

# EDITORIALS

## RED CROSS NEEDS YOUR HELP

As the reader probably knows, the month of March has been designated as "Red Cross Month," and the organization seeks to raise, by voluntary contributions in a nation-wide campaign, a fund with which to carry on its work of assistance in this and other communities in times of emergency.

The Red Cross, one of three national organizations chartered by Congress, undertook and successfully accomplished a tremendous task during the active participation of this nation in the first and second World Wars and also in the recent Korean War. It still has many duties to perform not only to the members of our armed forces in this country and overseas, but also to our fellow citizens in times of hurricanes, fires, tornadoes and floods.

One of the functions performed by the Red Cross, which appeals to all, is its blood-collecting drive, providing blood and blood plasma, not only for the members of our armed forces but for the use of our citizens who, in times of stark tragedy, find themselves or their loved ones in need of such aid.

We call attention to these things so that the people of Cass County will be advised of the appeal and if they have not already made a contribution, that they will do so at once, so that the Red Cross will be enabled to continue its work. The full cooperation of our citizens will assure the success of the current campaign.

## WHAT KIND OF SPRING?

Spring arrives this month, and many of us, especially farmers, are now wondering what the Spring of 1956 will be like. In 1955 it was disastrous for growers in many sections of the country. Many are hoping that this year's Spring will be something like the recent Winter, the cold arriving early, but ending sooner than usual. In some sections of the country, the weather has been almost spring-like since the end of February.

Spring officially began this year at 10:21 on the morning of March 20th. The first full moon, sometimes called the warm moon, of Spring arrives March 26th, at something after eight in the morning. For many, Spring is the finest time of the year. It brings warmer weather, after a cold winter. It brings the end of school days to millions of youngsters and baseball back to millions of baseball fans. In addition, it brings flowers and Nature's beautiful display.

The weather prophet tells us that this Spring will not be as treacherous as last year, and that sudden breezes will not exact the toll they took in 1955. We can only hope that they are right.

## WHAT IS SUCCESS?

An idea seems to be spreading throughout our land that men and women achieve success through the operation of government rather than by their own patient persistence in honest endeavor. The reader of The Plattsmouth Journal, particularly the young men and women, should not be misled in this respect. They should realize that any worthwhile success in life is achieved almost exclusively through the personal endeavor of the individual involved.

After all is said and done, the vast majority of business successes owe their growth to one or more rare individuals, who gave to the enterprise a contribution that included, not only physical effort, but superior intelligence and the wisdom that arises from the intangible thing that we know of as "character."

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

No man can be more wise than destiny.  
—Tennyson

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# Furse's Fresh Flashes

Some of the hot-rodgers around this town are so hard up they can hardly keep body and chassis together.

You're fortunate if your wife grows dearer all the time instead of more expensive.

A local wife says her husband is a man of rare gifts—he hasn't given her one since they were married.

Happiness is that peculiar sensation you acquire when you're too busy to be miserable.

Faith will never die as long as colored seed catalogues are printed.

Imagination is something that sits up with a woman when her husband is out late at night.

A Plattsmouth couple just lost their maid and couldn't understand why she quit as they had always treated her as one of the family. It was probably because she couldn't stand it any more.

Two of the most popular ways of taking one's life these days are turning on the gas and stepping on it.

## Down Memory Lane

**20 YEARS AGO**  
Plattsmouth merchants open four day spring sales campaign. . . The local American Legion celebrated the national unit's eighteenth anniversary with a program highlighted by motion pictures. . . Some 50 residents of the Nebraska Masonic Home were guests of the Shrine circus in Omaha. . . Coach Fred A. Rothert was looking optimistically ahead to the coming track season with such runners on his team as Bob Vallery, Earl Taylor, Bill Carey and Joe Hendrix. . . Five chairmen were elected for the various circles of the Woman's Federation of the Presbyterian church. They were Mrs. Hilt Martin, Mrs. George Farley, Mrs. Roy Knorr, Mrs. E. C. Giles and Mrs. Philip Hirz. . . Ernest Haning was busily campaigning for state representative from Cass and Sarpy counties.

**30 YEARS AGO**  
The merchants along Sixth and Pearl streets were preparing to throw a party to celebrate completion of concrete paving from Main street to their district. . . John Leddy complained to the sheriff some 60 bushels of corn was stolen from his farm. . . Miss Mildred L. Murray was married to Arnold J. Meisinger at Eight Mile Grove Lutheran church. . . Dr. R. P. Westover was elected president of the newly organized golf club. C. R. Olsen was named secretary. . . The city council granted a flying circus its request to fly over the city with banners displaying advertising products to be sold in local stores. . . A hail storm struck the city causing considerable damage to the greenhouses of Henry Jasper. . . Former teachers Mrs. Ralph Wehrlein and Mrs. Fred Heitzausen were honored at a party put on by Mrs. Russell Reeder and Mrs. Carl Keil.

**The WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND**  
by DREW PEARSON  
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**Pearson Draws Blood**  
On March 21, Drew Pearson reported that Carl O. Hanson, Montana director of the Farmers Home Administration, had been buying wool for private interests while working for the government; had also engaged in politics in violation of the Hatch Act; and had used government phones for political activities. On March 23, Carl O. Hanson resigned.

Washington—Here are more details on how the giant Brown and Root contracting firm, which has received many lush contracts from the government, contributed to the first Senatorial Primary of Lyndon Johnson, now Democratic Leader of the Senate, and then deducted the contributions from income taxes.

The case history is important for several reasons. First, this unfortunately, is a practice used by other companies. They hand out bonuses to vice presidents, then require that a percentage of the bonus be contributed to a certain pet candidate. Afterward, that candidate, if elected, is in hook to the company. It controls his vote, which is why the Congress today, more and more, is losing its independence.

Second, the Brown and Root history is important because they were active during the Gas Bill debate. George Brown entertained Sen. Lyndon Johnson and other bigwigs at his Middleburg, Va., estate on weekends, came to Washington between weekends.

Finally, Senator Johnson has exerted his influence to sidetrack the original



"You're washing WHAT seat covers?"

forthright probe of the gas lobby proposed by Senator Jennings (D. Mo.), and is now exerting his influence against the recording of political contributions in Primary campaigns. Yet, it is Primaries, including his own in Texas, that really elect Senators in about one-third of the states.

**Roundabout Payments**  
In Johnson's own senatorial primary in Texas in 1941, Internal Revenue agents discovered Brown and Root had issued the following checks through their subsidiary, Victoria Gravel Company to Edgar Monteith, an attorney in Houston: \$5,000 on May 26, 1941; \$4,500 on June 7; another \$3,000 on June 7. Monteith then used a complicated, roundabout way of using the money. He distributed \$10,000 of it as a profit between himself and his law partner, A. W. Baring. Then Baring transferred the entire \$10,000 back to Monteith, and Monteith, in turn, wrote checks to pay the expense of the Lyndon Johnson campaign.

When Johnson was given a chance to explain this, he said he had never heard of Monteith and claimed he had never received financial help from him. However, Monteith's father was the former mayor of Houston and a well-known personage.

Internal Revenue agents found that the second National Bank of Houston microfilmed all checks, including these, and that Monteith unquestionably had used the money to pay for radio time, printing bills and other Johnson campaign expenses.

**Tax Agent's Letter**  
Summarizing his opinion of this discovery, James M. Cooner, special agent in charge for Texas and Louisiana, wrote from Dallas on May 13, 1944: "It is quite obvious that Monteith aided and abetted Brown and Root, Inc., and Victoria Gravel Company, in showing political contributions for which he was the conduit were attorney's fees. This would make his income tax fraudulent. . . Cooner continued, referring to the fact that Monteith refused to testify, "that he was afraid of incriminating himself in connection with his own tax liability, but I believe he was afraid he might be involved in a conspiracy in connection with the evasion of taxes by Brown and Root, Inc., and Victoria Gravel Company."

Internal Revenue agents also found on Brown and Root's books an interesting list of bonuses paid to its vice presidents and other officials at the exact time of the Lyndon Johnson primary election.

There was no explanation for these sudden bonuses, and the employees who received them could give no adequate explanation. Nor could they show any furniture, homes, automobiles, etc., for which they used the money, despite the fact that they cashed the bonuses on the same day they got the checks.

Here are some of the employee bonuses which Brown and Root paid out during the Johnson primary race for the senate: L. H. Durst, purchasing agent, was paid \$3,500 on March 29, plus another check for \$2,000 on May 20; W. M. Powell, vice president, \$4,000 on March 28; Carl Burkhardt, office manager, \$5,000 on March 29; D. G. Young, secretary, \$1,000 on March 18, and another \$6,000 on April 17, plus a third check for \$2,500 on May 4.

**FDR Intervenes**  
In one or two cases, internal revenue agents were able to trace the cash. L. T. Bolin, vice president, was given one of the largest bonuses — \$30,000. Revenue agents reported to Washington that Bolin had admitted to them that he had made a cash contribution to the Johnson campaign, but, strangely, could not remember the amount. They found, however, that he

## Capitol News

By Melvin Paul  
Statehouse Correspondent  
The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN — Nebraska can't spend all the federal money it is to receive for purchasing Salk polio vaccine for persons who can't pay for shots.

That's the report from Allan Rouse, director of the polio division in the State Department of Health.

Rouse said Nebraska was allocated \$245,000 originally to buy vaccine for all residents, up to Feb. 15. Then, the method of getting the vaccine to doctors was changed.

Previously, the state handled all the vaccine, parceling it to doctors. Now, 90 per cent of the vaccine goes through commercial drug houses, and 10 per cent through the department.

The state has \$168,000 of the federal money left and is to get about \$225,000 more.

The unused money, Rouse said, will revert to the federal government. He said the amount that goes to a state is not affected by the method of distribution. The state will get the same amount now that it got before.

Salk vaccine now is going through commercial channels and Rouse said the outlook is brighter than at any time in the past.

At least 46,800 doses of the vaccine will be received or are earmarked for Nebraska this month. Rouse said that is by far the largest amount ever received.

"The predictions there would be quite a lot more vaccine available in March and April apparently will hold true," he said.

**School Land**  
There now are about 412,745 acres of school land under oil and gas leases.

Robert Hiatt, secretary of the Board of Educational Lands and Funds, which administers school lands, said the leases are bringing in rental of \$358,964 per year.

This averages out at about 87 cents per acre rent, Hiatt said.

Hiatt said at last count there were 51 producing wells on state-owned land, bringing royalties to Nebraska of about \$36,000 per month.

**Judges Retirement**  
The long-awaited ruling by the State Supreme Court on the judges retirement act passed by the last Legislature caused considerable comment.

The high court held the law, requiring judges to retire at the age of 70, was constitutional.

But, it said the law does not become effective until Jan. 3, 1957. It did not become law last Sept. 13, the court said.

On the theory that the act became effective last September, along with most other laws passed by the Legislature, district court clerks began collecting a \$1 fee on each civil case as the state's contribution to the judges retirement fund.

Those collections at the time of the opinion amounted to \$2,564.

In addition, judges themselves have paid in \$5,844, or four per cent of their earnings.

Intensely interested in the case were nine district judges, seven of whom had filed for reelection, and two who had not.

The latter ones, James Fitzgerald of Omaha and Frank Munday of Red Cloud, had intended not to file for re-election because they thought the law was effective.

Now, however, they will seek re-election. The other seven judges, all of whom are 70 or will be after the first of the year, can run for re-election under the supreme court ruling.

The question of what to do with the money already collected will probably be decided by the Attorney General's office. Primarily the matter to be solved is if the money can be refunded, or if this will require an act of the Legislature.

**New Face**  
A new face has joined the top levels of the Republican party in Nebraska.

It is in the person of T. H. Maenner of Omaha. He is the new GOP national committeeman for Nebraska. He will be the connecting link between the state and national Republican party organizations.

Maenner replaces Abel V. Shotwell of Omaha, who is retiring after 12 years.

Mrs. Edna Basten Donald of Grand Island is continuing as GOP national committeewoman.

Both were elected at last week's Founders Day rally in Lincoln.

**COLD DELAYS SUICIDE**  
LONDON — Alfred Barnes, 62, determined to commit suicide, went to drown himself February 24 but found the local pond frozen over. Barnes waited eight days for the pond to thaw and then threw himself in. Verdict: Suicide by drowning.

## Ten-Word INTELLIGRAM

Check the correct word:

- 1—Goulash is a thick meat (stew) (soup).
- 2—Roe is the term applied to eggs of (fish) (fowl).
- 3—A troll is a (fisherman) (mythical underground elf).
- 4—Pate de foie gras is made of (goose) (pork) liver.
- 5—Minestrone is the name of an Italian (com-poser) (soup).
- 6—A bombe is a (French bomb) (frozen cream pudding).
- 7—Snark is the name of a (water bird) (pilot-less bombing missile).
- 8—Chop suey (is not) (is) of Chinese origin.
- 9—Clams are members of the (fish) (mussel) family.
- 10—Rattlesnake meat (is not) (is) edible.

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

Decoded Intelligram  
1—Stew 2—Fish 3—Elf 4—Goose 5—Soup 6—Frozen pudding 7—Missile 8—Is not 9—Mussel 10—Is

## Heavy Spring Rains Needed Nebraska Soil

LINCOLN — February was colder in Nebraska and much drier than normal, the United States Weather Bureau office at Lincoln reported.

Precipitation averaged about half the long-time mean but was distributed irregularly.

Temperatures ranged around normal with more than usual amount of sunshine. Wind, especially on colder days, was rather light.

Coldest temperature was recorded at Gordon where 21 degrees below was recorded.

Only snow fell in the state in February, no rain.

It was the fifth month with deficient precipitation. Except for September, all months were deficient since June. This has left sub-soil dry, with snows only wetting the surface. There is less than a normal supply of moisture for this year's crops, the Bureau said.

Absence of wind took the edge off the cold weather for men and livestock. Cattle wintered well on normal feeding.

Most of the winter wheat was well protected by the snow until the last few days of February when snow melted rapidly and water was taken into the soil. Wheat greened up the first few days of the month, and it was reported in good condition.

Substantial spring rains will be needed to produce a normal crop, the bureau reported, because of dry sub-soil.

**PLANT EXPANSION**  
Plant expansion in 1956 will take an investment of \$35,000,000,000, or 22 per cent more than was spent in 1955, according to a joint report by the Department of Commerce and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**R. O. T. C. CALLS**  
The Army has announced that two-thirds of the 15,000 Reserve Officer Training Corps graduates, scheduled for active duty in the year starting July 1, would be called up for two years' service. The other one-third will take six months active training and then would be assigned to active participation with Army Reserve units.

Spain suspends all exports of olive oil

## LETTER BOX

Dear Sir,  
There seems to be a wrong impression about Lincoln. The war was not fought to free the negro, but to preserve the Union, as the southern states had withdrawn and established a government.

I had four uncles and my father in the war. They called it the secession war. They heard Mr. Lincoln talk in Council Bluffs, and one of my uncles heard him four different times and in different places and he always said slavery was wrong in many ways but that it would be wrong to turn illiterate people loose to fend for themselves.

He had a plan which is never mentioned now. He (Lincoln) intended to locate the negro in colonies under supervision.

All historians know this, but an awful lot of folks don't. But the negro deserted the plantations and the situation got out of control so he issued the proclamation making it illegal to have slaves.

My uncle and father heard Mr. Lincoln say "he was still going to try to do something."

In case you don't know the freed slaves over ran the states and worked for practically nothing. It was awful and when Mr. Lincoln was addressing a soldiers meeting, tears ran down his cheeks.

He was sorry for the workers and farmer.

My father and uncles always said they believed Lincoln would have colonized the negro but as we all know he never lived long enough — assassinated.

There is not a state in the U. S. A. where a negro can't live. He's free but under some conditions he's restricted just like lots of people.

Now Miss Lucy isn't all Negroid or her picture lies. So its a plot to stir up trouble. She's paid by some organization or club to stir up trouble.

We in our states up north haven't the same conditions as have the southern states. Mr. Lincoln said it was too bad.

The Negro should have been confined until capable. He also said it would take 200 years to intergrate them and educate the poor whites in the south.

J. W. Porter  
424 Fourth avenue  
Plattsmouth

Shortage amid plenty plagues the coffee business.