

Mrs. Svoboda's 1897 Paper Says: 'First School Taught Here In 1856'

By Ruth Miller
Special Correspondent
I called on Mrs. Hermie Svoboda this week. The Svobodas are one of the oldest of the many Bohemian families who came to Plattsmouth quite early.

While I was there, I took time to read the Plattsmouth "Evening News" a paper dated October 8, 1897. Following is an excerpt from that paper which tells the history of Plattsmouth schools.

Plattsmouth boasted of a school house almost as soon as the town was settled for we find that the settlements were made in 1853-4 and the first school was taught by Miss Mary Stocking in 1856.

"The first school house was built on Gospel Hill. It was a frame building and was also used as a court house.

"In the year 1857 Mr. and Mrs. Gorell had charge of what was called the city school, situated on the south side of Main Street. The school was after removed to the north side of Main street, the building occupied being about where Gering's drug store now stands. This was taught by a Mr. White.

"By 1861, the attendance had reached 214 pupils. Four teachers were employed. The principal received \$37.50 per month and the other teachers \$20.50 per month each.

"It was common practice to ferule children upon the hand. In one instance, the teacher was in the habit of detaining from 5 to 10 pupils frequently for this purpose, and as no teacher could punish a pupil without the presence of another teacher there was quite a rivalry as to who could escape from the building without being called to witness the punishment."

It is interesting, too, to note some of the advertisers in this early paper: Smith and Parmelee, druggists; Wurl and Coffey, cloaks; James Rebal, Broom Manufacturer; C. A. Marshall, Dentist; R. B. Windham, Real Estate; and Dovey and Sons, carpets and dry goods.

Mrs. Svoboda was just 2 or 3 months old when she came to Plattsmouth in 1879. Her earliest recollection of the west side of Plattsmouth where she lived was "all woods. There was just a path back and forth to the business district and the shops." She went to the Second Ward school and later to the Central Building in the days when High School Hill was still covered with brush.

Plattsmouth's first doctor was Doc. Livingston—or rather Doctors Livingston for there were Dr. Robert, Dr. Theodore (T.P.) and Dr. Stuart. Later came Dr. Cummins and Dr. Cook.

Mrs. Svoboda's father and brothers formed the Janda Band quite early. Among the band members were 4 of the Jandas — Tom, Cyril, Anton, Frank. The band played for dances, weddings, and marched

'Crime Holds Its Own' in Cass County

Incidence of crime in Cass County in 1961 "held its own," according to a statement in the year-end report by Sheriff Tom Solomon.

Vehicle accidents of a chargeable nature, however, were down by 100, from 325 in 1960 to 225 in 1961.

Nine traffic deaths occurred in the county last year, one more than the toll the year before. Injuries rose from 140 in 1960 to 151 last year, in spite of the fact there were 100 fewer accidents of a chargeable nature.

Other observations in the Sheriff's annual report:

DROWNING—There was only one drowning last year for the second straight year, after four in 1960. Last year, the largest number of persons in history used waters of Cass County for recreational purposes.

TAX COLLECTIONS—The current delinquent tax collection drive was begun in October by the Sheriff's Office and so far \$21,281.99 has been remitted to the County Treasurer. In 1960, a 96 per cent collection record was reached among taxpayers living within jurisdiction of the Sheriff's Office.

COUNTY JAIL—Lawbreakers had less experience with the confines of County Jail the past year. A total of 1,818 days were "laid out" by persons convicted of crimes, compared with 2,150 days in 1961.

COURT FINES—Fines collected by County Court decreased to \$28,490 the past year from \$34,947 the previous year.

JUVENILES—In 1961 only nine children were brought into juvenile court, one more than in 1960.

OFFENSES REPORTED

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND RURAL AREAS, in 1961—robbery, city-village one; rape, city-village, one; attempted molestation, city-village, one, and rural one; auto theft, four; breaking and entering (businesses, homes, cabins, cars, etc), city-village, 12, and rural 12; larceny, city-village, 7, and rural 7; check passers, arrested, 21; arrested for breaking and entering, 11; arrested for drunk driving, 23 (1960, 29).

NIGHT PATROL—Full patrolling of the county commenced the past year. This was asked by groups of citizens holding meetings in the western part of the county and asking for a man for night patrol.

The Sheriff listed these reasons it was felt a man for such patrol was necessary:

"1. Improved roads and more traffic in the county nights.

"2. Do to a shortage of State Troopers they are off duty at a certain hour of the night.

"3. The location of Cass County in regard to the adjoining areas of Lincoln and Omaha—the FBI in its 1961 report on crimes showed that the Omaha-Lincoln area produced 4,702 major crimes during that year, or 14 major crimes occurring every day in the two major areas bordering Cass County. Therefore, it was a 'must' to have some measure of night law enforcement in the county to keep the criminal element from coming into the county and having free run. One man on duty at night in a county the size of Cass County may seem like a drop in the bucket but it has shown strong effects."



CHAIRMAN—Virginia Martin, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Martin and a senior at Plattsmouth High, is teen-age "Tap" chairman for the New March of Dimes here. Teenagers sponsored a dance Friday for the New March and are planning a "Block of Dimes" promotion Saturday.

Dance-Goers Donate \$64 To 'March'

Youthful Vigor was added to 1962 New March of Dimes in Plattsmouth Friday when Tap Chairman Virginia Martin and other teenagers conducted a dance at the Plattsmouth high school, which added zip and enthusiasm for the younger set. And, proceeds of \$64.30 were voluntarily given to the March of Dimes.

Dancing was until 11 and fruit punch was served. Chaperones were teachers, Warren Dyke, Alan Kreglo and Donald Wozniak.

Miss Martin, a senior in High School, announced that a block of dimes promotion would be held in Plattsmouth on Saturday, Jan. 20, to be conducted by the FHA.

Teenagers have a large stake in the National Foundation's effort to wipe out paralytic polio, a disease that hits hard at young people. Miss Martin said, "Now we are fighting two other diseases that offer even greater challenges, birth defects and arthritis."

The Plattsmouth Chairman said that another of the major interests of the new March of Dimes teen-age Volunteers is the Health Scholarship Program financed by the National Foundation. Through this program, students are trained in nursing, medical social work, medicine and occupational and physical therapy.

Say yes to the New March of Dimes when a Volunteer worker asks for your support, the local organization urges.

41 to -7 Range Here

By P. J. Dingman
Temperatures ranged from 41 to 7 below zero here over the weekend. The low was Thursday night, the high Friday afternoon.

Observations:

	P.M.	Read.	Pres.	Hi	Lo
Thurs.	6:30	22	22	-7	-7
Fri.	5:20	34	41	21	21
Sat.	10:40	30	39	23	23
Sun.	6:00	14	30	14	14

A year ago—U. S. high, 81 at Los Angeles; low, 3 below at Caribou, Me.; most precip., 1.41 inches at Huntington, W. Va.

Two years ago—high, 81 at Orlando, Fla.; low, 13 below at International Falls, Minn.; most precip., .69 inch at Milwaukee.

William H. Kempke, 84, Dies Friday; Funeral Today

William Henry Kempke, 84, of rural Avoca, died Friday at Weeping Water. He had been in declining health since suffering a fall Christmas Eve.

Funeral for the retired farmer was today at Lett Funeral Home Chapel, Nebraska City, with the Rev. Stanley Rogge officiating.

Palbearers were Frederick Schutz, Dale Plummel, Maynard Kempke, Albert Rogers Jr. and Dean and Darrell Seegel. Burial was in Union Cemetery.

Mr. Kempke was a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

He was born in Germany May 2, 1877, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kempke.

Near relatives surviving are William H. Kempke and Mrs. Henry Johns, both of Dunbar, and Harry Kempke.

Call Your News And Social Items to 2141

Larry Austin Hurt In Sled Accident

Larry Austin, teenage son of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Austin, was taken to Children's Memorial Hospital in Omaha Sunday after a sledding accident.

Larry's sled hit a parked car, and it was thought at first he had just knocked some teeth out, but it was learned later during the examination he had injured his spleen.

He was taken to surgery where they removed the spleen Sunday night.

School of Christian Living In February at Weeping Water

The Cass County School of Christian Service will be held in the Weeping Water Congregational Church the first three Thursday evenings in February.

This school is under the sponsorship of the Cass County Council of Churches. The Rev. Frank Schroeder of Elmwood will be Dean of the School and Mrs. Eldon Mendenhall of Elmwood, registrar.

The curriculum of the school will include four courses. They are "Christian Faith Encounters Communism" which will be taught by the Rev. Elton P. Garrison of Omaha. The Rev. Mr. Garrison has served a number of years as a missionary in Japan, where he has been able to observe some of the activities of the communistic organization in the orient.

A course on the Bible, "The Prophets and their Message" will be taught by Dr. Raleigh Peterson, professor of Religion in the Cotner School of Religion in Lincoln. Dr. Peterson needs no introduction, for his ability is well known in the Cass County School, for he has taught in previous years.

A course for teachers of children will be taught by Mrs.

Decision on Liquor License Appeal Pending

Judge John M. Dierks Thursday in District Court here heard evidence and arguments in the case, County of Cass vs. Dennis C. Smith, appeal from ruling of the State Liquor Commission.

The County Board of Commissioners appealed the ruling of the Liquor Commission which granted Smith an off-sale beer license for a location near the Platte River. The County Board had recommended that the license be denied.

Counsel for the Board was County Attorney James F. Begley, for Smith was Francis M. Casey and for the Liquor Commission was Robert Camp, an Assistant Attorney General. Camp did not present any new evidence.

Judge Dierks took the appeal under advisement and will announce a decision in open court Jan. 26 at 10 a.m.

Rationing Board Appointed for County 'Emergency'

The Cass County Board of Commissioners last week appointed a County Rationing Board on suggestion of Gov. Frank Morrison, to function if needed in an emergency. It is a move in conjunction with Civil Defense preparedness.

The following were named: George Smith, Plattsmouth; Dwight Clements, Elmwood; Clifford Anderson, Eagle; Harvey Koop, Louisville, and Elmer Stoll, Nehawka.

Lions To Solicit 'Sight Donors'

Next Sunday afternoon marks the climax of the Plattsmouth Lions Club drive for signatures on Eye Bank Donor Cards.

That afternoon, club members will make house calls with the cards to those wishing to give their eyes to the Eye Bank.

Headquarters will be set up in the offices of Dr. L. A. Amato and Dr. W. V. Ryan. Persons wishing to sign Donor Cards may come to the office or call either 3158 or 2186 requesting a card and a member of the club will immediately bring a card to their home.

The office will be open from 1 to 5 p.m. and calls will be accepted during those hours.

Ray Story of the Plattsmouth Lions Club talked with Dr. J. Hewitt Judd, head of the Ophthalmology Department of University Hospital in Omaha, Saturday afternoon and was told by him that there is at this time a patient in that hospital awaiting at least one eye for a corneal transplant. This patient is just one of four blind persons in Nebraska who are awaiting eyes for such an operation.

Dr. Judd is also Medical Director of the Nebraska Lions Sight Conservation Foundation, a member of the Board of Directors of that organization. He is also the co-ordinator of work for

Most County Officials' Salaries Set at \$5,200 for Term of 1963

Deputy Salaries Also Will Rise

The Cass County Board of Commissioners Thursday after parts of several days of deliberation passed a resolution setting salaries of nine county officials for the four-year term of office beginning in January, 1963.

Eight officials' salaries were set at \$5,200 a year; the ninth, County Surveyor, was set at \$5,600.

Setting of salaries is a statutory requirement of the Board and the last State Legislature raised the minimum salary of elected county officials to \$5,000.

Salaries now in effect, set by a County Board in 1958, range from \$3,600 to \$4,600.

The new statutory requirement also calls for officials' deputies to receive a minimum of 75 per cent of the official's pay in each office where a deputy is employed. For most deputies, this will be an increase from about \$265 to about \$325 a month, beginning in 1963. An exception are Sheriff's deputies who are on a separate schedule at present.

The County Judge's salary is set separately by statute and not subject to the Board, for Cass County is now \$6,900.

All county offices at present have deputies except those of Surveyor and Superintendent of Schools.

The salary comparison:

	Effective Jan., 1963	Present
Attorney	\$5,200	\$3,600
Assessor	5,200	4,200
Clerk	5,200	4,200
Clerk of District Ct.	5,200	4,600
Register of Deeds	5,200	3,900
Sheriff	5,200	4,300
Superintendent of Schools	5,200	4,300
Surveyor	5,600	4,600

Ray Story Heads C of C Here

Orville Roberts, for 15 years manager of the Omaha Chamber, said small communities "are not foreclosed from industrial development." He said the most important thing a community can do to prepare to invite industry is "create a climate of community receptivity."

He said it takes great effort but the rewards are great, too. He commented that "home grown" industry often succeeds and endures.

About Chamber membership and participation, he remarked, "The Chamber of Commerce is not an automatic miracle worker. Success is dependent on the effort put into it by its members actively working. It cannot be done by proxy."

Everyone should participate, he said, and all members ought to "pay their fair share" of the financial needs. Work is unifying, he said.

In regard to politics, he said the old concept of strict hands-off for Chambers of Commerce is fading. While partisan politics is still off-limits, it is important that the Chamber works to protect the free enterprise system that has made America great, Roberts said.

About competition from other larger business communities, he said the Chamber's and its members' responsibility is clear: to make the local community the "best shopping town, pound for pound, in Eastern Nebraska."

Roberts said the Chamber's civic responsibility is a great one—to do everything it can to make the community a better place in which to live.

Ray Story Heads C of C Here

Ray Story of Kent Motel, Cafe and Service Station Thursday night was named president of the Plattsmouth Chamber of Commerce in the Board of Directors organizational meeting which followed the annual CC banquet at the Lions Community Building.

Clem Woster of Woster Real Estate and Insurance was chosen vice president; George Smith, Smith's Men's Wear, secretary, and Bruce Gold, Western Auto Associate Store, re-elected treasurer.

Woster and Smith were re-elected to the Board and Sam Arn of Soennichsens and Steve Davis, Steve Davis Agency, were chosen as new members in the election which preceded the banquet.

Other members of the Board, their terms expiring in 1963 and 1964, are: Boyd Linder, Linder Firestone; Bill Knorr, Knorr's 5 and 10; Vyril Clark, Lincoln Tel. & Tel.; Herb Freeburg, Gambles Stores; Lyle Grove, Grove Jewelry; John Schreiner, Schreiner Rexall Drugs; Albert Young, Young & Jose Builders; and Joe Zastera, Cass Drug.

Past President Ted Ohnoutka of Plattsmouth Lumber Co. is automatically a member of the Board for 1962.

Retiring members were Dick O'Donnell of Ruback's Supermarket and Chris Bullin of Soennichsens.

The directors are planning a change in their regular monthly meeting, Chamber Manager R. R. Furse said. They will have a luncheon meeting the first Thursday of each month for a time in an effort to give more time for Board members to take part in planning the Chamber program.

The first such meeting will be Thursday at 11:45 at Kent Cafe.

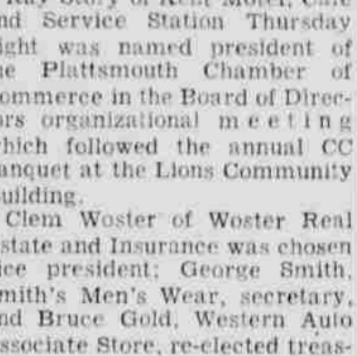
Thursday night, Ohnoutka welcomed the banquet-goers and congratulated fellowmembers on a successful year. He pointed to Holiday street lighting as one of the major accomplishments of the Chamber in cooperation with many individuals who also supported the program.

Furse conducted the shortest business session on record at a Chamber banquet here—an announcement calling attention to the annual report which had been distributed as members arrived; and entertainment of a motion to change the procedure of election to provide for voting on directors at a special October meeting. That motion carried. It had been recommended to permit a new Board to function and have its officers in office before the annual meeting.

Mrs. Thelma Baker, of Style Beauty Shop, president of the Women's Division of the CC, introduced her co-officers for this year, Mary Alice Ohlschlager vice president, and Helen Lessman of Cass Drug, secretary.

Woster served as toastmaster to introduce Board members, Orville W. Roberts, the principal speaker, and Mayor Grant Roberts who spoke on behalf of the city.

Vera Solomon of Jochimsen's played organ music during dinner.



Ray Story

'Small Town Can Attract Industry'

Small communities, Plattsmouth too, can attract industry if they work at it, a veteran Chamber of Commerce man told the local CC at their banquet Thursday night.

Orville Roberts, for 15 years manager of the Omaha Chamber, said small communities "are not foreclosed from industrial development." He said the most important thing a community can do to prepare to invite industry is "create a climate of community receptivity."

He said it takes great effort but the rewards are great, too. He commented that "home grown" industry often succeeds and endures.

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Coin Collectors 'Performing Successfully'

The Eye Catching Coin Collectors prominently displayed in the business section of the city to remind residents of the need for financial support for the New March of Dimes voluntary health program, are performing successfully.

Ernie's Bar on South 6th St. leads in the contributions received. Please give to the dimeboards and "Join the March of Dimes," drive leaders here urged.

The Eagles Auxiliary, with Dorothy Janacek and Honey Cole as chairman are contributing their time by addressing mail-appeal envelopes.

The Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, distributed the coin collections, and are also planning a dance for Jan. 27 and a silent white elephant auction to be held at their regular meeting Jan. 16. Mrs. Pearl Myers is in charge of the auction.

Herman Groves Dies at 51; Funeral Thursday

Herman Groves, 51, who spent most of his life in Plattsmouth, died today at a Nebraska City Hospital after an illness of a year.

Funeral will be at 2 p.m. Thursday at Caldwell-Linder Funeral Home with the Rev. Charles Nenow of First Lutheran Church officiating. Burial will be in Oak Hill Cemetery.

Visiting hours will be Wednesday from 4 to 6 and 7 to 9 p.m. at Caldwell-Linder.

Mr. Groves was born May 11, 1910, at Bennetts Mill, Mo., son of James and Mattie Groves. He was married to Pauline Hindman.

Mr. Groves came here from Kansas City in 1935. He spent nearly 24 years with the U.S. Corps of Engineers and several years with Citywide Rock Quarries at LaPlatte.

He was a member of First Lutheran Church.

Survivors are his wife; five children—Raymond, Herman Lee Jr. and Mary Alice, all of Plattsmouth; Gerald Herman of Kirkwood, Mo., and Dennis Theodore of Hartsburg, Mo., four grandchildren; three brothers—Arthur of Sioux City, William of Chemois, Mo., and Walter of Tulsa; and a sister, Mrs. Frank Jaquin of Washington, Mo.

Dog Search Fruitless

An all-day search for a dog which bit a woman here Jan. 4 was still unsuccessful today and Mrs. John Porter of Wintersteen Hill today or tonight was to begin a series of shots to protect her in the event the dog had rabies.

Mrs. Porter is expecting a child.

Police Chief Fred Tesch today said the police over the weekend investigated additional reports from residents who thought they may have seen the dog. He said one was "close."

Mrs. Porter described the dog which bit her in the yard of her home as: medium sized, short-haired mixed breed with black back and top of head and yellowish brown underbody and sides; has a long tail, short ears and wore a collar with some kind of tags attached.

Should the dog still be found, the series of shots might be curtailed.

'March' Fund Event Planned at Murray

MURRAY (Special) — "Polio will be the topic of conversation and if one of these persons from your neighborhood approaches you, please say "Yes" to the New March of Dimes, Mrs. Havelly Savers, Murray drive chairman urged.

The following are assistant chairman here: Some of the young people met Sunday to plan a project for "Youth for Polio." Miss Hoschar and Charissa Gruber will head the project.

Commissioners To Meet

The Cass County Board of Commissioners will meet Tuesday beginning about mid-morning for their regular second January session. The second monthly meeting is regularly a two-day session.

Ted Ohnoutka, president of the Plattsmouth Lions Club, Cecil Karr, Deputy District Governor, and Dr. Amato, chairman of the committee heading the drive here anticipate a successful drive here this month.

THE WEATHER

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Thursday	10	-6	00
Friday	30	12	00
Saturday	22	14	00
Sunday	20	2	00

Forecast: Cloudy and cold Highs 15-20.

Sun sets tonight at 5:19, rises Tuesday at 7:48 a.m.

