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EDITORIALS

THUMBS DOWN ON MAINTENANCE

It seemed to be a blow below the belt to many communities in Nebraska, including Plattsmouth, when the public works committee of the State legislature killed LB 111 providing the state highway department to construct and maintain streets that are a part of the state highway system in all municipalities.

To this writer the bill had little chance of being approved in the format in which it was presented. While we all admit that heavy truck traffic over the state and federal highways through towns and cities is responsible for the greater share of maintenance cost, few of us would dare contend that the state highway department should shoulder all the cost of construction and repair.

Here in Plattsmouth, Chicago and Washington avenues are in a deplorable state due primarily to heavy bus and truck traffic over a road bed that was never constructed to withstand such heavy loads. Most eastern Nebraska cities are in the same position. Most of our city streets were hard surfaced long before dreamers brought forth the big 10-ton "semi's," or the 50-passenger transcontinental buses.

Regardless of who is responsible, or who is to pay the cost, none of us want to see these highways routed around our town. Traffic on Highways 75 and 34 through Plattsmouth is responsible for the profits to a large number of local business firms and in turn contribute a good share to the success of us all.

We are inclined to believe that our local citizens are more than willing to contribute their share of the cost of construction and repair of these through arterial highways. We also believe members of the state legislature realize the state should bear a share of the burden. A bill brought before this body that would distribute the cost one-fourth to the city, one-fourth to the state, and half to federal funds would be received with joy, and stand more than a fair chance of passage.

It should be suggested to the public works committee of the legislature.

PRODUCTION, PRICES, PANIC, PEOPLE

The top economic advisers of the Administration advise Congress that 1949 promises to be a good year for business and that the aim of the executive branch of the government is to combat "boom and bust" periods because a new depression, following the pattern of that which began in 1929, might cost the country \$800,000,000,000.

Meanwhile, a Senate committee, headed by Senator Burnet Maybank, of South Carolina, plans an investigation to determine why the cost of living remains high. Noting that the general cost of living has gone down very little, despite the fact that some agricultural prices have dropped by one-half or more, the Senator says that "we want to find out why" but adds that the inquiry is not "going to be a witch-hunt."

Charles F. Brannan, Secretary of Agriculture, points out that "production is the answer to inflation and a prime requisite for continuing prosperity." He admits that serious bottlenecks exist and that production of essential items is lagging and says that the "lack of balance is dangerous."

Leon H. Keyserling, vice-chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, estimated the cost of the 1929 debacle in national income as \$300,000,000,000 and, basing his calculation on a similar outline, involving present production and income figures, he estimates that the "possible cost of a depression" in the next decade would be around \$800,000,000,000.

While believing that our democracy would survive such a crisis, economists think that it would only do so with changes "which none of us would like to contemplate."

Mr. Keyserling took note of the recent rise in unemployment, the growing disparity between farm and urban income, continued price increase in metals, fuels and house furnishings, the drop in con-

Furse's Fresh Flashes

If your wife laughs at your jokes, it means you have a good joke or a good wife.

The straight and narrow path would probably not be so straight and narrow if more people walked on it.

Some motorists evidently think a locomotive whistles at a crossing just to keep up its courage.

Horse sense is that sense that keeps horses from betting on the human race.

When Noah sailed the waters blue He had his troubles, same as you; For forty days he sailed the Ark Before he found a place to park.

The farmer's biggest turn-over is his spring plowing.

Among the folks who have our sympathy are the innocent souls who order from seed catalogs and expect to raise crops that look like the pictures.

One reason the movie stars don't take their husband's name when they marry is that the time is too short to make the change.

A local man says a coal shortage will never worry him now. He just sold his stove.

A Plattsmouth man says he knows exactly how much his wife spends for clothes each year. He simply adds his income to what he owes.

An atom bomb, a worried look, and an income tax blank—that's civilization.

sumer expenditure and the inadequate increase in the production capacity of the steel, aluminum and power industries.

DOWN MEMORY LANE

TEN YEARS AGO

Mrs. W. F. Evers honored by appointment by Grand worthy matron of the grand chapter of Eastern Star of the state to be one of the attendants at the meeting in May. . . . Dr. H. G. McClusky observed 25th anniversary of vocation of the First Presbyterian church here. . . . Plattsmouth representatives at the high school annual speech and music tourney at Tarkio college captured Class A awards, scoring 15 points. Mr. Lumir Gerner and Evelyn Ripa chaperoned the contestants on the trip. . . . Among those who attended the opera "Carmen" in Omaha were Misses Ruth Patton, Edith Solomon, Pearl Staats, Estelle Baird, Dorothy Clock, Christine Soennichsen, Mrs. L. W. Egenberger and David Fowler.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

The pupils of the Columbian school were privileged to hear the inaugural ceremonies of Herbert Hoover, president and Charles Curtis, vice president, through courtesy of Harvey Gerner who installed an RCA radio in the school. . . . Joe Love and family returned to this city to make their home; Mr. Love was employed at the Rosenbergs barber shop. . . . J. W. Tritsch, a former resident returned to his farm in the Cedar Creek-Louisville vicinity after residence in Lincoln. . . . Francis Flood, Lincoln newspaperman, appeared before the Happy Hundred Club with story and pictures of his trip through the desert lands of Africa.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

(Copyright, 1949, By the Bell Syndicate, Inc.) DREW PEARSON SAYS:

LOUIS JOHNSON IS MOST EXPERIENCED MAN IN U. S. A. TO HEAD NATIONAL DEFENSE; JOHNSON'S WORK WITH INDUSTRY SAVED AMERICAN LIVES DURING THE WAR; SMALL-TOWN WEST VIRGINIA LAWYER NOW REPRESENTS BIG BUSINESS.

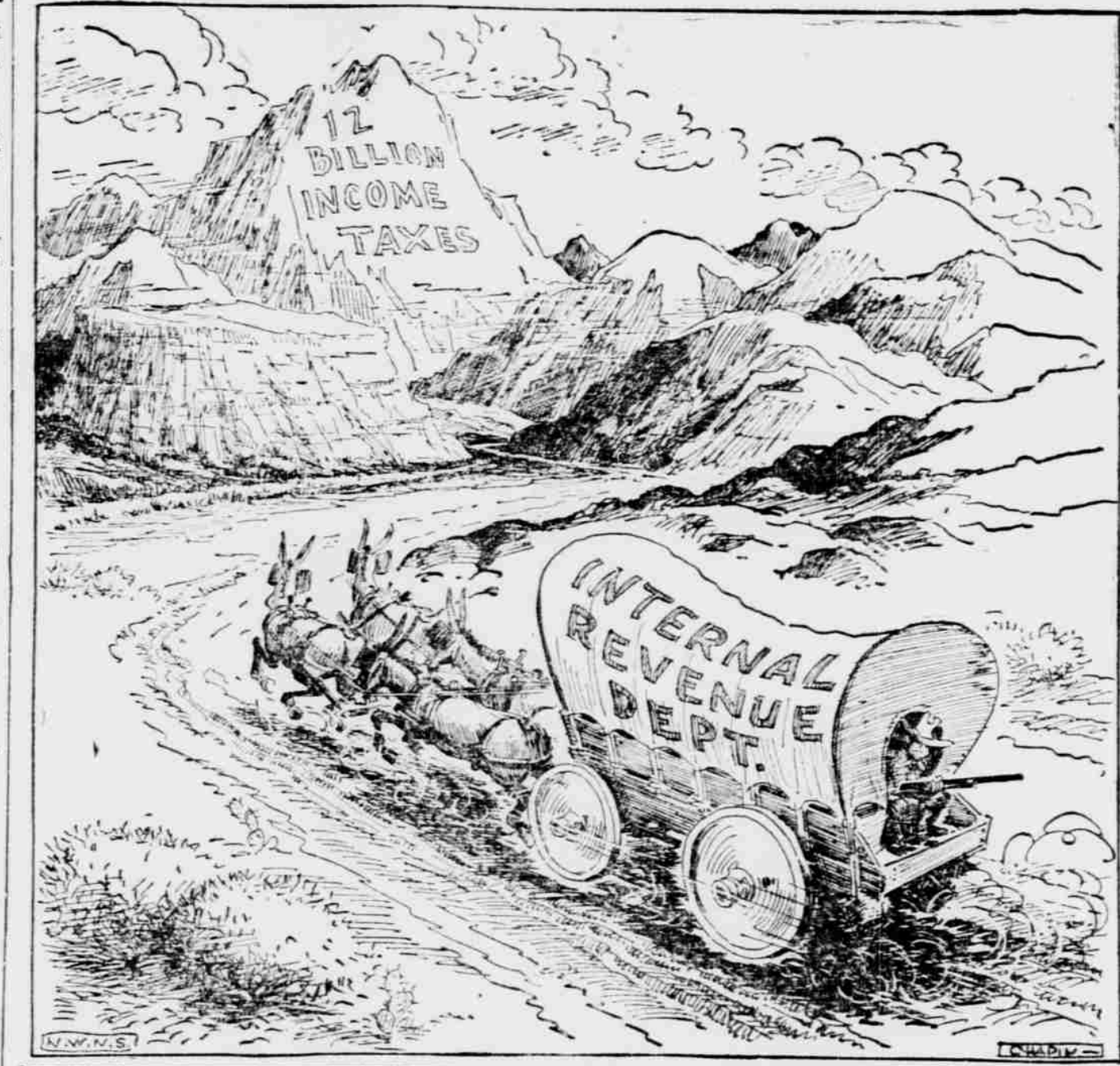
(Editor Note—The Brass Ring, good for one free ride on the Washington Merry-Go-Round, today goes to Louis A. Johnson, new Secretary of National Defense.)

WASHINGTON.—If past experience is a criterion, no man in the U. S. A. is better qualified to be Secretary of National Defense today than the boyish, energetic, pipe-smoking lawyer from Clarksburg, W. Va., Louis Johnson.

Johnson has spent a good part of the past eleven years dreaming of the day when he might attain this all-important post, and, based on past record, he deserves it.

A half dozen major moves inside the War department can be chalked up to Johnson, without which many more American boys would have lost their lives. The most important of these were "educational orders" of munitions.

This was a system by which American industry received small War department orders for tanks, machine guns, artillery, etc., for educational purposes. This gave factories a chance to get their machine tools in shape, with the idea that, following this experimentation, large-scale pro-



duction could begin in a hurry—if war broke.

Johnson put this into effect as early as 1938, three years before Pearl Harbor, and at a time when U. S. steel moguls were sitting in Europe working out a world steel cartel with the Nazis.

WAR DEPARTMENT FEUD He also put it into effect despite the fact that his chief, Secretary of War Woodring, was opposed to war preparation and did not believe that war was imminent.

Johnson's farsightedness, however, enabled the United States to mobilize industry in almost record time and to bear the brunt of supplying the allied armies.

Johnson's other major achievements as Assistant Secretary of War were pushing airplane production for the French and British long before Pearl Harbor, when Congress was opposed to supplying planes to the allies; urging and pioneering the Alaskan highway as early as 1938 long before anyone ever dreamed Alaska would have to be fortified; urging increased electric power for war centers; and developing close economic and military ties with Latin America.

During the period he accomplished these things, Johnson, as Assistant Secretary of War, was in a constant feud with his Secretary of War, Harry Woodring. The feud would have been comic had it not been for possible tragic consequences.

Woodring, one of the most likable men who ever came out of Kansas to Washington, and inherited the all-important post of Secretary of War by accident—upon the death of George Dern. Something of an isolationist, he was not enthusiastic about a big national defense program. Johnson was.

Therefore, all Johnson's work had to be done either on the side or by going over the head of his chief. Some Army officers, taking advantage of this, played Woodring off against Johnson and vice versa, until it was a miracle that the Army, by the time of Pearl Harbor, was as well prepared as it was.

SMALL-TOWN LAWYER Like a lot of things in life, Johnson's entry into politics was sheer coincidence. Graduated in law from the University of Virginia, he decided to practice in a town in which he was a complete stranger, and went to Clarksburg, W. Va., in 1912. At the time of his arrival, a local sheriff had been arrested for embezzlement, and a lawyer was needed to act as prosecutor.

Johnson took the job, fought the case up to the Supreme Court, and, as a result of the publicity, ran for mayor of Clarksburg. This was just two years after coming to live in West Virginia. Johnson lost the mayoralty race by about 50 votes, but shortly thereafter was elected to the state legislature and became Democratic leader of the House.

The first World War came. Johnson was mustered out as a captain of the 80th Infantry Division, and on the day he retired, he had the nerve to write a letter to the Chief of Staff telling him how to reform the Army. He will now have a chance to carry out those ideas. TOO TRUSTING

Louis Johnson is a queer mixture of conservatism and liberalism. Since leaving the government his contacts have been chiefly with big business. His clients have been some of the biggest firms in the country. Yet

I REMEMBER...

By THE OLD-TIMERS

From Robert H. Sedgwick: "I remember (circa 1906) when there were arc lights along the streets and how, when they failed to light up, we kids would kick the pole to jar the carbons and, once started, they all would light up. We used to collect discarded carbons to write our names on cement sidewalks, which were not too common in those days."

From Henry H. Vocke: "I remember when the Waffle Man came down the street, blowing on a trumpet, and all the kids would run home for a penny to buy a waffle sprinkled with powdered sugar. The waffles were made with water, but they sure tasted 'waffle' good to us kids!"

From Evangeline Sedgwick: "I remember when Essanay movies were filmed in Chicago across the street from Riverway park. David Spoor and G. M. Anderson coined the name from their last initials. It was there Gloria Swanson and Wallace Beery first met and became movie stars. Edna Mayo, Ruth Stonehouse, Henry B. Walthall, Bryant Washburn and James Kirkwood were some of the others. Anderson always acted the part of 'Broncho Billy' in the westerns."

From Mrs. Mary E. Stewart: "I remember when there was a 'sure cure' for a sore throat—a remarkable remedy used by grandmothers in my childhood days. She would slap a thick, fat slice of salt pork around our neck, tie a wool sock over it, make a strong gargle of vinegar and salt, force us to sit an hour with our feet in hot mustard water, huddled under a blanket like a small tent, then tuck us into a bed piled high with a feather tick. If the throat didn't clear up by morning, the sock was wrung out of hot water, dipped in a saucer of kerosene and re-applied. Then we had a blistered neck as well as 'grippe.' Strange to say, we survived."

(Contributions to this column are invited from old-time readers. All communications should be signed with the writer's full name. Address them to The Old-Timer, Box 346, Frankfort, Ky.)

when Johnson went to India as special representative of President Roosevelt, he sided with the Indian independence movement and became the great friend of Pandit Nehru and Mahatma Gandhi.

Big, genial, quiet-spoken Johnson works long, late hours, dashes around the country on speaking engagements; and while Assistant Secretary of War delivered 175 speeches in two years, flying 100,000 miles to make them. Since leaving the government, he has followed a regular routine of spending week ends in Clarksburg, W. Va., the early part of the week in Washington, D. C., and the middle of the week in New York.

Probably Johnson's biggest handicap is his naive trust in people—sometimes in people who have double-crossed him. He is inclined to believe that everyone is his friend—though a lot of them aren't.

Johnson is one of the few War department executives who hasn't been afraid to put the brass in their place. Most civilian Secretaries of War learn so heavily on the top brass that the constitutional concept of civilian control over the Army is voided. Johnson, however, not only knows the military establishment from A to Z, but isn't afraid to tell the brass where to get off.

OUT OF OLD NEBRASKA

By JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

This year marks the centennial of the California gold rush, one of the most fantastic movements of men in all history, and one which saw thousands of Americans make their way across Nebraska in search of riches in the Golden West.

Gold was discovered at Sutter's fort on January 24, 1848. The earliest reports of the discovery were received dubiously in the East, but when on December 5, 1848, President James K. Polk included the news in his message to Congress, the country was electrified with excitement.

During the month of January more than a hundred ships cleared eastern ports for California. In February more than a hundred departed for the same destination. The gold fever spread to all parts of the world, and emigrants from Europe and Asia poured into California all during 1849.

By early spring the overland emigration was under way, and the once empty valley of the Platte was filled with countless caravans of eager fortune-hunters making their way westward. Estimates as to the exact number vary all the way from 20,000 to 30,000.

In general, the Forty-Niners followed the earlier Oregon Trail through most of Nebraska. Starting from Independence, Mo., they entered Nebraska along the Little Blue, following that stream northwest across the state. The trail joined the Platte River east of Fort Kearney (established just the year before). Once past the fort, the eager travelers followed the Platte to the junction of the north and south forks and then went down the South Platte to one of two "California Crossings." The lower crossing was near Big Spring and the upper near Julesburg.

Those who took the lower crossing had to negotiate Ash Hollow, one of the toughest spots on the entire trail. From the upper crossing the trail ascended Lodgepole Creek. Both trails joined just east of Chimney Rock, whence they went along the North Platte past Scotts Bluff to Fort Laramie and beyond.

The Forty-Niners were as colorful a group of emigrants as ever went through Nebraska. Many of them kept diaries. Still more wrote eager—and at times, homesick—letters to the family and friends in the East. From these documents, large numbers of which have been published, we have a first-hand account of life in Nebraska just a century ago.

Baptismal Services at Methodist Church

Sunday morning at the regular worship hour at the Methodist church, Rev. E. G. Williams baptized Charles Robert Mann, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Mann and Francis Michael, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Patch, Mr. and Mrs. Patch were also received into the membership by letter from their former church at Tecumseh.

Patronize Journal Advertisers.

Dale Carnegie Author of "HOW TO WIN FRIENDS and INFLUENCE PEOPLE" THE BARBER OF STOCKTON

BARBERS for generations have been the butt of jokes about talking too much and too fast to their clients. But here's one man who thinks the opposite method the better.

Peter Schimpf of Stockton, Calif., worked in a good shop, patronized by a fine clientele. There was another barber there, named Sam, a good fellow, and a man that people seemed to like more than they liked Peter. And how they enjoyed talking to him.

When some of the clients came in, they would sit and wait for Sam to finish with a client, rather than take Peter's chair. Naturally, this troubled Peter. He knew that they had nothing against him, that he had never antagonized any one of them, and that he did as good a job as Sam did. Then why?

He began observing people both in the shop and on the outside who seemed to be popular. He noticed a good many things, like smiling, showing friendliness, refraining from criticizing. All minor matters, but he knew, when he stopped to think about it, that minor matters can change a man's life.

One day a client named George entered, sat down to wait for Sam, although Peter had just finished with his client. Peter looked at George and said 'Hello' and smiled as he said it. This happened again, and a third time. But the third time, George didn't wait for Sam. Instead he asked, "Can you take me?"

Peter made George comfortable, turning the chair so his client could see in the mirror how his hair was being cut. He asked him a couple of questions, and George got started on a subject that interested him. He loosened up, enjoyed telling Peter what he wanted to know.

Peter didn't let him out of that chair until the job was done to the satisfaction of both of them.

After that, when George entered that shop he headed straight for Peter's chair.

"And," says Peter, "you can be sure that I have applied the same technique to other customers with just as successful results."

Death of John Speck at Denver

The message was received in Plattsmouth Saturday by members of the Speck family telling of the death of John Speck, 63, the oldest member of the family.

Mr. Speck has made his home at Casper, Wyoming for a great many years and the family still reside at that place. He was taken ill several months ago and his condition has gradually grown more severe until he was taken to a Denver hospital where he passed away.

Mrs. Everett Gooding of this city, a sister and Fred H. Speck of Sioux City, a brother, were at Denver, at the hospital with the brother when he passed away.

Mr. Speck was a brother of Ben H. Speck and Carl Speck of this city, and Mrs. Gooding.

NEHAWKA SWINE CLUB

The Nehawka Swine Club met at the home of James Pollard on February 28th. The meeting was called to order by the President, John Knabe. He led in the pledge to the flag.

The material for the coming year was given out by our leader, Harry Knabe. We also planned our year book.

The officers of the club are: John Knabe, treasurer; Peter Lutz, vice-president; Alice Noell, secretary; Margaret Knabe, news reporter; James Pollard is also a member.

After the meeting refreshments were served by John and Margaret Knabe. The next meeting will be held at Tommy Johnson's on March 23—Reporter.

Attend Church Meet at Hastings Monday

This (Monday) morning, Mrs. E. C. Williams and Mrs. Karl Grosshans departed by car for Hastings, Nebraska, where they will attend the annual conference meeting of the W.S.C.E. of the Methodist church. Mrs. Williams is conference Secretary and Mrs. Grosshans local delegate.

Frigidaire's can now be bought for 15% down and the balance on easy monthly payments. War-ga Hardware and Appliance.

Successful Parenthood

BY MRS. CATHERINE CONRAD EDWARDS Associate Editor, Parents' Magazine

BROTHERHOOD WEEK is coming around again. That's the week, starting with Washington's birthday, when thoughtful Americans take time out to think about their neighbors. It's the time when school children everywhere take up the question of "brotherhood" and what it means.

How can we parents best explain "brotherhood" to our boys and girls? First, let's remember that the whole idea of this week is closely tied up with our American democracy. In this country, the concept of brotherhood is a very strong one. Most of us believe that we are entitled to equal opportunity. Most of us don't want to see unfair discrimination against any of our fellow-citizens. Remember President Truman's Christmas message, in which he quoted these words from the Bible:

"God that hath made the world and all things therein . . . hath made of one blood all nations and men for to dwell on all 'the face of the earth.'"

That expresses our philosophy. And it's a good way to start discussing brotherhood with our children.

Then, we might compare the workings of our democracy to the way a clock ticks. If all the parts don't move together in perfect unison—if the mainspring won't work with the

balance wheel, a clock can't keep time.

The same idea holds for a nation. Our democracy works only when citizens get along well together—when neighbors on the street and children at the playground and men and women on the job have a healthy respect for each other—regardless of their color, their religion or their birthplace. It takes Americans of all religions, all ethnic origins to keep our democracy ticking.

Finally, we might wind up with this thought: A good community, like a good watch, needs a check-up now and then to keep it in condition. Brotherhood week is a good time for us to check up on ourselves. We should look deep into our hearts and ask:

"Are we being fair in our judgments of folks whose skins are a different color, or who worship God in a different way? Are we showing prejudice toward others of different backgrounds? Are we discriminating unfairly in keeping some people out of our groups and clubs, or out of our circle of friends?"

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, that's our challenge for Brotherhood week—to see how we can be better to our friends and neighbors in the year ahead. This applies to youngsters in school, as well as to grown-ups. Our boys and girls will be quick to see the point.