

Superintendent Explains School Enrollment Figures

Following is another in a series of "newsletters" written by O. F. Muesman, superintendent of schools here. Any views expressed are his or those of the Board of Education.

Following the publication of my last newsletter I was challenged by certain individuals concerning the accuracy of the elementary enrollments.

These observers presumed inaccuracies in the figures supplied, since the projected enrollment indicated 862 youngsters while the enrollment composite for all elementary schools represented 876 students.

However, both figures were accurate.

By way of explanation the projected enrollment was based on the first day enrollment, and the composite school enrollment was based on enrollments at the beginning of the second week of school. And there will continue to be a prevalent fluctuation as families move in and out of our community.

Hence, our latest elementary enrollment figures show our enrollment to be 872.

My previous report dealt primarily with the crowded conditions at the elementary level. However, the implications concerning overcrowded classrooms apply also to the secondary level of our school.

The end result is that this overcrowded condition effects our school in yet another way, namely, it limits expansion of desirable educational programs. This perhaps is most evident at the secondary level and can be best illustrated in our junior high school program.

Perhaps as a result of this and previous reports I have created the impression that our school is inferior and deficient, but this is truly not my intent nor purpose.

Our school is basically a proficient institution. The major problem involves the fact that we are presently faced with the challenge of growth and change. Yet our program is practical and stable.

That is to say our graduates have competed successfully for their livelihood from other parts of the nation. Likewise our graduates have encountered no difficulties enrolling in colleges and universities.

And state and regional accrediting agencies have evaluated our schedule and found it to be reasonably sound. Therefore, we may assume that our program is comparable to those of other schools in our area facing relevant situations.

But, we must realize that changes are occurring and will continue to occur at a more rapid pace with advancing years. And so since this is true, we must make provisions for these anticipated changes so that we may continue to competently and efficiently serve our young people.

Business and industry tend to accept change as a result of progress and, in turn, make the necessary changes to facilitate this progress. However, in education changes are slower and

more difficult, especially when the inadequacy of space is evident and the essential finances are limited.

At the junior high level in particular our curricular offerings must face early expansion to enable our young people to receive more educational experiences. At the present our junior high program could be prettily well classified as "more of the same."

By this I mean that the pupils at this level have all been introduced to and gained considerable experiences in the areas of their principle subjects.

We simply must add to and properly refine the experiences to which they have already been exposed. Not that it is undesirable to repeat certain learning experiences, but there is at this age level the imminent danger that the youngster's natural curiosity, or the zest and desire to learn and know—so prevalent in younger children—may be completely and utterly destroyed by constant repetition.

It is generally deemed good practice, according to reliable educational experiments, therefore, to permit young people at this level to delve into many areas of endeavor in order to promote the youngster's natural desire to explore cogent interests and thus, in turn, to learn.

Hence, if we accept these patterns of development and wish to provide adequately for our youngsters it would seem that we must truly expand our present program.

What, then, would such a program comprise?

It would provide for experience in the so-called "arts and crafts" areas. The children, for instance, would have opportunities to work in areas of the fine arts, such as dramatics, and art, in addition to the music program presently available.

They would likewise have opportunities to gain experiences in shop and homemaking classes. Typing and foreign languages would also be taught at the junior high school level.

Then all these things, in addition to the enrichment and expansion program for the subjects presently offered to our early secondary people, would make it possible for us to more nearly and sufficiently meet the needs of this particular age group.

Then too, inclusive of this program would be a separate library for the junior high school, with a science room designed for the junior high age group, and finally a more intensive and realistic testing and guidance program.

This program would then provide opportunities for exploration by the junior high group which is generally accepted as a vital provision in the program of early secondary education.

Broadly speaking then exploration is the process by which the child rises to find himself in terms of his educational and cultural interests, his hobbies, his social relations and his vocational goals.

Exploration is not something unique to the early secondary level. It is, as I have men-

tioned previously, a characteristic emanating from early infancy and continuing through adulthood.

But it takes a special significance at this level because the youngster is becoming, in this period of transition, a new self, a new individual, so to speak, or a separate entity in society.

Also, with an accompanying and increasing maturity, he soon realizes that the time is approaching when certain decisions must be made.

It is particularly important, therefore, for the pupil to discover for himself what he likes to do and what he can do. Hence, these opportunities to explore plus the guidance and testing program, make it possible, then, for him to utilize his final years in high school to the greatest degree.

Thus, if we are truly to prepare our children for the future, we MUST expand our junior high facilities and add to the curriculum now offered.



J. Herbert Hartley
★ ★ ★

T-Bone Club To Hear about 'Cattle Feeding'

J. Herbert Hartley of the Lincoln, Nebraska field office of Doane Agricultural Service, will be the speaker at the meeting of the Cass County T-Bone Club at Marchio Restaurant in Omaha, tonight.

Hartley will talk on what's Ahead For Cattle Feeders high lighting that "there is nothing in the fed cattle price picture for the coming year to cause grave alarm."

"Based on our slaughter projections, there will be more beef than this past season and prices are likely to average \$2 below the 1959 average for finished cattle but if you have cattle bought at the current price, most programs are capable of making some money."

"If you have cattle laid in at the higher prices of early contracts there are only a few programs and marketing periods that will make you money — it's that close. As I say — no reason for alarm but don't throw caution to the wind."

A Classified Ad in The Journal costs as little as 50 cents

Wool Weaver's Son Evidently Could Navigate

Columbus MUST have been a good navigator to discover America and find his way home . . . even if he was seasick most of the time.

With none of the modern luxuries that almost make navigation an electronic breeze, he had to rely on "dead reckoning." This means he figured out where he was going on the basis of direction, time and speed.

Direction was easy to find with the good compasses available. Time was measured by an hourglass, presided over by a ship's boy, who turned it over the moment all the sand had run out and kept a record with marks on a slate.

Distance was figured by multiplying speed by the time traveled. But there was no way to measure speed, so Columbus estimated it. The records show that the "Admiral of the Ocean Sea" overestimated his speed . . . but because he was consistently wrong, the mistake didn't prevent him from getting back to Spain.

Even with a more reasonable estimate Columbus made good time. Ships like the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria—called "caravels"—usually made three to five knots in a light breeze. In a strong gale, they made up to nine knots and sometimes hit 12.

Columbus' ships averaged about six knots a day for five consecutive days on the trip to America, and on one day whizzed along at eight knots. The Nina and the Pinta at times hit 11 knots on the return trip in 1493.

Maybe it was this fast clip that made Columbus seasick. Or maybe that story is just another of the legends that have grown up around the wool weaver's son from Genoa who turned Europe into an "Old World."

Vinduska Attends State Meeting of Conservationists

Henry Vinduska, Supervisor of the Cass County Soil and Water Conservation District returned from a three day Nebraska State Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Convention held at Scottsbluff.

Hosts to the Supervisors of the entire state were, the Scottsbluff Soil and Water Conservation District and the Scottsbluff Chamber of Commerce assisting the District with the Convention were the Banner, Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

The Conventioners were treated to a special bus tour of the Scottsbluff area. They viewed such conservation work as bench terracing.

Several large flood water detention dams that give nearly 100 per cent control of flooding problems in the Scottsbluff and Gering Valleys. Another highlight of the tour was a stop at the Scottsbluff Experiment Station near Mitchell.

Among the outstanding speakers of the Convention were Gov. Ralph Brooks, Sec. of Interior, Fred Seaton, Sen. Rom and Hruska and Adin Hester, National FFA President.

Terry Carpenter was also a speaker and the banquet was held at Terry's Arena.

Game Warden Has Jail Bldg. Quarters

William Burnett, Plattsmouth Refuge game warden, has moved into living quarters above the sheriff's office at the County Jail building. Burnett, who is single, may be reached at his living quarters by calling the sheriff's office phone number.

Clive Jackson who had been staying at the jail as caretaker from 2 a. m. when the night radio man went home, until 8 a. m. will no longer carry out those duties according to Sheriff Tom

THE WEATHER

Compiled for the Plattsmouth Journal at the Masonic Home Weather Station, Plattsmouth, Nebraska.
Date Oct. 8, 9, 10, 11, 1959
Thursday . . . 64 40 80
Friday . . . 61 31 80
Saturday . . . 65 41 80
Sunday . . . Not Available
Forecast: High in 60's; increasing cloudiness and cooler temperature Tuesday.
Sun sets tonight at 5:40; rises Tuesday at 6:33 a. m.



PROJECT RESCUE — A new public service function, "Project Rescue" has been initiated here by the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post. The Auxiliary has procured and made available to the public (without charge but with great value) Invalid Markers to aid the local fire department and others in case of emergencies in getting invalids, blind or disabled persons to safety. The markers are decals like the one delivered to Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Hiner, 502 So. Second on Wintersteen Hill. This

was one of about 20 already delivered by Auxiliary members last week. They had some 30 more to be given to persons wanting them. Markers are placed outside homes and could be the extra warning that could save a life in time of fire or other emergency. Shown with Mr. Hiner, who lost both legs, and Mrs. Hiner are Mrs. Harry Porter, Auxiliary community service chairman, right; Mrs. Logan Covert, Civil Defense chairman; and Mrs. Paul Baburek, Auxiliary president, left.

Home Ec. Promotion This Week

Work is being done this week, Home Economics Week, toward organizing a Cass County Home Ec. Association.

Minerva Schliefert, Murdock, again named county home ec. chairman by the State Home Economics Association, is distributing information on home economics to acquaint the public with the profession and is placing information on careers and opportunities in home economics for study by young women interested in home economics as a career.

A special effort is being made this year, Miss Schliefert said, because the American Home Economics Association this year celebrated its 50th anniversary.

She is personally contacting each known home economics graduate in the county to try to arouse interest in a county organization of home economists. Any home ec grad. of any school would be invited to join such an organization.

An essay contest is being sponsored by the state association on the topic "Career Opportunities in Home Economics" for all high school students in the state. Awards will be \$50, \$25, and \$10 for three top entries.

The entry deadline is Dec. 1. Information can be had from high school principals or from the NHEA Public Relations Chairman, 606 Trust Building, Lincoln 8, Neb.

Also, each Future Homemaker of America chapter in the state is being asked to sponsor one project to promote home economics.



William Wetenkamp New Extra Policeman

William Wetenkamp, well known resident of Plattsmouth and Cass county is new serving as a member of the city police force, acting as relief man on the force. He replaces Fred H. Vincent who has retired from duty after several years. Mr. Wetenkamp will relieve other members of the force as is necessary.

Local Bankers At Nebraska Banking Association Meeting

The annual meeting of the Nebraska Banking Association were holding their annual meeting in Omaha Sunday and today at the auditorium. One of the largest gatherings of the bankers and their ladies in years were in attendance at the meetings.

Ben C. Corlett of Washington, D. C., senior vice-president of the American Bankers Association was one of the main speakers. Other speakers Sunday were W. B. Millard, Jr., president of the Omaha National bank, E. C. Dunn, assistant vice-president of the First National Bank of Lincoln and of the Bank of Elsin.

Attending the meetings from this city were Carl Schneider, president of the Plattsmouth State Bank and Mrs. Schneider, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Julian, Mr. and Mrs. John V. Svoboda and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Herre.

Alumni Invited To Homecoming Dance Here October 23

A general invitation to alumni to attend the Homecoming Dance next Friday night after the Plattsmouth-Bellevue football game has been extended in an open letter, which follows: Dear P. H. S. Alumni: Members of the Plattsmouth High Pep Club sincerely invite

Benefit Nets \$278 for Fire Dept. at Murray

The Kenosha Extension club sponsored a benefit for the Murray Volunteer Fire Dept. Wednesday at the Lewiston Community center southeast of Murray.

The evening was opened with a program presented by some youngsters from Murray and Plattsmouth followed by an action conducted by Rex Young, assisted by John Hobscheidt Sr. The items sold were donated by Plattsmouth merchants and others in the Lewiston Community. Articles contributed ranged from food and clothing to a live hog donated by Bob Spangler of Murray.

The Kenosha Extension Club is noted for its community spirit and has conducted dinners and programs in the church on many occasions.

The Murray VFD was presented \$278.86 from the Wednesday benefit.

On Set Crew

Huron, S.D.—Al Wiles, Plattsmouth, has been appointed to the set construction crew for the Oct. 29-30 production of "Dream Girl" by the Huron College Campus Players.

Among the special problems for production crew members in this play are a large cast and some 20 different scenic settings.

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Boys 15, 14 Admit Avoca, Otoe Breakins

Four boys aged 15, 14, 14, and 14 have admitted to authorities, two breakins early Saturday morning, one at Avoca and the other at Otoe. Two of the youths are from Cass County and the other two, brothers, are from Otoe.

The Otoe County youths were taken into custody early Saturday morning after they had been seen riding around with the Cass County youths earlier in the evening in Otoe. The two Cass County youths, one from Louisville and the other from Weeping Water were taken into custody at Ashland by Sheriff Tom Solomon shortly after noon Saturday and returned to Plattsmouth. They were turned over to their parents.

The youths told officers they had gone to a football game in Dunbar and after the game they decided to break into Allen's Grocery Store at Avoca. This was about 1:30 a. m. Saturday.

After forcing the front door of the store, they entered and took a few items and the change in the cash register. Then the youths said, they returned to Otoe where they burglarized a beer tavern.

Following the tavern breakin, the two Otoe youths went home and the two Cass County youths headed for Kansas. After driving a short distance into Kansas they returned to Ashland where one of the youths called his parents by phone.

The Weeping Water youth admitted another theft of money in Weeping Water and the Louisville youth has a prior offense record, according to the sheriff.

The Weeping Water youth had left a note at his home indicating he was running away and took along with him in his car four guns which belonged to his father.

14 from Murray At SS Convention

MURRAY (Special) — The 5th Annual Cass County Sunday School Convention was held at Oct. 6 with fourteen persons in attendance from the Murray Churches.

The Main Speaker was Rev. Neil Danberg of Omaha, who is Region Director of Christians and Jews.

Other speakers included Rev. Dallas Gibson and Rev. Orville Matske of Lincoln.

Heading up the afternoon discussion groups were Mrs. Mark Stock of Murdock Evangelical United Brethren Church; Rev. Joseph Barr, Cedar Creek and Murray United Presbyterian Churches; Rev. Arthur L. Embree, Methodist Church, Plattsmouth; Rev. Raleigh Peterson of Lincoln.

Presiding president was Mrs. Lynn Rothe of Weeping Water. Newly elected officers are: President, Mrs. R. A. Noell; Vice President, Richard Sack; Secretary - Treasurer, Mrs. John Fischer of Eagle; Asst. Secy. - Treas. Mrs. Clinton Westlake of Elmwood.

The 1960 Convention is to be held at the Methodist Church.

Farmers 79 to 1 For Hunters

Only one out of 80 farmers interviewed by University of Nebraska experimental crews this summer said he would not permit hunters on his land.

The lone dissenter objected because people came from one of the larger cities. His reason was based on having had some chickens and all of his Muscovy ducks shot by people from the city in question, reports Howard L. Wiegars, member of the poultry department at the University of Nebraska.

"While some lands may be posted this fall, there will be thousands of acres not posted. Therefore, it should be apparent that anyone who wants to hunt probably can find a place if he will show the farmer the courtesy of asking permission. In addition to having a place to hunt, some fine relationships may result," Wiegars points out.

Council at 7:30

The City Council meets at City Hall tonight, beginning at 7:30, regular starting time for fall and winter meetings. It's the regular first - Monday meeting.

Murdock Band To Participate In UN Band Day

The 40-member band of Murdock High School, directed by Walter Hutchison, will participate in the most intricately designed Band Day program since its organization at the University of Nebraska in 1939, Prof. Donald Lentz, director, said.

Along with 3,500 musicians from 67 other Nebraska high schools, the massed bands will form the five-letter word "Peace" on the University of Nebraska gridiron Saturday, Oct. 17, and then sing "America." Other maneuvers include the forming of the letter "N". Approximately 30,000 persons are expected to witness the spectacle.

The band members also will march in a parade Saturday morning through downtown Lincoln before another 20,000 spectators. They will be televised Saturday morning by KUON-TV, Channel 12, the University's educational program. With the use of a videotape recorder, the parade will be taped and retelevised Oct. 22 at 7 p. m.

Drivers: Learn, Observe State School Bus Law

such vehicle to a complete stop when the school bus stop signal arm is extended and remain stopped until the stoparm is retracted and the school bus resumes motion or until signaled by the bus driver to proceed.

We had one accident this fall in which a pickup truck hit the rear of one of our buses just as a student was getting off. Luckily no one was injured.

Since then there have been several violations of this law which could easily have resulted in other accidents. Such incidents have caused our bus drivers and the board of education to be alarmed over the situation.

We hope that you will help us in making the people realize that when they see a school bus on the road that it is their duty to slow down and be prepared to stop.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Ned N. Nutzman, Sec.
Nehawka Board of Education

LETTER BOX

Dear Sirs:

As secretary of the Nehawka Board of Education, I am writing to you to ask for a favor — not for my self or the school but for the school children of the community and the state.

Through the medium of the newspaper, people are informed of many things. We feel that with your help we can educate the drivers of the community about a law concerning school buses.

We feel that many people are ignorant of the law which requires the driver of any motor vehicle upon meeting or overtaking any school bus on which the stop warning signal lights are flashing to reduce the speed of such vehicle to not more than 25 miles per hour and to bring