

Obituary

John Bertram Black

John Bertram Black died at the Ingewood Convalescent, Ingewood, Calif., Nov. 12, at the age of 76 years. He was born Dec. 20, 1886 in Plattsmouth, the son of Robert and Sarah (Ferguson) Black, and was a grandson of the late Dr. John Bertram Black, one of Plattsmouth's early physicians and bankers. Dr. Black built the building known as the Union Block in the early 1880's, and John lived there for the past 12 years.

John served as agent for the Southern Pacific and Pacific Electric Railroads for over 44 years in Santa Ana and Orange Calif. At retirement 12 years ago, he returned to the town of his birth, and has since been a resident of Plattsmouth.

He left here June 7 to visit his children and to consult with his family doctor, at which time his illness was discovered. He was a man of sterling character, and made many friends in his old home town.

He was a member of the Episcopal Church, and a lifetime member of Modern Woodmen Of America.

Surviving are his wife Margaret of this city, 5 sons, Charles of Fullerton, Calif., Ernest of Los Angeles, Robert of Santa Ana, Gilbert of Orange, Walter of Santa Ana, and a daughter, Marie, (Mrs. Harold Stafford) of Orange. One son, John, preceded him in death, being killed in World War II, 14 grandchildren, and 9 great grandchildren.

Also surviving are three stepchildren, Robert McClanahan of this city, Mrs. Virginia Kling of Chappaqua, N. Y., and George McClanahan of New York City. One stepson, Alan McClanahan of Plattsmouth preceded him in death.

Interment was in Orange, Calif., Nov. 14. Pallbearers were his five sons and son-in-law, as noted above.

CREDIT CARD SPREE

St. Louis — FBI agents have finally caught up with Roland Bush, 20, who was enjoying an extended vacation.

Bush had only 14 cents in his pocket but told FBI agents he had written \$15,000 worth of bad checks across the country in a trip originating from Pittsburgh June 3.

He had established numerous checking accounts by using a credit card he found for identification.

Friend, Nebr., was named for C. E. Friend, homesteader of a portion of the land which the city now occupies.

Quail head for ditches and creek bottoms during bad weather, but after the storm, they move back into more open areas.

—SHOP IN PLATTSMOUTH— AND SAVE



IN AIR FORCE—Gayle Edwin Miller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joy K. Miller of Unadilla, a graduate of Elmwood High School and Nebraska Vocational Technical School of Millard, has enlisted in the United States Air Force and will be in basic training from 5 to 8 weeks at San Antonio, Texas. He has selected the Automotive Mechanic Field as his first choice.

Can Stars Foretell Weather Change?

Do the planet and stars tell us anything about the weather? Can a study of the sky at night give us clues as to tomorrow's weather?

As for the average reader, a study of the stars is of no immediate, direct use in forecasting the weather. There are astronomers who dig up clues on future weather trends through astronomy, but no system is as yet proven.

If the stars are especially bright, it will probably mean that dust is absent from the sky, and rain might be on the way, or has perhaps only recently ended.

The stars are too far away to analyze and the nine planets which we know all circle the sun — as is the earth, which is third nearest the sun. Therefore, the sun affects weather on the planets, but as far as it is known, none of them affect the weather on the other eight.

CRIME DIDN'T PAY

Miami—Having spent half of his 62 years in prison, Fred Haney recently surrendered to police for failing to report for parole in Texas.

He was released from a Texas prison after serving part of a 99-year sentence for robbery in 1931.

Haney told police, "This is the only capital I have left to show for 49 years of stealing." He held two pennies in his hand.

Nebraska's 93-day pheasant season, longest in the nation, will not close until January 29, 1964. It opened Oct. 26.

On Cars.. Retail Sales.. Taxes.. Budgeting

By MELVIN PAUL
Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN — Willard Wells, state purchasing agent, has devised a new method for awarding contracts on automobiles purchased by the state.

Under his system, the lowest bidder will not automatically get the contract. The system is based on a rating formula under which 50 per cent weight is given to the price of a car, three per cent to general appearance, eight per cent to mechanical performance, eight per cent to handling performance, three per cent each to accessibility of instruments and interior dimensions, and 10 per cent to resale value.

Wells said he checked with the attorney general on the validity of the system and believes he is on firm ground. He noted that state law provides for awarding the contract to the "lowest responsible bidder" while keeping in mind the "best interests of the state."

The purchasing agent said he has already put the new plan into effect in awarding contracts to purchase patrol cars, standard autos and intermediate vehicles.

On the basis of initial cost alone, the lowest bid on patrol cars was \$1,658, but under Wells' system the contract is expected to be awarded on a slightly higher offer of \$1,906.

Wells said the low bid on standard cars, used by state agencies other than the patrol, was \$1,719 but that the contract would probably go to a firm submitting a \$1,733 per car offer.

Retail Sales Slip

Nebraska retail sales during September slipped below the same month a year earlier and also declined from August levels of this year, according to University of Nebraska business researchers.

They said September retail sales, adjusted for seasonal differences, were down 3.3 per cent from 1962 and 5.1 per cent from August of this year.

Hard goods showed the least decline. In the four largest cities Omaha, Lincoln, Grand Island and Hastings — hard goods sales were up over September of 1962. The only cities showing an appreciable over-all gain from the same month a year ago were Fairbury, Columbus and Nebraska City.

Tax Study Coming

Sen. Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff has pledged another "extensive" study of the state's property tax laws — similar to the one he carried out four years ago.

He said the aim of his probe will be "reform." He added that he will make an effort to cover as many of the state's 93 counties as possible.

The Scottsbluff lawmaker's comments came after he was named by Sen. Jules Burbach of Crofton to head a subcommittee to delve into the matter of property tax assessments in the interim between the 1963 and 1965 legislative sessions.

Burbach, chairman of the legislative council's tax study committee, named Sen. Kenneth L. Bowen of Red Cloud to direct another subcommittee which will devote its time to gathering data on intangible property taxation. Burbach will be in charge of still another subcommittee which will study livestock taxation.

Carpenter, Bowen and Burbach were principal sponsors of resolutions during the 1963

legislative session seeking studies of the subjects. The Unicameral, however, decided to lump all the studies and have just one committee handle them.

Program Budgeting

The accounting firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Co. has informed the legislature budget committee preliminary plans have been completed for program budgeting of state departments.

The purpose of the program is to arrive at account methods to determine how much is spent for each function of government.

Tentatively approved by the budget group were nine categories of programming activities—general government, education and research, highways, public welfare, public health, public safety, conservation of agricultural natural resources, regulatory services, and corrections.

The legislature this year approved the accounting study. It will result in implementation of a new accounting system for the state complemented by data processing techniques.

Hiring Ex-Convicts

Maurice Sigler, head of the Nebraska penal complex, says the reluctance of employers to hire ex-convicts isn't as pronounced as it formerly was.

He said during the past 10 years a favorable attitude has developed, especially among Nebraska employers, in connection with the hiring of parolees or inmates who have served out their time.

Sigler said this was due to the fact that educated employers have accepted a responsibility of aiding the state in rehabilitation of men who have spent time in penal institutions.

He said more and more em-

ployers are beginning to realize that inmates are persons who have to live "and to live they must have work."

The biggest problem, the warden said, still is the employer who rejects a parolee or former inmate on the basis of his prison record alone. He said, "We never unequivocally recommend anyone for employment. The employer has to accept the responsibility. We tell the employer that an inmate is suitable for parole or has a chance of making good, having served his sentence."

At the present time, Sigler continued, no inmate in the state penal complex is being denied parole because he cannot find outside employment. Having a job waiting is a mandatory requirement before any prisoner can be paroled.

May Run For Congress

State Sen. George Gerdes of Alliance has confirmed he is being urged by a group of businessmen and wheat growers to file for Congress on the Republican ticket. But he said he won't make a decision until February.

Gerdes, 65, is a three-term state senator and is a former president of the Nebraska Wheat Growers Association. His opponent in the primary would be Rep. Dave Martin of Kearney, who is expected to seek a third consecutive term from the third district.

LINCOLN — The work of the special session of the legislature has been completed.

The lawmakers hammered into acceptable form a number of finance bills aimed at getting the state out of a mess created in connection with credit buying when the state supreme court ruled last summer that the 1959 installment sales act was unconstitutional.

The legislators freely acknowledged that some of the legislation they have just put on the books may again be held invalid by the court. But they hoped that the laws, which would have retroactive effect, would be upheld. One of them would validate contracts written before the 1959 law was held unconstitutional and would also make valid contracts written under a new law until the court ruled it unconstitutional.

Anticipating that the court might turn thumbs down on the remedial legislation enacted, the lawmakers passed LB9. It calls for submitting to the voters a constitutional amendment which would authorize the legislature to define and classify loans and installment sales. The legislature would also be empowered to establish maximum rates of interest within classes.

The key bill of the session was LB11. It keeps the usury ceiling at nine per cent interest, cuts the maximum amount of a small loan from \$3,000 to \$1,500 and permits installment selling at a 12 per cent rate of interest. Under the bill, the first \$300 of a small loan could carry a 30 per cent interest charge, and the next \$200 a 24 per cent rate.

The general usury limit of nine per cent on conventional loans is the same maximum under which the state has operated since 1941. The penalty for violation of the ceiling will remain unchanged at forfeiture of interest. The bill permits any lender or merchant to operate the 12 per cent rate on installment loans. The debt must be repaid within 84 months in approximately equal or declining installments of one month or less, except for borrowers whose sources of income are irregular. Real estate is barred as security at the 12 per cent rate.

Violators face criminal penalties of fines of \$100 to \$1,000 and/or imprisonment for up to six months, plus forfeiture of double the amount of interest. Borrowers could also recover attorney fees.

RELIEF CAME TOO LATE

Pueblo, Colo.—David B. Todd broke his hip in 1934 when he stepped into a manhole. Since that time the injury has grown steadily worse.

He received his first money from the Social Security Administration recently on the day he was taken to the hospital, where he died the next day.

DISSATISFIED THIEF

San Francisco — A thief broke into an apartment and took \$29 dollars worth of records, coins, and a table radio. Dissatisfied with his haul, the burglar left a note saying that this was the most miserable haul he'd ever made. Complained of no cigarettes and said anything he left was not worth stealing.

Australian maps dramatically illustrate the emptiness of the continent's interior. Many place names, such as Poonda, Ethel Creek, Waigun, or Balfour Downs, indicate not towns or villages but sheep and cattle stations and even individual homesteads.

Creases in Cottons Can Be Removed

LINCOLN — Most cotton fabrics are folded when wound on the bolt at the factory. Sometimes this center fold is difficult or almost impossible to get out of resin treated cotton fabrics, according to Anna Marie Kreifels, Extension clothing and textiles specialist at the University of Nebraska.

"Sometimes the creases can be removed by carefully applying white vinegar and a warm iron. Before using this method on a garment, test a scrap of the fabric to be sure that it is colorfast to white vinegar. If the fabric is colorfast, you can use the following method to remove creases," the University specialist says.

First, iron the crease with a moderately hot iron. Then, while the fabric is still hot, apply a small amount of white vinegar along the crease. Allow the fabric to absorb the vinegar for a minute or two. Next, press until the fabric is dry. Sponge the area with warm water to remove the vinegar. Press the area again until the fabric is dry.

Miss Kreifels cautions that if too much vinegar is used, all the resin finish might be removed from the area to which vinegar is applied. Using a medicine dropper to apply the vinegar will allow you to put only a thin stream of vinegar directly on the crease or fold.

"Use the vinegar method only if pressing and steaming doesn't remove the crease. Since water is used to sponge the vinegar from the fabric, this method should not be used on fabrics which water spot. It is most useful on resin-treated cottons," the specialist concluded.



WED. NOV. 15—Mrs. Danny E. Stohlmann, before her marriage Nov. 15, was Shirley Ann Steinhoff. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur F. Steinhoff of Avoca. Mr. Stohlmann is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ellsworth Stohlmann of Louisville. The wedding was at First Lutheran Church, Avoca, the Rev. Glenn Schultz officiating. After a wedding trip to the Southwest states, the couple is at home on a farm near Louisville.

French 'First in Nebraska' by 2 Centuries

By State of Nebraska Historical Society

The movement of French people into the Nebraska country began nearly two centuries before the territory was opened for settlement. French explorers like Father Jacques Marquette, Louis Joliet, Sier de La Salle, Bourgmont and the Mallet Brothers penetrated much of the Trans-Missouri country. The fur traders who followed them were predominantly French. Most of the employees at the fur trade posts and on the boats were of French extraction, many of mixed blood.

The traders themselves, however, were usually of pure French lineage, and quite often came from distinguished families, as attested by such names as Chouteau, Robidoux, Cabanne, Fontenelle, Sarpy, Picotte and others.

When Nebraska Territory was opened to settlement there were already small colonies of French people at Rulo, Bellevue and along the Missouri and Niobrara Rivers. They were closely associated with the Indian tribes and commonly had Indian wives. Others were of mixed blood living on the Half-Breed Tract. St. Deroin, an important settlement for a time, was located on land in Nemaha and Richardson Counties set aside for Indian half-bloods and peopled by them.

The genuine French emigrants established Julian, one of the most important of their settlements in Nemaha County.

The rich land in the vicinity of the village attracted thrifty farm folk from France until about forty families had made settlement there. They were a high class of people and soon be-

came an integral part of the community. The movement into Nebraska was not sectarian; Catholics and Protestants were in nearly equal numbers among the colonists.

In 1938 the French people of Nemaha County held a picnic and celebration calling for the attendance of all those who had remained in the original settlement, as well as those who had gone elsewhere in later years. At the meeting a list was made of the French settlers connected with the original group. The list, although incomplete, showed about ninety persons, including children. Plans were made to compile a more complete list later, but as far as is known this was not done.

There was a French settlement in Franklin County on the Little Blue near Campbell. Many of these were French Canadians. In the life of the community today these French people, through their descendants, play a considerable part.

Small groups and individuals of French ancestry are found in many places in Nebraska. A study of this minor ethnic group would be an interesting, although difficult project. Two other groups of people, the Swiss and the Greeks, also offer scope for a study.

EIGHT HUSBANDS

Beirut, Lebanon — The mountain honeymoon of Gazaleh Omran, 19, was interrupted by police who charged her with eight marriages but no divorces.

Gazaleh was accused of giving herself a new name for each of her eight husbands.

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Blue Flame Gas Association Meets Dec. 2

Members of Nebraska's gas industry will gather in Grand Island Monday, Dec. 2, for the annual convention of the Blue Flame Gas Association of Nebraska. The one-day meeting at the Yancey Hotel, which also will celebrate the association's tenth anniversary, will be attended by representatives of gas utilities, dealers and distributors.

Lead-off speaker for the session will be G. R. Nelson, Manager, Heating and Air Conditioning Department, Northern Illinois Gas Co., Bellwood, Ill. He will be followed by George E. Schler, Omaha Group Merchandise Manager for Sears, and LeRoy Klein, Vice President of Sales for the Calorie Corporation, Wynote, Pa.

Featured at the afternoon sessions will be G. E. Ellefson, Jr., P. E., Consulting Electrical Engineer, Little Rock, Ark.; A. D. Schmidt, Vice President, Operations, Northwestern Public Service Co., Huron, S. D.; and Frank Latenser, President, John Latenser & Sons, Architects, Omaha.

Myron Floren, featured accordionist with the Lawrence Welk Orchestra, will entertain the group following the convention banquet. Officers and directors for 1964 will be presented.

1 of 3 Sessions Special

By BERNIE CAMP
Nebraska Farm Bureau

One out of every three sessions of the Nebraska Legislature has been a special session. There have been 24 special sessions. This current session runs the total to 25 special sessions. Special sessions became a pattern early in the state's history. Six of the first ten sessions were special.

The second session was the first special session. It was called to consider the question of giving the vote to Negroes. This was before Nebraska was officially a state. The Fourteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was in process of ratification; and all new states were required to make Negro suffrage a part of their constitutions. The territorial legislature wound up its session only two days before this special session convened on Feb. 20, 1867. It was a two-day session. Nebraska was then admitted to the Union on March 1, 1867.

The third session was actually the first session after Nebraska became a state. It was also a special session and was called to meet May 16, 1867, taking up general legislation necessary to organizing a new state. It lasted 34 days.

The fourth session was another special session, called on Oct. 27, 1868, to provide for election of presidential electors for that year, a matter which had otherwise been overlooked in setting up the state.

The legislators had a regular session in 1869, but had to have a special again in Feb., 1870, to ratify the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, requiring equal rights for white and colored voters. This session also had to provide for erection of the state penitentiary and take up other state business. That sixth session ended on March 4; and the seventh, another special, was called the same day to pass a state herd law, amend an act governing the keeping of identical funds in the state treasury, and several other bills. It wound up its business fast, that same day, March 4, 1870.

The Legislature then got in two regular sessions, but the first (the eighth) was stormy, being adjourned from one year to the next and becoming involved in treason proceedings, first against the state auditor and then against the governor.

After the adjournment of the ninth regular session on March 4, 1873, the tenth session was called for March 27 and lasted three days. It was called to amend county boundaries, and to consider assessments in new counties and the incorporation of cities.

It appears failure to complete actions and provide necessary legislation is not confined to modern legislators. Maybe by comparison the modern legislature does a reasonably good job.