



**THE BIG 'DIPPER' AT WORK** — Here is the dragline which currently is cutting a big gash in the ground at the new game refuge north of Plattsmouth. The equipment is cutting a channel which eventually will be over a mile long. Top photo shows the unit, while the bottom photo shows the dipper as it comes up with a payload. The lower picture was taken from within the cab. Journal Photo

## Gigantic 'Dipper' Takes Real Bite

With a gurgling grant the big "dipper" tore itself loose, and to the accompanying clatter of a panting 12-cylinder "cat" motor, swung in a 160 degree arc and dumped its load — seven yards of muck and slime from the bottom of a channel being cut at the game refuge.

The big "dipper" in reality is the business end of a gigantic dragline which is cutting through bottomland near the Missouri River which, sometime in the future, will become a mile and one-quarter long lake.

The "dipper's" task is but one of many undertaken by the State Game, Forestation and Parks Commission in creation of a first class wild fowl refuge from what was once only tangled underbrush on the old rifle range north of Plattsmouth.

When the dipper's job is done, the lake will be about 12 feet deep, 100 feet wide at the bottom and 700 feet wide at the top.

Running two nine-hour shifts, the dragline is extending the deep gash in Mother Earth at the rate of 200 feet each day. It is estimated

the dipper is picking up and moving about 6,000 yards of muck and slime each 18 hours.

To give you some idea as to the "dipper's" size, one load from its steel-soaked mouth, easily would fill an average size dump truck. And the "dipper" is averaging one load about every three minutes.

The dragline is owned by Eugene Lühr, Columbia, Ill., who was low bidder on the job. It takes a three-man crew to keep the "dipper" in operation. Maning the controls as operator is Clyde Hammet, Natchez, Miss.

Two Auburn men, Lowen Boatman and Albert Klockinger, act as oiler and catkiner.

A "cat" on the job is necessary for the big dipper walks along the bank on huge steel "feet" as it gouges out its pay load. But before it can plant its tremendous flat feet and get a good grip for "walking," the earth ahead must be level. That's where the cat comes in.

Work on the channel was begun in early June and it is estimated the project will consume about five months.

## Patrons To Vote On School Union

School patrons of the Elmwood-Alvo districts (95 and 102) Tuesday, July 16, will go to the polls to decide on a merger of the two systems.

And as day for balloting nears few predictions are being made as to the election's ultimate outcome. County Superintendent of Schools L. A. Behrens said persons in both areas said little talk was noticed which could be considered indicative of the outcome.

Two polling places will be used. In Elmwood voters will cast ballots at the community building while Alvo patrons will use the fire house for balloting. Polls will be open from 8 a. m. until 8 p. m.

Superintendent Behrens said

## First Summer Band Concert Slated Tuesday

First in a series of summer band concerts will be presented at 8 p. m. Tuesday in City Park and the public is invited to attend the program to which there will be no admission charge.

The band will be under the direction of Richard Kucera, band director of Plattsmouth High School.

Kucera today said the organization holds rehearsals at 7 p. m. every Monday and he urged all Plattsmouth band graduates and local musicians to participate.

A 10-number program is slated for presentation tomorrow night with the leadoff march, "Them Bases," by Huffine.

Balance of the program will be varied with the band making such offerings as "Pacific Grandeur," and overture by Olivadoti; "Prelude in C Minor," Rachmaninoff; "March of the Meteorites," by Leader.

"Pastels," by McRae; "In the Good Old Summertime," by Romberg; "Bolero Non," by Kurtz; "Nutmeggers" march," by Osterling; and a march by Merrick.

Second concert in the series is scheduled to follow on Tuesday, July 16. This program will feature grade school musicians with first half of the program played by the "C" band and the second half by the "B" band.

## Plattsmouth Man Only One Stroke Off Record Score

Don Bell, a Plattsmouth golfer, literally burned up the Steinhart course recently while playing with foursome, says the Nebraska City News-Press.

Bell, who at one time followed the larger tournaments, shot two identical rounds of 32-32 for an 18 hole total of 64.

The six under par 64 was just one stroke off the 18 hole record of 63 recorded by course manager Fred Oetgen, set on the very unusual day of Jan. 1, 1956.

The single nine hole record is a five under par 30 which was set approximately five years ago by Bill Schuchart, then the Happy Hollow course professional in Omaha.

Others in the foursome with Bell were Don Dammast of Nebraska City who shot very respectable rounds of 38-37; Jim Begley, Plattsmouth who recorded a 49-53 mark and Dr. Al Souders, Nebraska City with 62-54 totals.

**FORFEITS BOND**  
Floyd West, Nebraska City, Saturday forfeited cash bond of \$104 when he failed to appear in Cass County Court, West, was apprehended July 4, by Sheriff Tom Solomon at a local drive-in restaurant had been charged with intoxication and disturbing the peace.

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

July 4, 5, 6, 7, 1957

| Date     | High | Low | Prec. |
|----------|------|-----|-------|
| Thursday | 92   | 74  | .00   |
| Friday   | 87   | 60  | .00   |
| Saturday | 92   | 62  | .00   |
| Sunday   | 98   | 74  | .00   |

Forecast: High in 90's. Fair tonight with low in mid 60's. Continued fair Tuesday.

Sun sets tonight at 7:59. Sun rises Tuesday at 4:59.

# Gas Users To Get Rate Refund

## Local Resident Dies As Auto Crashes Train

The body of 31-year-old Paul Francis Sullivan Sunday was sent to Twin Lakes, Minn., for burial.

Mr. Sullivan, father of five children, was killed shortly after 6 a. m. Friday when a car he was driving crashed into the side of a Rock Island train.

The accident occurred 4.4 miles east of Pabillon on state highway 370 as Mr. Sullivan was enroute to his work with Early Construction Co., at Millard.

There were no eyewitnesses to the mishap and the train crew were unaware of the collision. The gravely injured man was found sometime after the accident and died in an ambulance enroute to Douglas County Hospital.

He is survived by his wife, and five children: Stephen, David, Rita, Francis and James; his parents: Mr. and Mrs. Louis Sullivan, Twin Lakes, Minn., and seven brothers and sisters: Mrs. Arnold Moen, Albert Lee, Minn., Mrs. Roy Hildreth, Oakland, Calif.; Eugene Sullivan, Iowa City, Ia., Mrs. Glenn Ziemer, Rhode Island, Robert Sullivan, Albert Lee, Minn., Virginia Sullivan, Rhode Island, and Ignatius Sullivan, Twin Lakes.

A former employe of Allied Chemical Co., Mr. Sullivan had been a resident of Plattsmouth five years. He was a member of St. John's Catholic Church, Fraternal Order of Eagles and Veterans of Foreign Wars. He saw active duty during the Korean conflict. He was married to Agatha Sipple, July 1, 1946, in Albert Lee, Minn.

Mr. Sullivan was born April 4, 1926 at Clear Lake, Ia. Recitation of rosary by Msgr. Joseph Pruzdzik was held at 2 p. m. at Sattler Funeral Home, which was in charge of local arrangements.

## Large Crowd Hears Sermon For Centennial

Centennial services Sunday morning were held in First Methodist Church with an overflow jamming into the auditorium to hear Dr. H. Bascom Watts deliver the morning's major address.

Dr. Watts is bishop of the Nebraska area Methodist churches. During the afternoon memorial services were held in the church at which Dr. Richard W. Miller was the featured speaker. He is the new district superintendent.

Despite an extremely hot afternoon and evening, better than 100 persons took part in an evening centennial banquet at Lions Community building. This event was high lighted by an address by Dr. Frank A. Court, pastor of St. Paul's Methodist Church, Lincoln.

Cutting of the centennial cake was spotlighted at the banquet. The task was performed by Mrs. Katherine Hall and Mrs. Don York, both have been members of the church for more than 60 years.

## Louisville Paving Contract Is Awarded To Omaha Company

LOUISVILLE (Special) — An Omaha construction firm has been named low bidder for a summer paving project here which will cover eight districts.

National Construction Co., was awarded a contract on a bid of \$105,770, which is \$26,000 below engineer estimates of \$131,705.

Four other companies including Booth and Olsen which has the highway 50 job entered bids for the contract.

## Naval Aviator Visits In City

Lt. Commander Allan B. Carlson, US Naval Air Force, was in the city over the weekend visiting his father, A. B. Carlson, manager of the Plattsmouth Hotel and Mrs. Carlson. He arrived Friday night and enjoyed the visit here until Sunday when he left to return to his station.

He is at this time stationed at Washington, D. C.

## County Residents Toe Legal Lines In Observing Holiday

Drowning of an Omaha youth in the Platte River Thursday marred an otherwise "perfect" celebration of a four-day Independence Day Holiday in Cass County.

Sammy Cappello, 18, died as he tried to swim the Platte River (complete story elsewhere on this page) to become the county's only violent death during the period.

Although many Cass County residents hit the highways and byways, and roads in the area were heavily traveled, Sheriff Tom Solomon said accidents were at an

absolute "minimum" — none were recorded or reported.

Even calls in other categories were limited as Plattsmouth Chief of Police John Hobscheidt said the holiday was one of the "quietest ever" in this city.

Only complaints received by the police department were shooting of firecrackers within the city, the chief said. He added traffic during the city during the four-day period while sometimes heavy, proceeded in an orderly manner and with-in traffic laws.

A brilliant summer sun and a day sent temperatures skyrocketing to the 100 mark and high humidity made anything less than an airconditioned home or car extremely uncomfortable.

The blistering heat may have kept some persons home but it resulted in what has been called "record breaking crowds" at beaches north of the city. It was estimated between 6,000 and 7,000 persons seeking to escape torrid temperatures jammed swimming areas at Holman's and Merritt's.

## City Residents To Share In \$20,000 Pie

Officials of the Central Electric and Gas Co. (The Gas Co.) have announced Plattsmouth will share to the tune of \$20,000 in a \$1,178,522.32 "cost of gas" refund jackpot.

But while gas consumers in this area will be receiving (in deductions applied to gas bills) combined credit, representing refunds for three periods, the company is taking steps to increase gas rates about 6.7 per cent in each rate bracket.

This is made necessary by an increase in prices by Northern Pipeline Co., to The Gas Co. It has been disclosed The Gas Company' cost of gas will be increased \$682,185 annually beginning Aug. 7, and Plattsmouth consumers will ante in \$14,557.36 of the amount.

The refunds and two reductions in rates, one in April and one in September, 1956, resulted from the fact Northern Natural Gas was not authorized by the Federal Power Commission to continue collecting the full rate which had been requested.

Basically, cost of gas refund credits amount to 2.36 cents per 1,000 cubic feet of gas, applicable on all firm gas purchased from Dec. 27, 1954 through Sept. 26, 1955, plus an additional credit of 4.99 cents per 1,000 cubic feet on all firm gas purchased from Sept. 27, 1955 through June 26, 1956, plus 2.63 cents per 1,000 pm gas purchased from June 27, 1956 through Dec. 26, 1956.

A combined credit, representing refunds for the three periods, now is being applied on bills of gas users.

The Gas Co., recently informed Plattsmouth city officials Northern, the pipeline company, has filed with the Federal Power Co., another application, the sixth since 1950, for authority to increase wholesale gas rates to its utility customers.

As previously mentioned, Plattsmouth's share of this increase has been set at \$14,557.36. Company officials have requested city council to permit an increase of gas rates amounting to about 6.7 per cent in each rate bracket in order to offset the increase in cost of gas the company will be paying after Aug. 7.

The requested increase in retail rates will amount to about 5.8 cents per 1,000 cubic feet of gas.

The Gas Co. emphasized the requested increase is based upon Northern's applied for increase in the wholesale price which they will collect under a refunding bond.

New local rates will likewise be refundable rates subject to proper adjustments and "cost of gas" refund credits to Plattsmouth customers upon final determination of Northern's rate case.

## Petition Filed

A petition seeking damages has been filed in district court. Petitioner is Gladys Cook with Willard Goehneur as defendant.

## Earl Merritt Dies Suddenly Early Thursday

Earl Merritt, prominent Cass County resident and World War I veteran died suddenly at 7:30 a. m. Thursday at his home in Murray.

Mr. Merritt, 70, suffered a cerebral hemorrhage. He had been a resident of Murray since 1934.

Funeral services for Mr. Merritt were held at 2 p. m. Saturday at the Caldwell-Linder Funeral Home and burial was made at Lewiston Cemetery southeast of Murray.

Rev. Howard Hutchman officiated at the final rites with music furnished by Dale Wohlforth with Mrs. Olin Morris at the organ. Pallbearers were: Herbert Campbell, Arthur Hellwig, Roy Howard, Lloyd Leyda, George McKulsky and Robert McKulsky.

Mr. Merritt is survived by his wife May; brother, William, Glendale, Calif.; three sisters: Mrs. Grace Dalton, Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. Betty Heckler, San Diego, Calif., and Violet of Los Angeles, and several nieces and nephews.

He was born Feb. 5, 1887, at Henderson, Ky., and was married to May Lewis on April 12, 1915, in Plattsmouth.

Mr. Merritt, a painter and decorator, lived in Union from 1913 to 1934 when he moved to Murray and was a 35-year member of the Nehawka Masonic Lodge, No. 246, AF and AM. A veteran of World War I, Mr. Merritt was wounded in action in the battle of the Argonne Forest.

## Platte River Claims Life Of Omahan, 18

An attempt to swim the Platte River Thursday cost the life of 18-year-old Sammy Cappello 2408 South 19th, St., Omaha.

The youth's body was found shortly after 9 a. m. Saturday resting on a sandbar one mile east of the Platte River bridge by Sam Lapuzza, Omaha.

A rescue crew composed of Sheriff Tom Solomon, Bill Coakley and Fred Ehlers, returned the body to Plattsmouth where it was removed to Omaha for burial.

His death tragically ended what had been intended as a fun-filled holiday outing.

Young Cappello and a companion, Gary Sartino, 17, 9413 Bellevue Blvd., Omaha, had been swimming at Hansen's Lake near the river when they decided to make an attempt to cross the Platte.

Sartino told Cass County Sheriff Tom Solomon they were near the bank when Cappello went down. Sartino said he tried in vain to grab his companion as he disappeared beneath the surface.

## Three Airman Escape Serious Injury In Crash

Three Offutt Air Force Base airmen escaped with nothing more than cuts and bruises when the auto in which they were riding pounded over a curbing and smashed into Ruback's Super Market early Thursday.

They were Collins C. Cernicky, 26, driver, and Theodore J. Harmon, Jr., 18, and Jerry L. Davis, 17.

All three were removed by ambulance to Offutt for treatment. The accident occurred at 1:15 a. m.

Cernicky told investigating City Patrolman Kenneth J. Dunlap he must have "dozed" at the wheel as his car rounded the curve at Chicago Ave. His two companions were asleep when the accident occurred.

The airman Thursday paid a \$20 fine plus \$4 costs in police court after being charged with reckless driving.

## Burning Grease Puts County Man In Omaha Hospital

A 66-year-old county resident today was reported "getting along well" in St. Catherine's Hospital, Omaha, where he is undergoing treatment for second and third degree burns incurred Saturday.

Fritz Siemonett suffered burns on one arm, leg and both feet when he attempted to take a can of burning lard from his home. The accident occurred after 9 a. m.

Siemonett is said to have been asleep when the lard, on a kitchen stove caught fire. He awakened grabbed the can and headed for a kitchen door.

But at the door a stiff breeze blew flames back at him and he dropped the can of blazing grease.

Siemonett is in room 244 at St. Catherine's. His farm is located six miles west and three miles north of Plattsmouth on the Cedar Creek road.

Mrs. H. M. Johnson and son, Eddie, departed Saturday afternoon for Centerville, Ia., where they will be guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Posovich, a daughter of Mrs. Johnson.

## Gas Ordinance To Be Given Board Tonight

City council tonight will hear a proposed gas ordinance offered by the Gas Company calling for an increase in rates to local consumers.

Council was informed of the pending action last week in a letter written by gas company officials. The memorandum listed major factors in decision to seek an increase of approximately 6.7 per cent as a rise in wholesale price.

While the company decried action of Northern Natural Gas Co., in hiking wholesale prices, The Gas Company said it had no alternative but to follow suit. But officials said they still were in process of preparing opposition to the wholesale rise.

If the brief agenda on tap for tonight's session means anything councilmen may be in for one of its shorter sessions.

Only other item docketed for presentation is the possibility of a report by the volunteer fire department on results of a probe into bids offered on a new fire truck.

Mayor Bruce E. Gold also said he intended to advise council of results of his recent trek into the city's westside where he conducted an individual poll seeking reaction to possibilities of establishing sanitary districts in that area.

## Flower Show To Open Wednesday

"Flower Fantasy", a flower show will be presented by the Plattsmouth Garden Club beginning at 2 p. m. at the Gas Company Club Rooms Wednesday.

The show promises to be an array of garden beauty, due to the extensive moisture and the show knowledge of the local club personnel. In recent years the flower show was held in conjunction with the King Korn Carnival.

The show will be open to the public with no admission charge. Pic and coffee will be served during afternoon and evening.

Assisting the Garden Club will be the Sunbonnet Garden Club.

— Journal Want Ads Pay —



MANY TONS of sand have been moved into place by heavy equipment to provide a solid base for the new highway between Offutt Air Base and Plattsmouth. Work on the project has been going on day and night. This picture was taken near the Orespolis viaduct. (Journal Photo)