

# CAPITOL NEWS

(Compiled by Nebraska Press Ass'n.)

**LINCOLN**—Nebraska's highway department spent \$5,615,000 to build and maintain roads and bridges during the first six months of the year, State Engineer F. H. Klitsch reported to members of the legislature.

Highway maintenance— including \$1,023,245 for snow removal during Operation Snowbound—accounted for nearly half the total expenditure.

The breakdown:

- Highway maintenance, \$3,206,252.
- New construction, \$2,769,911.
- State aid bridge maintenance, \$5,285.
- Equipment and stores, \$382,995.
- Administration and overhead, \$238,910.
- Claims, \$11,351.

Klitsch said his department had a revenue during the first half of the year of \$7,513,130 which included nearly \$300,000 on hand Jan. 1.

Handpicked members of the committee which drafted a 20-year improvement program for the state's highways, met in Lincoln last week end to map its part in the fight against the Extra Bureau-Farmers Union-State Grange efforts to defeat

the increased gasoline and registration levies.

George Holmes, Lincoln banker who heads the governor's Highway Advisory Committee, invited only a few of the members "with genuine interest in the highway situation."

The committee disbanded last December after making its recommendations to the governor. Some of these recommendations formed the basis for the program sponsored by the governor in the last legislature.

Meanwhile, talk of a broken front in the powerful farm organization coalition broke into the open as the Keith County Farm Bureau voted to remain neutral in the referendum scrap. There was general speculation other local groups may take similar action.

But F. B. President Charles Marshall of Elmwood continued to press the fight.

He told the Sarpy County Farm Bureau at Papillion:

"The added gas tax is an exorbitant tax on a necessity. About 39 1/2 percent of the cost of gasoline in my community goes for taxes."

The board of control kicked off a minor squabble last week with the announcement it had hired a displaced person, Dr. E. R. Neumann-Grigg, as a staff member at the Kearney hospital for the tuberculous.

Almost immediately the Nebraska Medical association protested.

State law requires that physicians practicing in state institutions be U. S. citizens and graduates of accredited medical colleges, a N.M.A. spokesman

## THE ELM IS MIGHTY STILL!

MILLIONS of Americans, who long have loved the storied elms that line highways and byways from rambling New England lanes to broad California speedways, and that shade the lawns of American homes from border to border, have been increasingly concerned over the weariness of time and disease that has become manifest in America's most-loved tree. Now, for all of those who cherish the elm as the living symbol of the country's greatest natural heritage—its vast forests—and the upward-reaching symbol of the nation's home life, there is good news from the small Illinois city of Normal where a new variety of American Elm has been developed.

The parent tree was discovered about 20 years ago by Archie Augustine, a Normal nurseryman, who won wide recognition because of his work with new varieties of plants and trees, and who was honored by election to the presidency of the Illinois Nurserymen's association and of the American Association of Nurserymen. Thrilled with his discovery, Augustine first studied the new tree, then experimented with cuttings, and finally placed its care and development into the hands of a committee of experts, who have named it "Augustine's Ascending Elm," in recognition of its discoverer (Augustine died in 1947) and of its unusual towering columnar form.

The Augustine Ascending Elm is distinguished by its column-like habit, rising in practically a straight wall, instead of spreading its branches as in the more common shapes. It also has a more compact root system.

Also important to park and highway supervisors, to home owners, and to those millions who have long loved the elms that were planted and cared for by their hands, is the fact that the new elm seems to have an immunity to the Dutch Elm disease and to other diseases and insects which have threatened the future health of the popular shade tree.

At the present time, the parent tree in Normal, now about 35 years old, has attained a height of about 80 feet, with a spread of 27 feet, and a trunk of two feet. Its exceptional



Like the proverbial mighty oak that grows from little acorns, a new variety of American elm has been developed by a Normal, Ill., nurseryman and now has restored the storied elm to her former status as America's most loved tree—once feared to be nearing extinction through disease and the weariness of time. The parent of the thousands and thousands of such elms now digging their roots into the soil of Illinois and Missouri is shown above—before and after a sleet storm swept Normal and adjoining Bloomington.

health was sternly tested last winter when a sleet storm in Illinois felled thousands of trees and ripped the branches from hundreds of thousands of others. Normal was in the center of the storm belt, and the streets of the city, and adjoining Bloomington, were littered with the trunks and limbs of stricken trees. Through this storm that hurt so badly the trees that lined the streets and highways, the parent Augustine Elm stood erect, unscathed by even a torn twig.

After observing for some time the new tree he had discovered, Augustine made cuttings and grew a number of other trees. Several trees were then sent to arboretums in various parts of the country for further planting and study under varied climatic and soil conditions.

There now are nearly a thousand two-year trees and several thousand smaller grafts studiously digging their roots into the soil

in Illinois. In no instance has any trace been found of susceptibility to the afflictions of disease and insect pests which have become common to other elms, and each tree has developed the same habits of columnar form and compact root growth that characterize the parent tree.

The importance of Augustine's discovery becomes apparent to the layman when it is realized that, although the elm dates back about 60 million years to prehistoric times, and that although the elm has been through all history one of the most widely-distributed and most beloved of all trees, there were only about 18 species in the North temperate zone, and only about six native to the United States, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica. Nature was in a compensatory mood when she gave the country a new elm at a time when her older offerings were wearing.

## Hogs, Lambs Up But Cattle Trade Uneven at Omaha

Better steers up to 1,200 pounds and better yearlings sold steady to 25c higher Monday and Tuesday on the Omaha market, but good weighty steers were unevenly steady to 50c off and shorted yearlings 25-50c and more lower. Yearling-type steers sold to \$27.50 and 1346-pounders topped at \$27.75. Heifers sold to \$26.50, mixed yearlings to \$26.75. Bulk of killer heaves cleared at \$24.00-\$26.00, with plain "grassy" yearlings down to \$16.00. Cows lost 25-50c or more, bracketing canners and cutters at \$11.00-\$14.00, with beef to \$17.75. Bulls broke as much as a dollar, bolognas stopped at \$20.00. Vealers bulked at \$21.00-\$24.00. Stocker and feeder cattle and calves Monday totalled over 3,000, a new high for the season, and while trade was spotty, most sales looked strong to a quarter higher. Price range was \$18.00 to \$24.00, the latter paid for Wyoming 2's, Nebraska 3's scored \$22.50. Sows sold 50c to \$1.00 and more higher, to clear at \$14.00-\$19.25 by Tuesday, and butchers moved up 25-50c to sell at \$19.75-\$22.50. Stags brought \$10.00-\$13.00. Fat lambs gained a quarter, lifting fed Californias to \$24.00, \$24.25, and native lambs to \$23.75, one deck \$24.00. Slaughter ewes held at \$6.00-\$9.50. Feeder lambs sold steady to 75c higher, \$18.00-\$22.00, the latter for five loads of 75- to 78-pound Idahos. Idaho breeding ewes went out at \$11.00.

Henry Bornemeier, 29 steers, wt. 983, \$26.00.

Vernon & Jerry Bornemeier, 12 steers, wt. 888, \$25.50.

Louie Wehrman, 17 hogs, wt. 259, \$21.00.

Melvin R. Todd, 22 steers, wt. 1197, \$26.85.

Kenny Todd, 23 heifers, wt. 757, \$26.40.

L. B. Mougey, 21 steers, wt. 1120, \$26.75.

Alfred Bornemeier, 20 steers, wt. 983, \$25.50.

Roy Engelkemeier, 22 steers, wt. 990, \$26.00.

Glenn Todd, 24 steers, wt. 1097, \$26.00.

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**Forecasters Fooled, Too**  
Belleville, Ill. (AP)—Southern Illinoisans who were caught flatfooted by an unexpected late winter snowstorm had at least one consolation. Some 25 Air Force weather experts also were unable to predict the storm. All were marooned at Scott Field and forced to stay in temporary quarters there overnight.

A classified Ad in the Journal costs as little as 35c.

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The germ grows DEEPLY. You must REACH it to make the kill. Use a strong PENETRATING fungicide. T-4-L, made with 90 per cent alcohol, reaches MORE germs. If not pleased IN ONE HOUR your 40c back from any druggist.

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WASHINGTON AVENUE DIAL 287

OP. chairman to succeed the resigning Rep. Hugh Scott.

The governor said there were several Nebraskans who had the qualifications for the job but he named none. Among the qualifications the governor listed:

"I would like to see the strongest possible chairman named that can be secured.

"The new chairman must bear in mind that parties are instruments of the people and not just one segment of the people.

"He ought to be selected without respect to anyone's ambitions to be president."

Howard was strongly identified

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Use Journal Want Ads.

the Philadelphia G.O.P. candidate last year and helped swing the Nebraska delegation toward the New Yorker despite Harold Stassen's victory in the April primary.

Tougher penitentiary prisoners and a tougher parole board have cut down the number of paroles in Nebraska, State Parole Officer Richard Meissner reported.

But so far, the parolees have turned out to be pretty good risks, Meissner said. For the past several years 13 or 14 percent of those freed have been returned to institutions. Some states had averages of 50 percent, he said.

Pardon board members are Gov. Val Peterson, Secretary of State Frank Marsh and Attorney General James Anderson, a former Scotts Bluff county attorney, who sent several of the inmates to the pen in the first place.

These were other state house developments:

Deputy State Auditor Elgie Bute said a large majority of Nebraska counties will levy up to the constitutional limit of five mills this year.

Former Lt. Gov. Robert Crosby, who now heads the Nebraska Committee to implement the Hoover committee recommendations, blasted the house armed services committee for its failure to act on the Tydings bill.

Dr. W. S. Petty who has tendered his resignation as state health director, offered to stay on as head of the local health services and assistant director of the department. As director he gets \$5,500 a year, whereas the local services position would pay more because it draws up on federal funds.

The board of educational lands and funds said the state will seek oil and gas leases on 12,000 acres of state school lands. Biggest acreage was 5,760 acres in Keith county.

Gov. Val Peterson observed his 46th birthday last week with the comment that "Life begins at 46." He left a couple of days later to attend the Missouri Basin Inter-Agency committee meeting in Helena, Mont. Attorney General James Anderson and Statute Revisor Walter James accompanied him on the junket.

Lincoln firemen flocked to the \$10,000,000 capitol the other night during a driving rain when a Lincoln resident reported smoke coming from the tower. An assistant chief and an engine were dispatched to investigate. Enroute the assistant chief saw what appeared to be smoke and radioed in a full-scale alarm. Five companies answered the call in the down-pour. They discovered the "smoke" was fine rain spotlighted by the brilliant floodlights which illuminate the 400-foot tower.

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