

EDITORIALS

OBSERVING BOY SCOUT WEEK

During this week local Scout units join with some 8,500 throughout the nation in observance of National Boy Scout Week.

Nearly every day in the year the Boy Scouts of America, through local Scout units, conduct some program or offer some service that is an aid to every community, and the many units in Plattsburgh and Cass county are no exception—many a former Scout in this area is now prominent in business and the professions both here and other sections of the country.

Scouting is a program in which boys from eight years old and up can learn how to do things for themselves and for others. Its program develops physical fitness, skill, self-reliance, courage and high ideals of service to God and country. This is done in partnership with the home, the school, and church, who accept responsibility for the proper guidance and education of boys.

Scouting in most Cass county communities has been retarded, unable to care for all the hundreds of boys wishing to participate through lack of funds and leadership. Sponsoring groups and men willing to spend the necessary time as troop leaders has been responsible for the dropping of several troops in the past few years. Lack of money has prevented the carrying out of plans for expanding Scout activities by organizing more troops and Cub dens.

MISUSE OF CHARITABLE CAUSES

A recent survey indicated that Americans gave more money in 1952 than in any preceding year, for charitable causes. The total of U. S. philanthropy in 1952 is estimated at something over \$4,300,000,000 by the John Price Jones Company, Inc. — a fund raising and public relations consultant firm.

A recent report from one large city indicates that donors there asked more questions in 1952 of solicitors for charitable causes than in any previous year. This close questioning is a result of recent abuse of the American people's sympathetic attitude to appeals for financial aid from worthy charitable organizations.

In recent years phony magazine salesmen and phony solicitors for unrecognizable charitable organizations have visited almost every American town of any size. Often these solicitors are quite aggressive, frequently force themselves into the homes of unsuspecting housewives during the hours when husbands are usually at work.

Often the magazine salesman begins with such fakery as: "The organization is making it possible for a number of us boys to win scholarships by the sale of these magazines." Or, quite often, the solicitor will appear to be either crippled or otherwise physically handicapped when he actually is quite normal. This practice has become so widespread it has chilled the response given to legitimate solicitors.

Good advice to follow, in judging the case of each solicitor, is to be sure you recognize the organization he supposedly represents. Check with your nearest branch of the organization, by telephone, if possible. Be wary of physically handicapped salesmen and high-pressure methods. If in doubt, politely decline aid and, if the reaction is either discourteous or a high-pressure one, ask the solicitor to leave immediately.

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

For want of a nail the shoe is lost, for want of a shoe the horse is lost, for want of a horse the rider is lost.

—Herbert

The Plattsburgh Journal

Official County and City Paper

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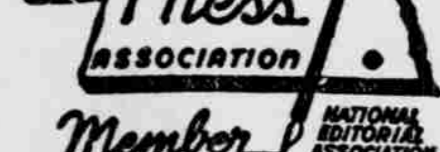
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Furse's Fresh Flashes

One thing we can be thankful for is that we don't get as much government as we pay for.

Some folks say that if Grandpop was suddenly incarnated into this old world he would be amazed and confused with TV, radio, the airplane, push-button living, modern automobiles, etc. Bet he would be a lot more confused, however, if he suddenly woke up and found a zipper on his pants.

If they would like to make our jails more secure, we suggest they call in the designer of those escape-proof cellophane sacks so much of our food stuffs come packed in these days.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says she's going back to wearing high heels—she's getting tired of being kissed on the forehead.

Be more than a "Yes Man." Be a yes and know man.

We've never heard of a Canasta player killing his partner unless he happened to be married to her.

A child is a person who grows up, goes out into the world and learns that Mom and Dad were right about a few things.

Dr. Selman Abraham Waksman, discoverer of streptomycin and neomycin recently stated "I want to know." So do we.

diately. If he does not leave, or employs harsh or abusive language in reply, call the police and have the solicitor thoroughly investigated.

Down Memory Lane

20 YEARS AGO

The retail section of the Chamber of Commerce has named the following to head special committees during 1953: Frank Bestor, executive; Fred Busch, advertising; C. C. Wescott, publicity; and Frank Bestor, entertainment. . . . Competing in an eighth grade spelling contest are Marjorie Anne Tidball, Alice Hirz, Eleanor Biggs, Evelyn Warthen, Edna Mae Petersen, Mary Katherine Wiles, Harriet Goss, Robert Taylor, Max Sietz and Richard Yelick. . . . Henry Ragosz has been elected chairman of a Nebraska Farm Holiday organization at Louisville. . . . Miss Pearl Coatman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Coatman of Elmwood, and Royal G. Alber of Lincoln were married February 8. . . . George Adam and Anna May Sandin of Plattsburgh rated first in boys and girls vocal contests in the MINK musical tournament at Peru.

10 YEARS AGO

The Solomon grocery store was looted of \$9 in coin, cigarettes, razor blades, coffee and other merchandise Saturday night. . . . Margie Ruth Pollard of Nehawka has been awarded a \$25 scholarship by the Women's Athletic department of the University of Nebraska. She is a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hall Pollard. . . . Suit has been filed by the city of Plattsburgh against a bus company, charging that a bus damaged electroliers during a recent flood. . . . Corbin J. Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Searl S. Davis, has been nominated as a principal appointment to West Point Military Academy. . . . William L. Sutton has been promoted to corporal.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: FERMENT THAT SPAWNED HITLERISM AGAIN RAMPANT IN EUROPE; CRUCIAL TURNING POINT IN HISTORY; U. S. WITHDRAWAL OF ECONOMIC SUPPORT TO EUROPE IN 1930-31 WAS STEP LEADING TO WORLD WAR II.

(Ed. Note—Drew Pearson is now on a trip to Berlin and Paris to check on crucial developments there and report on the progress of John Foster Dulles in unifying our Allies.)

En Route Through Western Europe.—I am taking this quick trip to Europe for one reason. It looks as if Adolf Hitler's ghost was walking again.

That isn't a pleasant thing to say or contemplate. However, the ferment which spawned Hitlerism is here again: anti-Semitism; German energy, British apathy, French suspicion and American boredom. They are here and increasing; while the Kremlin looks on and smiles. It seems that what was sauce for Hitlerism is also sauce for Stalinism.

While I haven't talked to John Foster Dulles as yet, this of course is why he is here too. Obviously he knows that this is a crucial turning point in our history, when we can go forward toward peace or slip backward toward war.

These turning points usually come

Ticklers

By George



"What'll we do now, sir? She insists the shoes she's wearing now are as comfortable as being barefooted!"

about once in a generation. They come so imperceptibly that the public doesn't know they are present. Sometimes not even the diploma do.

But wars don't spring full-blown overnight. They sprout gradually, and are nurtured by suspicion, isolation and just plain public boredom with problems of the world.

When War II started the world was still telling you that the early dawn of Sept. 1, 1949, when Hitler invaded Poland. Personally I don't think so. Actually, it began 10 years or so before that, with bickering, suspicion, public discouragement and loss of hope.

Or some people will tell you that World War II began when Hitler took the Sudetenland from Czechoslovakia in October, 1938. Again, I don't think so.

And some people will tell you that war began when Hitler invaded the Ruhr and the Rhineland on March 7, 1936. I disagree.

Again they will tell you that war began when Hitler marched into Austria; or when he first came into power in Germany in 1933 just 20 years ago this month. That is getting a little closer, but I still don't think that was the time when the first seeds of war were really planted.

I think they were really planted with the depression of 1930-31 when the United States withdrew its economic support from Europe, which was followed by the closing of the banks of Vienna, Berlin and Paris; and by the bitter jockeying for power of France and Germany.

Our economic support to Europe in those days was not in the form of Marshall plan aid or mutual security. It was in the form of loans—loans which American bondholders confidently expected would be paid back. Those loans, incidentally, were backed up by weighty and convincing words from none other than our present secretary of state, John Foster Dulles.

History has a peculiar way of repeating. It happened that Mr. Dulles has taken some other significant trips to Europe prior to this one, and one of them was in 1926 when he urged continued loans to Europe. The Coolidge administration at that time was skeptical about those loans, and Parker Gilbert, our reparations commissioner, made some statements frowning on them. But Mr. Dulles, who then represented the bankers, felt otherwise.

"It is of tremendous importance," he said on April 28, 1926, "that nothing occur to bring about any long continued cessation in American lending to foreigners."

There is no reason," he continued, "why for many years to come should not build up our investment abroad."

It was the subsequent realization by the American public that these loans were next to worthless that caused the sudden turning-off of the financial spigot and the depression in Europe, with the suspicion, the bickering, and the power politics that followed.

Of late we have been more realistic. We have given money to Europe, not loaned it, and the loss is being shared by the entire public, not by the investing public.

But the fact is that whether in the form of loans or Marshall plan aid, dollars are dollars. And when you turn off the flow of dollars to a people who are living on an artificial economic life, the depression in that country is trouble. You can't continue them indefinitely. But, on the other hand, you have to be careful how you turn off the flow.

Mr. Dulles on his current mission to Europe is taking a somewhat different approach than he did in 1926. Instead of urging continued money to Europe, he is warning that if our Allies do not unite on a west European army, then we will cut off the flow of dollars.

That is a calculated risk he probably has to take. But if he fails, if Europe calls his bluff, then he not only ends up with a united European army, but also he pulls the financial props out from under our Allies in a way that is bound to result in

economic dislocation, political recrimination, increased communism and perhaps eventual war.

Peace Is Possible

That is blunt and disagreeable way of putting it, but we have to look the fact in the face. We have to remember, among other things, that powerful elements inside France, even inside England would like to see this happen. The French Communists, which still comprise the biggest party, would like nothing better than to see Mr. Dulles inflame French opinion in such a way that the European army pact would fail and economic aid cut off. To some extent, so would the Gaullists.

And there are left-wingers in the British labor party who would like to see this happen to our Anglo-American relations.

Mr. Dulles, therefore, is not dealing with easy, cut-and-dried predictable factors. He is dealing with the most difficult of all factors—human emotions and volatile public opinion. That is why his mission is so difficult.

On the brighter side of the international ledger, it should be remembered that Europe has been nearer unity of late than at any time in history. For 90 years France and Germany have been intermittently at war. Now the fact that they are discussing putting their troops under the same flag and in the same uniform is a tremendous milestone for unity.

That's why the Dulles trip is so crucial, why the great goal of peace can be either achieved or fumbled in the next few weeks.

Legislative SIDELIGHTS..

by BERNIE CAMP
Information Director
Nebraska Farm Bureau
Federation

(Legislative Sidelights is made available to your local newspaper as a service of the Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of this newspaper.)

Farmers Have an Interest.—Farmers have an interest in the legislative sessions. They have an interest because the actions taken by the legislature affect the tax bills they must pay to support the state and local governments; and because by the changing of old laws and the setting up of new laws, the legislature may change the relationship of an individual to agencies of the state or to other individuals.

It's simple enough to blame a legislature for unsatisfactory laws or increased tax loads after the session is concluded, but if the individual citizen of the state has taken no interest in the legislature while it was in session what real right has he to blame the legislature when he disagrees with actions it has taken?

The men who sit in the Nebraska legislature are the representatives of the voters of the state. They want to take action on proposals presented to them in the legislature to conform with the feelings of their people back home. The legislators want to know how the people at home feel about legislative measures they are considering.

When the folks at home fail to write or otherwise express themselves a pending legislation, the legislator has no way of knowing how his people feel about it. He then has to rely on his own judgment or knowledge of the situation or on the judgment and knowledge of people who do take an interest in such things.

Legislators are human. Simply because the farmer, the baker, the grocer, the banker, the lawyer, the homemaker in his community handed him the responsibility of representing them in the legislature does not ordain a man to be omniscient or omnipresent in judgment and wisdom. He is still as capable of making mistakes as he was before he came to the legislature, and he still needs encouragement and direction to know that he is serving his

district as the folk in the district want him to serve.

If the people living in a legislative district fail to tell their legislator how they feel about homestead exemption laws, state highway commissions, highway revenue increases and the hundred and one other proposals which will affect their lives, the legislator must guess how his people feel. He cannot look into a crystal ball or go to a gypsy who reads palms and find out how the home folks feel about proposed legislation. He has but a very few ways of knowing what the feeling in his district is. He can gauge and assess the opinions of people in the district he represents by what they tell him in letters, or by their coming down to Lincoln to visit with him when he is at home, or by telephoning to visit with him, or by sending him a telegram.

The most effective way of letting your state legislator know how you feel is by sitting down to visit with him, so there is an exchange of ideas. This can be done when he is at home or by visiting him on a trip to Lincoln. The most effective contact with your legislator is a friendly letter which explains fully how you feel about a bill, and why you feel that way. A telephone call is a good contact, but since it is generally by necessity a toll call, seriously limited in discussion time. A telegram is not too effective a means of contact, for it is essential and you are known to the legislator it does let him know that you thought of him and his problems.

Probably the least effective way of letting your state legislator know how you feel is by signing your name to a round- robin letter written by another individual or by an organization. Most legislators—whether they be at the state or national level—tend to discount the multi-signature type of communication for the simple reason that many signers do not know what they sign. Legislators would far rather have half a dozen personal letters from individuals than a multi-signature letter or memorandum, signed by a thousand signatures on it. The individual letter means to the legislator that someone took the time enough to sit down and think about the problem discussed; whereas, the multi-signature communication, he suspects, was instigated by one person who was able to persuade a lot of other folks to sign their name to his statement.

Members of the Congress of the United States and members of the Nebraska legislature have year after year covered by legislators on the state and national scene. They need the advice and suggestions of the folk back home, particularly when the issues being considered are so controversial as to become confusing to the individual lawmaker. They need the sense of being right in making decisions. The sense that can come only when they know the folk who assigned the job to them approve of what they do.

NOISY HOBBY.—Although hobbies are usually considered quiet recreation, Mrs. Grant Allen's hobby is probably the noisiest one in Blair. In ten years she has collected more than 100 bells—the oldest, one that belonged to her great-grandfather, dates from 1740 and is the smallest, a good luck bell from the Isle of Capri, is only one-half inch long.

U. S. M. C.—Because nearly half the corps will be rotated out of service this year, the U. S. Marine Corps may have to turn to the draft for men. Up to now, the Corps has been taking men only by voluntary enlistments.

DRAFT CALLS.—Monthly draft calls of 52,000 at least until summer, and tightening of deferments, will be needed to keep the armed forces at 3,600,000, according to Mrs. Anna Rosenberg, retiring assistant defense secretary.

Test Your I. Q.

1. Who was the originator of the Donkey and the Elephant as emblems of America's two major political parties?
2. Was George Bernard Shaw, famous Irish author and satirist, a wealthy man at the time of his death?
3. What is the origin of the word "February"?



4. In a football game, how many points are scored for a touchdown?
5. What is the meaning of the Irish phrase "Erin go bragh"?

ANSWERS TO Test Your I. Q.

1. Thomas Nast (1840, 1902), famous Harper's Weekly cartoonist, first drew the Donkey January 16, 1870, later the Elephant November 7, 1874.
2. Yes. Shaw left an estate of over one million dollars.
3. It comes from the Latin word "Februus," meaning "to purify."
4. Six.
5. "Ireland forever."

LETTER BOX

The Journal welcomes letters from readers for this column on any subject. Your name must be signed to all articles intended for publication. Answers, by request, can be omitted from the letter; appearing in print. (Contents do not necessarily reflect the opinions of this newspaper.)

Dear Editor:

Do the taxpayers of this community know how their tax dollars are spent? If you pay tax or not, let's open our eyes and see what is happening as you might be paying tax some day. Recently this community approved a \$450,000 school bond election for new school buildings. These buildings are going to be built and the Board is asking bids from General Contractors only. Now pull yourself together and think for yourself and don't use the brains of your friends as they might be sick.

You say what is wrong? There is \$450,000 to spend. Do you as a taxpayer want to see this community get the best price for the completion of these school buildings? If you don't give this paper to your friend—maybe he isn't sick.

The only bidders eligible to bid for these buildings are General Contractors. What does a general contractor know about plumbing, heating and electrical work? He can't be too familiar with it or he would be in the business. As for the same reasoning, what does an architect know about plumbing, heating and electrical work? I notice they all have engineers lay out their work for them, or have some people thought they were messenger boys in the architect's office?

The method the Board of Education has adopted for the awarding of contracts was supposed left up to the architect. Some say they thought it would be best that way. I talked to the president of the board. I showed him by another method of awarding contracts nearly 30 thousand dollars was saved. It was hard for him to believe. I don't think he is familiar with the construction business, so I can account for his belief. But, yet, he was within 20 some miles to have my story verified and he did nothing about it to my knowledge. I then talked to another member of the board. I pointed out to him the same thing and said, "Would you be interested in saving that much money?" You know what the answer is. So I said, "Let's change our methods for the good of the taxpayers. He wanted to know if I would guarantee him that much. Imagine a member of a Board of Education making a statement like that."

If this method of awarding contracts was left up to the architect or any one member of the Board, my only answer to the Board is:

1. I think they are jeopardizing their position.
2. I think they can't do their own thinking.
3. I think they are not qualified for the position.
4. I think they are "Yes" men.
5. I think they should be removed from the Board entirely.

I was informed by one member of the Board that this is the usual method of awarding contracts, and there was not much difference in cost of construction as to how contracts were awarded. Maybe \$30 or \$30,000 isn't too much money in the Plattsburgh area. But for this awarding procedure of awarding contracts, you or anyone else show me one I think I can count 50-to-1 in my favor over the Board's method. What's the deal? Why is it going this way? Let's pin the Board down and find out why!

My method of awarding these contracts is as follows, and you can compare them with those in this same paper of February 5, 1953:

1. General construction for each building.
 - 1a. General construction for all buildings in lump sum.
 - 1b. General construction for each building complete with plumbing, heating, ventilating and electrical.
2. Plumbing, heating and ventilating for each building.
 - 2a. Plumbing, heating and ventilating for all buildings in lump sum.
 - 2b. Electrical for each building.
 - 2c. Electrical for all buildings in lump sum.

If there is a possible chance of saving money, this is it. And don't be misinformed by architect's figures, as the bids could go over or under his estimate.

Now pull yourself together, think and you don't have to think hard—just what are we going to do about this? My telephone number is 5000. Call, or come to my house. I have plenty of parking space and my landlord keeps the taxes paid. I think something should be done, or else the Board of Education may be floating another bond issue.

Forrest C. Carper.

LIVING COSTS

The Consumer's price index dropped 0.2 per cent in the month from mid-November to mid-December, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The decline was due principally to a drop of one per cent in food prices. The overall index figure fell from 191.1 to 190.7 per cent.

The days are getting longer but the skirts are not.



Letty Hallman is the first female mail-truck driver in America. She likes to drive in the rear view mirror, lives in St. Paul, Minn.



by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent
STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

D. E. Thompson's withdrawal in favor of Governor Charles H. Dietrich in the widely contested legislative contest of 1901 over the selection of two United States senators brought to an end one of the most celebrated political struggles in Nebraska's history. There were two senators-at-large in 1901, and that fact made the struggle all the more bitter. Last month I discussed the fact from the point of view of J. H. Millard, who along with Governor Dietrich was named to the post as a last-minute compromise candidate.

Governor Dietrich then did what very few men have been able to do in Nebraska politics—advance from the governorship to the United States Senate. Indeed, he had served little more than a year of his term as governor when he resigned the post to accept membership in the Senate.

His earlier life and career as governor were discussed in an earlier column. By way of review, though, it should be mentioned that he was born November 26, 1853 in Aurora, Illinois, had gone out to the gold fields of the Black Hills in 1875, and had come back to Hastings in 1878, where he entered the mercantile and banking business, and soon rose to a position of leadership of Hastings' commercial and civic affairs.

Governor Dietrich was elected to the Senate to fill the unexpired term of Monroe L. Hayward, who died before qualifying. He completed that term, but was not a candidate for reelection.

Though he served but part of one term and was not particularly noted as a public speaker, Senator Dietrich achieved a considerable degree of prominence in Washington. He was a firm enemy of governmental red tape, and as the Hastings Tribune once put it, "often astonished his colleagues by literally tearing down the traditional 'red tape' of custom and driving straight through to his objective."

Senator Dietrich was much interested in the development of the beet sugar industry, one of Nebraska's new enterprises and one of its greatest achievements. Long before entering politics and even before beet sugar had been manufactured in Nebraska he had visited Germany and Russia, thoroughly familiarizing himself with beet culture, manufacturing and marketing.

He was also interested in Reclamation, then in its pioneer stages of discussion and activity.

Following the expiration of his term, Senator Dietrich returned to Hastings, retiring from public life and to a very considerable extent from private business. He was not at all well during the last years of his life and lived very quietly, although he did engage in a great deal of leisurely travel, during which he collected large quantities of ethnological materials which later were presented to the State Historical Society. He died, April 10, 1924, in Hastings.

Sale of Seals Set at \$1,344; Below Year Ago

The Nebraska Tuberculosis Association released today information on the 1952 Christmas Seal Sale, revealing that more than half of the Nebraska agents have reached their previous year's total.

Still under the seal for the state is still under the 1951 figure. The report lists Cass county contributions for the period ending January 15 at \$1,000, compared with \$1,426.20 for the same date a year ago, and \$1,455.70 as a total for 1951.

Mrs. Dorothy Janacek today the state report was compiled, another \$344.55 has been collected in Cass county. The total collected in the county reached \$1,344.55, slightly more than \$100 under the 1951 total. Small contributions are still being received, however.