

# EDITORIALS

## CARE MAY PREVENT DROWNING

Vacation time is in full swing and, judging from the experience of other years, 3,500 lives will be lost by accidental drowning during these next few months. This represents only about half of the total number of people drowned each year but they are crowded into the three summer months.

The annual death toll in the United States from drowning grows larger each year. More than one-half of those dying in this manner are young persons under twenty-four years of age. The largest single group of persons drowned is the group of youths between fifteen and nineteen years.

Every vacationist should be careful this summer. A period of rest and relaxation from work is fine and necessary, but carelessness should not rob it of its pleasure. To venture too far in the surf or to take chances in a swift current means running the risk of drowning. Swimmers should be extremely careful.

## WE NEED LOYAL AMERICANS

It is a favorite pastime of most Americans to discuss what the country needs. Just now, however, in a period as critical as any that the Republic has faced, we might point out that the nation needs most the loyal support of patriotic men and women and the confidence of those who believe in the democratic way of life.

There is no substitute for loyalty. Flag-waving, public demonstrations and community-wide expressions of solidarity do not replace the faithful individual, upon whom successful government depends. As a citizen, it is essential for you to make your contribution to the United States of America.

We do not know, and we would hesitate to suggest, what any man, woman or child do in the present emergency. We do not have the intelligence to outline a program for all to follow. We would modestly recommend however, that loyal Americans consider their present condition and the plight of their country and then make some positive contribution to the common good.

Do not mislead yourself. You cannot make a positive contribution to the cause of civilization in the face of great danger without some personal sacrifice. If you have any plan in mind which enables you to escape the pressure of world conditions, you can put it aside because it will not work. You cannot contribute at a profit.

## THE PUBLIC AND COLUMNISTS

Recent headlines have told the stories of low-level court fights between more than one newspaper columnist, and another public figure or writer. In these cases it has become all too evident that certain writers have been, and are, using their columns as personal vehicles to vent their wrath, hatred and personal prejudices.

The free press is, of course, a great thing in our American way of life. It must be preserved at all cost. One of the unhealthy trends in U. S. journalism in the last few decades is the trend toward irresponsible columnists. The columnist today replaces, to some degree, the vociferous and personal editorials of the past.

While editorials have grown more dignified and tend to stress both sides of an issue, giving the facts and allowing the reader to appraise the entire situation, columnists do not operate in that manner.

Too many columnists attempt to sensationalize everything in the desire to get reader-appeal and sell their columns. Both the reading public and the columnists are to blame. Several New York and Washing-

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Our words have wings, but fly not where we would. —George Eliot

## The Plattsmouth Journal

Official County and City Paper

— ESTABLISHED IN 1881 —  
Published Semi-Weekly, Mondays and Thursdays, at  
419 Main Street, Plattsmouth, Cass County, Neb.

Three Times Winner Ak-Sar-Ben Plaques for  
"OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY SERVICE"  
1949 — 1951 — 1952

"Honorable Mention" 1953

Presented Nebraska Press Association  
"GENERAL EXCELLENCE AWARD"  
First in 1952 — Second in 1951 and 1953  
(In Cities Over 2000 Population)

RONALD R. FURSE, Publisher  
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SOPHIA M. WOLEVER, Society Editor



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## Furse's Fresh Flashes

A Sunday School teacher here asked the class recently about Peter. "Surely, one of you must know who Peter was?" A small voice from the rear replied, "I fink he was a wabbit."

★ ★ ★  
Plastic surgery can do almost anything with the human nose except keep it out of other people's business.

★ ★ ★  
The bonds of matrimony aren't worth very much unless the interest is kept up.

★ ★ ★  
Civilization is a wonderful thing. If we didn't have it we wouldn't know how much the human system could stand.

★ ★ ★  
The cook who makes sandwiches up the street has not heard that "man does not live by bread alone."

★ ★ ★  
A Plattsmouth man says fun is just like insurance — the older you get the more it costs.

★ ★ ★  
"He who dances must pay the fiddler," says an old adage. He must also pay the hat check girl, the waiter, doorman and parking attendant.

★ ★ ★  
They've got a new definition for a "Commercial Traveler." He's the guy who moves away from his TV set during the commercial.

Columnists earn their living by feeding the public cheap gossip and sensational and inaccurate trash. They are not newspapermen in the real sense, but sensational gossip peddlers.

Yet, income figures show that these are the most popular "journalists" in the country. And they are often the ones involved in cheap court actions, such cases often revealing obviously inaccurate, untruthful and spiteful reporting.

Every citizen should make an honest effort to distinguish between reliable reporting and sensational gossip. Newspapers print irresponsible and scandalous columns because the public reads them and demands them, just as the public reads and demands low level and vulgar novels.

## Down Memory Lane

### 20 YEARS AGO

A 23.95 mill levy has been established by the city council of Plattsmouth for the fiscal year, with 10 mills earmarked for bond and interest payments. . . . The marriage of Miss Harriett Cheney to George Fitzsimmons was solemnized at Lincoln. . . . Merritt Pollard of Nehawka suffered a fractured collar bone and shoulder blade when thrown from a load of hay. . . . Wm. Patrick O'Donnell, Jr., lost the tip of one finger when it was accidentally caught in the meat grinder at a grocery store where he is employed. . . . Miss D. Louise Johnson and Carl Timm Rector of Weeping Water were married July 9 at Plattsmouth. . . . Frank Linder, 12, of Murray, received a severe laceration from his shoulder to his hip when he fell on a glass lamp shade. . . . Fire caused considerable damage to the U. B. Church parsonage, when Christmas ornaments in an upstairs room burst into flame. . . . \$110,000 has been authorized for four miles of paving near Elmwood on Highway 34.

### 10 YEARS AGO

The marriage of Miss Helen Wilhelmna Woolcott, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Woolcott, to Francis Marquette Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Smith, was solemnized July 19 at St. John's church. . . . Mrs. E. E. Moore has been elected noble grand of the Rebekah Lodge at Weeping Water. Mrs. Ray Tankersley is vice noble grand, and Mrs. E. A. Michelson, warden. . . . William Knap was dragged for about 100 feet behind a cultivator after the horses became excited, when the machine hit a rut and rolled over. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Hoshgar of Murray celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. . . . Pvt. Donald Bushnell arrived home on furlough from Camp Hale, Colo. . . . A. W. Clويد and Edward Howard are two of several men interested in organizing a barber shop chorus. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sullivan of Murray are the parents of a daughter born at an Omaha hospital.

## The Washington Merry-Go-Round

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DREW PEARSON SAYS: SENATE REVIEWS AVENUES OPEN TO REBUKING MCCARTHY; HENRY FORD FORCED SEN. NEWBERRY'S RESIGNATION IN 1922; UTILITIES-BACKED SEN. SMITH UNSEATED FOUR YEARS LATER.

WASHINGTON — In view of Senator Flanders' insistence on a vote on his anti-McCarthy resolution, senatorial researchers have been looking up the precedents for unseating or disciplining members of the Senate.

## Ticklers

By George



"Grandpaw Lane finally got his driver's license!"

There was one other case of senatorial censure in recent years — two cases where senators have been expelled from the senate, and one case where a senator was on the point of expulsion when he resigned. In the House of Representatives there have been two cases this year where Congressmen were relieved of committee chairmanships by a vote of their fellow members — Clare Hoffman of Michigan and Alvin Weichel of Ohio.

The senator who was censured was Hiram Bingham of Connecticut, Republican, who had brought a representative of the Connecticut Manufacturers Association into a closed hearing on the Smoot-Hawley Tariff during the Hoover administration. Following a vote of censure he was defeated the next election.

The two senators ousted were William Vare of Pennsylvania and Frank Smith of Illinois, both elected in 1926. Truman Newberry of Michigan, elected in 1919, faced a certain ouster when he resigned.

Henry Ford vs. Newberry — Of these, perhaps the most interesting case is that of Senator Newberry, who previously served as Secretary of the Navy in the cabinet of President Theodore Roosevelt. Newberry ran against Henry Ford and defeated him.

Ford, founder of the automobile empire, ran on both the Republican and Democratic tickets, lost out to Newberry in the Republican primary, then in the final election Woodrow Wilson, then President, supported Ford — quite a change from his grandson Henry Ford II, who has been a vigorous Republican.

After his defeat, Ford claimed fraud and charged Newberry with spending \$500,000. The expenditure of large amounts of money was noted during the campaign by Arthur Vandenberg, later a senator, then editor of the Grand Rapids Herald. Newberry was tried and convicted of violating the corrupt practices act, but the higher courts set the conviction aside.

And when his case came before the Senate he was finally seated — even though his own financial report showed the expenditure of \$195,000 which was considered an exorbitant campaign fund in those days. The vote was 46 to 43 with all Democrats voting against him, plus eight Republicans including Borah of Idaho and Edge of New Jersey.

Popular reaction to the Newberry case was such that the Democrats scored heavily in the 1922 Congressional elections. Even Senator Townsend of Michigan, a Republican who championed Newberry, was defeated.

Eleven days after the election, on Nov. 18, 1922, facing an almost certain ouster, Newberry resigned.

Some Democratic senators see a parallel in the McCarthy case today and figure that a vote for McCarthy on the Flanders Resolution will boomerang against the Republicans next November. Private Utility Senator — The case against Sen. Frank Smith of Illinois four years later was based upon the fact that the big utilities contributed \$203,000 to his Republican primary. The late Sam Insull, one of the biggest utilities magnates in the Midwest, contributed \$125,000 with the balance coming from other magnates, including Clement Studebaker, president of Illinois Power and Light.

Smith was then head of the Illinois Commerce Commission which regulated the utilities. The Senate immediately investigated, and by a two-thirds majority voted to unseat Smith. Ironically, Harold Ickes, progressive Republican and a strong new dealer in the Roosevelt cabinet, had originally supported him.

It was also in 1926 that William Vare of Pennsylvania was elected and also unseated — though after a two-year debate. Roosevelt Bull-Mooser — Vare spent \$785,000 on his own campaign. Though he won both the primary and the election, his Democratic opponent, William B. Wilson, the former coal miner who served as Secretary of Labor in Woodrow Wilson's cabinet, challenged the election, and after a long battle Vare was voted out of the Senate by his own colleagues.

## Capital News Capsules

Knowland Scored — The American Embassy reports that Senator Knowland is responsible for Prime Minister Churchill's sudden decision to oppose Red China's admission to the United Nations. Churchill was greatly alarmed at Knowland's threat to pull the United States out of the U. N. He read about Knowland's stand while he was on the SS Queen Elizabeth en route home. The old British warrior pondered over the speech, and, fearing a U. S. return to isolationism, he changed his mind before the boat docked and reluctantly announced he would not press for Red China's membership at this time.

Unhappy Alliance — General "Wild Bill" Donovan, our cloak-and-dagger ambassador to Thailand, has reported that the Thai Government is the most corrupt in Southeast Asia — however, we're forced to support it just the same. . . . Donovan was sent to this Asiatic listening post last year to organize our intelligence network. His mission is now completed, and he will return to Washington to serve as a special adviser to Eisenhower. Meanwhile, Donovan reports that top Thai officials freely take graft. As a result, much of our aid to Thailand goes into their private pockets. Nevertheless, Donovan advised Washington that Thailand must be kept a bulwark for the West, and he recommended a "crash" program to speed up the arms flow.

## MENTAL PATIENT ASKS MILLIONS

Detroit, Mich. — Miss Mary W. Speers, 74, recently filed suit for \$18,500,000 against the city of Detroit, Wayne County, the State of Michigan, four doctors and officials of various institutions, asking a million dollars for each of the nearly sixteen years she spent in Michigan mental institutions, after being committed as a mental patient while held in jail on a bad check charge. She was released in 1952 on orders of a Circuit Judge, who ruled her commitment had been illegal.

## '54 CONSTRUCTION

A Government report recently predicted that spending for new construction would set a record of \$38,000,000,000 this year — two per cent more than the 1953 record level of about \$35,250,000,000. Indications are that 1,030,000 new, private non-farm dwelling units will be started this year at a cost of \$12,125,000,000.

## SURPLUS BUTTER

The Foreign Operations Administration has announced the sale of \$6,000,000 worth of surplus butter held by the Government to Great Britain. The British will receive 14,000,000 pounds of butter and will pay for it in sterling.

## Capitol News

By Melvin Paul  
Statehouse Correspondent  
The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN — As the State Board of Equalization this week sat at its task of equalizing assessments among the counties, the picture looked brighter in most respects than had been anticipated.

At least there would be nothing like the shuddering changes made by the board at this same time last year when every county was affected by at least one equalization change.

If this year goes off without too much trouble, it will probably mean that the practice as well as the principle of equalization is here to stay. This would mark a decided change from the 33 years before last year's equalization effort — a period when assessments gradually backslid into a crazy quilt of differences across the state.

The key to the situation this year might be Omaha and Douglas County. Much might depend on what their assessment efforts have been. At week's end their abstract of assessments had not been forwarded to the State Board of Equalization.

Not only does Douglas County have about one-fifth of the total taxable property in the state, but also there is the political difficulty of an office holder having to vote to increase the assessments of that many voters in an election year.

Fortunately, two members of the board — State Auditor Ray Johnson and Secretary of State Frank Marsh — are without opposition in the Aug. 10 primary. State Tax Commissioner George Peterson is an appointive officer.

However, Gov. Robert Crosby and State Treasurer Frank Heinze, the other two of the five members are up for office. Crosby is running for the long term in the U. S. Senate. Heinze is running for Douglas County Treasurer, and is expected to vote for decreases in assessments, at least for Douglas County. Although Gov. Crosby has withheld comment on his intentions, it is generally considered that he will "hold the line."

The bright aspects of the situation seemed to be these:

1. Most county boards have held the line, using much the same real estate assessments as last year. It is estimated that 18 to 20 have lowered their assessments. In some cases land values may have dropped. In others, such as Buffalo (Kearney) County where the county board took a deep slash, the prediction is that the State Board will pull assessments back into line.

Overall a check of 72 out of the 93 counties showed that all property assessments were down only 4.3 per cent. Individual schedules dropped only 2.3 per cent, business schedules 7.3 per cent, and city real estate 8.1 per cent.

2. Some county assessors and boards may have held the line so strictly that they may get a slight decrease. In other words, if the State Board allows a tolerance of a few percentage points, a county which stayed right at the 50 per cent mark might merit a slight decrease. This could bring a much-needed reward to conscientious officials.

Final action by the board is not expected until about the end of the month of July.

## Who's Ahead

Some of Nebraska's political races had a neck-and-neck quality which made it difficult to determine who would be the eventual winner in the August 10 primary.

Particularly difficult to gauge is the U. S. Senate six-year term race in which Gov. Robert Crosby, Congressman Carl Curtis, Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff, and David Martin of Kearney appeared to be top contenders.

The race for the Republican nomination in the First Con-

## OUT of OLD NEBRASKA

Samuel Maxwell, who became Chief Justice upon the death of Daniel Grant in 1878, served as a member of the State Supreme Court from 1873 to 1894. At three different times during his long career on the Supreme bench, he served as Chief Justice: 1878-1882, 1886-1888, and 1892-1894.

Judge Maxwell was born in Lodi, New York, May 20, 1825. He attended the common schools and moved with his family to Michigan in 1844. His career as a young man in Michigan embraced school teaching, farming, and the study of law. He emigrated to the new territory of Nebraska in 1856, settling in Cass County where he took up farming. After a short period in Nebraska, he returned to Michigan to complete his law studies and was admitted to the bar in 1859. He came back to Nebraska that same year and opened a law office in Plattsmouth.

In common with many another territorial lawyer, Mr. Maxwell was active in politics. He was a delegate to the first Republican territorial convention in 1859 and a member of the Territorial House of Representatives in 1859, 1860, 1864 and 1865. He also served as a member of the first House of Representatives elected under the State Constitution of 1866, and was appointed by the Governor as a member of the Board of Commissioners to select capitol building plans and University land in 1867.

Judge Maxwell also served as a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of 1864 and 1875. At the time of his election to the latter convention, he was residing in Fremont at the most convenient place from which to serve on the Supreme bench. Supreme Court justices, it will be recalled, at that time also served as district judges.

Though Judge Maxwell participated in the founding of the Republican party in Nebraska, and was elected to the Legislature and the Supreme Court as a Republican, in the eighties he began to adopt a number of anti-monopolist views which soon set him at logger heads with many members of his party. In 1896 he was elected to Congress from the Third district as a Fusionist candidate — nominated by both the Democrats and the Populists.

Following his term in Congress he returned to the practice of law in Fremont where he died, February 11, 1901.

In reviewing his career, the Omaha Bee said: "Practically ever since coming to Nebraska . . . he has been a prominent figure in the politics and affairs of the territory and the state . . . He was a man of strong character and even his political enemies never questioned his honesty of purpose or personal and political integrity."

—Journal Want Ads Pay—

## Vic Vet says

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