EDITORIALS

CASS COUNTY SALUTES THE LEGION

The American Legion will salute the 34th anniversary of its birth, March 15 to 17. It should be a date noted to every community in Cass County fortunate enough to have an active post of this largest of all veteran's organizations. The American Legion has proved itself a community asset!

The name of the American Legion is known in every American household. It is synonomous with patriotism. It is synonomous also with immeasurable contributions to the bulwarking of our free institutions. No one has ever been able to challenge the genuine Americanism of the American Legion.

Here in Plattsmouth, and other Cass County towns, we know the American Legion by the good works of our hometown posts. This is true everywhere. The fair name of the Legion and its public goodwill rest on grassroots appreciation of its civic virtues and unselfish services to community, state and nation.

Relatively few people, however, know about the astonishing sum total of the doings, accomplishments and contributions by the more than 17,000 posts of the American Legion. It is newsworthy to take notice of this impressive sum total on this American Legion birthday anniversary.

Almost 20 million boys have been graduated from the Legion's vast youth training programs into good citizenship over the years. Over 14 million boys have played American Legion baseball, four million have participated in its high school oratorical contests, one million have belonged to the 4,000 Boy Scout troops sponsored by posts, and 275,000 have attended Boys' States. In addition, here in Cass County and others in Nebraska, the American Legion has sponsored Boys and Girls County that is just now gaining national recognition.

Its contributions to Child Welfare and financial aid to needy children of veterans is known to all. Its sponsorship of the GI Bill of Rights has been responsible for great boons in education and home ownership. The Veterans Administration stands today as a great living monument to the American Legion's 34 years of unselfish service to the Nation's veterans. It is the champion of national security and number one foe of Communism.

We salute the American Legion on its birthday. We believe its greatest days of service still lie ahead. May it grow in strength as it grows in accomplishments for God and Country!

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ENERGY GOING TO WASTE

Kids all over the world have so much excess energy that has to be loosened somewhere or on somebody, but year after year, we fail to understand why it must be diverted to the wrong channels.

We refer especially to the damage that is done to personal property around Plattsmouth by thoughtless young fellows, who, otherwise, are the salt of the earth and wouldn't intentionally hurt anyone. Why this excess energy suddenly cuts loose on street markers, light globes and neon signs is beyond our ability to analyze.

A case in point is the continuous damage done to Cass Theatre neon signs. Hundreds of dollars has been spent here renewing tubes that have been deliberately broken over a period of months. Original cost of this display ran into thousands of dollars and has been a distinct asset to the appearance of the business district of Plattsmouth. Repair costs have been nearly prohibitive from deliberate breakage by young men who should know better.

Fellows, let's give Griffin a break. Through the Cass Theatre, he has bestowed many favors on the schools and local students for a good many years—it is discouraging not to be repaid in kind. Why not divert your energy somewhere else for awhile?

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY

He that will not stoop for a pin will never be worth a pound. —English Proverb

The Plattsmouth Journal
Official County and City Paper
— ESTABLISHED IN 1881 —
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Furse's Fresh Flashes

A woman's intuition (that sixth sense) is about two-thirds suspicion.

★ ★ ★

Ivy is to an architect what sod is to an undertaker.

★ ★ ★

A Plattsmouth old grouch doesn't like babies because he knows they are going to grow up to be people.

★ ★ ★

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, has dropped her latest boy friend. He gave her a diamond so small that it required but one payment.

★ ★ ★

You can't tell us that modern women are "fast." Why, it takes as much as 30 years for the average woman to reach 29.

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Winter is just getting in its last licks, and they are usually good ones this time of year.

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Which reminds us that right now is a good time to catch up on your work before spring fever catches up with you.

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A local man says if it is true that man is made of dust, then there's somebody under his bed at home either coming or going.

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Another way to lose control of your car is to fail to keep up the payments.

★ ★ ★

Here's a suggestion to bridge and canasta players: Wives who kick their husbands under the table should never wear open-toed shoes.

Down Memory Lane

10 YEARS AGO

The City Council has by a unanimous vote accepted the finding of the court of condemnation and will take over the present water plant at a price of $216,818.80 . . . Corporal Kenneth L. Hostetter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Dee Hostetter of near Murray, and Miss Maxcene Brown of Mayfield, Kentucky, were married in Kentucky . . . Miss Mable Stock, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gus Stock of Murdock, became the bride of John W. Murdoch, son of Mrs. Emma Murdoch of Nehawka . . . Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Rummell of Plattsmouth celebrated their golden anniversary at Burbank, California, at a family dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Heil . . . Miss Donna Jean Mickle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Mickle of Avoca, became the bride of Ralph E. Beccard of Syracuse.

★ ★ ★

20 YEARS AGO

Participating in a regional declamatory contest to be held here will be Virginia Somek, Francis Gamblin, Fred Fricke, Anna May Sandin, George Adam, Greth Garnett, Pauline Hoschar, Margaret Yelick, Gertrude Vallery, Carolyn Heigl, Dorothy Siemoneit and George Luschinsky . . . Warren A. Tulene has received word from his brother, A. C. Tulene, at Santa Ana, that they are safe following the earthquake which claimed 100 lives at Long Beach . . . Fred H. Vincent is now operating the day and night restaurant formerly operated by Eugene Chancellor . . . Miss Helen Dew and Robert Hart, both of Plattsmouth, were married at Nebraska City March 11.

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The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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DREW PEARSON SAYS:

PRESIDENTIAL AIDE ADAMS CIRCUMVENTS CIVIL SERVICE LAWS; FRENCH AGENTS REPORT STALIN DEAD FOR A MONTH; ATOMIC CHAIRMANSHIP BATTLE ROCKS CAPITOL HILL.

WASHINGTON — Dying on the vine—Assistant President Sherman Adams has pulled a neat device to get around civil service laws and banish all Democratic staff members on the council of economic advisers. Under civil service, Adams can't fire the staff members outright. So he is simply letting the appropriations expire. When all the Democrats are out, then more money can be appropriated and a brand new Republican staff hired . . . However, Adams isn't on good terms with the senate appropriations chairman, Sen. Styles Bridges, even though both are New Hampshire Republicans. So Adams tipped off the house appropriations chairman, Congressman Taber of New York, who in turn telephoned Senator Bridges and got him to let the economic council's appropriations die.

Capitalize on Stalin's death — Gen. Mark Clark has cabled Washington recommending the United States start a big psychological offensive in the Far East to capitalize on Stalin's death. To that end, he has already sent American planes to drop leaflets behind the Chinese lines in Korea, telling of Stalin's death, but believes the United States should do far more in a coordinated program with the British. He agrees with Marshal Tito that it may be possible to turn Mao into a Chinese Tito—if the Allies play their cards right.

Jumping the gun—Civil Aeronautics Administrator Charles Horne, the police chief of the airways, jumped the gun on President Eisenhower and announced his own successor. Horne called in his staff last week, told them he had been working to get his deputy, Fred Lee, appointed in his place, said that though it wasn't supposed to be announced, President Eisenhower was going to appoint Lee . . . The White House didn't like this much. No president, whether Democratic or Republican, likes to have his elbow nudged regarding presidential announcements.

When did Stalin die?—French intelligence, usually pretty good, has come up with the weird theory that Stalin has been dead for a month and that the Russians installed an impostor in the Kremlin to fool the world . . . What French agents report is that Stalin died suddenly during the week of February 2 in Moscow. Whereupon the news was kept quiet while the Politburo secretly entrenched itself to make certain there would be no revolt . . . Stalin's double was even allowed to meet with two foreign diplomats — Argentine Ambassador Hector Bravo and Indian Ambassador Krishna Menon, according to French intelligence. Since neither had ever met Stalin before, they were completely fooled and the West assumed that Stalin was still alive . . . Meanwhile, Molotov, Malenkov and Beria were preparing a series of phony announcements telling of Stalin's illness, spacing them out over a four-day period so that the Russian people would not be too shocked . . . American intelligence is inclined to doubt the French information, but admits there's one bit of evidence supporting it. For some mysterious reason, Russian troops in Eastern Germany, Poland and Czechoslovakia took unusual security precautions every night during the two weeks just before Stalin's death was announced.

Atomic Battle

The strangest political tug-of-war in years has been going on back stage on Capitol Hill over the chairmanship of the joint committee on atomic energy. The battle is between two Republicans, and has been so fierce that a Democrat remains chairman of the atomic committee—even though the Republicans long ago took over every other committee in congress.

The two tuggers for this prize post are Sen. Bourke Hickenlooper of Iowa and Congressman Sterling Cole of New York. Since senators outrank members of the house, Hickenlooper had assumed he would move right in as chairman and last January even wrote out his maiden speech.

However, Congressman Cole, who has an excellent record in the house, pointed out that the chairmanship was supposed to rotate between the senate and the house. Furthermore, he wants to run for governor of New York and naturally the chairmanship of atomic energy would be an important springboard.

When it came to a showdown, house members supported Cole and the senators supported Hickenlooper. In this deadlock, Congressman Carl Durham of North Carolina, Democrat, has continued as chairman.

Recently, GOP peacemaker Senator Knowland of California proposed rotating the chairmanship every two years, giving it first to Hickenlooper. This, however, didn't satisfy Cole, who wants to run for governor in 1954. Knowland is now proposing that Hickenlooper be chairman this year only, and Cole next year — a compromise that should permit Bourke to deliver his long-delayed maiden speech and should give Cole a springboard for the governorship of New York later.

Van Fleet Testifies

Gen. James A. Van Fleet, who has a son missing in action, was plainly irked when cross-examined behind closed doors about rumors that American combat troops in Korea were forced to sleep in tents "with holes in them."

"I wouldn't put any stock in those rumors," Van Fleet shot back at the house foreign affairs committee. "Our troops are the best-fed and equipped in the world. I wonder if those rumors may not be coming from the rear areas, where U. N. troops can keep themselves warm by bonfires.

"Our men on the front lines naturally can't risk building bonfires that would attract enemy fire. And I'll admit they can't sleep when they're on watch, because that also would endanger the lives of their buddies.

"Our fighting men are the best in the world," Van Fleet added. "They do not want to be mollycoddled. Unfortunately, we Americans are inclined to mollycoddle them like we mollycoddle our children. I know about this, because I have children myself."

He didn't have to explain that one of his children, Air Lieutenant James A. Van Fleet, Jr., has been missing in action in Korea since April 4, 1952. Committee members got the point and did not pursue the delicate subject.

Van Fleet would not go as far as General MacArthur in urging the bombing of Manchurian bases. However, he felt that there could be a greater offensive in Korea without provoking a third world war.

"Anything short of a victory will be a defeat," he emphasized.

Asked what he meant by a complete victory, he replied: "I mean when the enemy is thoroughly whipped."

Whose Master's Voice?

Capital News

Nebraska's county assessors, their calendars ringed at March 10, have been handed a tax assessment policy by the State Board of Equalization, calling for 100 per cent valuations.

But there was an air of unreality about this bold move because all eyes were on the progress of LB 272, making its tortuous way through the Legislature.

This bill calls for assessments at 50 per cent of actual value. Its passage with an emergency clause would knock the State Board's call for full valuations into a cocked hat.

The measure survived two attempts in the Legislature to kill it, but by a narrower margin the second time. By the weekend it became even more speculative as to whether the bill would squeak through final passage.

But with county assessors meetings underway, the State Board of Equalization couldn't wait any longer to announce its policy. So it issued a statement urging county assessors "to assess all property in conformity with present law," which means at 100 per cent.

The reason behind what at first glance looks like a routine call to officials to perform their duty is the Johnson County farm lands assessments decision by the Supreme Court.

This decision, already assuming the adjective "historic," affirmed that the law must be followed. At present the statutes call for assessments uniform on all properties and at 100 per cent of actual value.

The State Board has been in hot water since then trying to figure out just what the high court meant. It left the Johnson assessments unchanged, was hauled up before the Supreme Court and asked why, turned around and lowered the valuations 15 per cent, and is now waiting to see if that will satisfy the judges.

So the "Alice in Wonderland" atmosphere continued for both county assessors and the members of the State Board — Gov. Robert Crosby, Secretary of State Frank Marsh, State Auditor Ray Johnson, State Treasurer Frank Heintze, and State Tax Commissioner Norris J. Anderson. Everybody was looking over his shoulder to see what the Legislature does.

* * *

BEHIND

The Legislature has been in session now something under two months and finds itself considerably behind the pace set two years ago.

What have the lawmakers to show for two months' work? The record is not overly impressive.

In addition to grappling with such perennial headaches as taxes, roads and election laws, not with phenomenal success, the Legislature has expended a lot of time — and words — on such weighty matters as the location of the Bryan statue, where lobbyists should sit, and whether the mourning dove is a song bird or a game bird.

On the brighter side, there are indications that some of the "chicken feed" bills may have been sifted out and that from here until May, the legislators will be able to devote more of their time to wrestling with the really serious matters of state.

Despite the slow start, some members believe that adjournment will come after about 100 legislative days. If it does, the big blackboards at the front of the chamber are going to have to get a real going-over and the bills which now clutter them will have either to be axed or advanced without too much debate.

* * *

FUSS

Whenever Sen. Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff rises to speak, the galleries fill almost magically, and the arm-waving freshman never fails to disappoint them. Don't ask me how, but the word gets around the Statehouse offices that "Terry's talking!" and the state's business just has to wait while enthralled employees watch him declaim.

Last week his target was Gov. Robert Crosby and specifically the "political grandstanding" the governor employed in submitting his budget to the Legislature.

Carpenter, who several days ago proposed that the Legislature pass Crosby's budget and quit in an effort to shock Nebraskans into what he considers a better appreciation of the Legislature's abilities, this time teed off on Crosby's budget recommendations for the State Highway Deartment.

He recalled that in the governor's message to the Legislature, he saw the role of state government in these times as one of restraint and that he had proposd the State Highway Department spend about $12 million less than in the past two years.

Crosby had said in that message that some might accuse him of grandstanding. "If that's not political grandstanding, then I never saw anything that was," Carpenter said.

The Scottsbluff senator found that State Engineer Harold Aitken was in agreement with him that budget requests should be based on need, rather than on existing revenues. Crosby's budget was based on the latter.

"How", Carpenter demanded, "can we get the picture when one part of the government nullifies another part by inflicting a political approach to the problem."

* * *

RETORT

Gov. Crosby wasted no time in firing back. Newsmen hurried from the Legislative Chamber to the Executive Suite. Crosby had not heard Carpenter's attack but his administrative assistant, Max Denney, had.

In one of his rare moments of annoyance, Crosby still weighed his words carefully and said:

"To ignore the earnest discussion of highways in my inaugural message and to ignore the entire premise of my budget message are useful stratagems in political debate.

"The effort to distort both messages is deliberate.

"In the introductory part of my budget message I said plainly, 'This message deals with a discussion of the more important departures from the general fund recommendations in Gov. Peterson's budget.'

"For emphasis I repeated that what I would discuss in the budget message were 'what must be appropriated from the general fund.' I especially ecluded discussion of cash funds. Anyone familiar with Nebraska's budget procedures knows that highways are not constructed or maintained through general fund appropriations.

"There was no occasion in the budget message to discuss highway funds because present Nebraska laws gave me no opportunity to recommend an increased amount. My budget recommended the same as Gov. Peterson's budget for road maintenance and construction.

"A considerable part of my inaugural message on Jan. 8 was devoted to the highway problem. I said it was 'an acute problem' and departed from the text to say that was an understatement. I told the Legislature that I regarded it to be a fact that any substantial improvement on highways would require more funds than now available."

* * *

PICTURE

The springboard for Carpenter's blast was a lengthy and detailed description of Nebraska's highway system and its problems by State Engineer Aitken.

He told the lawmakers only a third of the 9,600-mile system is adequate for present-day traffic. And at the other end of the scale, more than 500 miles is in "red" emergency condition. Still another 500 miles measured less than 50 per cent on the Highway Department's "sufficiency" yardstick.

Under existing revenues, the legislators were told, the department can spend $11 million for new construction in the next two years. A little more than half of this would be in state funds.

The money would permit the improvement of 289 miles of road, just about half of the miles in the "red" category.

Bills to raise the gas tax a penny and to increase registration fees — now before the Legislature — would bring in $12 million in state revenue in the next two years, the department estimates. Matched with federal funds, this would become $24 million and added to the $11 million would give the department $35 million to spend in 1953-55.

What would this amount buy? Said Aitken, between 900 and 1,000 miles of highway.

In an impressive marshalling of his facts, Aitken used two screens to show the lawmakers pictures of crumbling, narrow highways, antique bridges and sharp curves, all black marks against a road on the sufficiency rating report card.

He told the senators he hoped they would give the sufficiency rating system, now merely departmental policy, the weight of statutory authority.

Looking at WASHINGTON

By Stanley James, Journal Washington Reporter

WASHINGTON, March — President Dwight D. Eisenhower has gone over the offensive in the cold war in a number of areas now, and seems to be increasing the pressure on Russia each week or two — with another step in his plan to bring sweat to Communist foreheads.

The whole program of gaining the initiative against the Russians began with Eisenhower's order deneutralizing the Navy's 7th Fleet off Formosa. Then, it was made known, aid to Chiang Kai- Shek was being stepped up, would increase even faster in a few months. There was also talk of a U. S. blockade of the Chinese coast.

When the U. N. met, and after Ike had given up his notion about a U. S. blockade, the chief U. S. delegate lost no time in outlining a tough U. S. position. He wouldn't have anything to do with Russia's Andrei Vishinsky — the chief Soviet delegate and also the Soviet foreign minister! He wouldn't shake hands with the Communists, either. No niceties of this kind for chief U. S. delegate, Henry Cabot Lodge!

In his first words, Lodge took the floor and for twelve minutes blasted Russia bluntly. The Russians could stop the war at any time they wanted to, he said. They alone started it. They alone kept it going. Thus, the U. S. had no truce proposals. Lodge then listed ten demning facts and challenged Russia to refute them.

In Europe the Eisenhower pressure has sparked a new effort in the Western European defense build-up. Member nations of the NATO team are increasing their pace of rearmament. Ike had warned them to get moving.

And, in the White House last week, Eisenhower and a group of top generals and admirals and members (of both parties) from the House and Senate, listened to General James A. Van Fleet, as he told them how he thought the Korean War could be ended by a new offensive. Once again talk of amphibious and aerial assaults cropped up in Washington.

Chiang Kai-Shek, and his son, kept up the war of nerves by announcing that the liberation of China would begin soon. All these moves kept the Communists interested. They struck back in the UN and elsewhere, but they were being pushed into the defensive role. That is the key to Ike's plans. He is waging a very active war of nerves at the moment. The pace has been stepped up to such an extent that some of the allies of the U. S. are worried about a new world war.

Ike believes the best way to peace lies in wresting the initiative from the Communists, strengthening the forces of the free world. He is now doing both.

The big news on Korea, of course, is the new talk of ending the war with an offensive. President Eisenhower evidently thought enough of the views of General Van Fleet to want a lot of top people to hear him in private. Thus he invited the General to the White House to give his views. And he summoned armed service heads, chiefs of staff, other top generals, the Secretary and Deputy Secretary of Defense, General George Marshall, key Senators from both parties, and others, to listen to him.

This, could, of course, be part of a war of nerves, or it could be a real starting point for a major Korean offensive. No doubt the Russians would be interested in the answer.

One interesting note about the meeting is the fact that President Eisenhower's list, as given to the press, included the name of George Marshall, but not of Douglas MacArthur. Though MacArthur has said there was a simple solution to the Korean mess ,and though Ike talked to him to see what he had in mind, Ike invited MacArthur's arch-enemy (Marshall) to the meeting with Van Fleet.

It bespoke Ike's views and his philosophy more than words. The man who has been attacked ruthlessly by some Republicans, Marshall is still a great American to Eisenhower. Ike thinks Marshall is worth listening to. He believes attacks on the former Secretary of State and Chief of Staff are hogwash, makes no bones about it. And he says little, but he has no use for MacArthur's emotion-packed appeals.

The prosperity outlook continues good, despite scattered price drops which have made some wonder. Business, buying, earning and production are humming at top levels. The pace may recede a bit in late 1953 and 1954, but general prosperity is expected to last straight through the next few years and maybe throughout the fifties.

WRONG CAR

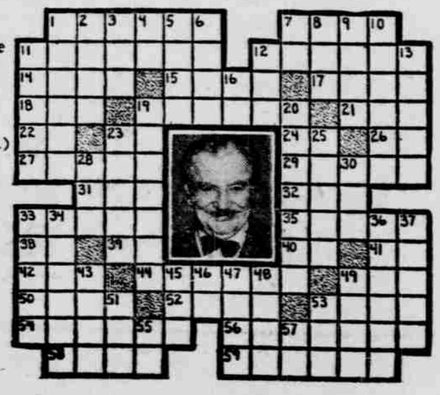
Just seeing the car cruise down a street convinced Minden's night patrolman the car didn't belong to the two boys in it. So he gave chase in the city's car and jailed the boys. And he no longer leaves the keys in his car.

"All right, Gilbert, so it's sharp, but you're still out of uniform"

WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Foreign Minister

HORIZONTAL
1,7 Pictured foreign minister of Luxembourg
11 Handcuff
12 Curer
14 In bed
15 Shield bearing
17 Ripped
18 Underworld god
19 Guides
21 Pull
22 Area measure
23 Type measure
24 Abraham's home
26 Id est (ab.)
27 Jade-like material
29 Enumerate
31 Roman bronze
32 Vehicle
33 River in his country
35 Gives out
38 One
39 Tellurium (ab.)
40 Steamship (ab.)
41 Pronoun
42 African antelope
44 Exhausts
49 Age
50 Boys
52 Water lily
53 Male hog
54 Storehouses
[illegible] requires [illegible]

VERTICAL
1 Brazilian stork
2 Units
3 Sorry
4 From (prefix)
5 Scheme
6 In this place
7 Exist
8 Consume
9 Coagulate
10 Morphine derivative
11 Woman's courtesy title
12 Pronoun
13 Dampen again
16 French article
19 Breaks
20 Victory
23 Upright
25 Wanders
28 Short-napped fabric
30 Swiss canton
33 National bird of U. S.
34 Inborn
36 Harangue
37 Asterisks
43 English dramatist
45 Dance step
46 Hebrew deity
47 Bows
48 Profound
49 Eternities
51 Watering place
53 Obstruct
55 In (prefix)
57 Parent

Here's the Answer