

EDITORIALS

MORE ON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

"RON Furse of the Plattsmouth Journal says the town's Chamber of Commerce is "sadly ailing." Just what causes it, is not readily known, but perhaps it is a question of more membership. A Chamber of Commerce in a town as lively as the Cass county Capital ought to be looked on as a "must" by the business and professional folks up there. Without some central clearing house it is pretty difficult to get things done. When there is diversity of effort, as so often happened here in the old days, nothing much was accomplished. As of today, our own Chamber has been working diligently, enthusiastically and successfully toward the common end of making Nebraska City a better and a more prosperous town to live in.

"We discovered that a full-time manager was a necessity. For a long time we hired secretaries who had outside interests. It just didn't jell. Nor did it pay, as we tried once, to give a man a job because he needed it. The cold truth is, he needed the secretary's job because he had failed in his own enterprises. There was no fairy's wand handy to change his habits and thinking apparatus overnight. It was a most expensive experience and at year's end the harvest was practically nil.

"ANOTHER thing, we oldsters came to the conclusion it would be better to let younger men, who have a bit of daring in their make-ups as well as enthusiasm, have a bigger voice in the Chamber's operations. So far it has worked very well. Always there are things which might be done better, but that's true of every economic venture known to man. There is no perfection. We can only shoot in its general direction.—J.H.S."

The above was lifted from the editorial Columns of the Nebraska City News-Press. It is J. Hyde Sweet's comment on an editorial that appeared in this newspaper a week ago in regard to our inability to get some businessmen and women enthusiastic over a wide-awake Chamber of Commerce.

Editor Sweet is near three-quarters of 100 years young. He has been, and still is, on the top rung in leadership at Nebraska City since the turn of the century. We hope his true and eloquent words will assist in completing a job The Journal has been boosting for several years.

PETER AND MARGARET

The tizzy recently noted in official British circles concerning the romance of Princess Margaret and Peter Townsend, 40-year-old divorced British pilot, is another chapter in a continuing series of official spasms being caused the British by Cupid.

The Empire was rocked shortly before World War II when King Edward ran into a hot romance with a divorcee, and now the Princess' attention to another divorcee has some of the same traditions up-ended.

With all due respects to tradition, we believe that Princess Margaret will do the Empire no harm, one way or the other, whether she marries Townsend or does not marry him. It should be remembered, and this seems to have been forgotten by a few million Britishers, that Captain Peter Townsend was one of Britain's saviors in the Battle of Britain in 1940, being a much-decorated pilot and hero of that mortal conflict.

The fact that he has had a divorce is no earth-shattering fact, since things like that do happen.

That fact should be faced squarely. If Margaret was to be queen, the

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Nobody can live longer in peace than his neighbor pleases.—Thomas Fuller

The Plattsmouth Journal

Official County and City Paper
— ESTABLISHED IN 1881 —
Published Semi-Weekly, Mondays and Thursdays, at 410 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 2,000 Population)
RONALD R. FURSE.....Editor and Publisher
WM. L. MURDOCK.....News Editor
SOPHIA M. WOLEVER.....Society Editor
MARGARET DINGMAN.....Bookkeeper
VERN WATERMAN.....Advertising

PHONE 241
NEBRASKA PRESS ASSOCIATION member

Entered at the Post Office at Plattsmouth, Nebraska as second class mail matter in accordance with the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE: \$3.50 per year in Cass and adjoining counties, \$4.00 per year elsewhere, in advance, by mail outside the city of Plattsmouth. By carrier in Plattsmouth, 20 cents for two weeks.

Furse's Fresh Flashes

A sense of humor is something that will make you laugh at something that would make you mad if it happened to you.

Whether you wind up with a nest egg or goose egg depends upon the kind of a chick you marry.

Flipper Fanny, our dainty little contour twister, says her new boy friend always sees dark spots in front of his eyes and invariably tries to park in one of them.

Successful men will tell you to keep your eye on the ball, your shoulder to the wheel, and your ear to the ground, but did you ever try to work in that position?

A Senator reports that men never recognize a dictator in advance. Yea, they all seem like such sweet girls before the wedding.

Fire departments in this area are now entering the business season.

A Plattsmouth coed informs us that she has all the right clothes. When she goes out in the evening, she wears an evening dress. When she goes riding, she wears a riding habit, and on and on. Wonder what she wears at birthday parties?

matter would be different, but Margaret is not to be queen, and therefore, the World War II hero should not be given such over-perfunctory scrutiny.

We hope that Margaret finds a likeable, loveable and fun-enjoying man for a husband and inspires her toward making a good wife for him. We do not believe the Empire will go on the rocks as the result of any developments along this line.

Down Memory Lane

20 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Todd who had been visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Russ Todd, left for their home in California. . . Ed Morley reported that somebody broke into his garage at Avoca and made off with several tires and tubes. . . Miss Amelia Friedrich returned from a trip to the German village where her father was born. . . Leona Price and Rosemarie Burcham held a Halloween party as Artha Warga made the affair a success by coming dressed as an old witch. . . State champion 4-H club member in home economics was Frances Rehmeier of Weeping Water. . . Miss Mia U. Gerng of Plattsmouth was named as a member of the official board of Bishop R. S. Clarkson Memorial Hospital in Omaha

30 YEARS AGO

Albert A. Allen of Omaha and Miss Bertha E. Bonge were married at the home of her sister, Mrs. Charles L. Pease, in Plattsmouth. . . Leslie Neils was suffering from an ingrown toenail. . . Campfire Girls gave a farewell party for their retiring guardian, Mrs. Evi Spier, and Miss Lucy Goll, a Plattsmouth teacher, took over. . . Plattsmouth Postmaster James W. Holmes changed route one so that Wintersteen Hill could get better delivery. . . George E. DeWolff, Plattsmouth superintendent of schools, and J. W. Poynter, high school principal, headed a list of teachers who gave a program for the Ad Club. . . J. P. Lahr formerly of Valparaiso, took over as manager of the Lincoln Telephone company at Plattsmouth.

The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

by DREW PEARSON

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DREW PEARSON SAYS:
TAX COMMISSIONER ANDREWS TOOK ACTIVE TAX INTEREST IN COMPANY HE NOW HEADS; HE FAVORED PROSECUTION OF AMERICAN FIDELITY & SECURITY; COMPANY FACES SEC TROUBLE FOR KEEPING TWO SETS OF BOOKS.

Washington — There may be more than meets the eye behind the resignation of T. Coleman Andrews as Commissioner of Internal Revenue to become chairman of the American Fidelity and Casualty Co., in his home town, Richmond, Va. Certainly it's not likely to get by without a congressional investigation from Democrats who suffered from unmerciful tax probes themselves.

Not only does it involve another possible conflict of interest, but Mr. Andrews seems a long way from telling the truth when on Oct. 10 he wrote his boss, Secretary of the Treasury Humphrey, that other than checking with the chief counsel of the internal revenue service, I have not gotten into the case at all.

It also illustrates the haphazard manner in which public officials throw denials around the capital and expect a confused public to believe them merely because of

Ticklers

By George



"I have a feeling we're being spied upon."

their official position. For the truth is that Commissioner Andrews actually summoned Kenneth McElroy, special agent of the case, from Richmond to confer with him on the case. He also conferred with Geo. Bowles, insurance commissioner for the state of Virginia, about the case. He also held conferences in the Internal Revenue Bureau regarding the case. Finally he demanded a report from the enforcement division of Internal Revenue as to why the case had not been prosecuted.

Richard Schwartz, chief counsel of the enforcement division, spent the best part of a week writing a memo explaining the reasons for no prosecution. It's interesting that Commissioner Andrews' interest in the case was very much in favor of prosecuting the company which he is now about to head, that he almost put the company out of business.

As a result of this tax case, the market family, which controlled American Fidelity and Casualty, has been partially shunted to the side and a new blue-chip directors now have a majority vote on the board even though the control little or no stock. All this was done while Andrews was still active as Commissioner of Internal Revenue, though he had not part in reorganizing the company.

Someone meanwhile tipped off the Interstate Commerce Commission in Washington regarding the firm's financial affairs, with the result that it was almost barred from writing insurance for trucking and bus lines. American Fidelity and Casualty is the largest insurer of bus and truck lines in the nation.

Commissioner Andrews' negative activity regarding the firm which he will now head was vigorous that some observers wondered whether he was not trying out a future niche for himself. My own news-checks convince me this was not the case. The new directors of the firm approached him to take the job; He did not approach them.

However, the commissioner certainly was not telling the truth to his boss, Secretary Humphrey, when he wrote that other than checking with the chief counsel of the Internal Revenue Service, "I have not gotten into the case at all."

Finally, the retiring tax commissioner, may have trouble with the law which provides a criminal penalty if a former government employee represents persons with "claims against the government" within two years after leaving the government. If he handled the matter while in government.

How Fraud Discovered
The American Fidelity and Casualty case is one of the more important ones now before the tax court involving fraud. A jeopardy assessment—which is imposed only in case of fraud—has been placed against the company tax-associated Market interests and this plus interest and back taxes, totals \$5,782,698.38. The tax years involved are from 1944 through 1948.

The case began when tax agents found that a hospital expense of around \$10,000 for the son of Lewis Markel, stricken with polio, had been charged off as a business expense against Markel service, agent for American Fidelity. At that time the late Sam Markel grandfather of the boy, was head of the company and also head of its agent, Markel Services.

The case then considered relatively minor, was listed for tax court adjudication. However, the more tax-bird-dog McElroy began looking into the case, the more interesting it became. For he found that the company had not given him its full records. This discovery occurred when the Markels handed him the wrong book by mistake and he was unable to reconcile them with his previous figures taken from the other set of books.

It further developed that the Markels had overpaid their taxes. The files withheld from McElroy were not for cheating on taxes, but because the company had suffered heavy insurance losses, and it was feared these losses, if known, would affect

Capitol News

By Melvin Paul
Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN — A move by the attorney general apparently put a damper on much of the expected fireworks over the dismissal of Men's Reformatory Superintendent George Morris. Frederick Wagener, Lincoln attorney representing Morris, actually caused the Board of Control to hire a referee to take testimony in the case.

Wagener late on the day before the scheduled hearing for Morris before the three-member board, asked permission to call 41 witnesses including Gov. Victor Anderson, and several state prison inmates.

Upon checking the lawbooks, Asst. Atty. Gen. Robert Nelson, who is counsel for the board, discovered inmates cannot testify at a hearing unless it is before a court.

Then came the idea for a referee. Nelson told the board this would make for economy, speed and "orderly procedure. Wagener objected strenuously, but to no avail.

A referee, Lincoln Attorney Jack Devoe was named by the board.

The theory was that an impartial attorney would force Wagener to stick to the issue in the case—whether or not Morris made statements that constituted misconduct.

Wagener said he may go to court after the board makes its final decision. Although law permits no appeal from the board decision, there may be other statutes applying to the situation.

The mechanics of a referee taking testimony involves submission of transcripts to the board. Then the board will permit final arguments by the attorneys. Its decision will be whether it is right in firing Morris in the first place.

After the board's decision was announced, Wagener said he feels the board should have had "the intestinal fortitude to face the music."

Public Power Obligation
Public power development in Nebraska is not an obligation of the state, according to Atty. Gen. C. S. Beck.

Beck made the ruling in answer to a query from Sen. Morrison, Mitchell.

Beck said there is nothing in the Constitution, however, that would prevent such development from being an obligation, Beck said "is purely a question of policy to be decided by the people or their legislature." Answering Morrison further, Beck said it is a function of individual power district to furnish electricity.

And, said the attorney general, public power districts are governmental agencies, and their affairs are in the hands of the directors who are elected by the people.

Morris has been pushing for a special session of the legislature to iron out power problems. But he called a halt to his plans temporarily to give districts more time to work out their problems.

Mental Health Interest
Interest in Nebraska's mental health program has mushroomed. And the State Mental Health Director, Dr. Cecil Wittson, says this is "very healthy thing."

Wittson said he is "very pleased" with the concern shown recently, "especially by the governor." Governor Anderson urged the board of control to bring about a complete mental health program "without delay."

"One of the biggest things we in the mental health program have had to overcome is a public apathy about the problem," Wittson said.

The mental health director also has come up with some startling facts. He said there are 14,000 hospital beds in Nebraska and about half are filled with persons who are mentally ill.

And, he adds, one in 12 Nebraskans will need mental treatment during a lifetime.

Wittson says state institutions need to be drastically supplemented by psychiatrists work-

Ten Word INTELLIGRAM

Check the correct word:

- 1—Iran is the most recent country to initial the (Baghdad) (Mediterranean) pact.
- 2—Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan and (Egypt) (Britain) are also signatories.
- 3—The countries are banded in a defense pact to guard against (Moslemism) (Communism).
- 4—Recent testimony from returning prisoners of the Reds indicates that Adolf Hitler is truly (alive) (dead).
- 5—Thanksgiving this year falls on Nov. (17) (24).
- 6—Its observance (is) (is not) nationwide.
- 7—There (are) (are not) days which are officially classified as national holidays in the United States.
- 8—The President and Congress can designate holidays for (federal employees and the District of Columbia) (all of us).
- 9—Thanksgiving (is) (is not) observed in Hawaii.
- 10—Thanksgiving (always) (nearly always) is observed on the fourth Thursday in November.

Count 10 for each correct choice. A score of 0-20 is poor; 30-60, average; 70-80, superior, and 90-100, very superior.

Decoded Intelligram
1—Are not, 2—Britain, 3—Communism, 4—Dead, 5—24, 6—15, 7—All, 8—10, 9—Is, 10—Always.

Realty Transfers

Johanna E. Meyers Nelson and G. H. to Charles Joseph Samland and Edith 9-22-55 L. 1 to 6. 4 Chases Add Weeping Water. \$1,500.00.
Fed. Ld. Bk. to Ralph J. Lindsey 9-19-55 1/2 Int. oil, gas and mineral rights in SE 1/4 3-10-11. \$560.00.
Maria Meisinger to Lorine Urish WD 9-22-55 L. 6 and 7 Exc. N 25' B. 1 Donelan's Add. Plattsmouth. \$1.00.

James Willis Rhodes and Juanita Leone H Eugene Barkhurst WD 9-24-55 L. 3 to 6 B. 76 Weeping Water. \$4,350.00.
Minnie Stege to Delor Swarts and Eula 8-31-55 L. 5 and N' L. 6 B. 21 Elmwood. \$1.00.
Geo. L. Kruse and Violet to Martin J. Nickel and Myrtle 6-14-55 L. 6 and 7 B. 12 Murdock. \$1.00.

Sarah Spohn to Hector A. Balthazar and Elva WD 8-9-55 L. 7 B. 98 Weeping Water. \$4,500.
Clarence Keil to Sylvia Keil 9-26-55 L. 3 B. 9 Plattsmouth. \$1.
Thomas S. Solomon Sh. to Warren Fink SHD 9-27-55 L. 30 Louisville. \$300.
Orval J. Hathaway and Alma to Eva Fitzpatrick WD 2-10-54 L. 10 and 11 B. 3 Union. \$1.00.
Roy M. Chriswiler and Edna to Roy G. Snyder and Edna WD 10-1-55 L. 11 and 12 B. 8 Nehawka. \$3,000.00.

Geo. and Shirley Mayabb to Doris and Billy L. Oliver WD 9-24-55 L. 1 and E 4' L. 2 B. 7 Plattsmouth. \$1.00.
Thomas S. Solomon Sh. to Robert A. Gall SHD 9-27-55 L. 10 B. 53 Plattsmouth. \$175.00.
Wm. G. Van Every and Mary Otte to Leonard G. Doty and Verna WD 9-3-55 Pt. L. 5 B. 71 Weeping Water. \$4,500.00.
Chas. W. Sluyter and Martha to Wm. F. Diekmann and Alida WD 10-1-55 L. 24 B. 3 Manley. \$6,500.

Harold Radtke and Laura to Bronson H. Timm and Gertrude WD 10-3-55 L. 10 B. 16 Latta's 1st Add. Murray. \$1.00.
Chas. W. Sluyter and Linda V. to Harry A. Maughan and Rose E. WD 3-1-55 L. 388,342,343, Greenwood. \$1.00.
D. M. Babbitt and Frances and John J. Cloutier and Winfred to Mabelle W. Shell and Beverly Marie WD 9-29-55 L. 3 Highland Add. Plattsmouth. \$1.00.

EASY MONEY
ST. JOSEPH, Mo. — The four persons recently hired by County Clerk Floyd Inman to count the absentee votes at a recent election were paid \$5 each. They had a total of four votes to count.