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Superintendent Advises:

'Be Realistic, Seek Facts In Probing School Needs'

By O. F. Mussman
City Supt. of Schools

There has been considerable discussion in recent weeks concerning the overcrowded conditions in the city school. Perhaps it would be more accurate to state that the problems of the crowded conditions within the school are being discussed, for this predicament is one of the reasons for our increasing taxes. Interest in our schools is to be encouraged. And, in like manner, discussion of school problems with an honest intent of improving the school and the community is one of the best ways of gaining an understanding of the issues which face the community. However, such discussion, when based on prejudice or inaccurate information can only be harmful to both the school and the community. Our community is in an area of population growth. Therefore, this situation, along with the inflation of our time, must ultimately lead to continual increases in taxes. Now, unless this axiom is accepted, further discussion is futile, since it is impossible to provide the facilities, tools and services required to maintain educational standards on a reduced budget. Currently, one proposed attack to the problem of meeting this immediate need is to refuse admission of free high school tuition pupils attending our schools. However, this approach is not the true solution to our problem. For example, there are 129 pupils enrolled in our high school at the present time which the School District is receiving free high school tuition. This revenue provides \$71,595 toward the district budget. Last year the cost of educating one pupil in our high school was \$322.42, and our cost will rise this year, so that we can well assume that it will be \$330 for each pupil in membership. Therefore, on this basis, it will cost the School District con-

siderably less than the \$71,595 received to provide a high school education for the 129 youngsters involved. Secondly, the refusal to accept the 129 youngsters into our school would provide only temporary and limited relief for the overcrowded conditions. For, since we would continue to provide a complete program, we would gain but three classrooms for elementary purposes, and none of the three classrooms would be especially satisfactory for elementary instruction. In addition, these three rooms would be filled next school term, and the following year we would again be confronted with the problem of insufficient classroom space. In the meantime, it would be necessary to levy an additional four mills against local property to make up for revenues lost from the free high school tuition source. I wish to say, however, that these figures and statements should not, in any way, be interpreted to mean that I am personally opposed to reorganization. On the contrary, I feel reorganization is necessary, and I believe all efforts should be made to bring it about as quickly as possible. However, I do not feel that anything can be gained by refusing to allow boys and girls from our logical service areas to enroll in our high school. Taxes have always been and should always be considered critically by the citizens of a community. However, taxes should not be the point of chief contention, but rather the service purchased with the tax revenue should be the major objective. It has been my experience in the past that the money provided the local school district has consistently been used to good advantage, and it is the obvious and valid policy of the present School Board and Administration to continue this practice of prudence. Free public education has been the basis for our American way of life. Our society, which is our community, is faced with the problem of continuing the support of this principle. One reason why Plattsmouth is faced with the critical situation before us, is due to the obsolete taxing methods practiced by the State of Nebraska. Our problem of school finance would be greatly alleviated if the State would accept its obligation toward education. This obligation could be met by broadening the state tax base and earmarking the revenue gained for the support of the public schools. Basically, then, this is our situation, Plattsmouth, along with thousands of other towns and cities in this shrinking world, is feeling the results of the "population explosion." This presents to our community the challenge to provide the necessary education for our youngsters. Taxes must therefore continue to rise to meet the educational standards required to accommodate the needs of our youngsters. I am certain, therefore, that by working together — keeping in mind always that the future pretty well depends on the education provided our children today — Plattsmouth will meet the challenge confronting us today for a brighter tomorrow.

Conditioned Industrial Use Granted

The City Council voted Monday night to give permission for a non-conforming use of three lots on Wintersteen Hill near the city limits.

Melvin Whitehouse had earlier asked the Council to rezone the lots from "residential" to "light industry" to permit him to manufacture "patio blocks" (stepping stones) and related products. The Council referred the request for rezoning to the City Plan Commission. Under the city's new zoning ordinance the area is residential and the type of operation Whitehouse contemplates not permissible.

Monday night, the Council heard a letter from the Plan Commission. It denied the request for rezoning. "If zoning is to be effective, there must be stability of zoning . . ." and "the area is potentially residential and should not be developed industrially," the letter said in part.

Whitehouse Monday night told the Council he could not see development of the area as residential sites in the near future and asked whether the Council would permit his business operation with the stipulation he cease on notice by the city should the area develop.

The Council agreed to this, providing Whitehouse sign a waiver to cease operation on notice and also present a petition from all the resident property owners adjoining his lots saying they do not object.

Whitehouse said he had contacted all but one of his neighbors and found no objection. He said the business would not be objectionable in any way, is "really nothing more than a hobby." He said he was only asking a permit to do what a lot of people are doing without a permit.

'Industry' To Be Subject For C of C Talk Jan. 5

The Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce has a commitment from the Nebraska Chamber of Commerce and Associated Industries of Nebraska that their Field Representative, R. L. McFeely will be present to address the Chamber members and other interested parties at the Annual Chamber Banquet Jan. 5, 1961, at the Lions Club at 6:30 p.m.

"All Chamber members are urged to attend, to learn more about what we can do to help encourage industry in our area. This as you all know is a big question and is very important to our community. Also the election of five new board members will take place and the annual report for 1960 will be given," Chamber Manager Harold Smock said.

Louis Keil Dies At Omaha Hospital; Funeral Friday

Louis Keil, 75, lifelong resident of Cass County, died Wednesday morning at 3:40. Mr. Keil died as the result of a stroke suffered two days ago. He has been hospitalized since the stroke.

He was born March 27, 1885, at the farm home of his parents, John Peter Keil and Katherine Wolf, pioneer residents of the Cedar Creek community. He spent his early days on the farm until moving to Plattsmouth. On Jan. 25, 1951, he was married to Janet Forbes at Las Vegas. They made their home here since their marriage. In the last years Mr. Keil was engaged as mail messenger at the local Post Office until his retirement and also operated a plumbing business for the past few years.

Surviving are the wife, Mrs. Janet Keil, Plattsmouth; foster daughter, Mrs. Thyra Palmer, Omaha; two grandchildren; one great grandchild. Preceding him in death were his first wife Christine Schroeder Keil in 1934, and son, Carl, in 1959; parents and 14 brothers and sisters. He was the last member of his parents' family.

Mr. Keil was brought up in the Lutheran Church. Funeral will be Friday at 2 p.m. in the chapel of the Caldwell-Linder Funeral Home, Rev. G. E. Seybold, pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church will officiate.

Burial will be at Glendale Cemetery, west of Plattsmouth. Visiting hours will be today (Thursday) afternoon and evening, 4 to 6 and 7 to 9.

This meeting is open to the public, anyone interested can purchase tickets at the Chamber Office for \$1.50 per plate. Call the Chamber Office for more information.

Mrs. Schalk Heads County's 'Heart Drive'

The appointment of Mrs. Russell Schalk, Plattsmouth, as Cass County Heart Fund Chairman, was announced today by Miss Helen L. Becker of Lincoln, Nebraska Heart Fund Chairman, in preparation for the 1961 Heart Fund Campaign, which begins throughout the nation on February 1st.

The fund-raising drive will reach its high point on Heart Sunday, February 26th, when thousands of volunteers in all communities of Nebraska will call on their neighbors for contributions to the Heart Fund. Contributions to the Heart Fund make possible the support of heart and blood vessel disease research, not only in Nebraska, but in clinics and university laboratories throughout the nation. Research is the Heart Association's top priority, but Heart Fund dollars are also being spent for programs of public and professional education and community service, which are the by-products of research.

"The Heart and blood vessel diseases are still the nation's number 1 health enemy," Mrs. Schalk said. "If we can firmly establish this fact in the minds of residents in Cass County, they will recognize the importance of putting the Heart Fund at the top of their gift lists for health."

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SHOPPING DAYS

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Till Christmas

Final Judging of Decorations Will Be Done Dec. 19 and 20

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The Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce announced today that the final judging of the Christmas Home Decorating Contest will be Dec. 19th and 20th between the hours of 6:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.
The contest will be judged this year by Father Mike Pleskac of St. John's Church, Father Robert Hodgson of St. Luke's Church and Rev. Vernard Utley of the

Southern Baptist Church. Rules this year were set up by the General Nationwide Christmas Decorating Contest. The Judges will consider the following points:
ARTISTIC MERIT — 30 Points
Design.
Composition and arrangement of elements.
Color Scheme.
ORIGINALITY — 20 Points
New lighting ideas or effects.

New ways of using standard devices such as luminous plaques, candies, cutouts, wreaths, and shapes formed with Christmas lamps.
LIGHTING TECHNIQUES — 30 Points
Use of regular Christmas lamps.
Use of spot and flood lamps (with or without filters).
Use of other lamps such as fluorescent, circline, reflector

color lamps, 25 and 40 watt enameled.
INGENUITY — 20 Points
In using structure of house, in using surroundings to advantage.
Under these rules homes with the most lights or the most expensive displays are not necessarily winners:
1st place, \$25.
2nd place, \$15.
3rd place, \$10.



FRESH VANTAGE POINT — The air was crisp, brisk and fresh atop the County Courthouse belltower Tuesday afternoon when this picture was taken. A white speck up there was Paul Baburek of Baburek Metal Conditioning Co., Plattsmouth, or Lester Edmonds who was helping him (it was too far away to tell which). Baburek is repairing the belltower roof, the final operation in reconditioning the entire Courthouse roof. Baburek, when asked how the weather was up on the platform on the peak, said simply, "Just fine." The job is more of less routine for him. The tower roof is copper coated.

SHOPPING DAYS

9

Till Christmas

Shop in Plattsmouth for Best Buys

Free Movie For Kiddies Here Saturday

Dale Draper, Chairman of the Plattsmouth Jaycees Christmas Movie announced today that Saturday, Dec. 17 at 10 a.m. will be the time for the annual Free Christmas Movie shown for kiddies in Plattsmouth.

The movie, at Cass Theater, lasts about one and one-half hours and has all of the kids' favorite cartoons, Draper said. He emphasized that this is a free event and that all children are welcome.

Also with this annual event, the Mrs. Jaycees of Plattsmouth will give away treats to the children as they leave the theater.

It was reported there will be Mrs. Jaycees as well as Jaycees on hand to watch the kiddies.

Dean Biles is director at the theater and Mrs. Helen Smock is serving as chairman of treats.

Junior High Christmas Dance Friday Night

The Christmas party and dance for all Plattsmouth Junior High students, sponsored by the Junior High Pep Club, has been set for Dec. 16, Friday night, from 7:30 to 10:30 at the High School Auditorium.

Theme of the affair is Fantasy in Frost.

A Jack and Jill Frost will be crowned during the festivities. They will be an 8th grade boy and girl to be elected by the 8th grade.

Refreshments will be served. Parents of students are also invited to attend, Tom Detwiler, faculty advisor said.

Dear Santa . .

Dear Santa Claus:
I, Betty Lou Albin, want a watch and bed room slippers, size 5. Tablecloth and bedroom slippers for Mother. Also bed spread. For Daddy, bring socks, shirt, cornob pipe, two of them. Thanks Betty Lou Albin.

Dear Santa:
I want a record player, a big doll and a baton. I will be a good girl. I will leave you some milk and cookies. Please bring my sister the same toys you bring me. She will be good, too. Cindy Zachry.

Dear Santa:
I want a stroller big enough for Jeanie, a set of dishes and a sewing machine and material and a puzzle for me and my brother, Love, Debbie Spangler, R.R. 2 Plattsmouth.

Council Sees 1st Plans of Rogers Residential Site

Preliminary drawings of a residential development east of Chicago Avenue south and Holdredge Street were shown to the City Council Monday night.

The area is to be developed by A. B. (Buck) Rogers. He was at the Council meeting together with a design engineer to ask some questions.

Rogers said he plans to begin grading of the site shortly after Jan. 1 and wants to get approval of the general layout. The matter was referred to the City Plan Commission for study and recommendation.

THE WEATHER

Dec. 12, 13, 14, 1960

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Monday	28	13	.00
Tuesday	37	22	.00
Wednesday	43	24	.00

Forecast: Partly cloudy colder, strong winds. High low 20's; low around 15.
Sun sets tonight at 4:56; rises Friday at 7:43 a.m.

Stores Open Daily Till 9 P. M.

'Sewer Use Fee Fair To All,' Board Says

The Board of Public Works in a letter to the City Council Monday night said it believes the new sewer use fee "is fair and just to everyone concerned" in answering an objection filed earlier by three trailer court operators.

The operators had said they thought the \$1 minimum charge for each trailer unfair and inequitable. In its letter, the Board said "any concession made to (trailer courts) would have to be made to everyone connected with the sewer."

The use fee (the minimum for a residential user is \$1 a month) was put into effect last month to finance construction and operation of the city's sewage treatment plant and maintenance of the city's sewer system. The Council moved to send a copy of the Board's letter to the objecting trailer court operators.

Firemen Called To 'Chevy' Garage Wednesday Night

Wednesday evening the fire department was called to the Cass County Motor Co. at 6th and First Avenue.

A truck that was being worked on, caught fire and did damage to the engine. There was a great deal of smoke filled the workshop, but aside from the damage to the truck and motor, there was no loss. The building was not damaged by the fire.

VFW Toys-Clothes Distribution Set For Dec. 19-20

The annual Veterans of Foreign Wars distribution of toys to needy children of the Community will be Dec. 19 and 20 from 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., each night in the Plattsmouth Armory on Chicago Avenue.

Parents are asked to pick up toys and clothing for their family during the designated times. The toys were repaired and refinished and some were donated new for the program in a city-wide solicitation earlier this month.

The VFW would like to know the names of recipients for the toys and for Christmas food baskets for needy families in this area.

Truckload of Copper Wire Stolen Here

Thieves broke into the Consumers Power Company substation warehouse here Tuesday evening and made off with a company truck loaded with used copper wire.

Entrance was gained to the building by cutting off a padlock. Inside the intruders loaded the company truck with a power saw and about 1,600 pounds of used copper wire. The truck was found abandoned about a mile south of the substation in a corn field. It had been only driven a short distance and apparently was used only to transfer the stolen wire to another vehicle.

Sheriff Tom Solomon made the rounds of junk yards in Omaha with samples of the wire to alert dealers.

Part of Old Lincoln Sewer Being Replaced

More than 130 feet of a "flat spot" in the old Lincoln Avenue sanitary sewer is being replaced to correct recurring stoppage.

A representative of Henningson, Durham and Richardson of Omaha which designed the sewer, Monday night told the City Council evidently faulty construction caused stoppage.

The work of finding the fault and repairing it was slowed the past week when workmen using a trenching machine hit and broke a two-inch water main.

The engineering firm representative said that flow in the sewer evidently is retarded by mud which invades the sewer when storm water gets in around manhole covers or through a break in the sewer somewhere along the line.

FHA, FFA Ask 'Alumni' To Christmas Dance

The Plattsmouth FFA and FHA will have their annual Christmas Dance Monday, Dec. 19, 7:30. All alumni of FHA and FFA are invited. An FFA Sweetheart and FHA King will be selected and crowned.

Call Your News And Social Items to 241

3 Journals Next Week

Three issues of The Journal will be printed next week, Monday, Thursday and Saturday. The Saturday-printed edition will be dated Monday, Dec. 26.

The Journal will be closed Dec. 26, along with most of Plattsmouth businesses.

Closing for classified advertising for the edition to be printed Saturday will be 9 a.m. Saturday.

The Journal hopes to have the Dec. 26 edition ready for distribution before noon Christmas Eve. Advertisers and news sources are asked to note this arrangement and cooperate.

The following week, The Journal will be printed Thursday and Saturday, the latter issue in lieu of the Jan. 2 printing.