ ★ ★

TWENTY YEARS AGO

The Holy Rosary Catholic church received gift of electrical devices to be installed on one of the altars of the church, the gift having been made by one of the parish members. . . . The Coronado apartment house at Third and Vine streets was sold to R. F. Harrington of Lincoln by M. M. Bloom of Omaha. . . . Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Thomas entertained at their home in honor of the 19th birthday anniversary of Harry Matthews of Omaha, a friend and associate of their son Roland. . . . Legion members completed installation of a new 18-inch Blizzard ventilating fan in their community building, Al Olson was in charge of installation with other members assisting. . . . Miss Erma Stivers entertained at the home of her parents Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Stivers, Cedar Creek, honoring her sister Miss Lucille on her fourteenth birthday.

★ ★ ★

Furse's Fresh Flashes

Our butcher up the street says he's ashamed to charge 90c a pound for T-bones, but the critter's mother is mighty proud.

★ ★ ★

A Plattsmouth man told us the other day that he had Indian blood in his veins. When we asked him what tribe it was, he remarked that he didn't think it was a tribe, he was inclined to believe it was just a wandering Indian.

★ ★ ★

It's not always the brightest girl that casts the most reflections.

★ ★ ★

If you think paying bills is hard, just try collecting them.

★ ★ ★

Middle age is that period in life when a man stops wondering how he can escape temptation, and begins to wonder if he's missing any.

★ ★ ★

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, reports that her new boy friend is just a playboy—a woman chaser with a top hat, white lies and tales.

★ ★ ★

You can't convince an intelligent youngster that eating carrots is good for the eyesight when he knows darn well a cat can see better than a rabbit.

★ ★ ★

All sorts of marvelous things are attached to the new automobiles on display, but what we'd like to know is what research engineers are doing to make the clock on the dashboard run.

Careful Now, This Could End in Disaster

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

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DREW PEARSON SAYS:

HARRY TRUMAN REALLY DISRUPTED PEARSON HOUSEHOLD; ON THE ONE EVENING THE PEARSONS TURNED OFF THE TELEPHONE MR. TRUMAN CHOSE TO BLAST; WILL MR. TRUMAN BECOME MEMBER OF SERVANTS OF BROTHERHOOD?

WASHINGTON. — It's funny how, when you make a promise to your wife, something always happens so you can't keep it.

Last week while riding home from California, I made a lot of promises first to myself, and later to the little woman about spending more time at home, seeing more of my family, and taking a good rest on the farm. I had had enough of international good will, I told myself. And after I got caught up with a big pile of mail and wrote letters to the heads of the railroads and a raft of governors, mayors and other folks who had been extremely nice, I would take Mrs. P. away for the little rest we'd always talked about but somehow never seemed to manage.

So, filled with all these good thoughts, I got home and began to put them into operation right away. Mrs. P. looked dubious at first, but then she almost began to believe me. For I did a very revolutionary thing. I turned off the telephone.

Mrs. P. has always talked about what would hapepn if I turned off the phone—her idea being that nothing would happen at all. The world, she said, would go on just as usual, and nobody would miss me, nor I them.

So I told her I was going to settle down for a nice long evening with her, wasn't even going to look at my desk, and just to show that I really meant business, I turned off the phone.

Of course, I didn't turn off the phone in the kitchen—and I'm not quite sure whether this was by accident or by design. With the phone turned off upstairs, you can still barely hear the phone in the kitchen, but since it sounds faint and far away I am a little braver about not answering it.

HARRY TRUMAN SPEAKS

Well, anway, having turned off the phone, I began to tell Mrs. P. how I had reformed, wasn't going to work so hard and how we would go away for a little trip. We even began to figure out where we were going.

Everything was lovely, and we even had one solid uninterrupted hour together, when suddenly the telephone in the kitchen began to ring. I was very brave I ignored it. It rang and rang, but it didn't faze me at all. I just pretended not to hear.

Finally the phone stopped, but about 30 minutes later it rang again. Though it was way off in the kitchen, nevertheless it had a certain air of persistency. Finally I could resist no longer, I picked up the receiver.

The United Press was calling to tell me that President Truman had sounded off at a dinner at the Reserve Officers' association, calling me an S. O. B. They wanted my comment.

I told them I was spending a quiet evening with my wife, and that if Harry Truman wanted to spend his evenings away from his wife making speeches about other people that was his privilege. I didn't see why I should comment.

But, said the United Press, other speakers at the dinner specifically mentioned you and the President's remarks definitely were directed at you.

So, in a weak moment, I commented.

Then I remembered that other long, persistent telephone ring; so, since the fat was in the fire, I called up the Associated Press. "We've just been trying to get you," they said, "but you were out."

"Oh," I replied.

Since I'm supposed to be a tough, thick-skinned newspaperman, I didn't tell them I was sitting at home listening to their ring and trying to be brave enough not to answer it.

After that the phone just kept on ringing, and has kept on ringing every day since. I haven't written all those letters thanking the folks who were nice to me, and I haven't taken the vacation with Mrs. P. In fact, I'm a little surprised that she's still speaking to me.

"Of course," I was mean enough to tell her, "it's all your fault. You elected him. You were the one who was rooting for him. And if he disrupts our evening and our vacation, then it's your fault, not mine. After all, you were the one who put him in the White House."

MR. TRUMAN'S LEMON

When I was a youngster I had a prof named Edwin Tomlinson who used to hand out a lot of advice which I didn't pay much attention to then, but which has proved valuable since. One thing he advised was: 'If someone hands you a lemon, make it into lemonade."

That's what I'd like to do with the lemon President Truman handed me the other night. I don't see any reason why the initials "S. O. B." should necessarily stand for what Mr. Truman meant them to mean. The meaning of any word is what's in people's minds. Some English words are fighting terms in England though they have an innocent meaning here. When I was in Australia some years ago I was shocked to hear an Australian girl use a word which never would be tolerated in polite society here. But it meant nothing there.

So words and their abbreviations are all a matter of education, custom and general usage. And I am sure Mr. Truman is a good enough sport to join me in putting a new interpretation on the initials "S. O. B."—which can much better mean "Servants of Brotherhood."

When Harry Truman was a farm boy driving mules in Missouri, I don't doubt that he needed some pretty strong language. I have never driven mules in Missouri, but I had 100 Missouri mules and 100 Albanian muledrivers under my command in Yugoslavia once; and since the Albanians couldn't understand Missourian and the mules couldn't understand Albanian, and since the Serbian corporal couldn't understand either, I had to act as interpreter.

So, along with Harry Truman, I am familiar with mule-drivers' language.

However, neither Harry nor I are mule-drivers any more. We have graduated, I hope, to bigger and better things. Therefore, I am getting up an engraved "Servants of Brotherhood" membership certificate, and perhaps some other folks will join me in picking out people in their neighborhood or anyplace else who have really sacrificed for their fellow men.

There are all sorts of people in this country who are working hard at Democracy, and at being good neighbors and at doing things for others—not necessarily big shots, just ordinary folks. I'd like to write about some of them, tell what they're doing, and spread the word about the Servants of Brotherhood.

READ THE JOURNAL FOR THE LATEST IN NEWS.

THIS WEEK IN Washington

INDICATIONS NOW are that the Truman administration will attempt to (1) shave retail prices one way or another; (2) continue to support farm prices and at the same time beat down the retail food prices which show a tremendous spread between the farm and the grocery shelves; (3) boost the lower pay brackets up to 75 cents an hour; (4) extract higher taxes from corporations and, generally speaking, seek to restore a balance between prices and incomes.

Just how this will be done is not yet clear, but the President is taking the advice of his Council of Economic Advisers and the indications are that he also has held many conferences with business leaders in whom he has confidence here in Washington during the past weeks.

Although some large business firms are running full page ads in newspapers and magazines declaring that further tax or further controls would take away all incentives for further expansion, the council report to the President clearly indicated that the members believed that business profits were above the levels necessary to furnish incentives and funds for the expansion of business and to promote the sustained health of the economy.

For instance, with corporate profits before taxes rising from 30 billion dollars to about 34 billion dollars in 1948 and after taxes from 18 billion dollars in 1947 to 21 billion in 1948, there was plenty of incentive here for expansion. As a matter of fact, the profits were so high, viz., five per cent on sales and 10 per cent on net worth, the administration likely figures that not only must they take some of this profit in high taxes to put it into spending channels to increase the purchasing power, but must take it also to prevent an accumulation of idle money. Whether it is actually true that profits are too high and there is danger of idle money pools, is beyond the question. The fact is that this is the way the finger points, according to observers here.

The program suits labor, it suits a majority of the farmers and if retail prices are actually shaved, it will suit a majority of the consumers in all walks of life. These observers admit it's good politics and whether or not it's good economics will remain to be proven.

* * *

On the farm front a decline of some 400 million dollars in farm net income is in the picture, although gross farm income reached a new high in 1948 of more than 35.5 billion dollars as compared to 34.7 billion dollars in 1947. The rub was that farm expenses went up more to a figure of 18.1 billion dollars compared to 16.8 billion dollars in 1947. In addition, the total farm asset figure increased to about 130 billion dollars at the end of 1948, an increase of some eight billion dollars for the year. Most of the increase, however, was due to increased value of farm real estate which reached a new peak during the year.

This decline in net purchasing power or income of the farmers is one reason why the government likely will continue its support price program despite the fact that in some powerful sources this is being called a "subsidy to buy votes."

Farm economists disagree totally with business and other economists on the theory behind the farm price support program. While some business economists declare the program to support farm prices and at the same time try to reduce or control food prices is "ridiculous," the farmers declare they are looking into the big end of the horn. In explaining why they favor farm price supports, one farm leader said:

"Like other producers, farmers usually attempt to counterbalance lower unit prices by increasing the unit produced. Thus the net effect of lowered support prices will be simply to reduce farm income. It is even possible that failure to support farm prices at high levels will cost the treasury more than otherwise.

"If no controls are imposed and each farmer races to see how much he can produce in order to keep up his income despite the lower price, then the bottom may indeed drop out of farm prices. The public expenditure such a condition would necessitate might be far more than that of an orderly adjustment at present or high price supports."

What the government is seeking to do is to find a stable price figure somewhere between the floor farm price and the high retail price at which to peg the price of farm produce.

Taxi Men Hit Back

DANVILLE, Va. (U.P.) — Taxi drivers on strike here did more than picket their company. Shoppers loaded with groceries, instead of taking taxis home, piled into private cars which bore large placards: "A free ride home." The charitable drivers were the striking taxi men in their own cars, taking business away from the company.

Home Too Vulnerable

MARIETTA, O. (U.P.)—Mr. and Mrs. Love Martin are thinking about moving regardless of the housing shortage. They like their home but it is on a sharp bend in a highway. Twice in the past months cars have missed the curve and crashed into the house, causing $1,200 damage.

Patronize Journal Advertisers.

Egg Shelling Made Easy

AKRON, O. (U.P.)—A device designed to protect the housewife's fingers from being burned by boiled eggs has been perfected by Goodrich. It is a plastic egg holder which permits quick shelling after boiling without burns or bother. The company says both hard and soft-boiled eggs can be shelled with the holder.

It's a Girl

CHICAGO (U.P.) — Brookfield Zoo officials can name a new baby hippopotamus now and look forward to an extra $1,000 because of it. The animal was born March 25, but its sex wasn't determined until it left the warm water tank this month. It's a girl. Female hippopotami sell for $4,000, zoo keepers said, while males bring $3,000.

Murdock

Mrs. Florence McDonald

The school caucus will be held at the school house March 7th at 8 o'clock.

Mrs. Herman Kupke is quite ill and confined to his bed.

Mr. Jess Brown, who sold his property to Mrs. Ferdinand Lau moved to Ashland last weekend.

Mrs. Ferdinand Lau and daughter moved into their recently purchased property on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Reickert moved to their farm recently vacated by Mrs. Lau.

Mr. Lacey McDonald underfent a major operation at the Bryan Memorial hospital on Thursday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Thiel are the proud parents of a daughter born Friday evening, the 25th.

Mrs. Nettie Brunkow had the misfortune to fall and break her wrist Friday afternoon.

Mrs. Lloyd Gweke and daughter of Ord, Nebraska, came Friday to spend a few days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Rikli.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Craig were Lincoln shoppers on Monday.

Mrs. Jess Stock and new daughter came home from the hospital on Sunday.

Mrs. Frank Hemke spent Monday in Lincoln shopping.

Mrs. Albert Thiel and new daughter came home from the hospital on Monday.

On Saturday evening a stork shower was given in honor of Mrs. Eldon Stock at the home of Mrs. Rueben Stock. Mrs. Willard Stock was assistant hostess.

On Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. William Zable a birthday luncheon party was given in honor of Miss Viola Everett. Mrs. Matt Thimgan and Mrs. Charles Long were assistant hostesses.

Tuesday evening, Verle Stock, Marvin Wendt and Wayne Wendt left for Indiana where they will get the potato dicer for the mill making preparation to dehydrate potatoes.

YOUR brain budget

1.—The First Lady of the Land who was nicknamed "Lemonade Lucy" was the wife of (a) President Rutherford B. Hayes, (b) John Adams, (c) Andrew Jackson.

2.—The first college for women in the United States was (a) Wellesly, (b) Mt. Holyoke, (c) Barnard.

3.—The only state that has a unicameral (one house) legislature—and also the best record for longevity—is (a) Illinois, (b) Nevada, (c) Nebraska.

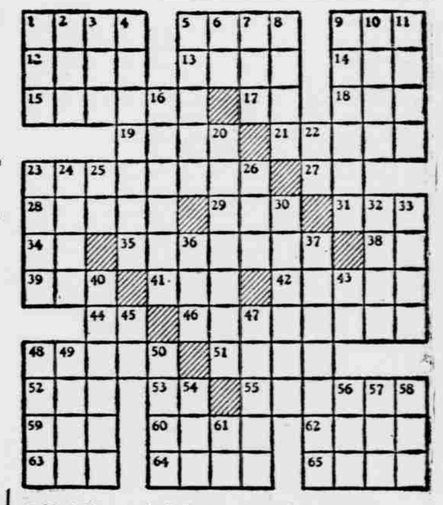
4.—Paraffin is a by-product of (a) honey, (b) maple syrup, (c) petroleum refining.

5.—The American minister to Hungary is (a) Selden Chapin, (b) George Atcheson, Jr., (c) Lt.-Gen. Walter Bedell Smith.

ANSWERS

1.—(a) President Rutherford B. Hayes' wife, Lucy, because she refused to serve wine or other intoxicating beverages.
2.—(b) Mt. Holyoke, founded in 1837. Harvard, founded in 1636, is the oldest college for men.
3.—(b) Nebraska.
4.—(c) Petroleum refining.
5.—(a) Selden Chapin.

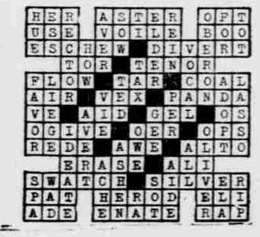
Crossword Puzzle



HORIZONTAL

1 Mimicked
5 Child's bed
9 To knock
12 Unusual
13 To wander
14 Malt beverage
15 Hackneyed phrase
17 Archaic article
18 Honey-maker
19 To guide
21 Insurgent
23 To go on board
27 Note of scale
28 Egyptian capital
29 Dance Step
31 Light brown
34 Hello!
35 Image
38 Not any
39 Unit
41 Metal container
42 Goddess of agriculture
44 Eleven
46 Frail
48 Common sayings
51 To steep
52 Part of "to be"
53 Symbol for tantalum
55 American lawyer and patriot
59 Summit
60 Burden
62 One of the Great Lakes
63 Emmet
64 Bulk
65 Bugle call

VERTICAL

1 Part of a circle
2 Chum
3 Silkworm
4 To proclaim
5 Sharp grating sound
6 Artificial language
7 Climbing plant
8 Alcoholic beverage
9 Burrowing rodent
10 To the sheltered side
11 Rind
16 Epic
20 Bear witness
22 Printer's measure
23 Reverberation
24 Open sea
25 Prefix: two
26 Split pulse
30 Gregarious
32 The dill
33 Sense of smell
36 Colloquial: father
37 Fur for the neck
40 To omit
43 Sun God
45 Pronoun
47 Clayey loam
48 Facts
49 To press
50 Small particle
54 Literary scraps
56 Period of time
57 To tear
58 Affirmative
61 Pronoun

Answer to Last Week's Puzzle