

Refund of \$50,000 will be given to Levi jeans buyers

By Steve Miller

Approximately \$50,000 will be distributed to Nebraskans who bought Levi's jeans between April 1974 and December 1975, who file a claim form with the Nebraska Department of Justice.

Attorney General Paul Douglas announced earlier that he had received \$55,000 from the Levi Strauss and Co. in settlement of an antitrust action.

Douglas said he also distributed some 2,000 claim forms to all 93 Nebraska County Attorney's offices. He said the forms must be completed and returned to his office no later than Dec. 26.

Douglas estimated that claimants will receive from \$1 to \$4 for each pair of jeans purchased during the time period. An actual amount will be determined when all claims are received and verified by Douglas.

In filing the claim, people are asked to state the number of jeans purchased, the approximate price paid, the type of jeans purchased, the store or stores where purchases were made and the number of persons in the claimants household.

No specific receipts or documented proof are needed to file a claim. The validity of each claim will be reviewed by Douglas.

A final district court hearing is scheduled for Jan. 12, 1981 to approve the settlement distribution, people who filed claims could be paid in late January of 1981.

According to an assistant attorney general, the suit was brought against Levi Strauss and Co. for controlling retail prices.

Robert Bartle explained that retailers are free to sell products at whatever price they want. Levi Strauss and Co. was forcing retailers to stick to the company's suggested price.

Not only did the company send out suggested prices Bartle said, but they had salesmen check retailer's prices and attached tickets with suggested prices to the jeans.

Bud Johns, vice president of Levi Strauss Co. said his company has reached a settlement with the Nebraska attorney general's office with "no admission of wrong doing."

He said the company doesn't think they broke the law but that it wouldn't be prudent to fight the case because of court costs.

"The alleged practices were all 1975 or before and that's ancient history," he said.

'Grave marker' explained as memorial to worker

Contrary to what some may believe, the graphite memorial embedded in the grass behind Hamilton Hall is not a grave marker.

Instead, according to Assistant Groundskeeper Jay Fohde, it is merely a tribute to a now-retired worker who, one employee said, is still "alive and kicking."

"John Harris worked here on the campus for over 40 years," Fohde said. "He was in fact the campus supervisor, or I guess that would have been his position till he retired (in 1977). He must have seen a lot of changes during those years."

Although information on why the Hamilton site was chosen and who decided on the memorial in the first place is scant, Fohde figures that the business office, in conjunction with the Department of Grounds, was responsible for the decisions.

"There are others," Fohde said, "A plaque on East Campus in honor of Chip Billings (the campus' first landscapist) comes to mind. But no, the Harris memorial is definitely not a grave," he said.

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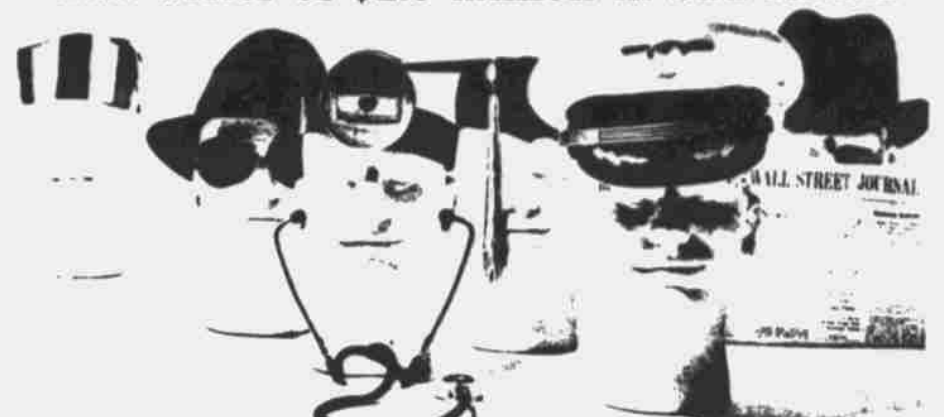
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