

Ghost Towns Prominent In County, History Shows

OUT OF OLD NEBRASKA

Cass County, bounded on the east by the Missouri River and on the north by the Platte, was one of the eight original counties established in Nebraska Territory, 1854. Its name honors Lewis Cass, famed soldier and statesman from Michigan. At the time the county was named in his honor, Cass had served as governor of Michigan territory, congressman and senator from Michigan, and Democratic candidate for the presidency (1848). Later he would serve as President Buchanan's Secretary of State.

From the time of the earliest exploration, the region around the mouth of the Platte was looked upon as one of great strategic importance. As early as 1848, Libeas T. Coon was operating a hand-propelled ferry across the Missouri two miles south of the Platte. In 1853, Samuel Martin established a trading post on the west side of the river, and with the organization of the territory in 1854 the Plattsmouth Town Company was formed.

The middle and late fifties were boom years for the counties of eastern Nebraska. Prospects were bright, enthusiasm ran high, and new towns were projected by the score—each sure that it would become the gateway to the West and the great emporium of the trans-Missouri region. Most of these town-building ventures were short lived—some hardly got beyond the paper stage—and

the map of eastern Nebraska is dotted with the "ghost towns" of the territorial boom period. Cass County seems to have more than its share of these ghost towns. Among the most important were Creapolis and Rock Bluff. Others were Kenosha, Liberty, Cleveland, Osage, Factoryville, Folden's Mill and Eight Mile Grove.

Rock Bluff is perhaps the best known ghost town in Nebraska. For a while it thrived on the steamboat trade, and even supported a race track, a coal mine and an "Institute." It also played an important part in the controversial election of 1866 when the voters of Nebraska were deciding the issue of whether or not the territory should become a state.

From the beginning, Plattsmouth was the dominant community in the county. Though early hopes of serving as the jumping-off place for the trans-continental railroad were dashed when the Union Pacific built west from Omaha, the Burlington built into Plattsmouth in 1869 and the town shared in Nebraska's early railroad development.

The rich agricultural lands of Cass County were soon taken up by eager settlers spilling across the Missouri River into Nebraska. Its population in 1855 was 712; in 1858, 1,251; in 1860, 3,369; and in 1870, 8,151. The period of greatest growth was the decade of the 1870's when the population jumped from 8,151 to 16,683. High point in the county's population history was 1890 when the census returns showed 24,080 inhabitants. Since that time there has been a gradual decline with each census return. In 1950 the figure stood at 16,355.

J. Howard Davis
INSURANCE
Soennichsen Building
Phone 264
Plattsmouth

Perfume That Clings

Q.—Dear Penny: I adore perfume, but for some reason or other its fragrance just does not last on me. I have told several of my friends that I want a new perfume, but first I must find out about a lasting one.—Mrs. A. W.

A.—A particularly good idea for women who claim that perfume does not "stay with them" is a Liquid Skin Sachet. It smooths on the skin very easily, and lingers longer because of its sachet base. It has a slower rate of diffusion and evaporation than any other type of fragrance. Try this Houbigant Chantilly Liquid Skin Sachet. Only \$1.85 plus tax at
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Private Brittain At Camp Chaffee

Pvt. Lawrence Edwin Brittain, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Brittain, 725 First Street, Plattsmouth, has been assigned to Company D, 47th Armored Infantry Battalion, 5th Armored Division, for basic training in the United States Army as an artilleryman at Camp Chaffee, Arkansas.

Private Brittain's first eight weeks will be spent in infantry training where he will be taught the fundamentals of soldiering, learn to use and fire various weapons and practice Army combat tactics. During the final eight weeks he will be taught artillery techniques and receive training with the 165 mm howitzer. After completing his basic training he will be reassigned for duty with an Army artillery unit.

HUMAN EXISTENCE
Dr. George F. Carter of Johns Hopkins University, who declared in 1949 that man had lived on this continent 40,000 years ago, now holds that artifacts establish human existence here anywhere from 100,000 to 400,000 years ago.

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HUMILITY FOR MAHATMA
—British Socialist Leader Clement Attlee removes his hat and shoes in reverent respect before laying a wreath on the tomb of Mahatma Gandhi in New Delhi. Attlee was en route to the Asian Socialist Conference at Rangoon.

JOURNALISMS

It is an impressive sight con- verging on Cuba's beautiful capitol building with its massive gold dome glittering in the morning sun. This, to our knowledge, is the only capitol building in the world where an admission charge is made to tourists for a tour through the building, but it is worth more than the nominal fee of 25 cents collected at the door.

All cameras must be checked at the entrance where you are given a number for recovery of your articles upon leaving the building. It was said this precaution is necessary for protection of government officials who fear opponents of the present government might try to conceal firearms in camera cases.

That is one interesting feature of the Cuban visit, the precautions taken by the Batista government since taking over in March of 1952. Wherever you turn you are confronted by police, soldiers and secret police, the latter organization similar to our FBI. At all government buildings are stationed soldiers and police, who calmly give you the once-over as you pass or enter—but do not be alarmed, we found them to be pleasant, most courteous and helpful at all times. They are stationed there just in case some of former President Carlos friends decide it is an opportune time to regain their place in the sun.

Before we go further we would like to answer a question that has been put to us several times. A number of people have inquired as to the feeling Cubans have for President Batista who as most of you remember, was a candidate last spring, along with the then President Carlos, seeking election. Batista, then General of the Armies, didn't wait for the elections. A well planned "Coup de Grace" placed him at the head of the government with little or no blood shed last March.

We took particular pains to talk to numerous Cuban citizens of most all classes, from taxi drivers, bus drivers, waiters, business men and women, and others on several levels and came up with the conclusion that Batista holds a warm spot in the hearts of the peoples of the Island. Most, to a man, were not in sympathy with the manner in which he came into power, but these people cherish their freedom and independence and never let you forget they are grateful to the United States for assisting them in 1898 in getting it. With a shrug of his shoulders, one driver told me, "You just elect president in your country. We have no election. We no vote. We like elect president like Americanos, but Batista do wonderful thing for country and poor people." That about sums up the feeling we found in Cuba. When they will have another election will be up to Batista to decide.

Cuba's capitol building located on the great mall in Habana was erected in 1925-29 and covers two city blocks. Designed and constructed by Cubans with 6,000 men working around the clock, it cost nearly 17 million dollars. The official reception hall is magnificent, its unsurpassed beauty and grandeur is considered unique in the world. The style is in Italian Renaissance with pilasters of the Alps. Its 400 foot length and 45 foot width makes it one of the largest halls in the world. At the center of the hall are three massive bronze doors with panels representing the outstanding episodes of the history of Cuba. Hung from the beautiful 22 carat gold leaf ceiling are 32 massive bronze candelabras, all

artistically designed. Interesting was "The Diamond" mounted in a gold ring and set in a pure black onyx base of octagonal shape located in the center of the great hall and directly under the gold leaf dome. This diamond is 24 carats and came from the Kimberly Mines of South Africa and has a perfect carving of 32 facets. This precious stone serves as the starting point of the Central Highway marking the "Zero Kilometer". From this point to Santiago de Cuba on the eastern end of the island is a distance of 500 miles, and from this point to Pinar del Rio, on the western end, is a distance of 113 miles. Through this total of 713 miles stretches a super highway of concrete and asphalt. All mileage in Cuba is measured from "The Diamond".

At the center of the official reception hall stands the "Statue of the Republic, the official name "The Goddess of the Republic" and was modeled by Signore Angelo Zanelli, world renowned Italian artist. Cast in bronze in Rome and shipped to Cuba in three pieces, it is finished in 22 carat gold leaf. Standing 58 feet in height and weighing 49 tons, the second largest statue in the world, it depicts the richness and splendor of this massive building with its muraled walls, gold leaf trimmings, solid mahogany, rich velvet and fine French and English damask drapes, rooms with an inspiration of Italian Renaissance, Louis XIV and Louis XV and French Imperial, resembling the famous office of Napoleon at Versailles, should give our readers some idea of the beauty of Cuba's famous capitol. —RRF

SCOOTER TRIP
Burkeville, Va. — Larry and Bettv Mertsching, a young Burkeville couple, recently took off by motor scooter for Oakland, California, hoping to make the trip in thirty days. The scooters will be equipped with sidecars, which, among other things, will carry a gasoline stove, a portable icebox, lanterns, sleeping bags, portable radio and camera. "Baby," their pet cat, will also go along.

ELMWOOD
Mrs. Grace Plybon
Phone 4-2247

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Hewitt of Diller were Monday overnight visitors with her mother, Mrs. Nettie Mendenhall.

Hunters Return; Bag Two Wolves

Sixty-three men were so enthused over Saturday's wolf hunt that they went again on Sunday afternoon in the vicinity of Fort George. They bagged two wolves, making five altogether. Freddie Graves is to be commended in that he shot one on Saturday and one on Sunday.

Charles Marshall and Ray Fentiman are both at their homes after their hospital experiences.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Shreve had both of their daughters and the three grandchildren at home this week. Mrs. Reynolds, came from Kentucky and Margradel, Mrs. Charles Gonzales, of Valley, Kenneth Cottingham from Iowa.

Good used clothing is now being taken up to be sent to Korea. It is sponsored by the Methodist ladies but others are kindly helping too.

Mrs. Anna Beck and Mrs. Lucy Lyle are two ladies who have as one of their hobbies the making of knitted dolls, both large and small, from thread that is quite fine.

Twenty-One at P. N. G. Meeting

P. N. G. Kensington met with Daisy Moore on Wednesday afternoon and Wilma Nickel was assisting hostess. There were 21 present, one being Vivian Turner, who was initiated as a new member by Lucy Lyle and Ploy Buell. Refreshments were coffee, banana nut bread, cinnamon apples and chicken Chow Mein.

John Wilhelm has recovered from a two weeks siege of flu. Elmer Shere had it too, for a shorter time, however.

Wm. Atchison is welcomed home again after his extended voyage to Europe and the Holy Land. We expect to hear later about many interesting places and anecdotes, such as he is adept in telling.

Cooking School Held Recently

Thursday afternoon was an important day for a large group of interested ladies who were at the Methodist church basement for a cooking school presented by the Electric Power Co. Mrs. Naomi Lugsch was the demonstrator. She was assisted by a young lady and a district manager. Mrs. Lugsch was also present. Men managers were Paul McConnor of Ralston and Bud King of Weeping Water.

Each lady was present with a gift of a nite-lite when she registered. Mrs. Chas. Marshall received the door prize as her number was lucky. Others drew food articles that had been cooked, and all went home with some new recipes.

The Best Way To Say "Be My Valentine" Is With One Of These Heart - Warmers!



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