

EDITORIALS

HOW TO WRITE EDITORIALS

Going to Rotary Tuesday, after sitting at the typewriter half the morning trying to think of some issue we could come up with to assist in enlightening the world, we discovered the easiest way possible to fill an editorial column. We then enjoyed the noon hour to the fullest.

Many times, when we wanted to absent ourselves from this job twice-a-week, we scoured the city directory and met up with only firm and emphatic "No's." But Tuesday we discovered our man — none other than Lumberman Lester Boise Dalton — (that Boise is not to be used publicly; he informs us it belonged to a one-time popular governor of Iowa) — who has shown no mean talent in editing the Rotary Wheel during the past month, so we lift his copy —

"I am still toying with Democracy as the theme for this issue of the Wheel. Not for any political value, but just as it is known to us in everyday living.

"If you read The Journal (who among us would dare say we didn't) you will recall the editorial which should have had a heading "Mr. Peterson Goes to Washington," or "The Adventures of Val in Big Time." If you were not stubbornly resistant you were swerved over and would have willingly and cheerfully helped ship him to India.

"The same week an outstate paper formerly owned and edited by Furse, came out with an editorial by its new editor who, in no uncertain terms, informed you that Mr. Peterson was not the Boy Wonder that some folks thought he was, and unless you were previously firmly grounded in your own convictions, you would have been glad to assist in working for his recall.

"Your reactions to these two editorials is what is known as the "power of the printed page." Both were exercising the "Freedom of the Press."

He continues: "Sneak Previews of Future Flashes" "A certain little contour twister claims to have an hour-glass figure, but can she help it if the sand is a bit lumpy.

Conversation is exercise of the mind, but gossip is merely exercising the tongue. Next to being young and pretty, the best bet is to be old and rich.

A pessimist is a person who is seasick during the whole voyage through life. The best way to break a bad habit is to drop it.

A husband is a man who, if given enough rope, will find himself tied up at the office.

Everything on the farm is mechanized, but Mother. Inflation is good times gone bad. March 15 . . . All that I have today I owe to Uncle Sam."

There's more: "How To Be An Editor" The scoffers said it couldn't be done. And the odds were so great who wouldn't!

But I tackled this job That couldn't be done. And what do you know . . . IT COULDN'T!

See how easy it is to fill a column like this. The only thing you have to be careful of is not to get the guy so mad that he'll quit advertising.

PLENTY BITE IN DOG DRIVE

Members of the City Council and Police Department have been nipped at plenty during the past few days in their drive to solve the dog problem brought on with examination of a stray dog by State Health Department officials and found to have rabies.

By orders of the health department,

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Thrift is care and scruple in the spending of one's means. It is not a virtue, and it requires neither skill nor talent. —Emmanuel Kant

The Plattsmouth Journal

Official County and City Paper

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Furse's Fresh Flashes

Pretty soon the young things will be dazzling us with new, airy spring clothes — and our fancy will get around to the basic facts of life.

Many people won't consider anything unless it is written or stated by someone with a much publicized name — they are the sheep.

Many persons, especially farmers and cattle men, are wondering right now if 1952 was really the "time for a change."

It's the henpecked husband who crows loudest when he gets away from home.

Hardening of the heart ages people more quickly than hardening of the arteries.

In late years when March 15 rolls around we suddenly realize that we were brought up on the wrong side of the tax.

Politics can be kept out of anything that human beings can be kept out of.

A joint account is a device that allows your wife to beat you to the draw.

In divorce it's the high cost of leaving that hurts most.

both local and state, it was necessary to act nearly without warning to protect not only citizens of this community, but valuable pets as well — rabies wait for no one, man or beast.

No one was in a position to know how many animals had been exposed to this case of rabies. An absolute quarantine without notice was necessary for the protection of everyone. No doubt a number of pet owners were disturbed by the swift action taken, but a lot more criticism would have been directed at city officials if several rabies cases had broken out through negligence of police to round up all dogs immediately. Prompt attention to this health menace no doubt prevented serious spread of the dreaded disease.

Many of us must get over our persecution complex and come to realize that city officials have a duty to perform and an obligation to protect the well being of nearly 6000 Plattsmouth citizens.

Down Memory Lane

10 YEARS AGO

A Cass County Information Service Corps has been organized. Mrs. Howard Pool of Murdock is county chairman and Mrs. Nelson Berger of Nehawka is co-chairman. . . Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wiyse are the parents of a daughter born February 24 . . . Mr. and Mrs. Emil Schmidt are the parents of a daughter born February 19 . . . Milo Price, L. S. Devoe, E. H. Westcott, A. H. Duxbury and S. S. Davis have been named Victory speakers at Plattsmouth . . . A public library has been opened at Greenwood. It is in charge of Mrs. Williams at the Christian church parlors . . . Cass county's Red Cross quota has been set at \$7,800. Plattsmouth's quota is \$2,200.

20 YEARS AGO

Miss Frances Benak, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Benak, was united in marriage on February 21 at Omaha to Ladislav Nimerichter of Omaha . . . Alice Hirz and Fdna Mae Peterson will compete for county spelling honors. They won the written and oral contests respectively . . . A new fire truck has been added to the equipment of the Louisville Fire Department. The truck is being purchased by members of the volunteer department . . . Charles Wurga has been elected president of the Eastern Cass County Bee Owners Association, organized here recently. John J. Stones of Murray is vice president, and C. A. Troop is secretary-treasurer . . . Miss Ella Jacks of Plattsmouth and Arthur D. Schlotman of Whiting, Iowa, were married February 22.

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: FAMED "ROCK" MAY BE CLOSED IN PRISON ECONOMY WAVE; ATLANTA PEN NOW CONSIDERED WORST TROUBLE SPOT; TIDELANDS BATTLE RECALLS RUM-RUNNER DAYS.

WASHINGTON — Grim, gray Alcatraz, arising from the middle of San Francisco Bay, the nation's toughest prison, may be closed as part of the Republican economy wave.

The tip-off was given behind closed doors of the senate judiciary committee by James Bennett, director of federal prisons, who said the recommendation is supposed to be contained in President Eisenhower's forthcoming budget message.

"I haven't seen the budget message, but the boys in the budget bureau said they

Keep Him Guessing



were going to do it," Bennett told senators, adding that "I have recommended that Alcatraz be replaced."

"There are a great many objections to Alcatraz from an administrative and operating standpoint," he explained. "It is located way off on the west coast on a dreary rock island, and is extremely expensive to operate. We have to have water taken in there. In addition, the personnel do not like it. We almost have to order men to go there, and it is an administrative monstrosity."

Bennett also reported on the other 31 prisons in the federal system. He made no comment about the recent outbreak of prison riots, though he indicated that the Atlanta penitentiary is the most trouble spot.

"Our principal problem at Atlanta," he pointed out, "is that we have about 500 more than we can handle, and there are relatively few single cells, and that makes for trouble, not having any space for men where they can live by themselves."

Terre Haute Worst Prison However, Sen. "Wild Bill" Langer of North Dakota, chairman of the judiciary committee, who has quietly been inspecting federal prisons, described the Terre Haute, Indiana, pen as "the worst one you have."

"I think I saw more dirt and filth there than I have ever seen," Langer declared, though he added, "I may have gotten that impression because, each time I investigated, the warden wasn't there."

Bennett also revealed that the old bread-and-water diet for incorrigibles has been replaced by an unpalatable "spinach diet."

This came out in answer to a question by Idaho's GOP Sen. Herman Welker, who asked: "Do you have anything like 'Siberia,' like they have in some state institutions?"

"No, Senator, if he gets solitary, he gets, as the boys call it, 'the spinach diet,' replied the prison chief. "It is a full 3,500-calorie diet, but no meat. It is not palatable, and if they have had it once, they would prefer bread and water. They would really rather have bread and water than the spinach diet."

The Rock's History If Alcatraz's forbidding gates are slammed shut for good, it will be the end of a dramatic, 19-year history. Known bitterly among convicts as "The Rock," Alcatraz was taken over by the federal penitentiary system from the army in 1934 as a place where the most desperate escape risks could be sent.

"It is there that we have our most vicious and difficult prisoners," reported Bennett. "We

have sent to Alcatraz, for instance, the man who commits murder in prison, and unfortunately we do have such cases occasionally. And we have the man who repeatedly attempts to escape, who organizes strong-arm groups in the penitentiary, and who steals the other man's food and his commissary, and then the ones we simply can't have the facilities to handle in any other institution."

Though the island-bound Alcatraz is too expensive to operate, Bennett added that "I sincerely believe, Senators, that we need an institution for that type of prisoner in the federal system."

The most fashionable prison, which Senator Langer described as the "gentlemen's prison," is located at Lewisburg.

"It has too many open dormitories," Bennett explained. "They are for thoroughly and completely reliable prisoners who are well adjusted. . . . The open dormitories cost only about \$3,000 per man, even though they are very imposing looking. The architecture is one of the finest examples of Italian renaissance in the country. It is made of false stone block, which has been practical."

The old conventional cells, he added, cost from \$12,000 to \$15,000 per man. The present population of the nation's federal prisons, he reported, is 17,945 inmates — 470 more than last year. The rate of increase, he said, is usually about 500 a year.

Bennett wound up his closed-door testimony by inviting the senators to inspect his prisons. However, Missouri's Democratic Sen. Tom Hennings protested: "I have a great revulsion at parading through some institution and having them say, 'Well, there goes another group of those stuffed shirts.'"

Tidelands Lobby Wants 250 Miles

It's a long time in the span of years between the rum-runners of prohibition days and tidelands oil. But, in the legal opinions of Eisenhower administration lawyers, the two are going to be connected. For the oil companies, and especially like's Texas friends, not satisfied with the Holland bill for tidelands oil, now want to extend the drilling limit 250 miles out to sea.

This is because there is no important oil off the coast of Texas unless you go about 12 to 14 miles out, and the Holland bill gives Louisiana only three miles, as it does the other states, and there is no important oil within three miles of the Louisiana coast.

The only state the Holland

bill really benefits is California which has oil right close to shore.

All this is the reason behind the latest lobbying drive to extend drilling limits not three miles, but 250 miles, and give each state sovereignty over under-ground deposits that distance out to sea.

Just a quarter of a century ago, however, a small rum-runner called the "I'm alone," racing 25 miles off the Texas coast in the Gulf of Mexico was shot up by federal prohibition agents. And the I'm alone, which became a famous international incident, may stand in the path of Texas and Louisiana today.

If Russia Claimed 250 Miles? For, though the I'm alone was suspected of being owned by the Sam Maceo-Frankie Costello ring of rum-runners, it was actually under Canadian registry. And Canada, feeling that an important question of law was involved, sued the United States. Other governments also had protested against the Hoover edict that the sea 12 miles offshore belonged to the U. S. A. International law, hitherto, had put the limit at three miles.

So a special international tribunal, on which ex-Justice William Devanter represented the United States, was appointed to arbitrate the I'm alone case, and in the end found against the United States. Even Justice Van Devanter ruled that the United States could not claim any rights over a vessel 25 miles out at sea.

With the oil boys and the tidelands lobbyists now pressuring Eisenhower to extend drilling limits 250 miles, the state department has raised a red flag. It not only cites international law, but raises the question of what would happen if Russia automatically and arbitrarily extended her boundaries 250 miles out to sea. Among other things, Russia could then claim sovereignty over waters in which the U. S. navy is supplying our troops in Korea.



JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent of State Historical Society

Elmer J. Burkett, who served Nebraska in the United States Senate from 1905 to 1911, was born on a farm near Glenwood, Iowa, December 1, 1867. Although he was the youngest man in the Senate when he took his seat at the age of 37, Mr. Burkett was already a veteran in politics. He was elected to the state legislature in 1896, at the age of 29, and two years later, in 1898, was sent to Congress as a representative of the 12th District. He was twice re-elected, resigning in 1905 to accept a place in the Senate, conferred by the legislature.

The young Senator had graduated from Tabor College in Iowa in 1890, and had immediately come to Nebraska as principal of the high school at Leigh. He soon forsook teaching for the law. He graduated from the University of Nebraska law school in 1893, was admitted to the bar, and began practicing in Lincoln.

In his acceptance speech before the legislature, Senator Burkett pledged himself to "work shoulder to shoulder" with President Theodore Roosevelt in the advancement of his policies. Roosevelt at one time declared that Senator Burkett was one of the men he depended upon in putting through his legislative policies.

Senator Burkett apparently was very close to President Roosevelt at the time William Howard Taft was selected as his (Roosevelt's) successor. Mr. Burkett was the principal speaker at a dinner meeting in Boston where Mr. Taft's candidacy was formally launched.

In Congress, Mr. Burkett was an ardent enthusiast of the rural free delivery of mail. He also wrote the original draft of the postal savings bank law. He created a considerable stir when he introduced and pushed a resolution in the Senate establishing the national Mothers Day.

Though he had been elected in 1905 virtually without opposition, Senator Burkett found the going very tough when he came up for re-election. Gilbert M. Hitchcock, Democrat, ran well ahead of him in the preferential primary of 1910, and the legislature of 1911, controlled by Democrats as a result of the rather sizeable Democratic sweep of the year before, quickly carried out the wishes expressed in the preferential balloting.

Thus at the age of 42, Mr. Burkett retired from the Senate. He was put in nomination for the vice presidency at the Republican National Convention in 1912, but was not selected. That same year he declined the Republican nomination for the governorship.

The remaining years of his life were spent in the practice of law in Lincoln, and though he did not seek political office again he was much in demand as a speaker. He died May 23, 1935.

Journal Want Ads Pay!

Look in the CLASSIFIED First!



By Stanley James, Journal Washington Reporter

WASHINGTON, Febr. 26 — Though many Americans do not realize it, the blockade of Chinese ports is already beginning. The first steps are feeble ones, but the Communists know what they signify for the future. The initial blockade activity — now carried on solely by the Chinese Nationalists — consists of small-boat actions designed to disrupt trade.

There are many complications and limitations to the present Nationalist blockade. For one thing, what are they to do about British ships — or those of any other major sea power nation — trading with the Communists? If they sink a British ship, they might bring down the wrath of the British navy on their heads, for Britain recognizes Communist China.

Therefore, the Nationalist effort must necessarily be limited. However, it is to grow stronger and stronger, and the United States is to furnish many of the naval weapons which will give the Nationalists the means with which to conduct an effective blockade. Sparing British trade, and other trade, the Nationalists can still greatly hamper the flow of commerce to and from China ports.

And the Nationalists might eventually challenge all trade, even at the risk of a rift with the British. To counter this the U. S. sponsored blockade, the Russians are turning over naval vessels to the Chinese, including a number of destroyers and submarines. The U. S. is considering moves to build up the Chinese Nationalist naval units, which is new in a rather shabby state with no warships larger than a destroyer.

The threat of interception will be enough to slow down and make costly normal sea traffic between China and other nations once the Nationalist navy gains formidable strength. It may be some time until that is achieved, but it seems to be in the books. Meanwhile, the U. S. might still make a bid for a U. N. blockade in the U. N.

Some farm-state Senators and Congressmen are frankly alarmed over Agriculture Secretary Ezra Benson's price support statements thus far. They charge him with not understanding the concept of parity price support and of threatening to run dangerous risks with the welfare of the nation's farmers — already caught in a pinch by lowering receipts.

Some Southern Senators have spoken out bluntly about a Benson statement which lines the Secretary up with the view that price supports for farm products should be "disaster" measures only. Of course, these Senators are Democrats, who might be inclined to criticize, but there is much anxiety in farm circles about the future of price supports.

President Dwight Eisenhower has indicated his desire to continue present price supports about as they are through next year. This would certainly give the new administration time to watch the support system, from the inside, and pinpoint weaknesses in the system. Meanwhile, many farm-state legislators will vigorously oppose any effort to put price supports on a disaster basis.

President Eisenhower might have to stick his neck into the

carrier-versus land-based strategic bombing fight after all. Harry Truman was drawn into the turmoil swirling around this issue. He first decided that super-carriers were too vulnerable to justify their cost, and the cost of launching attacks from them, then allowed one or two to be started.

Because of the effort to economize in the Defense Department, the question of super-carriers and their justification may be raised again. Those arguing in favor of letting land-based bombers do strategic bombing say attacks by naval craft from carriers cost over five times as much.

In addition, the British navy has issued a report agreeing with the Air Force that this mission should be left to the air. The U. S. naval argument disputes the claims, and concedes there has been rivalry with the British navy, and disagreements. The navy is now going ahead with super-carrier construction, planning others for the future.

In economizing, it will be faced with this question, as well as others, such as how to get the services to use the same bases and facilities instead of building two costly installations almost side by side, how to cut down the cost of our huge overseas bases program, make them secure, and many others.

Despite his heavy electoral college defeat, Adlai Stevenson is still popular with the people. When he came to Washington recently a crowd turned out to greet him, as is often the case with the former Illinois Governor. But the fact that Stevenson is highly popular is not surprising.

Although swamped in electoral vote totals, Stevenson got 45 popular votes for every 53 President Eisenhower received. And Stevenson's 27,000,000 popular votes was larger than Roosevelt's in several of FDR's races.

Journal Want Ads Pay!



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WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Here's the Answer

Belgian Minister

HORIZONTAL	VERTICAL
1,6 Pictured	1 Cuban capital
Belgian diplomat	2 Puffs up
Paul	3 Negative
	4 Pole
	5 Nested boxes
	6 Lean-to
	7 Seed container
	8 Area measure
	9 Long for
	10 Sharper
	11 Dries
	13 Begin
	16 Either
	17 Symbol for sodium
	20 Marines
	22 Mobile
	26 Indian antelope
	27 Fend off
	28 Behold!
	29 Note of scale
	30 Toll
	33 Chief of jinn
	37 Habituate
	38 Incline
	39 House additions
	40 War god
	44 Within (comb. form)
	45 Silence
	46 Minor part
	43 Intimidate
	45 Plant adjustment
	61 Communion plates
	53 Rims
	54 Scandinavian

11 Bar
12 Steeds
14 Girl's name
15 Hummed
18 Carees
19 Rodents
21 Mouthward
22 Talking bird
23 Trojan prince
25 More painful
26 Indian antelope
27 Fend off
28 Behold!
29 Note of scale
30 Toll
33 Chief of jinn
37 Habituate
38 Incline
39 House additions
40 War god
44 Within (comb. form)
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