

CASS COUNTY'S
GREATEST
NEWSPAPER

THE PLATTSMOUTH JOURNAL

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

PUBLISHED
SEMI-WEEKLY
Monday - Thursday

VOLUME 75 SIX PAGES PLATTSMOUTH, CASS COUNTY, NEBRASKA, MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1955 FIVE CENTS PER COPY NUMBER 10

County Prisoner Cuts Wrist, Leg; Suicide Attempt

A prisoner, who would have completed a ten-day sentence in Cass county jail Friday, slashed himself shortly before 7 a.m. that day. It nearly cost his life. Cass County Sheriff Tom Solomon said that Willard H. Rueter of Alvo, finishing a 10-day jolt for scattering rubber checks, cut the back of his left hand and his leg. Mrs. Solomon found him at breakfast time lying in a pool of blood.

Outdoor Man



Brian Nelson, Journal carrier in the north Sixth street area, is strictly an outdoor man. He is 13, an eighth grade student at St. John's school. Scout Nelson is Den chief of Cub Scout Den No. 5; hobbies are hunting, fishing and trapping. Brian, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Nelson, also plays the piano, but declares he likes the outdoors.

Thrifty Stitchers Have Television Date WOW Dec. 31

OMAHA—A Cass County 4-H club known as the "Thrifty Stitchers" will be featured on "Down on the Farm" with Mal Hansen Saturday, Dec. 31 over WOW-TV, Channel 6 at 12:30 p. m., the station said. Under the direction of Mrs. Chester Wiles, the nine-member team of girl 4-Hers will present a musical novelty, "I Am an American."

Auto License Sale to Begin On January 3rd

Cass county license plates will go on sale at the county treasurer's office at Plattsmouth Jan. 3.

All plates for passenger cars this year will cost \$8, a new law. Last year passenger car plates came at two prices, \$6 and \$8, but now the cost is \$8 for all cars.

Also up were commercial license plates which vary in price according to the type of vehicle. No plates have been received at the treasurer's office so far. Alice Jayne McShane, county treasurer, said the office has heard of no delay in delivery of plates and expects them here in time for Jan. 3 sales. Of course motor vehicle taxes must be paid before license plates will be issued.

Real estate taxes become due on Jan. 1 with the first half delinquent on May 1 and the second half delinquent on Sept. 1.

Subscribe to The Journal Now!

THE WEATHER

Compiled for the Plattsmouth Journal at the Masonic Home Weather Station, Plattsmouth, Nebraska.

December 22, 23, 1955.
High Low Prec.
Thursday 44 17
Friday 54 30
Forecast: Saturday balmy and mild colder Sunday possible scattered snow flurries.

FFA-FHA King and Queen Crowned



Roger Wehrbein and Janice Lancaster, center, were crowned Future Farmer-Future Home-maker king and queen at a ceremony at the Plattsmouth high school last week. Others in photo, from left, Gary Rieke, Jim Grosshans, Doris Ehlers, last year's queen, King Roger and Queen Janice, Roger Hild, last year's king; Betty Morris and Marilyn Sporer.—Journal Photo by Butch Furse.

Business Mag Lauds Local Bridge Set-up

Nation's Business, a nationally circulated magazine devoted to conditions and operations of this country's business groups, gave Plattsmouth a regional plug in the December 10 issue.

The story headlined over a quarter page spread told of Plattsmouth businessmen's Free Saturday Bridge program that has attracted considerable trade from our Iowa neighbors. Although probably exaggerated to some extent in the story, the program has proven most successful and gives a hint to other communities similarly located how they can improve their trading territory.

The story follows: "The last few weeks have made merchants surer than ever that a good little town (Plattsmouth, population 6,500) can win trade from a good big town (Omaha, population 253,000)."

"Back in 1948 Plattsmouth's merchants decided to try to make engenuity triumph over geography. Up till then, the town had a trade area of only about 150 square miles. Omaha, 17 miles to the north, and a Missouri River barricaded by a toll bridge, kept it from spreading out any farther. "But seven years ago—to beef up a sales day—merchants hit upon the idea of paying the bridge company to make the span toll-free to Iowa customers. The scheme worked so well that it was repeated, and later, put on a weekly basis. On Saturday, any car bearing a license from nearby Iowa counties can use the bridge without paying. Plattsmouth's storekeepers pick up the tab.

The effect has been to add 300 square miles to the town's trade territory. Last spring, when Iowa increased its sales tax (Nebraska had none), business shot up more than ever. By the end of November, 11,000 cars had come into Plattsmouth from one Iowa county alone.

"This, however, isn't all of it. A few weeks ago, merchants decided to stay open evenings—to wangle customers from Omaha. Last week, they got their first indication of how effective the late hours were: 20% of the cars parked at the curb, a test count showed, were from Douglas County (Omaha). Meanwhile, merchants were reporting hikes in sales from 5% to 18% for the year as a whole."

They are Robert D. Brown, 18, and John Menard, 20, both of Lincoln. They were arrested Friday in Lincoln and are being held for robbery in Lancaster county.

The pair revealed to authorities that they had gone to South Bend, returning to Lincoln they stopped at Murdock and broke into the hardware store. They said they drove to the vicinity of Dorchester and threw the stolen merchandise out. The store reported as missing two electric coffee makers, an electric fry pan, a tea kettle, a waffle iron and two other pans.

Radio Network Brings Arrest Check Passer

A man who scattered five insufficient funds in Plattsmouth was arrested by the Nebraska Safety Patrol Thursday night near Pender and returned to Cass county where he was fined \$10 and costs and ordered to make the checks good.

Ronald Raymond Mendenhall, 22, of Plattsmouth was returned by the Cass county sheriff's office Friday to face the charges.

Mendenhall passed an insufficient funds check Thursday night about 6 p.m. at Sioux City, Iowa, and departed. A pickup order on the sheriff's radio connection with Iowa the Nebraska Safety Patrol brought the culprit's arrest near Pender, Neb. Sheriff Tom Solomon said that five other checks of the same nature given in Plattsmouth failed to clear the bank hurdle.

Murdock Hardware Robbery Admitted

Two young men have admitted Friday to breaking into Bornemeier hardware store at Murdock in the early morning hours of Dec. 19, the Cass county sheriff's office reported today.

They are Robert D. Brown, 18, and John Menard, 20, both of Lincoln. They were arrested Friday in Lincoln and are being held for robbery in Lancaster county.

The pair revealed to authorities that they had gone to South Bend, returning to Lincoln they stopped at Murdock and broke into the hardware store. They said they drove to the vicinity of Dorchester and threw the stolen merchandise out. The store reported as missing two electric coffee makers, an electric fry pan, a tea kettle, a waffle iron and two other pans.

HOME ON LEAVE

Harvey Dale Eledge FN arrived home Dec. 1 on a 30-day leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fulton and other relatives and friends. He will report back to duty Dec. 29 on the Cruiser USS Saiani docked at Boston, Mass. He will spend Christmas at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Franklin Jura of Omaha, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Fulton and Miss Shirley Conley of Creston, Iowa.

30 Years Ago a Cold Memory For Plattsmouth Corn Pickers

Thirty years ago Tuesday two Plattsmouth men scooped the last of 10,000 bushels of corn into a crib in a blinding blizzard, thin and drawn but with \$900 coming.

That was remembered this week by Logan Covert of Plattsmouth, who, with his brother, Roy Covert, also of Plattsmouth, hand picked 300 acres of corn for Bent Livingston, three miles south of Plattsmouth.

They finished Dec. 20, 1925 under a rush of difficulties but stayed with the job until it was done.

Mr. Covert said he and his brother contracted the job with Mr. Livingston when the weather was fairly nice, about six weeks earlier, but before they could get started a wind blew all the corn down.

They tackled the job with teams and wagons. This involved scooping the corn out of the wagon into bins after it was picked by hand. They had to lift up nearly every stalk to husk the ear, enough to make 10,000 bushels. This was about 33 bushels per acre.

Youth, it appears, makes a difference. The next day, Dec. 21, Logan Covert was married at Omaha to Margaret Lahoda. They celebrated their 30th anniversary Wednesday.

Luncheon guests of Grace Livingston Saturday were Mrs. Helen Heyn, Omaha, Mrs. Rachel Rising, Los Angeles, Calif., and Mr. and Mrs. Judd Rising from Purdue University of West Lafayette, Ind.

Christmas guests at the home of Judge H. and Mrs. Graves will be Mr. and Mrs. Lester Thimgan and daughters Susan Jane, Sara Lynn and son Jerry; Mr. and Mrs. A. Paul Kell and three daughters Karen K., Nancy Lee and the recent arrival Debra Ann, all residents of this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Cragmille and son David will be Christmas guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joe York, and the group will have Christmas dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Don C. York.

A total of 27 adults and eight children were present at the meeting presided over by LaVerne Nickel.

Mrs. Herbert Oehlerking, county Farm Bureau chairman, reported a meeting at the Bal-four home in November where 43 had been present. Along with Mrs. Walter Oehlerking she reported on the state convention of the Farm Bureau at Lincoln. State Farm Bureau President Charles Marshall reported on the national convention at Chicago.

Mrs. Walter Oehlerking presented her son, Junior, who showed slides of Holland and parts of Europe, pictures taken while he was in service in Germany. He also showed aerial photos of farms taken on Air Day sponsored by Cass County S.C.S. last fall.

A Christmas grab-bag was held.

Arriving today at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Les Niel were Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Niel, Jr., Scott Lynn, Connie and Sharon of Central City, Nebr. Leslie Niel, Jr. teaches Social Science in Central City high school.

Mel Todd Jr., student at the University of Nebraska is spending the holidays with his parents Mr. and Mrs. Mel Todd and Nancy at Union.

Cass Picks Up More Than \$50,000.00 In Gas Tax Funds

Cass county picked over \$50,000 in December in gasoline taxes returned to the county for mail routes, county roads and bridges, cities and villages. Total received in December was \$52,922.53. Of this \$39,688.19 went to fill a void in county, city, and village treasuries left by the impounding of two months gasoline taxes by the state—November and December 1954.

800 Expected Training Meets During January

LINCOLN—More than 800 leaders of 4-H Clubs in Nebraska will attend training meetings during January, according to Assistant State 4-H Club Leader Duane Loewenstein. The training meetings will be held at Norfolk, Jan. 10-12; Scottsbluff, Jan. 17-19; and Lincoln, Jan. 25-28.

Leaders attending the meetings will hold similar training sessions later on in their own counties to share information with leaders unable to attend the state meetings.

All three meetings will offer special project training sessions in clothing, foods, home living, animal husbandry, tractor, rural electrification, safety and health. In addition, the Lincoln meeting will offer training to dairy, soil conservation, field crops, and garden and yard beautification leaders.

Workshops will be held on parent participation, and roles of both junior and adult leaders in 4-H clubs.

Miss Ima Crisman, assistant state 4-H Club Leader in South Dakota, will assist with general club management sessions at the Norfolk meeting. Ty Thompson, service director for the National Committee on Boys and Girls Club Work, Inc., and Miss Fern Shipley, associate leader, 4-H Clubs and YMW program, USDA, will be on hand to provide information on the general session programs at the Lincoln meeting. T. T. Martin, Missouri State 4-H Club Agent Emeritus, will present leader training techniques at the Scottsbluff meeting.

Banquet speaker at the first two meetings will be Don Novotny of Clarkson, Nebraska's 1955 International Farm Youth Exchange (IFYE) delegate to India. Dean W. V. Lambert of the College of Agriculture will speak on his trip to Russia at the Lincoln meeting.

Conference sponsors include the Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben, Omaha; Cooper Foundation, Lincoln; Standard Oil Foundation, Inc., Chicago; and the leaders' local rural power supplier, in cooperation with the Agricultural Extension Service of the University of Nebraska.

Mr. and Mrs. Cragmille and son David will be Christmas guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joe York, and the group will have Christmas dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Don C. York.

— Journal Want Ads Pay —

Something to Remember All This By



A class ring salesman, right, caught the Plattsmouth Blue Devils basketball squad right in the middle of undressing for practice. Front row of examiners, from left, Bob Wilson, Dennis Burbee, and Larry Long. Back row, Mike Lewis, Jim Grosshans and Bob Beverage. — Journal Photo by Butch Furse.

Checks were received here this week by Alice Jayne McShane, Cass county treasurer, from W. F. Sanders, clerk of the Lancaster district court, who mailed out check for \$2,912.823 to Nebraska counties this week.

The money was deposited with the court when former State Treasurer Frank Heintze filed suit for a declaratory judgment interpreting the law covering the method of distribution. Douglas and Lancaster had objected to the population figures on which distribution was based.

The district court recently handed down a ruling and even though some counties are appealing, it will not affect the court-ordered distribution of funds.

Cass county received two checks — one for mail routes in which the withheld money amounted to \$18,875.27; one for regular funds amounting to \$23,812.92. This latter fund will be distributed, along with \$7,940.60 received for December — a total of \$31,753.52 among cities and villages, county road and bridge funds.

The Cass county board of commissioners pointed out recently that many miles of roads and some bridge work has been held up in the last year because funds were withheld by the court. It also reduced this year's county budget since it would have been necessary to increase the tax levy more to replace the delayed tax gas funds.

Savings Bonds Honor for Cass Banks Tuesday

The banks of Cass county will be honored for their part in selling United States Savings bonds at Plattsmouth Tuesday night, Dec. 27, at a meeting of the Lions Club at the Community Building in Plattsmouth.

Representatives of the banks will be guests of the Lions Club and the United States Savings Bonds Division of the U.S. Treasury.

Glenn Cunningham, former Omaha mayor, now state sales director for Savings Bonds, will pay tribute to the banks and award certificates from the Treasury Department.

Speaker for the evening will be Don D. Strand, director of public relations for the First National bank of Omaha. His subject will be "Sound Money."

The evening will begin with a dinner at 6:30 p.m., followed by the savings bond program.

Otto Schafer Elected Head Co. Fair Board

WEeping WATER — One of Cass county's top beef raisers was elected president of the Cass county Fair Board last week.

He is Otto Schafer of Nehawka, who was elected to head the county fair next year. He succeeds E. T. Stacey who resigned. New directors of the fair board are Robert Jameson, Nehawka, succeeding Harold Elliott; Howard Philpot, Nehawka, filling an unexpired term of Mr. Schafer; Charles Boedeker of Murray, who was re-elected to the board of directors.

Other officers are J. W. Philpot, Plattsmouth, vice-president; Joe Bender, Weeping Water, secretary; treasurer. Other directors are Neil Munkres and Gordon Heneger, both of Weeping Water.

Mr. Schafer and Mr. Philpot will represent Cass county at a meeting of fair managers at Lincoln in January. Joe Bender will represent Nebraska as vice-president at that meeting.