

CASS COUNTY'S  
GREATEST  
NEWSPAPER

# THE PLATTSMOUTH JOURNAL

PUBLISHED  
Monday - Thursday  
SEMI - WEEKLY

Consolidated With the Nehawka Enterprise and Elmwood Leader-Echo—Delivered Twice Weekly to More Than 3000 Cass County Families

VOLUME 74

FOURTEEN PAGES

PLATTSMOUTH, CASS COUNTY, NEBRASKA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1954

FIVE CENTS PER COPY

NUMBER 8

## Art Johanns Dies In Highway Crash Sunday Evening

A car-truck crash on Highway 73-75 about two miles south of Offutt Field claimed the life of Arthur J. Johanns, Plattsmouth barber-shop owner, Sunday evening about 6:15 o'clock.

Johanns' car, a 1955 Chevrolet sedan purchased just three weeks ago, struck the rear dual wheels of a stock truck operated by Oliver Meisinger of near Plattsmouth, and was completely demolished. The truck headed south had pulled off the pavement in an attempt to miss the northbound Johanns auto.

## Fred Rea To Retire In January

One of Plattsmouth's best loved and most modest citizens will retire when the new year rolls in.

He is Fred I. Rea, for nearly 30 years district manager of the Consumers' Public Power Company and its predecessor, the Iowa Light & Power company. Named to succeed Rea is Ernest C. Elliott, who became associated with Consumer in 1941 and Plattsmouth district superintendent since 1950. He has served with the company as line foreman, local superintendent and superintendent of distribution and transmission for Consumers in the Plattsmouth area.

Fred Rea, by general opinion, has endeared himself to thousands of persons in the Plattsmouth area in his long term with the company. He

came to Plattsmouth as manager of the old Iowa Light and Power company in 1925 and acted as manager of that company until 1941 when the company was sold to Consumers.

He was born in Missouri, later moved to Hiawatha, Kansas, where he was graduated from high school in 1902. Between 1902 and 1903 he attended the University of Kansas at Lawrence, studying engineering and working in municipal and private electric plants. He did not graduate as he continued in this line of work in one plant following his junior college year. In January 1917, he came to Nebraska as manager of the Nebraska Gas & Electric company at Newman Grove.

In 1928, Mr. Rea was transferred to Missouri Valley, Ia., as manager of that area for the Nebraska Gas & Electric company. During the years of 1923 and 1925 he was connected with the construction department before being named manager at Plattsmouth.

He has served as president and treasurer of the Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce and is a charter member of the Rotary Club. He is chairman of the Board of Public Works for the City of Plattsmouth, having served in that capacity since the city bought the water company in 1943. He was selected as King of the Cass County King Korn Carnival in 1953 and reigned for a year. He has been a great civic-minded worker in Plattsmouth's look to the future.

Richard Howe who has been news editor of the Journal for the past four months has accepted a position as news editor of the Albion, Neb., News. Mr. Howe started his new duties on the paper there today. The family will move to Albion later this week.

THE WEATHER  
Compiled for the Journal at the Masonic Home Weather Station, Plattsmouth, Nebraska, Dec. 13-15.

	High	Low	Prec.
Monday	28	12	
Tuesday	54	29	
Wednesday	44	20	
Forecast: Today (Thursday)			Cloudy, tonight colder, showers changing to snow flurries.

## Journal Christmas Edition Thursday

Christmas greetings through the Journal, like personal Christmas cards, will be sent by many business and professional men on this Thursday, Dec. 23, Christmas edition of the newspaper.

That edition will also contain notices of services in churches and Christmas programs being given.

Many of Cass County's merchants will take part in sending messages of good cheer and good will through the pages of the Journal.

## Cass Christmas Seals Drive Lags Slightly

Plattsmouth's Christmas Seal drive is lagging behind last year, Mrs. Charles Janacek, chairman said.

Mrs. Janacek said second notices are going out to persons who have received the seals and she hopes that will boost the drive for funds for the Nebraska Tuberculosis Association.

The chairman reported that \$933.65 had been collected by Saturday. This was less than the \$1,000 which was on hand Dec. 20 last year. The drive will end in January.

Funds from the drive go to tuberculosis research and other services, some making Christmas happier for victims as the following dispatch from Kearney State Hospital for Tuberculosis:

Christmas time is a merry time for the 145 patients at the State Hospital for Tuberculosis here, as it is for every one.

Probably the happiest are those who can have a leave of absence and go home for Christmas with their loved ones. Some children have left for home already.

The patients who receive leave are those who have progressed a great distance on the road to recovery. Mrs. Catherine Miner, rehabilitation co-ordinator, said.

For those who cannot go home, the hospital has a Christmas tree, and the patients held last Thursday night. It includes even those who cannot leave their wards or their beds to come to the auditorium where a dance band plays.

There is no dancing, however. The roombound or bedfast patients receive gifts and prizes, as do those at the party.

Cookies, oranges and other treats are distributed also from Christmas trees in each ward. The children in the hospital get theirs Christmas morning.

Presents are given to individuals, veterans groups, civic and service clubs, churches and church organizations.

Many of the extra services for patients come from help made available by the Nebraska Tuberculosis Association, whose Christmas Seal sale now is going on.

All through the Yule season the carolers from Kearney State Teachers College, Kearney High School and Kearney churches visit the hospital halls with the traditional hymns and songs.

## Open House Is Set At Stites Company

A week-long open house will be held at the Stites' Farm Equipment company of Plattsmouth starting today, it has been announced.

The display will feature International Harvester farm machinery and promised fun and surprises for everyone.

The company asks the entire family to come to their display at the Chicago Avenue address.

## 'Outstanding Courage' Brings Honors for Norman Ashbaugh



Colonel Paul Spivey, Deputy Commander of the 3rd Bombardment Wing at Johnson Air Base, presents the Soldier's Medal to Staff Sergeant Norman Ashbaugh of Plattsmouth for his "outstanding courage" in rescuing the crew members of a downed Navy plane. At the same ceremony, Staff Sergeant Edward Grohski (right) was awarded the Commendation Medal for meritorious service.—(Official USAF Photo).

A member of one of the most-decorated units of the Korean War added additional honors to the organization's list when he was recently awarded the Soldier's Medal for "outstanding courage."

Staff Sergeant Norman Ashbaugh, 23, of Plattsmouth, was awarded the Soldier's Medal, one of the highest awards given for valor outside of combat activities, for his actions in the air rescue of a Navy plane crew which crashed into an isolated mountain valley in Japan.

He is assigned to the 36th Air Rescue Squadron located at Johnson Air Base, Irumagawa, Japan. For its support of tactical units during the Korean War, this squadron was one of the most-decorated units in the theater. At present, Sergeant Ashbaugh is awaiting transportation to the States, expecting to arrive in time for the holiday season.

The action for which the award was given occurred in February of this year during operational missions over Japan. As an aeromedic aboard one of the squadron's helicopters, Sergeant Ashbaugh was alerted of the crash of a Navy plane engaged in the maneuvers.

When the crash was located, Sergeant Ashbaugh descended the hoist to reach the crash area since the helicopter could not land on the slope. The battered plane held a crew of three. The sergeant immediately located one of the crew members and loaded him on the hoist.

In addition to this honor, Sergeant Ashbaugh has been recommended for the Air Medal for his part in the operation which rescued survivors of the Navy plane shot down by MIGs over the China Sea.

Sergeant Ashbaugh is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl B. Ashbaugh of 629 Oakmont Drive, Plattsmouth. He enlisted with the Air Force in January 1951. His enlistment will end in January of 1955, at which time he intends to enter the University of Nebraska to complete an engineering degree he has started. His father is the head of the Midwest Safety and Accident Prevention Corporation in Omaha.

## Driver Arrested On Traffic Counts

A 34-year-old truck driver, who gave his address as Plattsmouth, was held on three traffic charges in Omaha on the weekend.

Clarence D. Lamm was charged with speeding, reckless driving and overloading his truck cab. He submitted to a blood test after admitting to police he had drunk "a shot and a couple of beers." His bond was set at \$260.

Police said Lamm reached 60 miles-an-hour through a school zone Friday just as the students left for lunch. None was injured.

Patrolmen chased him 13 blocks on Center street.

## Court Terms Set By Judge Dierks

District Judge John M. Dierks has set terms for the year 1955 for Otoe, Cass and Sarpy counties of the Second Judicial District.

Law and equity terms were set for Cass County on Feb. 7 and Sept. 12; Otoe County on March 14 and Oct. 17; and Sarpy County April 18 and Nov. 21.

Docket calls for Cass County for criminal and law will be at 10 a. m. Jan. 14 and August 26 with equity May 27.

Regular sessions, except during August, will be on the second and fourth Fridays in Plattsmouth for Cass County.

## Loses End Of Finger

Otis Green, Pacific Jet, is carrying his left hand in a bandage as a result of an accident at a saw mill just north of the city Wednesday that cost him the end of the first finger on that hand. The finger was crushed when it became caught in a log jam at the mill.

## Family Wiped Out As Plane Crashes Near Aurora Friday

### Dark Numbers Yellow Plates Is 1955 Theme

That big "20" on Cass County license plates in 1955 will be black on yellow according to the "00-000" sample displayed at County Treasurer Alice Grosshans office in the court house.

This is the exact reverse of last year, which was a black plate with yellow numbers.

About 8,000 automobile tax statements will be going out between Christmas and New Years according to E. C. Giles, county assessor. Automobile tax must be paid in full before a 1955 license will be issued.

Giles says valuation of motor vehicles will drop about 25 to 35 percent of last year in line with assessment regulations issued by the state tax commissioner.

The county treasurer urges purchase of license plates by mail to facilitate handling. To receive a plate by mail, send a letter including the motor vehicle tax notice, the 1954 registration, the proper remittance and 25 cents to cover mailing. Issuing of plates will begin Jan. 3, 1955. Fees for passenger cars, unchanged from last year, are \$3 for vehicles under 3,000 pounds, and \$8 for vehicles over 3,000 pounds.

Commercial vehicle rates also remain unchanged. Purchases may also be made at the treasurer's office. Deadline is Feb. 15, 1955.

### 3 Minor Crashes Yield No Injury In Local Traffic

Three traffic accidents, in which no injuries were reported occurred over the weekend in Plattsmouth, the police department reported.

Cars driven by Richard M. Goehne of Plattsmouth, going west, and John G. Horn, Louisville, collided at the corner of Fifth and Second avenue at about 1 p. m. Sunday. Damage was estimated by Plattsmouth police at about \$125 to each machine.

Vehicles driven by Joseph H. Garrett, 30, of Plattsmouth, and Ted Krakowski, 33, of South Omaha, collided at the corner of Seventh and Washington avenue at 7:30 p. m. Saturday. Damage of \$75 was estimated for each car.

Darl E. Hild, 19, Louisville, was the driver of a car which turned east off Chicago avenue and collided with a car parked on Seventh owned by S. Sgt. Robert Class of Offutt Air Base. Damage to the Glass car was estimated at \$75 by police and that to the Hild vehicle at \$85.

FIREFIGHTERS STAG

The Plattsmouth Volunteer Fire Department members got together for a stag last Thursday at the fire station.

Deer meat was the menu, served by Mrs. Dasher.

—Journal Want Ads Pay—

A Classified Ad in The Journal

Triple funeral services were set for 2 p. m. Wednesday at the Trinity Methodist church in Grand Island for Mr. and Mrs. William F. Noble and their son, Rocky Bill, 5, following their deaths Friday night in the crash of a light plane near Phillips, Neb., a short distance east of Grand Island.

The Nobles, apparently headed for Grand Island, their former home, crashed about 10 to 12 miles east of there.

The family had been living at 1619 Hill street in Plattsmouth where he was sales manager for Blodgett and Krajaec, contractors for residences in Plattsmouth, Bellevue and Omaha.

A Civic Aeronautics Patrol Authority expert is investigating the crash.

Noble, 23, his wife, Mary, 23, and their five-year-old son, Rocky Bill, were enroute to

Grand Island from Omaha when their plane crashed in a stubble field on the Eugene Scott farm, about 5 minutes flying time from the local airport.

Noble had radioed the Grand Island airport as he passed over Aurora at 8:27 p. m. and asked to be met at the airport in 10 minutes. He was in no trouble at that time, and did not mention being concerned about the weather.

The plane plunged to the ground about 12 miles to the west of Aurora.

Parts of the plane were scattered over a wide area of the cornfield across the road from the Scott residence. The plane did not burn, but was ripped apart by the impact.

Noble's body was found about 300 yards to the south of the spot where the plane first hit. His wife's body was thrown about 60 yards in another direction, and the child was found nearer the plane.

Scott said it was snowing when he left his home about 8:15 Friday evening. The family was not at home at the time of the crash.

The wreckage was first spotted by a Civil Air Patrol plane from Hastings piloted by Ed Kent of Hastings. His observer was Paul Yattman. They saw the wreckage at 8:16 a. m., and notified a CAP ground unit which went to the scene to find the occupants dead. Kent's plane was one of five from Hastings searching for the missing plane.

Charles Kite, who was on duty at the airport communication station, received the radio message from Noble asking that Mrs. Noble's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Mitchell, be notified of their arrival. Kite telephoned the Mitchells, then replied to Noble that the message had been delivered. The pilot then asked him to call again and ask the Mitchells to meet them at the airport. Kite did so, and Noble did not answer when he attempted to contact him the second time.

Noble was the son of Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Noble, 118 South Vine. The elder Noble is executive secretary of the Grand Island teamsters' union.

Mrs. Noble was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Delmar Mitchell, Commerce Avenue. Mr. Mitchell is proprietor of the Anchor Serum Company.

Mrs. Noble was going to Grand Island to assist her mother, who had planned a tea for that afternoon.

Bill and Mary Noble were both graduated from the Grand Island High School in 1948 and were married the same year. He attended the University of Nebraska for a year, and became a professional fighter in 1950.

He gained considerable fame as a heavyweight, and was undefeated during the first two years of his career. He retired from the ring in April of 1953. Since last summer he had been employed by the Blodgett and Krajaec Construction Company of Omaha. He held the post of sales manager for the firm. The family lived at Plattsmouth.

Noble was one of the outstanding football players on Grand Island's 1947 state championship football team and was named as an all-state halfback. The Islander team swept through a 10-game schedule that year, with Noble and Bob Reynolds furnishing the one-two offensive punch and doing the bulk of the scoring.

Bill Noble was a member of the Elks Club, the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, and Riverside Country Club. He served in the Marines during World War II. He and Mrs. Noble were members of the Methodist Church.

His survivors other than his parents are a sister, Patty Jo, of Grand Island, and two grandmothers, Mrs. Lottie Blair of Glendale, Calif., and Mrs. Emma Noble of Grand Island.

Mrs. Noble is survived by her parents an' three brothers, Milton of Portland, Ore., Meredith and Marvin of Grand Island.

Plattsmouth Boy Wounded At Play

A 14-year-old Plattsmouth boy was at home today with a bullet wound in his leg after a rifle discharged Sunday on the Missouri river bank.

Ronnie Adkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Austin of Plattsmouth, was the injured boy.

Mrs. Austin told the Journal today that her son was playing Sunday on the river with a playmate, Larry Benedict, 13, at target practice when the accident occurred. She said the bullet entered below the right knee and lodged near the ankle.

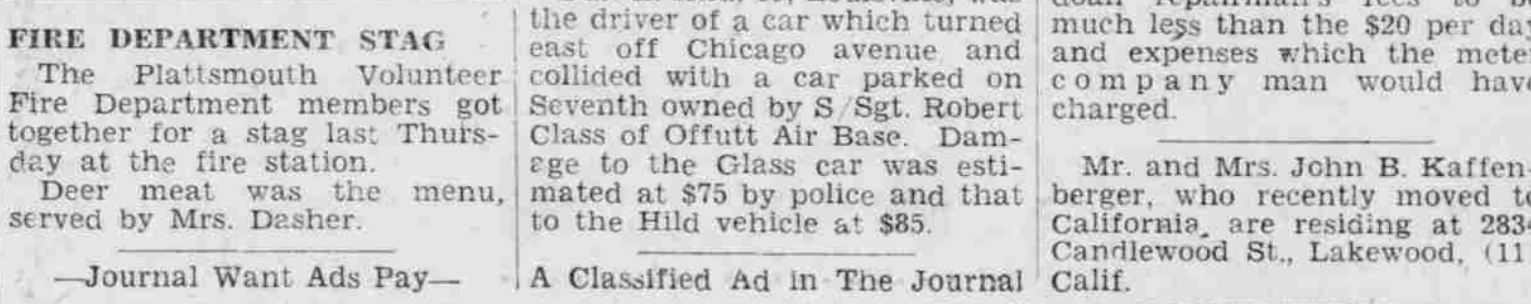
New Police Chief May Be Appointed Here This Week

Plattsmouth Mayor Leo Meisinger said today he wanted to make clearer a couple of items contained in the Journal story on the city council meeting last week.

Meisinger says he may appoint a police chief this week to replace Kenneth Dunlap who has resigned effective next Thursday, Dec. 23. He has qualified applicants for the job, and said he meant to say his list of qualified applicants for patrolmen jobs was shorter than he would like it to be.

Meisinger also said he has contacted the parking meter repairman at Shenandoah, Ia., about coming to Plattsmouth to instruct the new Plattsmouth meter repairman, Ed Kneer, who has taken over the job. Meisinger said he expects the Shenandoah repairman's fee to be much less than the \$20 per day and expenses which the meter company man would have charged.

Mr. and Mrs. John B. Kaffenberger, who recently moved to California, are residing at 2834 Candlewood St., Lakewood, (11) Calif.



Wreckage of a light plane which took the lives of three Plattsmouth residents near Grand Island Friday night. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Noble, 1619 Hill street, Plattsmouth, were flying from Omaha to Grand Island Friday when he radioed the CAA, apparently near Aurora, that he was in



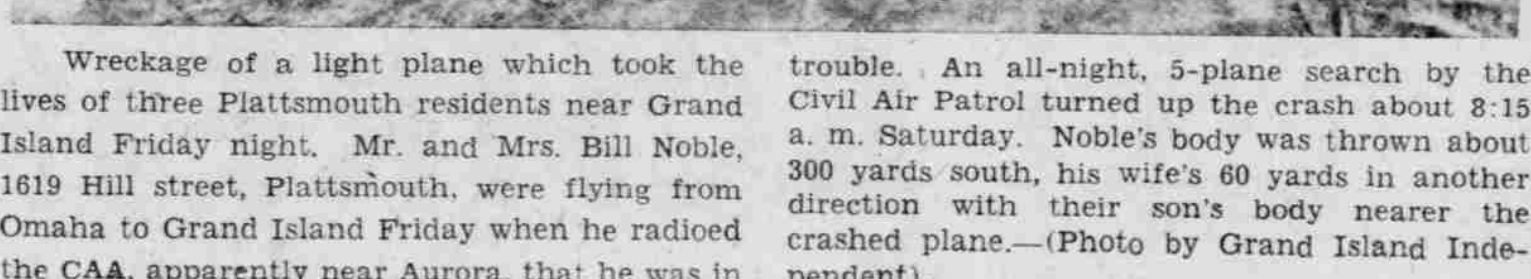
Wreckage of a light plane which took the lives of three Plattsmouth residents near Grand Island Friday night. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Noble, 1619 Hill street, Plattsmouth, were flying from Omaha to Grand Island Friday when he radioed the CAA, apparently near Aurora, that he was in



Wreckage of a light plane which took the lives of three Plattsmouth residents near Grand Island Friday night. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Noble, 1619 Hill street, Plattsmouth, were flying from Omaha to Grand Island Friday when he radioed the CAA, apparently near Aurora, that he was in



Wreckage of a light plane which took the lives of three Plattsmouth residents near Grand Island Friday night. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Noble, 1619 Hill street, Plattsmouth, were flying from Omaha to Grand Island Friday when he radioed the CAA, apparently near Aurora, that he was in



Wreckage of a light plane which took the lives of three Plattsmouth residents near Grand Island Friday night. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Noble, 1619 Hill street, Plattsmouth, were flying from Omaha to Grand Island Friday when he radioed the CAA, apparently near Aurora, that he was in

only 4 Shopping days 'til Christmas!