

# EDITORIALS

## NATIONAL PARKS CROWDED

Director Conrad Wirth, of the National Parks, said recently so many Americans were using the parks that their use might have to become rationed in the near future. Wirth said the nation's parks handled almost twice as many visitors last year as they were designed to accommodate. Their annual capacity is estimated at 25,000,000.

This being the season when Americans head for these parks, it strikes us as unfortunate that an overcrowding situation has forced talk of rationing. We dislike the very thought of any type of bureaucratic controls over our national parks, which belong to all citizens, and which should be open to all comers at all times.

We would favor a fee, or some other way of reducing the number of visitors rather than accepting the principle that use of our national parks must be strictly rationed.

Moreover, we believe Congress could find additional park acreage in certain spots where the overcrowding is most prevalent, even if it meant abandonment of acreage elsewhere, where overcrowding is not a problem. But what we do not want is controls over the free use of our national parks, controls administered by federal authorities.

As long as we can stay away from that, the parks will be what they were first intended to be, and they always have been, in the United States.

## SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE

And speaking of parks, we think some looking into of the old rifle range situation is long past due. Several years ago this acreage was given the State of Nebraska to be developed into a wildlife refuge and park area. Some fine dreams and rosy promises have emanated from the state-house since then, but to date any action has been about as noticeable as a reduction in the public debt.

We realize that cash requirements of most of the State's departments have been limited, but during this period some provision could have been made in future planning for this area. Surely a good cleaning of the range, a few picnic tables and a little road maintenance could be included in the budget. East Central Nebraska residents are entitled to consideration in the thinking of the Nebraska Game Commission. After all, there are residents who enjoy a back-to-nature movement other than shooting pheasants, and stocking ponds with minnows.

If a park cannot come to pass, how about turning the ground to Consumers Public Power for their new atomic generating plant?

## LIFE FOR NARCOTICS SALESMAN

The State of Connecticut recently added to the books a law which would send to prison for life narcotics peddlers who were convicted of a second offense of selling narcotics to minors.

The state legislature also passed a provision which would send those convicted on a third count of selling narcotics to anyone, to prison for life.

Surprisingly, there are still states which have no adequate laws on the books to punish the dope peddler. Yet this menace has been on the increase in recent years and experts say it is contributing to the rising rate of juvenile crime.

The recently-passed Connecticut law is not too severe, nor is it one which will be lightly reversed by would-be dope peddlers. Life imprisonment lasts a long time, in almost every case, and a few convictions, on second or third counts, will make a major impression in Connecticut, among members of the underworld.

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Freedom is that faculty which enlarges the usefulness of all other faculties.

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## Furse's Fresh Flashes

There are still a few things you can get for a dollar—nickles, dimes and quarters.

Only trouble with some of the books being published today is that the covers are too far apart.

One of the boys up the street said he had a "bad cold". We've never heard of a good one.

Politicians being what they are you can expect government to be what it is.

Dry weather that ruins a farmer's crops will later cause dust to settle on a merchant's shelves.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says late hours may not be good for one but she can certainly recommend them for two.

The Russians, as we go to press, are still working hard for peace—they say.

One thing we've got to be thankful for is that we're not one of our creditors.

Best time to observe Fire Prevention Week is before your house burns down.

## Down Memory Lane

### 20 YEARS AGO

Nominated for queen of the King Korn Klub ball to be held in Plattsmouth in the fall were Helen Schultz, Maxine Cloidt, Virginia Samek, Lois Giles, Evelyn Meade, Anna Zitka, Helen Koubek, June Keil, Ruth Ferrie, Geraldine Griffin, Jean Hayes, Gertrude Valley, Lois Troop, Louise Bakke and Eleanor Hiber. Attorney Carl D. Ganz of Alvo told the Plattsmouth Rotary Club of Alaska, which he and his wife saw on a trip the summer before. Better Homes and Gardens magazine sent Mrs. E. H. Westcott a certificate endorsing her recipe for escalloped oysters.

Miss Jean Hayes, of Plattsmouth, a graduate that year as a music major from Morningside College at Sioux City, Ia., gave a voice recital in Plattsmouth. R. E. Foster was elected president; John Foster, vice-president; Charles Redhair secretary and Purley Comer news reporter as the "Fix-It" club was organized at the home of Mrs. R. E. Foster at Union. A wreck on the highway west of Union recalled to the Journal's Union correspondent a time when Factoryville was flourishing and Stringtown was in evidence and but Union was a small hope; when speeding bobsleds down Union hill was the most thing there in the winter.

**30 YEARS AGO**  
Guy W. Morgan, Henry F. Goos, Frank M. Bestor and Waldemar Soennichen were a general committee to set up a Fourth of July celebration for Plattsmouth. Weeping Water had a real metropolitan aspect said a Journal representative who visited that city with the Plattsmouth drum and bugle corps. James T. Hamilton of Union sued the Missouri Pacific Railroad for \$50,000 damages he claimed occurred in an accident as a result of defective equipment. Oliver C. Hudson was installed as worshipful master of Plattsmouth Lodge No. 6 AF & AM. Wind and dust cut the blades of 65 acres of corn of Irvin Heier near Greenwood, that he was thinking of replanting.

## The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

(Copyright, 1955, by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)  
DREW PEARSON SAYS: RUSSIAN EMBASSY HAS FIRST CALL ON UNITED STATES NATIONAL VOLLEY BALL COURT; NIXON FAILS TO BREAK TIE VOTE; LYNDON JOHNSON SPEEDS UP SENATE.

Washington — If you want to play volley ball on a certain court in Rock Creek park near the Carter Barron amphitheatre on Sunday or Saturday afternoon, you have to get permission from the Soviet embassy.

The Embassy is quite agreeable about giving permission, but nonetheless, if you want to play from noon to 9 p. m. on Sunday or from 3 to 9 p. m. Saturday in this national park in the District of Columbia you have to ask the Russians.

This came about after the Soviet embassy applied to the District of Columbia recreation department in April to have the use of the volley ball court on Saturday and Sunday afternoon. The recreation department at first said no, on the ground that no such reservation had been given to any other group.

At this point, however, the State Department stepped in. The protocol office of the State Department called the recreation department, which also is a federal agency, and told them that the Russians would have to get the permit.

No explanation was given. But in diplomatic circles it was learned that the State Department is bending over back-

## Ticklers

By George



"Dear old Uncle Charles doesn't believe in spoiling anyone with gifts. The card says: 'This is a do-it-yourself gift—earn your own wrist watch!'"

ward to provide entertainment for the embassy staff in return for concessions to the American embassy staff in Moscow.

No explanation was given. But in diplomatic circles it was learned that the State Department is bending over backward to provide entertainment for the embassy staff in return for concessions to the American embassy staff in Moscow.

The recreation department was informed by the State Department that the FBI would keep an eye on the Soviet volley ball players, and later the FBI dropped in at the recreation department to see if the Russians were abusing their privilege. In the course of the conversation the FBI showed some pictures of the Russians in action.

The Recreation department reported that the Russians had not abused their privilege. When the YMCA wanted to play a match with the Baltimore YMCA the Russians relinquished the court in advance—though Baltimore later failed to show. Also, on another occasion, they gave up the court to the press club. Next, to the Russian court is a court reserved—though not for so long a period—by the young adult fellowship league of the Lutheran church. The two groups seem to enjoy volley ball though they can't always understand each other.

**NIXON WANTS** These GOP senators are sore at Vice-President Nixon for costing them 200 Republican jobs.

It happened when Senator Capehart of Indiana tried to push through a bill authorizing the Foreign Operations Administration to fire 200 Democrats now frozen in their jobs by Civil Service. Capehart wanted them replaced, of course, by good Republicans.

The Senate vote ended in a 40-40 tie. Ordinarily a tie is settled by Vice-President Nixon who casts his vote with the Republicans.

But Nixon was off on some political gallivanting, leaving the Senate's president pro tem, George of Georgia—a Democrat—in command.

George naturally took advantage of Nixon's absence to break the tie in favor of the Democrats. The Republicans got 200 fewer jobs.

**Lyndon's Machine** You have to be sitting in the Senate cloakrooms to appreciate the deftness of Sen. Lyndon Johnson's leadership these days.

Last week, for instance, the real-estate lobbyists thought they had enough votes lined up to kill the Democratic public housing bill introduced by Sen. John Sparkman of Alabama. It provided for more slum clearance than the Eisenhower bill sponsored by Senator Capehart of Indiana, so the real-estate interests were opposed.

Working behind the scenes, the real-estate lobby had counted noses and figured they could get a considerable number of southern Democrats to go along with the Republicans. In fact, their secret poll showed they would win by 57 to 31. At that time they were dead right.

But they didn't count on the eloquence of Mr. Johnson, the Senate Democrats' Button-holing his southern friends Johnson persuaded them to support one of their own men. Which would they prefer, he asked, a Sparkman bill or a Capehart bill?

In the end, Johnson reversed the margin completely, got a vote of 44 for Sparkman and slum clearance as against 38 for the Eisenhower-Capehart bill.

Though the original Democratic program dragged earlier in the session, last week it really hit high gear, partly as a result of Johnson's skillful leadership.

On one day the Senate voted \$97,000,000 for medical research into cancer, heart, polio and other diseases—which was three times what Mrs. Hobby had originally wanted. In the same week the Senate completed action on the postal pay bill, renewed the small business administration, approved a \$1 minimum wage bill despite Ike's urging of a 90-cent minimum, and OK'd a three-year suspension of an import duty on copper which in the past has usually tied up the Senate for two or three days of debate.

It took a little time to get going, but last week Lyndon's machine was really rolling.

## OUT OLD NEBRASKA

by JAMES C. OLSON, Superintendent STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Nebraskans this year perhaps are more conscious of the importance and value of irrigation than they have ever been, and new developments in the field continue to encourage those who over the years have watched the adaptation of agricultural methods to the demands of the plains.

The early files of the proceedings of the Nebraska State Irrigation Association provide a valuable insight into the beginnings of an interest in irrigation in this state.

The association grew out of the state irrigation convention held at Lincoln in February, 1891. Robert W. Furnas, whose name had been associated with almost every agricultural advance since territorial times, was elected president of the convention.

Beginning with the 3rd annual meeting of the association, held in Sidney in December, 1895, the organization published its proceedings in full, and these publications are the documents to which I refer above.

Upon reading them, one finds that the basic problems was arousing interest in irrigation itself. At first, there seemed to be downright hostility to the idea of irrigation. In addressing the Sidney meeting of 1895, I. H. Fort, president of the association, recalled that as late as December 1893, "There was a strong sentiment east of the 101st meridian unfriendly, and even west of that point the condition was not favorable to the irrigation propositions."

N. A. Daugherty of Ogallala, addressing the same meeting, called attention to the fact that, "through these early years to speak of irrigation as the solution for crop raising was to invite condemnation upon oneself."

It was true that during the relatively wet years of the eighties, though, to suggest that irrigation was necessary did seem to indicate little faith in the state. Readers of this column will recall the popularly held story that "rainfall follows the plow," a theory which had great currency during the 1880's when agriculture was steadily expanding westward and rainfall seemed to be increasing at the same time.

The dry years of the nineties, of course, changed all this and drought conditions did much to assist the State Irrigation Association in arousing interest in this new development. A few pioneer irrigators in the Platte Valley came through the dry years of the early nineties in much better shape than those who had no irrigation. This experience served to demonstrate what the members of the association had been urging for a number of years, that irrigation not only was desirable, but a necessity in certain portions of Nebraska.

### MAY 11 FAMILY DAY

Topeka, Kan. — The Ernest W. Isaacson family will have to designate May 11th as "Family Day." For the third time in a row, a new baby joined the Isaacson family on May 11. Their two other children, Stanley Willard and Victor L. Lynn, were born on May 11, in 1951 and 1952, respectively.

### GERMAN LABOR SHIFT

In a major policy shift, German labor joined in a pledge with the free unions of seventy-four other countries at Vienna to build the military strength of the Western world against the Soviet Union.

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## Poets Corner

Verse will appear in this space without charge. Name of writer must appear on copy submitted. Keep them short space will not permit lengthy poems.

### SOMETHING WORTH WHILE

By Eva M. Muma  
Do you try to do something worthwhile each day.  
As you journey along life's toiling way?  
Do you try to lift someone's burden of care,  
Or their sorrows and troubles help to bear?  
Do you see in each moment the whole day through  
An opportunity some good to do?

And what do you find are the things most worth-while?  
As you turn the knob of your own life's dial  
Do you search for the jazz of passing pleasure?  
And call wealth and fame your greatest treasure?  
Or do you tune in for the harmonies true,  
Of love and of friendship surrounding you?

Then let us each day broadcast something worth-while.  
Just a kindly deed, friendly word or smile;  
As we're all apart of that great world-wide chain  
For spreading good cheer without thought of gain.  
Only trusting that somewhere, someone may find  
Greater joy in life because we've been kind.

## Plan to Extend Capitol's East Front Gains Impetus

WASHINGTON — After 92 years without major architectural changes, the United States Capitol may be enlarged to provide Congressmen more space and its famed dome a more graceful setting.

If recommendations by President Eisenhower and the House of Representatives materialize, the building's central east front will be extended perhaps 40 feet by the National Geographic Society says.

The extension would add some 42 offices, two large hearing rooms and another restaurant quarters. The plan is to harmonize the central front with the projecting Senate and House wings. The dome would lose the appearance of overhanging the pillared east portico. During a 1935 hearing on extending the building a legislator likened the landmark dome to a derby hat with a crown overhanging the brim.

### Plan Is Old

In the early 1860's the Capitol architect called extension of the building's central front an "architectural necessity." In 1905 a 40-foot extension was suggested. This plan was mentioned by Mr. Eisenhower in discussing the present proposal. Visitors to the Capitol may view Thomas Jefferson's original plan of 1800-04 to illustrate revamping of the portico.

Through the years, advocates of aligning the east center and the wings have contended that the Capitol as it stands is incomplete. Opponents have wanted the building to remain unchanged as a historical monument.

The massive structure arose from George Washington's wish for a Capitol embodying "grandeur, simplicity and convenience." Its amateur architect was Dr. William Thornton, a physician by training. His plan was entered in the Capitol competition of 1792 and earned him \$500 and a city lot. Washington and the master architect Thomas Jefferson (designer of Monticello, the University of Virginia and the Virginia State Capitol) contributed broad influences.

Washington laid the cornerstone in 1793 against a backdrop of bands and booming cannon. The assemblage feasted on barbecued ox.

The Capitol rose by bits and starts. During an early phase two units were joined by a rude wooden walkway. Well-patronized public springs lay in the open space. After the structure was

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