

Scenes of 1954

It Happened in 1954

(Continued From Page 1)
State Bank of Murdock was robbed of over \$1,000 at 1:30 p. m. Feb. 8... B. H. G. Elting was nominated to the executive board of the Arbor Lodge, District, Boy Scouts of America... Cass County basketball tournament opened at Murdock gymnasium... Quarry worker Allen Paul Nelson pleaded guilty of robbing the Murdock bank and his arrest by Cass County Sheriff Tom Solomon... Plattsmouth board of education adopted a salary schedule for teachers... Cass county board of commissioners adopted a set schedule for salaries of all county officials... Highest award in Scouting was bestowed on Stuart Nielsen in a Plattsmouth ceremony... A fifth voting precinct got the okay of the city council.

March

A school for county assessors was held in Plattsmouth on revised individual personal property assessment... Eight Korean war veterans were initiated into the Plattsmouth American Legion Post... Mrs. Eldon Mendhall was elected chairman of the County 4-H... 75 Lions Club members from the eastern Nebraska district, attended a meeting in Plattsmouth... Hinky-Dinky announced a new super market for Plattsmouth... The county commissioners bought a pre-tax receipt writing machine... Plattsmouth started its 100th year as a city... \$4,356 was netted in the March of Dimes drive... six rural and one village school were reorganized into one by voters in an election at Elmwood... Marvin Emonds and Janet Cook of Nehawka were named boy and girl stagers... A week control measure, spraying the roadside, was adopted by county commissioners... A. I. Tidd, veteran attorney, died... Murdock retired \$3,500 in water bonds... Raymond Bourne was elected Eagle president.

April

Leo Melsinger defeated Clem Woster for Plattsmouth mayor as George Conis unseated James F. Begley on the school board... 23 Cass countians were rated superior in music contests at Peru State Teachers... Jim Jacques and Byron Finnefrock received trophies from the Chamber of Commerce as outstanding athletes... McLean was elected VFW commander... Three minors were booked for drinking beer... Three new grade schools and a high school addition were dedicated... The Southsiders swept to victory in the Clean Up campaign... Three persons received VFW community service awards... Edward H. Wehrlein of Plattsmouth was elected grand standard bearer at the 82nd annual convocation of the Grand Commandery, Knights Templar of Nebraska at North Platte... Mayor Leo Melsinger locked horns with the city council over appointments... Plattsmouth took third in the Ak-Sar-Ben track meet.

May

Nehawka copped the Cass County track crown... Merle Stewart, Plattsmouth high athletic director resigned... body of a 51-year-old Sarpy County man was found in about two feet of water south of Plattsmouth on the Platte river... Plattsmouth took second in the district track meet... Plattsmouth band members boarded train for Enid, Okla., where they were rated superior to attend a music festival... Plattsmouth schools accepted a grand piano, a gift of the Rotary Club... 70 Plattsmouth seniors were graduated... an explosion damaged the foundation of Steve Davis house on Whitman avenue, injuring two workmen... the city council debated using ready-mix concrete for paving... and decided to... James Zoz was appointed to West Point... Mike Tupper disconnected with the Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce.

June

A rural southeast high school was proposed for Cass County... Jerry Pucelik graduated cum laude at Creighton... insurance set school values at a million dollars in Plattsmouth... Ray Story was named district governor of the Lions... 14 were graduated from Elmwood high school... \$24,142 paving contract was let... Charles Allen named manager of the Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce... a two-way radio was approved for the city police car... VFW add their backing to Civil Defense... Newt Sullivan was revealed as the Chamber of Commerce "Mystery Father"... T. H. "Bert" Pollock, 86, was slated for his first airplane ride... Louise Tozek, 12-year-old Omaha girl became Cass County's first drowning victim.

July

Lois Jean Smith noted her 11th birthday, from an isolation ward for polio... neighbors were at work helping hand luck neighbors with harvest in the South Ashland area... Cass County was named defendant in suits for \$9,429 for personal injury and damage resulting from two washouts on the county road between Louisville and Greenwood... little rain was

evident and crops were hurting... the board of commissioners also approved a sum of \$4,000 for the Cass County fair and asked for an additional .24 mill levy for operating the county for the coming year... assessed valuations to the county were announced up about \$1,700,000, mostly on motor vehicles... Plattsmouth city valuations climbed \$400,000 and a .22 mill levy was set... all was heat wave outside as the sun bore down and the rain stayed away... and the city council's bi-monthly arguments continued... Grant Neitzel of Murdock was tossed 95 feet in a traffic collision into a cornfield but escaped serious injury... Cass county got \$57,000 for roads and bridges from the gas tax... Plattsmouth school budget was increased by \$25,000... Herb Baumgart was selected to head the Plattsmouth Legion.

August

Soennichsens reopened after remodeling, marking 66th year... a doubling of the Allied Chemical plant was announced... Grosshans, Olson and Sharp were the top Republican vote getters in the county primary election... Tom Solomon was the heavy Democratic favorite... driving rain and mud hampered rescue operations at the scene of a fatal accident when Mrs. Elizabeth Royal was killed in a traffic collision... Cass County Fair Boosters hit the road... H. G. Frey, 57 years a Burlington agent, retired... Nancy Land was elected Cass County Fair... quick action averted a possible train wreck when law enforcement officers put their radio net to work to notify the Missouri Pacific train.

September

The Plattsmouth city council tried to figure out where to cut the budget after the county clerk informed them that the city's assessed valuation had been cut \$700,000, making about \$5,000 less revenue... this caused the council to ask for 25 mills, the maximum, while the same cut in valuation forced Elmwood, Louisville and Nehawka to ask almost as much... Lincoln Telepho and Telegraph observed its 50th year with an open house... a petition with 168 signatures asking for a grand jury, which an accompanying letter asked for an investigation of city government (presumably in Plattsmouth) but signers later removed signatures until no jury was called... Marlynn Joanne Stoehr was crowned queen and T. H. "Bert" Follock was crowned King of the King Korn Carnival... the Blue Devils took a football win over Ashland after dropping their opener to Beatrice... Murdock schools refuted tax breakdown by the Nebraska Citizens Council.

October

Plattsmouth High School band under the direction of Melvin McKenney won the Ak-Sar-Ben class B competition at Omaha, the third time a McKenney band had won the award in his three years at Plattsmouth... also won top honors at Enid, Okla., Tri-States Band festival... work on Soennichsens's super market expansion got under way... Roman Hruska and Carl T. Curtis, both candidates for the U. S. Senate but for different seats, spoke at Weeping Water... Ernie Schultz started a fund drive with \$100 in an effort to raise money to provide surgery for Willie Simons, blinded here three years ago in an accident.

November

Allied Chemical supervisory personnel ran the plant when 280 production and maintenance workers went on strike... Richard E. Beverage, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Beverage of Plattsmouth, was awarded a Union Carbide scholarship for 1954-55 at Colgate University... Republicans took most county offices in the general election... Marion L. Tucker, Nehawka, county treasurer since October, 1953, resigned and Miss Alice Jayne Grosshans, newly elected county treasurer, was named by the board of commissioners to take over until her term started... Sam Arn resigned as Plattsmouth city councilman and planned to move out of town... Merv Jochimsen was named as city councilman to replace him... workers returned to Allied Chemical plant... Cass County Sheriff Tom Solomon was cited for law enforcement by a crime insurance company, the first Nebraska sheriff to be so honored... The Plattsmouth Journal was named as a top newspaper and given an AAA rating... First Charge System was installed in Plattsmouth.

December

Charles Allen was re-hired as Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce manager... Soennichsens opened a new grocery section... First Christian Church changed hands... Ken Dunlap resigned as police chief and Paul Fauquet was named city attorney... Art Johanns, veteran Plattsmouth barber, died in a traffic crash and the Bill Noble family was wiped out in a plane crash near Grand Island.



JOURNALisms

A note from M. F. Sudduth on South First St., enclosing an interesting article telling of a pioneer trip taken in 1878 from Indiana to Wichita, Kansas. The article contained excerpts from a letter written by an R. J. Mead found among the belongings of a deceased relative. Although Mead was not a scholarly man, his letter contained much in authentic information and historical value.

He told of a train trip by his wife and children. Of boarding the train at Mitchell, Ind., at noon and arriving in Kansas City about 11 a. m. the next day. He then "took the Atkison, Tamppek and Santifee R. R. for Wichita which place we reached at midnight." Then a two-day, 40-mile wagon trip to the ranch (through snow and cold staying overnight at "what is called dog creek ranch. A ranch is a place where teamsters and traders has to stop overnight, they have good stables for the horses and a house with a stove in it for them to cook on and furnish hay for the teams all for 25 cts and the men sleeps in the hayloft."

Speaking of prices he stated the two nights in the Wichita hotel cost him \$2. "Agricultural implements is as cheap as they are in Indiana. You can buy a good wagon for \$85 and the best wagon that is made for \$75 with brake and spring set all complete, Walking cultivators \$22, plows from \$11 to \$20 and I got a set of stone chiny plates for 65 cts., teacups 65 cts. the best. One gal. coffee pot 5c cts. 4 lbs. coffee for \$1. 2 1/2 lbs. sugar 25 cts., 4 bars soap 25 cts. Hogs is worth \$3 per hundred lbs. wt."

Best paragraph of all, to us, stated, "John Wiley and Chess is as fat as hogs and will stay here. They are in a big way now. John Wiley's mare is sick. Has been bad off but is getting better. Thier house is about 16x20 feet and John Plotts and us all fills it pretty near full. We make a bed clear across one end and all pile in together, 13 in all and when one turns over the rest has to turn. Lizzie was pretty near wore out yesterday but is all right today."

That bank robbery at Fremont Monday reminded Henry Schneider to tell us about the big job pulled here a number of years ago. Henry said the Fremont job would be quite a disappointment to him as it lacked the artillery and fire works displayed after the three bandits were attacked while in the process of cleaning out tellers cages.

Henry said the three desperadoes had things pretty much their own way until the late Jarvis Lancaster plugged one with a six-shooter through the door of the bank. Then the excitement started. Shots rang out all over the place with bank employees taking for cover. In all, some 20 shots were fired. The bank president and one customer squeezed into a spot under a desk that wouldn't accommodate one in a normal attempt.

Pistol slugs were splattering from one end of the bank to the other. One robber took a pot-shot at Carl as he highailed it out the rear entrance. Miraculously he missed, much to Dad's relief, but Henry's eyes lighted up like incandescent bulbs and his breath came a little faster just telling us about it. In fact, he nearly lost his "uppers" describing the melodrama.

Nothing beats a little advertising. It didn't take long for us to learn the name of the young fellow finding the purse belonging to Mrs. Jack Burton of La Platte, following our story in Monday's Journal. The story coming to light reveals two boys were involved, Junior Smalley and Eldon Kammerer, picking up the purse on Washington Avenue. They returned it to Mrs. Burton and were well rewarded despite their protests.

Smalley is the son of O. F. Smalley and a grandson of Mrs. Rose Retlesdorf. Eldon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Orval R. Kammerer. Reporters on The Journal are happy when they can write about good deeds of our citizens, both old and young. So often loss of money and personal items are reported to this office with never a trace that it is a personal delight to recognize and commend these young men here for their honesty.

This is the last copy of The Journal you'll receive this year. Please drive carefully over New Years—we don't want to lose any subscribers.—RRF.

EAST-WEST TRADE
The Eisenhower Cabinet is planning an early meeting, at the request of high Administration officials, to study anew the problem of East-West European trade. Heisenhower Administration is increasingly worried about the volume of machine tools, electric power equipment and other capital goods which are moving from Western Europe to the Soviet Union and wants to develop plans to curb such sales.

Livestock Steady At Omaha Market

Livestock trade held generally steady at Omaha Monday with better steers to 25 cents higher, cows strong to 50 cents higher, fat lambs about 50 cents higher, hogs were off 25 to 50 cents.

Among recent sales from Cass county shippers were Davis & Rice, 16 hogs, wt. 268, \$17.25; William T. Zoz, 18 steers, wt. 1,114, \$29; Charles Hammons, 17 hogs wt. 266, \$17.

Real Estate Transfers

T. A. Engles & Florence to James Brennan and Lucille WD 922-54 Pt. L. 90 & 91 SE 1/4 SW 1/4 18-12-14 \$6500.00.
L. J. Eiserman & Irene to Gerald H. and Alice Sharpnack WD 12-8-28 Oakmont \$100.
Edna R. Edwards & R. H. Lee to Gustave E. Neumeister and Anna WD 12-7-54 L. 9 B. 13 Nehawka \$1250.00.

Cass County's Greatest Newspaper The Plattsmouth Journal

Truck Weight Rules Changed By State Body

John McMeekin, Maintenance Engineer of the Department of Roads and Irrigation, announced today that effective January 1, 1955, there would be an alteration in the rules and regulations governing the issuance of permits for the movement of overweight or overdimension vehicles. This is in keeping with a decision reached after a public hearing held October 20. The main change is that a \$5.00 fee will be charged for permits covering the following movements:
1. Over axle weight — 18,000 pounds on a single and 33,000 pounds on a tandem axle.
2. Weight over the gross weight for the axle spacing.
3. Overdimension or overweight equipment moving under its own power and not registered as a motor vehicle.
4. Equipment not registered as a motor vehicle being used to haul, trail or tow overdimension or overweight objects.
5. All vehicles with non-Nebraska registration or non-Nebraska license plates, hauling overdimension or overweight single objects in an interstate movement. (Permits will not be issued for intrastate movement on non-Nebraska license plates).
6. Buildings over fourteen (14) feet in width being moved on house moving equipment.
7. Automobile transports having a length exceeding (50) (50) feet when loaded.
8. The \$5.00 charge is necessitated by the vast amount of clerical and administrative work involved in issuing the permits for the type of movements mentioned above.
The permit will not be issued until the fee has been paid or specific arrangements made with the Department regarding payment. Copies of these rules and regulations are available by writing the Department of Roads and Irrigation, Maintenance Engineer, Room No. 1216, State House, Lincoln, Nebraska, or any of the Department's eight Division Engineer's offices.

Crop Improvement Annual Meet Set For Kearney

LINCOLN — Plans are being completed for the annual meeting of the Nebraska Crop Improvement Association to be held at Kearney Jan. 31 and Feb. 1.
According to C. E. Porter, secretary - manager of the association, the program will be one of much interest to seed growers and others interested in seed production, processing and distribution.
Many of the plant breeders located at the College of Agriculture are planning to attend the annual meeting and participate in the discussion. One of the more interesting discussions will center around adapted sor-

gum varieties, improved methods of production, adoption of certification standards for hybrid sorghum production, the use of hand selected seed for seed increase, and germination standards for certified seed.

Porter points out that arrangements are being made for demonstration fields to be set up in legume seed production areas of Nebraska in 1955. These fields will demonstrate the value of spraying to control harmful insects, the value of pollinating insects, irrigation for alfalfa seed production, and the possibilities of defoliating and harvesting direct.
Guest speakers for the meeting include Dr. Louis Wise, director of the Regional Seed Research Laboratory at Mississippi State College, and Lane Wilson, executive secretary of the Southern Seedmen's Association, Shreveport, La.
Dale Luther, Buffalo county agricultural extension agent, is chairman of the local committee for the meeting to be held at the Fort Kearney Hotel.