

THE PLATTSMOUTH JOURNAL

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Creed Harris, Virginian Became Nebraskan

Cass Countyman of the Week

Creed Harris Tells about Early Days on Co. Plains

By RUTH MILLER
Nehawka
Special Correspondent

In the fall of 1884, a 19-year-old Virginia boy came to Weeping Water to spend his first night on Nebraska soil. Today, Creed Harris, though nearly 87, can well recall those early days in Nebraska.

Creed walked out to George Youngs after his night in Weeping Water, and there Zach Shrader offered him a job digging for fence posts. Mr. Harris made fence for two days and at the end of that time he received two shiny silver dollars. That was big money in those days!

But Creed Harris was ready to work even for those small sums in order to build his dream. He worked for George Young for some time, painting fence, doing farm work, or even just riding for the mail.

He recalls working in the blazing wheat field for fifty cents a day. The man who went ahead with the old wooden cradle was given \$1.00 a day, and the man who bound up the wheat shocks was paid seventy-five cents.

But when the harvest was done, Creed drew his pay in wheat. Money was scarce and trading produce was the plainsman's most common way of paying for things.

Mr. Harris chuckled as he called to mind an incident that happened on the way to Center Valley for the mail one day. He was riding a blind mare of George Young's when he passed a tree upon which was a giant swarm of bees.

Creed stopped the horse and went into Philpot's house and asked if they were going to do anything with the swarm. When Mrs. Philpot said "No," Creed borrowed a knife and cut down the branch the bees were on. He stopped at creeks and springs all the way home keeping the bees good and wet.

"I passed Charlie Philpot on the way and he gave me the whole road when he saw what I had," Creed laughs. Creed reached Young's gate with the swarm intact and Bill Young gave him \$2.50 for it.

Creed's next job was north of Weeping Water but the farmer he worked for couldn't pay him. Creed took a due bill and went back to town where he sold the bill to the man's brother-in-law and went to seek another job.

The next job happened to be with Frank Sheldon. Potatoes were cheap on the plains but Mr. Harris was sent to Oklahoma on the train with a carload of them.

There he sold the entire carload, worth 15 cents a bushel in Nebraska, for 33 cents a bushel.

Mr. Harris returned to Cass County where in December of 1887 he married Josephine Elizabeth Magney, and where he be-

came an active member of the new Otterbein Church. When the church was started Creed donated a certain amount and worked it out on the building of the church.

Later Mr. Harris was superintendent of the Sunday School and was licensed by the church to preach. He once made use of that license to perform a funeral.

After the death of his wife Mr. Harris married a Marion Va., girl, Margie A. Hays. Mr. Harris has 8 living children; Laurie Farris of Lincoln, Vance, Independence, Mo.; Verna Polard, Nehawka; Virginia Stone, Lincoln; Robert Sterling, Union; Fulton, Plattsmouth, and Don Columbia, Mo.

He has 27 grandchildren and over 50 great-grandchildren plus several great-great. "I never know how big my family is until the mail comes," he jokes.

Mr. Harris recalls that when his daughter Laurie was born Mrs. Troop was the midwife who waited on his wife. When he offered to pay her she asked him to come over and stack prairie hay to pay for her help.

Going on to chat about other old neighbors, Mr. Harris told a typical Johnny Gilmore story: Johnny was sitting on the porch one day when he noticed that the hired man was resting the horse at the end of the row an unusually long time. Johnny walked out to the field and found the man stretched out sound asleep. Well, Johnny didn't say anything, he just reached out and broke off a leafy branch from a small shrub nearby and when the hired man awoke he looked up at Johnny Gilmore calmly shaking away the flies. "Johnny didn't have to tell him to leave," laughs Creed.

Mr. Harris went on to tell about some of the entertainment in the neighborhood. One thing he recalls is the shooting matches where a beef would be quarered and hung and the best marksman got a quarter of beef. Square dances to the tune of Pete Smith's fiddle were popular and Mr. Harris can remember one oyster supper at Murray.

Mr. Harris' first farm was bought from one of the Davis boys. He paid \$37.50 an acre for an 80.

He moved on to the place near Union where the R. Sterling Harris' live now in 1904. He bought the farm from John Pope in February and moved in during March.

Mr. Harris recalled that was an especially cold winter and then went on to relate anecdotes of other winters. He recalls once when the snow was so deep that you could walk right over the tops of fences without ever knowing they were there. At another (Continued On Page Seven)

Troop 399 Here Has 1st Court of Honor

Sunday evening, Boy Scout Troop 399 held its first Court of Honor at the VFW Club rooms.

William Spradlin opened the Court for the Covered Wagon Council.

The invocation was given by Rev. Harold Onwiler of Mynard. Dale Bowman, Past VFW Commander, presided as Master of Ceremonies.

The Scouts conducted a candlelighting opening for the troop.

Tenderfoot awards were given by Scoutmaster Harry Porter and Life Scout Darrel Draper. Second class awards were given by Mr. Al Lang of Omaha. Warrants and Merit badges were presented by Scoutmaster Porter, and segments were awarded by assistant Scoutmaster Calvin Barnes.

A troop flag was presented to the troop by Charles Ault, institutional representative for the VFW.

Al Lang, speaker of the evening, gave a message about Scouting all over the world.

Refreshments were served by Sophia Wolver and Norma Wilson of the VFW Auxiliary.

These awards were given:

Tenderfoot—William Anderson, Ronald Barnes, James Drennen, Darrel Cundlan, Paul Felton, Phillip Fischer, Jac Fogelstrom, Robert Shafer, David Snyder, Rodney Tesch, John Fischer, Ricky Payton, William Willis, Robert Rupp, Daniel Nash.

Second Class—William Anderson, Ronald Barnes, Darrel Cundlan, James Drennen, Phillip Fischer, Jac Fogelstrom, Paul Felton, Donald Gray, Ronald Mattox, Robert Shafer, David Snyder, Rodney Tesch.

Warrants—Darrel Draper, senior patrol leader; Ronald Mattox, Phillip Fischer, Henry Eggert.

Merit Badges—Darrel Draper, music.

Segments for Camp Cedars Camping—John Fischer, Phillip Fischer, Ronald Barnes, Ronald Mattox, Rodney Tesch, David Snyder, Paul Felton, James Drennen, Donald Gray, Jac Fogelstrom, William Anderson, Darrel Draper and Assistant Scoutmaster Calvin Barnes.



COURT OF HONOR — The first Court of Honor of Scout Troop 399 was held Sunday evening at the VFW Club. Shown from left are: front—Robert Rupp, Rodney Tesch, Daniel Nash, Donald Gray, Ricky Payton, William Anderson, David Snyder, Ronald Barnes and Paul Felton; second row—Darrel Draper, James Drennen, Darrel Draper, Phillip Fischer, John Fischer, Ronald Mattox and William Willis; back—Assistant Scoutmaster Calvin Barnes, Covered Wagon Council Official Ed Lang of Omaha (speaker for the Court), Assistant Scoutmaster Fred Fischer and Scoutmaster Harry Porter. Scouts John Douglas, Jac Fogelstrom, Henry Eggert and Robert Shafer were not present for the picture.

July 13 Deadline For Voting in Sweet 16 Contest

The deadline in voting for the Sweet 16 Contest being conducted here by the Mrs. Jaycees is July 13 at 1 p.m., those in charge said today.

They announced this current vote standing: 1. Claudia Marler, 2. Marilyn Vinduska, 3. Kathy Lutes, 4. Sharlene Kahler, 5. Marilyn Koubek, 6. Carmen Pfeifer, 7. Valerie Lane.

Voting containers are located now at these sites: Jochimsen's Market, Kathy Lutes; Hinky Dinky, Carmen Pfeifer; Soenichsen's Grocery, Claudia Marler; Cass Drug, Marilyn Koubek; Ruback's Supermarket, Marilyn Vinduska; Gas Company, Valerie Lane; The Beauty Box, Sharlene Kahler.

Six of the seven contestants were pictured previously. Miss Kahler's introduction follows:

Sharlene Kahler

Sharlene is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Orval Kahler. She will be a junior at Plattsmouth High School this fall.

She is a member of St. Paul's Evangelical and Reformed Church and in the past has been a member of the church choir and its youth fellowship in which she held an office.

Sharlene has been active in 4-H for five years and was also a junior leader.

She is a member of Job's Daughters and has held a junior office, also sang in the Bethel choir.

Her hobbies are cooking, sewing, baby sitting and sports.

Sharlene has two younger brothers, Steven and Stanley.

Placings in the rodeo events:

Saddle bronc riding—1. DeLayne Long, 2. R. L. Scott, 3. Myron Lintner, 4. Jim Grosshans, Grosshans, of Plattsmouth won the first go-round in this event.

Bareback—1. Stan Styskal, 2. Lee Wiley, 3. Dan Hess, 4. Richard Hargis, 5. Andy Andelt, Myron Lintner and Roger Anderson.

Bulldogging—1. Sterling Norvell, 2. Harold Davidson, 3. Willy Burnette, 4. Bob Crase.

Calf roping—1. Sterling Norvell, 2. Lee Allred, 3. Ken Boardhead, 4. Bill Simmons, 5. Bill Campidilli.

Bull riding—1. John Garvin, 2. Sam Hackel, 3. Carl Chism, 4. DeLayne Long, 5. Frank Bitner, 6. Glen Sterling and Royce Wright.

Barrel racing—1. Lilla Laurer, 2. Marty Sorensen, 3. Von Broadhead and Clara Johnson.

Where's All The Rain?

By P. J. DINGMAN

This very common question has been spurred on by a scant 26 hundredths of an inch in the last 24 days.

Although creating havoc with the farmers, this lack of precipitation was a blessing for fireworks shooters.

The (ugh!) chart:

Day	Time	Pres.	Hi	Lo	Precip.
Mon.	5:35	88	94	73	.00
Tues.	5:20	87	93	71	.01
Wed.	6:20	83	89	73	.01
Av.	5:45	86	92	72	
Total					.02

A year ago—U.S. high, 104 at Yuma, Ariz.; low, 39 at Traverse City, Mich.; most precip., 2.43 inches at Orlando, Fla.

Two years ago—U.S. high, 108 at Yuma, Ariz. and Needles, Cal.; low, 40 at Ely, Nev. and Phillipsburg, Pa.; most precip., 1.84 inches at Midland, Texas.

45 years ago—Mobile, Ala. had its worst modern storm, winds were 107 miles per hour, the barometer was down to 28.92 inches, and the tide was 11.6 ft.

71 years ago—Rapid City, So. Dak. had a hail storm that killed 16 horses and injured many others.

91 years ago—De Soto, Nebr., had a tornado which blew railroad cars off the track and led to heavy hail.

By the way—Tomorrow is the 34th anniversary of the famous hail storm at Potter, Nebraska. One stone was officially 5 1/2 inches in diameter, 17 inches in circumference and weighed 1 1/2 pounds! ! !

Training Council

Officers of the Boy Scouts South District of the Covered Wagon Council will be among those from throughout the council attending a District Committee training Council to be held in Fremont on July 22.

Other officers include Al Hansen of Plattsmouth and vice-chairman, William Spradlin of Bellevue (formerly of Plattsmouth), finance chairman.

BOUNDARIES DETERMINED

For the purpose of the forthcoming Cass ASC Community Committee Election, the boundary of each community within the county shall be determined to be the legally established precincts in Cass County.

Board To Get Budget Proposal Here July 16

The Cass County Board of Commissioners will meet July 16 to consider the 1962-63 budget proposal, to be submitted then by County Clerk Chas. Land, official budget-making authority.

A public hearing on the budget proposal will be held July 23, Land said.

Don Kemper among 12 Top Freshmen

Donald Kemper, Eagle High graduate, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Kemper of Walton, is among 12 top freshmen at the University of Nebraska, directors of the selective honors program at the University's College of Agriculture have announced.

The 12 were chosen from approximately 200 freshmen in the college.

Rotary Club Visits Masonic Home, Sees Plans for Expansion

The Plattsmouth Rotary Club Tuesday noon had dinner as guests of the Nebraska Masonic Home and its residents and viewed plans for expansion of the Home.

Host was Raymond Evers, Rotarian who is superintendent of the Home.

Club President C. E. Shellenbarger said the visit to the Home, like one a couple years ago, is a memorable one. Home residents and club members dined together and visited. There was no formal program.

On Service Committee

Cecil Karr of Plattsmouth Tuesday was re-appointed to the County Veterans Service Committee by the County Board of commissioners.

One term on the five-man committee expires annually.

Funeral Today At Murray for Chris Nelson, 8

Funeral services were today at 2 p.m. at the Presbyterian Church in Murray for Chris Nelson, eight-year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Willard Nelson of Tahlassee, Fla. Rev. Joseph Barr, pastor of the church, officiated.

Chris was killed Monday evening in a Lincoln Street by an auto.

The family was living in Lincoln this summer while Professor Nelson was teaching Educational Psychology at the University of Nebraska. He is a Professor at the University of Florida.

Mr. Nelson is a former Murray resident, having lived there in his boyhood days.

The parents survive as well as two brothers, Ben and David. Burial was to be in Nehawka Cemetery.

Call Your News And Social Items to 2141



RODEO BELLES — Shown from left are Barbara Reighter, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Kenneth Reighter, Omaha, Friday night's Queen; Center, Kathryn Stapp, daughter of Mrs. Kathryn Stapp, Thursday night's Queen, and at right, Mary Joan Sprick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Sprick of Louisville, Saturday night's Queen.



Sharlene Kahler