

Cass Countyans of the Week

1857 Letter Tells of Life on Plains at Waterville, N. T.

BY RUTH MILLER
Nehawka
Special Correspondent

I made a real "find" when I stopped at the Marion Tucker home in Nehawka last week. Marion was born in Cass County and is a longtime Nehawka resident. His family came to this county in 1883 from LaFayette, Ind., and have since been active Cass Countyans.

Marion's grandfather, William Tucker, was long a staunch supporter of the Otterbein Church and later of the Nehawka EUB Church, serving on the Board of Trustees at one time.

Mr. Tucker's mother was a Norris, whose family came to Nebraska in 1871. Marion was born near Murray and started school in the old Amick School, but in 1905 the family moved to Nehawka where Marion's father was engineer at the old Nehawka Mill.

Marion graduated from Weeping Water Academy and then went on to graduate from Doane in 1915. After serving in the Marines he was married to

Isidore Sheldon at Nehawka. Isidore's family were some of Nehawka's earliest pioneers and one of the most respected families. They were also among the earliest business people. The grandfather, Banning, built the town's first elevator and the Sheldon's built one of the earliest stores, starting building in the winter of 1887 and the first set of books was opened in April, 1888.

After the Post Office was moved to town from Levi Pollard's, a desk in the store served as the Post Office. When Parcel Post came in, the mail threatened to get too large for the store and so Frank Moore built the present Post Office building.

Marion Tucker started in Sheldon's Store in 1922 and he and Isidore managed it until 1959 but both found time to give willingly to many other activities.

Marion is a past County Treasurer and Republican County Chairman, while Isidore was active in the WSCS and many other organizations.

But to tell about my find... The Tucker house is filled with fascinating old things, the desk that served as Post Office, an old calendar clock still running, the tobacco cutter which sliced many plugs in the store, but the biggest find of all was an old letter written by Julia Pollard Sheldon to Isidore E. Pollard (Isidore Tucker's great aunt) in Vermont and dated Waterville, Nebraska Territory, May 6, 1857.

The letter tells many things about the stark simplicity and hardship of early plains life but behind the lines is the spirit that brought this woman to the West. These people were not afraid, nor dissatisfied, but ready to face everything this new life had in store for them. The letter follows:

Letter written to Miss Isidore E. Pollard, Tyson Furnace, Windsor Co., Vermont, from Julia Pollard Sheldon.

Waterville, N.T.
May 6, 1857

Dear Isidore
It appears to me you are very silent out there, but you all know I never could keep quiet long at a time and for that reason I venture to intrude upon your quiet now.

This is a lovely morning, everything is looking beautifully in consequence of some fine showers we had yesterday. I think perhaps you are wading round in the mud there yet while I don't have any such to trouble me at all. I escaped that entirely this year for when we arrived here it was as dry as need be.

It is a nice place here to ride, the roads are so smooth and free from stones.

I have been down to the city once since I came here, to trade. I went with Isaac, Lawson being unwell. By the way he has had a serious time with the Ague, had it every day for a while but has got over it now and is quite well. Well, now I'll tell you what I bought and how my house is furnished but don't you tell everybody you see.

Lawson and myself stayed with Isaac about two weeks and then the men came on to work on the mill and their house being small and they could not well accommodate so they thought if the best thing for us to move over here and Isaac would stay there and keep house the same. Moses is going to move over here too in a few days.

But to go on with my story: My house is an elegant one. It is about 12 by 12, is made of

logs, is not more than 2 stories high, I should judge, for when Lawson comes in he has to stoop a lot.

I can just stand in the door up straight. The door is made of planed boards straight up and down, a knob on it as smart as you please.

The windows contain 12 lights of glass the same size of those in your kitchen. The window is put in laying down, I call it.

In the corner near the window is a cupboard (made of good planed boards) which contains my crockery consisting of 6 tea

(Continued on Page Four)

Funeral Here Today for Harold Alkire

Funeral services were today at 2 p.m. at Sattler Funeral Home for Harold J. Alkire, Denver, Colo., former Plattsmouth resident. Mr. Alkire died July 14 in Denver from a heart attack.

He was born Dec. 27, 1909, at Edgar, Neb., son of Jess and Maude Overturf Alkire. He was married in 1929 to Lillian Harvey at Norton, Kan. She survives.

Preceding Mr. Alkire in death were the couple's two children, son James and daughter Barbara.

Other survivors are the mother, Mrs. Maude Alkire, Lexington; brothers Loris Alkire, Denver, Colo., Burl Alkire of Springfield; seven sisters, Margaret Alkire, Kearney; Mrs. David Shelley, Gothenburg; Mrs. Berthol Ames, North Platte; Mrs. Alexander Scerese, Albuquerque, N. M.; Mrs. Homer Davis, Overton; Mrs. John Chandler and Mrs. Gladys West of Lexington.

Mr. and Mrs. Alkire made Denver their home the past four years, prior to that time they lived in Plattsmouth from 1944 to 1958, moving to California in 1958. He was a clothing salesman.

He was a member of the First Methodist Church, Plattsmouth; Eagles Lodge; was a past president of Chamber of Commerce and was a sponsor of Keentime.

The Rev. Willard Scott, pastor of the First Methodist Church, was in charge of services. Mrs. Fred Fischer was organist.

Burial was in Oak Hill Cemetery, Plattsmouth.

Palbearers were Dr. A. E. Johnson, John Johnson, Warren Rhylander, Earl Shanholtz, Chris Bulin and Frank Rebal.



Post 399 Explorers and Advisors Posing Sunday Before Leaving for Camp

Report Given on Collection of Delinquent Taxes

The County Board of Commissioners Monday accepted a report from Sheriff Solomon on delinquent tax warrants turned over to him by the County Treasurer on Oct. 1, 1961, for collection.

The report indicated that a 98 per cent collection was made on warrants that were within the Sheriff's jurisdiction to collect and chargeable to him for collection by law. This was a 2 per cent collection increase over last year, according to the Sheriff.

Warrants satisfied totaled \$32,207.81. Total uncollectable at present due to poverty is \$675.96.

The Sheriff's report indicated warrants totaling \$7,178.98 were due from rock quarries either out of business or who have declared bankruptcy.

A total of \$2,896.20 was due from former residents who either live outside Cass County or in another state.

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

Explorers Off for High Adventure!

Explorers of Plattsmouth Post 399 are off on a trip which might be the delight of any red-blooded American youth.

The Scouts, 15 of them and their advisors, left Sunday for 10 days of camping, fishing, hiking and mountain climbing in Estes Park, Colorado, and Glacier Basin Campground.

They met at Hinky Dinky parking lot, loaded their gear onto a trailer and into trunks of cars.

There was a carefree air—the boys were off for high adventure!

On the trip are Steve Sullivan, Alan Hansen, Charlie Bowman, Terry Wiles, Jim McLeod, Jerry Gorton, Ken Rhylander, Gary French, Tom Dittmore, Ron Richards, Carl Schreiner, Dave Nielsen, Bill Spradlin, Bill Thompson, Tom Hansen and Advisors Russell Nielsen, Al Hansen and John Rishel, who was to join the Post at the camp site.

Hearing Set July 25 on '62-63 Budget for County Government

The Cass County Board of Commissioners Monday approved the 1962-63 County Budget Estimate as prepared by County Clerk Chas. Land and set July 25 at 10 a.m. as the time for a public hearing on the proposal.

The estimate includes \$354,145 to be raised by taxation, compared with \$344,400 in last year's estimate.

If this were to be the finally adopted amount, the mill levy would be 8.63, compared with

7.74 in last year's estimate. However, the Board will likely trim some funds after the hearing and the levy is almost sure to be less than shown in the estimate.

By law, the Board can lower the budget at the hearing but cannot raise it.

The levy comparison:

| | Proposed Levy | for | for |
|-------------------------------|---------------|---------|---------|
| | 1962-63 | 1961-62 | 1961-62 |
| General fund | 3.60 | 3.14 | |
| Bridge | 1.10 | .90 | |
| Roads | 1.70 | 1.70 | |
| Federal | | | |
| Matching roads | 2.00 | 2.00 | |
| Land said the budget estimate | | | |

was run on an estimated county evaluation of \$41,500,000. Last year's actual evaluation was \$42,034,932.

The current evaluation figure is incomplete because the County Assessor is awaiting figures from the State on railroads and franchises.

The budget estimate appears as a legal notice on Page 7, Section B of today's Journal.

Following is a comparison of amounts budgeted for various offices and funds in 1961-62, amounts actually expended during the fiscal year and the budget estimate by funds for the ensuing fiscal year:

| | Budgeted 1961-62 | Expended 1961-62 | Estimated 1962-63 |
|------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Co. Clerk | \$13,695 | \$12,449 | \$13,695 |
| Co. Board | 8,500 | 7,980 | 9,600 |
| Co. Treasurer | 23,100 | 22,354 | 27,200 |
| Co. Register Deeds | 8,075 | 8,085 | 9,675 |
| Co. Clerk District Ct. | 8,400 | 8,396 | 9,875 |
| Co. Judge | 15,620 | 15,109 | 15,232 |
| Co. Sheriff | 19,950 | 19,137 | 19,950 |
| Co. Supt. of Schools | 9,375 | 9,047 | 9,925 |
| Co. Assessor | 7,182 | 6,155 | 7,992 |
| Co. Surveyor | 24,700 | 24,168 | 27,200 |
| Co. Highway Supt. | 11,848 | 9,339 | 11,848 |
| Co. Vets Serv. Officer | 11,620 | 10,748 | 11,070 |
| Co. Jail | 1,575 | 1,564 | 1,575 |
| Co. Agri. Agent | 10,890 | 9,795 | 10,890 |
| Bldgs. & Grounds | 7,280 | 7,110 | 7,471 |
| Elections | 24,270 | 8,967 | 24,270 |
| Bridge Fund | 5,505 | 6,180 | 6,680 |
| Co. Road | 106,000 | 95,276 | 110,300 |
| Federal Matching | 234,900 | 176,835 | 234,000 |
| Co. Relief | 124,000 | 64,351 | 140,000 |
| | 18,400 | 10,242 | 18,400 |

(The Elections Fund expended more than it was budgeted because of a statutory increase in wages for election judges and clerks, addition of two precincts in Plattsmouth and necessary purchase of election equipment, Land said.)

Gene Fees Purchases B&H Shoes

Gene Fees, for the past four and a half years manager of the B & H Shoe Store in Plattsmouth, announced Wednesday that he had purchased the business.

He will continue in business in the same location. The store will be known as Gene's Bootery.

Details of the new owner business will be announced in the near future, Fees said.

Commissioners Discuss Roads 'Extensively'

Roads were discussed extensively by the Cass County Board of Commissioners Monday and Tuesday at its regular meeting at the Courthouse.

Besides talking about roads in connection with the 1962-63 budget estimate which the Board approved, the Commissioners:

Continued to press for earlier completion of the continuing road re-surfacing and maintenance program.

Discussed use of used plate steel as decking for bridges in place of wooden planking. Use of this kind of steel was suggested by the operator of a metal conditioning firm here.

Noted that bids for rock for 5.4 miles of the Mynard Road Federal Matching project were to be let today at the State Dept. of Roads office in Lincoln. Work is to begin Aug. 13 or later and be completed by Oct. 27. Commissioner Harold Gregg of District One said the east mile of the project has been held up because of location of a natural gas pipeline.

Commission Chairman Melvin Todd of District 2 said one of his "aims" has been realized, "to get every farm in District 2 on a rock road."

At an evening meeting with officers of the Cass County Medical Association, the Commissioners and doctors discussed a new medical plan for the county, in dealing with welfare patients. Todd said the Board is in touch with the State Welfare Office about possibilities

Reorganization Meeting Set Aug. 2

July 19, 1962

Does County Want Red Cross Program?

July 19, 1962

To The Journal:
The Cass County Red Cross Chapter will hold a reorganizational meeting at the Plattsmouth High School Auditorium, Thursday, Aug. 2, at 8 p.m. All persons interested in keeping a Red Cross Chapter active in Cass County are asked to be in attendance.

The Annual Meeting of the County Chapter was held in Weeping Water June 30, with only 16 persons present. It was agreed by those present that a reorganizational program was needed. Therefore, the election of officers was postponed until a meeting is held to decide whether to organize or DROP the County Program.

The services of the Red Cross include: Disaster Relief, Home Service, First Aid, Water Safety,

Blood Program and Junior Red Cross.

This year 86 servicemen from Cass County and their families received aid from the Home Service Dept. This includes assistance in obtaining leaves—notification of illness and deaths, etc., granting loans, and assistance with family troubles.

This year 38 persons received certificates from Red Cross First Aid Classes.

This year more than 120 children from Cass County attended Water Safety classes outside the county but at the expense of the Cass County Chapter.

This year Cass County citizens used 632 pints of Red Cross Blood, yet only 166 pints were donated from the county at the Bloodmobile visit. This blood used by Cass County patients is free—at no charge to the patient, but it does cost the County Chapter \$1,302 to provide this free blood. The \$1,302 provided by the chapter pays for processing.

handling and distribution of the blood.

All these services do require funds—and the Red Cross Fund Drive is the only means of support to the Chapter. This year's budget-goal is \$4,733 but to date less than \$1,000 has been collected.

Cass Countyans are using the Red Cross services but are not supporting the chapter physically, personally or financially. For this reason the reorganizational meeting is called.

Representatives from the Omaha Blood Center, Offutt Field Director's Office, and our own Field Representative, Ben Polk, will be present to answer any questions. All doctors in the County will be invited and urged to attend.

A merger with one or more neighboring counties has been suggested, but this also can only be decided after — reorganization.

Mrs. Wayne Schneider
Cass County R. C. Secretary

Golf Meet, Barbecue Here Sunday at Country Club

Plattsmouth Country Club Sunday plays host to its first annual Eastern Nebraska Sand Greens Golf Open and in conjunction with the meet will have a "choice beef barbecue" open to the public.

Golfing is all day, beginning at 6 a.m. and after. The barbecue is scheduled to begin at 5 p.m. Advance tickets are available from club members. Sam Arn is chef for the barbecue. The golf open is expected to

attract a good turnout of local players as well as many from the surrounding area.

The meet will be flighted so that golfers of like ability will be competing. Prizes for first, second and third places will be equal for each flight.

Competition will be 27 holes of medal play with one random round on the nine-hole course to determine flight placement. The entry fee is \$3.

Look in the
CLASSIFIED
First!



AT RECEPTION FOR GENERAL—Cass County governmental leaders were among guests at a reception last week at Offutt Air Force Base for Maj. Gen. William W. Dick, commanding general of the Army Air Defense Command. Gen. Dick visited 6th Missile Battalion installations of which the Louisville Missile Base is one. Shown

above from left are: Capt. Juan Lins-Morstadt, Plattsmouth, commanding officer of B Battery, 6th Missile Battalion, Louisville; Joseph T. Hon, Louisville Town Board member; E. E. Harbut, Chairman of the Louisville Town Board, and Roy Moore, Plattsmouth Mayor.



Marion and Isidore Sheldon Tucker of Nehawka