

EDITORIALS Furse's Fresh Flashes

CHRISTMAS DAY

The celebration of Christmas in the United States is more or less uniform. There are some variations, such as the Pennsylvania Germans in Bethlehem, the Scandinavians in Wisconsin and Minnesota, and the fireworks of the Southern States. On the whole, however, the Christmas celebration in this country borrows from the practices of many European countries and reflects our customs in the church and home.

The Italian Christmas is a sacred holiday. There are church ceremonies and special food, but it is not customary to give presents to one another.

Many of the Christmas customs in France and Scotland are observed on New Year's Day. Particularly in France, religious features, rather than festivity, are emphasized on Christmas Day.

December 25th is also a religious holiday in the Netherlands and Belgium. The feast of St. Nicholas is celebrated on December 6th as the children's holiday with most of the feasting and celebrating that we in America usually associate with Christmas.

A German Christmas means a home festival and attendance at church services. Everything centers around the Christmas tree with presents piled under the tree with the distribution of presents preceded by the singing of Christmas carols.

In the Scandinavian countries, elaborate preparations are begun weeks in advance of Christmas, including cleaning, decorating and renovating the house and cooking special meats, breads, cakes and other foods to last for three weeks of hospitality and leisure.

Christmas celebrations in England which had lost all inner meaning, were forbidden in 1644. Now Christmas brings family reunions, gifts, parties, singing and decorations. . . And, of course, Father Christmas, the English Santa Claus.

While the customs of celebrating vary all over the world, Christians everywhere are celebrating, on December the 25th, the Nativity of Jesus Christ. Let us hope that on this great occasion, His spirit of unselfishness will abide with us all.

A NEW LOOK—IN GLASS

A greenish-tinted glass, which absorbs the sun's heat while allowing light to penetrate, has recently been announced by a major glass manufacturer. The new glass will be used in the windshields of several 1952 model automobiles.

It will also be used extensively in public building construction next year, according to the manufacturer. In areas where sunlight makes offices and homes uncomfortably warm in summer, the new glass will maintain temperatures ten to twenty degrees cooler than normal.

One of the mysteries of the era is why the glass manufacturers and the automobile industry have not succeeded in introducing glare-proof glass in the automotive industry. One or two models have already adopted the use of glare-proof rear-view mirrors, which relieve eye-strain considerably on long trips.

If the industry now adopts the use of glasses, in windshields and automobile head-lamps, which tend to reduce the glare caused by the lights of approaching automobiles, it would be a mark of progress. Not only would such a change save motorists' eyes and make night-driving more comfortable, it would prevent accidents caused by glare-blindness. Were only one life saved by the change, the increased cost of the change-over would be justified.

BASKETBALL STARS IN JAIL

The sentencing, in New York recently, of several former college basketball stars to jail sentences, should shock the nation, and other players, into their senses. Following the dismissal of some ninety cadets from West Point several months ago, the action should have a good effect on the nation, as a whole.

While it is regrettable that the young

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

The first mistake in public business is the going into it.

— Benjamin Franklin

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A local doctor pulled the window blind following an operation on one of his patients here the other day. There was a fire right across the street and the doctor wanted him to know the operation had been successful when he came out of the anesthetic.

A bigamist is a person who has taken one too many.

If we had the cash for all that our experience has cost us, we would never work another day.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says she would go through anything with her new boy friend. Right now she has started on his bank account.

Sometimes we think it is foolish to have a speed limit here. There's some people who couldn't go through Plattsmouth too fast to suit us.

The dime isn't entirely useless. We've seen the time it made a fairly good screw driver.

Trying to make a collection for a local church here the other day, one of the collectors asked a member if he didn't think he owed the Lord something. To which he replied, "Yes, but he ain't pushin' me like my other creditors."

Which reminds us that the best test of religion is to find yourself in church with nothing smaller than a dollar bill in your pocket.

A Merry Christmas to everyone—especially advertisers and subscribers.

men involved should have to pay such a heavy price for their mistake, the judge, in giving stiff sentences, was trying to save an institution which is dear to the hearts of millions of Americans. If basketball scandals, and immoralities, can be checked by stiff punishment, just as the late Commissioner Landis halted baseball irregularities, then the sentences will not be too high a price for the boys to have paid.

Down Memory Lane

20 YEARS AGO

Henry F. Nolting is the new commander of Knights Templar, Mt. Zion Commandery No. 5. Other officers are Raymond C. Cook, Generalissimo; W. F. Evers, captain general; Phillip Thieroff, treasurer; and John E. Schultz, recorder. . . . The city council held an unofficial meeting to discuss ways of cutting down expenditures for the balance of the fiscal year. . . . Plattsmouth defeated Louisville 24-11 in the first basketball game of the season on the home court. Galloway led the scoring with 14 points. . . . C. E. Ledgway, clerk of the district court, has been commissioned an admiral in the Nebraska Navy. . . . Miss Lelia Amos of Lynch and Burdett Briggs, formerly of Plattsmouth, were married in South Dakota. . . . County Commissioner and Mrs. George L. Farley and daughter left for Iowa for the Christmas holidays.

10 YEARS AGO

Mary Helen Dill was installed as Honored Queen of Job's Daughters as the group's annual installation. Other officers installed were Helen Hiatt, Dorothea Duxbury, Betty Hutchison, Edna Marie Marler, Mary Evers, Betty Gayer, Waunita Sigler, Alice Jayne Grosshans, Mary Jean Hatt, Aileen Reed, Shirley Mason, Alice Zatopek and Catherine Kaffenberger. . . . Miss Marie Thomason, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. B. Thomason of Plattsmouth and Eugene Meisinger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry J. Meisinger, also of Plattsmouth, were married at St. John's church. . . . Guests of Mrs. Mary Wondra for Christmas will be Mr. and Mrs. Charles Wondra, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Wondra, Mr. and Mrs. John Wondra, Frank Bukacek and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Cavender.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: MADAME CHIANG KAI-SHEK TRIED TO PERSUADE GENERALISSIMO TO STOP GRAFT; MADAME TOOK HUSBAND FOR AUTO RIDE TO GET HIM TO LISTEN TO GRAFT STORY; HONEST CHINESE GENERAL REBUFFED BY U. S. COURT AFTER TRYING TO CLEAN UP.

Washington.—The inside story can now be told of how an honest Chinese General, P. T. Mow, fought but failed to clean up corruption inside Chiang Kai-Shek's Government, and how he has now been rebuffed for his pains by U. S. Judge James Kirkland.

Gen. Mow laid documentary evidence before Madame Chiang that made her literally sick at the stomach. Later she tried to get her husband, the Generalissimo, to listen to the evidence, but he walked out, refusing to listen. Finally, Madame Chiang



"I WOULDN'T GO IN, JOE! I DON'T WANT HE HAS SIX UNMARRIED DAUGHTERS."

tricked him into taking an automobile ride with her and unfolded the whole story while she had him cornered in the back seat. The puffy finger pointed straight at Chiang's top General, C. J. Chou, who was caught transferring \$459,926.02 of government funds into a fictitious, private bank account. He also tried to buy aviation gas and airplane parts through middlemen, whose only interest was skimming off fat fees. Needless to say, these misused funds came indirectly from the American taxpayers who have been putting up the dough to keep Chiang's government operating. Though the Generalissimo promised his wife to clean house, he ended up firing not the embezzler, General Chou, but the man who exposed him, General Mow. However, Mow refused to vacate his post in Washington and carried his fight to the American courts. Meanwhile, Mow has dictated his story in his own words in the legal proceedings. Though his statement hasn't been published, this column has obtained a copy.

In simple, straightforward language, Mow tells how he made a special trip to Formosa in October, 1950, with documentary proof that General Chou had been embezzling government funds and fleecing the American taxpayers. He finally got an audience with Madame Chiang on November 2, and showed her the documents over the supper table. She Turned Sick. "She was so sick to learn about all those things that she even had an upset stomach," Mow reports. "Then I proposed to stop talking about them, but she was very anxious to know the whole picture, so she insisted that I finish the whole case. In conclusion, she told me that during Christmas time, the Generalissimo was going to prosecute General Chou. She didn't tell me the cause, but she indicated that she had rendered a hand to General Chou and finally the case was not enforced. After she learned what I told her with documentary proof, she regretted what she had done before for General Chou."

On November 11, Mow confronted General Chou, himself. "The first thing he said was that he didn't think there was any necessity to investigate further," Mow recalls. "It would only waste time and manpower, and he said he wanted Colonel Hsiang (Mow's aide) to be back in Formosa right away. "Chou," Gen. Mow continued, "said he is the Commanding Chief of the Chinese Air Force, and he has the power to order anyone under his command to do anything he wants. In fact, Hsiang had exposed the gasoline deal to the Commerce Department of the United States. He must have been a Communist. I told (Chou) that if the one who tried to stop the corruption was a communist. Then what would be the man who tried to graft and deceive the government and lower the prestige of our reformed government. I walked out."

Taken For A Ride. Meanwhile, Madame Chiang arranged for Mow to present his case personally to the Generalissimo. "She told me that after I left," Mow recounts, "she asked the Generalissimo for a ride in a car and she said she used that opportunity to present the case that I had told her to him. She said after she learned from me on November 2 of all those things she had tried to present to the Generalissimo, but he always walked away from her. She said that when she had him in the car, he could not walk away. So she used that hour-long drive to present the case to him."

The result was that Mow was invited to breakfast with Chiang Kai-Shek. "After we sat down," Mow relates, "he said, 'You are very sharp.' I only wanted to do my duty to help the country and to bring up the confidence of our people so we could go back to the mainland."

"I didn't understand what you meant that I was sharp,"

Capitol News

LINCOLN—The expected fireworks following the board of control's shakeup of the state assistance department appear largely to have fizzled out.

Some observers were expecting a blast from W. W. McDermott, chief of the department's personnel division. McDermott was one of two divisions eliminated in the reorganization plan and he was told he wouldn't be needed after Jan. 1.

In a letter to the board, McDermott challenged the legality of his dismissal after ten and a half years of service, but said he wouldn't fight the order because of the expense and because if the board were forced to grant him "the relationship" matter might be unpleasant.

The chairman of the board of control, Mrs. Harold Prince, would not comment on McDermott's letter.

The bureau chief reminded the board, which supervises the multi-million dollar assistance program, "that if this state is to continue to receive funds from the federal government for assistance programs, the administration of those funds must of necessity be continued by personnel selected and maintained under personnel standards on a merit basis. This is required by federal statutes and the regulations of the social security agency."

McDermott's is one of two divisions being eliminated under the reorganization plan, which won the endorsement of county officials at their meeting in Omaha two weeks ago. The other is the division of assistance which had been headed by Mrs. Ruth Pierce who has since resigned.

Blanket Tax

The attack on the constitutionality of Nebraska's blanket four-mill tax law affecting school districts appears headed for the state supreme court.

District Judge D. R. Mounts of O'Neill upheld the law's validity last week in a suit brought by Charley W. Peterson, a Holt county landowner.

Peterson sought to test the 1949 law on the grounds that the school district in which his home is located will not cooperate in distribution of the tax money because there were less than five pupils enrolled during the 1950-51 school year. He said this, in effect, is taxation without representation.

The court's ruling was the third blow suffered in recent months by Nebraska's land and cattle barons. The first was the refusal of the state board of equalization to lower the valuations on cattle for assessment purposes. Then a federal court in Omaha knocked out the injunction suit of the state's school land lease holders.

Watershed Bill

Another watershed bill is a certainty in the 1953 legislature and the new one is given a good chance of escaping the axing handed L. B. 455 of the last session by the public works committee.

Even opponents of L. B. 455 congratulated Sen. John P. McKnight and his legislative council committee for the work they have done on drafting a new and simpler bill. The sample bill was up for public hearing at the capitol.

Summarizing the testimony, McKnight noted that no one attempted to protest the objectives of the bill and that the only criticism was of minor details.

The ironic part of this is that those who assailed L. B. 455 bitterly harped on the fact that it was too long and contained powers that were too broad and sweeping. Now, some of these same people are complaining that the new bill is not specific enough in outlining those powers.

Voc Ag.

The state board of vocational education is taking a second look at its requirements for eligibility under the vocational agriculture program. At present persons who do not reside on a farm are ineligible.

Gov. Val Peterson, chairman of the board, called this ruling "outdated." There is no reason that a man living town can be just as good a farmer, or better, than one living on a farm, said the governor. "Where he sleeps doesn't make any difference."

The board is expected to change the ruling in its contracts for next year. Governor Peterson also urged the board to call a meeting at the Millard trade school for the purpose of deciding the fate of the school. Board members agreed that the school is likely to come again under the legislative attack which led to Sen. George Syas' introduction of a bill to close the school.

Hot Water

Gov. Val Peterson, who makes better headlines with his spur-of-the-moment remarks than with prepared scripts, has found himself in a little hot water so far as Nebraska lawyers are concerned.

The governor took the bar to task last week for allowing persons to appear in court without counsel. He said he thought it is "disgraceful that courts in this state can pass judgment on men without counsel."

The remark was made during a pardon board hearing on a man who had pleaded guilty but later said he was innocent.

DALE CARNEGIE

HOW TO STOP WORRYING AND START LIVING

Do More Than Is Necessary

TWO AND ONE HALF YEARS ago, Clyde Randall Kreech, Nashville, Tenn., began working for an air line, and a hint that one of the local officials gave him almost ruined his career. That hint was, "You just can't make mistakes and last long."

Nine months after he started, he was sent to the New York home office in regard to a promotion. He didn't get it. Last summer, he was again sent to New York, after thoroughly being screened in Miami for the same promotion. He didn't get it. He had a third chance. He remained just where he was.

He began retracing his work in an attempt to find out what was holding him back. The company has progress reports that go to New York every six months. He reviewed the reports for information and could find only one thing that could possibly have caused him to fail.

There was one column that was always checked on him. "Does the necessary amount of work, but no more." He wasn't ashamed of that because he knew that he had worked very hard for the company. And he didn't make mistakes. He couldn't see how this could be the answer. He just let the thought linger in his mind for a few days.

It then dawned on him that in his progress report was the answer. "Does the necessary amount of work but no more." He had been worrying about making a mistake in his work and was spending as much time checking his work as doing it.

He listed the things that could happen if he made a few mistakes and the worst thing he could find was they could fire him. He began immediately to do the best he could and not check it. Now he turns out a lot more work and he doesn't make the mistakes he was worrying about.

Two weeks ago the column that was checked on him was, "Does the necessary amount of work and more." He got a promotion.

OUT OLD NEBRASKA

by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The pioneer preachers of old Nebraska were a hardy group in the organization meeting of the Baptist Association at Nebraska City, and was regularly ordained as a Baptist minister during the proceedings. Florence failed to progress as her early residents had hoped, and in the spring of 1859 Rev. Barnes moved to Omaha to organize a Baptist church in the territory's metropolis. Having organized a church, he set about securing a church edifice. As had been true with his home in Florence, Rev. Barnes built the first Baptist church in Omaha largely with his own hands. It was not a very imposing structure. A frame building, 20x32, it was plastered with muslin and papered.

There was little to encourage the pioneer minister. As Rev. Barnes wrote, "The history of the Baptist cause in the territory was one of hard struggle and small advance during these early years." Nevertheless, when his mission commission in 1862 and returned east he had helped lay the firm foundations for the subsequent growth of the denomination.

Weed Control Conference Set

LINCOLN—The latest developments and improvements in machinery for applying chemicals for control of weeds will be discussed at the sixth annual Nebraska Weed Control Conference here January 3-4.

Dwight Lambert, chief of the state noxious weed division, said the latest developments will be explained through discussions and exhibits. A large number of commercial firms are applying for exhibit space.

Farmers as well as experts in weed control will participate in the discussions. A panel of farmers will discuss their experiences with the eradication of bindweed. Panel leader will be Extension Agronomist J. D. Farr of the University of Nebraska. The two-day event is sponsored by the state noxious weed division and the University of Nebraska. It usually draws hundreds of farmers and others interested in weed control. The meetings will be held in the 4-H building at the state fairgrounds.

For added color, a string of outdoor Christmas tree lights were entwined in green boughs underneath a picture window.

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