

SCRIBES ENJOY PICNIC ON LAST DAY OF MEETING

Nebraska Editors Dor Bathing Suits and Splash in Carter Lake; Guests at Ball Game.

An old-fashioned picnic, with a picnic lunch at the Carter Lake club, was enjoyed to the utmost by Nebraska editors attending the convention here.

Three special cars transported the visitors and their hosts to the lake. The trip was enlivened by the singing of songs, led by Will Maupin, Harry Tostevin and Manager Foxworthy of the Lincoln branch of the Western Newspaper Union. The songs related to the poor luck of Mary Ann McCarthy, who dug for clams in San Francisco bay, and to the distance of Kansas City, the Mecca of thirsty Nebraskans since the state went "bone dry."

Heavyweight Provides Fun.

Arriving at the club house the visitors took advantage of the hospitality of the place and despite the chill of the more venturesome of them donned bathing suits and were soon disporting in the water. The antics of Jack Walsh of the Crete Vidette, who was dubbed the "baby hippopotamus," as he dived, plunged and slid down the chutes, kept the crowd of spectators roaring with laughter.

Others went boating and the noon lunch was enlivened by the music of a jazz band.

After the picnic dinner a short session was held in which trade matters were discussed and preparations were made to go to the ball game at Rourke park.

McVey Makes Address.

Hugh McVey, representative of the Capper publications, emphasized the wonderful growth of rural communities in Nebraska in the last 20 years. "Twenty years ago," he said, "the total agricultural production and live stock on hand in Nebraska was \$100,000,000. Last year's agricultural production and live stock on hand in Nebraska was \$396,000,000."

"In 1850 it took three and a half hours of a farmer's time to produce one bushel of wheat. Today it takes only 10 minutes of his time to produce a bushel of wheat."

"The importance of the small town paper in the development of rural community life cannot be overestimated. A central bureau as a sort of clearing house for rural community development should be established, preferably in Omaha to send out information. If one community gets a word in this direction now its voice is confined to that community. A central bureau would result in putting that information before the other communities of the state."

William Parker Will

Lecture Here Next Friday

An illustrated lecture by William Parker, the noted hiker, artist, swimming instructor and lecturer, from the model school of America, located at Gary, Indiana, Friday, June 28, at Young Men's Christian association school, Fort Omaha.

Mr. Parker has lectured and shown his pictures in all the forts and Young Men's Christian associations on the Pacific coast, on board the battleships and cruisers of the Pacific, in the Brooklyn Navy Young Men's Christian association, and on the Commonwealth pier in Boston, as well as in the Young Men's Christian associations, schools and churches all over this country.

He will use a collection of patriotic pictures.

WEST AMBLER

Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Brady and son, Richard, motored to Atlantic, Ia., to spend the week-end with relatives.

Mrs. Carl Lougee arrived Saturday from St. Louis, Mo., to spend a month with his mother, Mrs. Clyde Stultz, and family. She was formerly Miss Jessie Hoeller of West Ambler. Mr. Lougee will spend the Fourth of July here.

Ralph Gantz, son of Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Gantz, has enlisted. He leaves soon for Fort Morgan, Colo., to enter the quartermaster's department. His older brother Everett, left in May for the Great Lakes training camp for the navy.

Mr. and Mrs. David E. Johnson are parents of a son, born June 19.

The Misses Ingre Christiansen and Marian Dowling left Monday for Arlington, where they will represent Jennings Epworth league at the league institute.

Mrs. M. Davis, son, Harry, and daughter, Miss Anna, left last week for their new home in Neligh, Neb.

Mr. and Mrs. Park Edgar have for their week's guest Mrs. M. Menier of Lincoln.

Mrs. Christ Pullman and daughters, Margaret and Marie have had as their guest this week, Mr. Fritz Bollhoefer of Seneca, Neb.

The Ladies Aid society met at Jennings Methodist Episcopal church to quilt all day Thursday, and West Side Red Cross all day Friday on hospital supplies.

Miss Cecil Potter leaves this week to spend the summer with her aunt on the farm near Ainsworth, Neb.

Mrs. N. J. Grubough of San Leandro, Cal., is the guest this week of her old girlhood chum, Mrs. D. Shandy, on the "Heights." The other guests are the two grandchildren, Miss Gladys Shandy, and brother, James of South Side.

Miss Carrie Meilke, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meilke, was united in marriage Wednesday evening at 6 o'clock to Mr. Wesley Smith of Lincoln at Kountze Memorial church by Rev. O. Baltzly. Reception to the many relatives and friends was held at the bride's parents on Forty-eighth and Pierce streets. The couple left later in the evening for Lincoln.

Mrs. Edward McCreary, whose husband is Lieut. Edward McCreary, stationed at Washington, D. C., arrived from her home in Des Moines, Ia., Saturday to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Johnson. They had dinner in her honor Saturday evening.

PLATINUM STORY IS REAL ROMANCE

Was Once Thrown Away as Useless and Is Now Most Valued of Metals.

Washington, June 22.—New chapters in the romance of platinum, once thrown away as waste but now the most sought-after metal in the world, have been written since the war began. Nations are fighting for it. Adventurers are risking their lives to obtain it. Women spies and diplomatic agents are playing the game of international intrigue to control even an ounce of the "noble metal," as it is known to geologists, so valuable has it become and so necessary to the prosecution of the world war.

The United States government recently took a hand in the game by commandeering all unworked platinum in this country, setting therefor a price of \$105 an ounce, as compared with \$2.85 ten years ago. Even this action, however, has not obtained sufficient of the metal for war purposes. Officials who failed to heed the warnings of platinum experts at the beginning of the war are wondering how they can retrieve their error in not vigorously meeting the national necessity by using every legitimate means to obtain platinum. For the total amount of known platinum throughout the world is only 4,000,000 ounces, of which about one-fourth is in the United States. Much of that is virtually ir reclaimable through use in dental work and personal jewelry, and the output, since the Russian debacle, has fallen to a fraction of what it was in times of peace.

Where it Comes From.

It is the last reason which is giving officials so much concern. Russia has been the source of most of the world's platinum and, in 1913, was credited with a production of 250,000 new ounces, Colombia with 15,000, New South Wales and Tasmania 1,275, United States (California and Oregon being almost the only producing states) only 483, Borneo and Sumatra 200 and Canada 50.

The German invasion of Russia gave the enemy the opportunity of replenishing his stocks of platinum, to the detriment of the allies. Mining in Russia virtually has ceased now, even if the metal could be shipped out of the country, and the world looks to Colombia for platinum. Suggestions for a government monopoly of platinum have been advanced in the Colombian congress. Whatever action is taken, the fortunes of war will mean wealth for the southern republic.

One of the most spectacular feats of the war was the concentration of 20,000 ounces of platinum in Russia by a young American mining engineer, attached to the embassy there, who recognized the importance of obtaining the metal. Each precious brick, wrapped in a leather cover, was brought half-way across the world to the United States and turned over to the government for use in the manufacture of sulphuric acid, a constituent of explosives, for the manufacture of contact points in electrical apparatus and other uses necessary to war. An interesting history of platinum is given by the Latin American Division of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

Comes from Colombia.

Platinum was discovered in what is now Colombia in 1735 by a Spaniard named Don Antonio de Ulloa, who accompanied a French scientific expedition, and his accounts of it was the first information regarding the metal to be brought to the attention of Europeans. Its resistibility to acids and the difficulty of working it were remarked upon, but it was not considered to be nearly as precious as gold, and was used at times by counterfeiters as a basis for coins. It was not until the middle of the nineteenth century that the demand for platinum for use in chemical laboratories and for electrical uses brought its value up to the point where it ranked as one of the most precious metals.

In the placer mining of gold in Colombia it was formerly thrown away as waste, and when the rise in price made it more valuable than gold the ground on which the waste had been thrown became in its turn a field for mining operations, and even the streets of the principal center of gold refining in Colombia, Quito, were torn up and the soil washed for particles of the new treasure. One man tore down his store in order to get at the ground beneath, and found so much platinum that he was enabled to rebuild and make an extra \$4,000 for his trouble.

From Beds of Streams.

Platinum is recovered principally from the beds of streams, the particles having been deposited there through erosion of large rocks, classified geologically as "tertiary conglomerates." The platinum grains are found with gold, the proportion varying from 5 to 50 per cent of platinum. The two metals are recovered by washing the sand and gravel of streams.

The marked rise in the price of platinum in the last two or three years has considerably stimulated mining activities in Colombia especially on the part of the native miners.

Present imports of Colombian platinum by the United States represents almost the total visible exports of that country.

The Bee Household: Group of Council Bluffs Carriers



Origin of Our President Naming Conventions

Party Members in Congress Used to Choose the Candidates

From an Article by Victor Rosewater on "President Making" in March 1912 Review of Reviews

History records that George Washington was chosen president of the United States without an opposing candidate. So was his successor in office, John Adams. In the language of the street, the presidency was, in the case of each of these distinguished patriots, "handed to him on a silver platter." The presidency, as it were, by common consent to the founders of the republic to whom a grateful people looked for continued service and guidance.

In the early days president choosing, according to the primitive way, was as simple compared to modern methods as a kindergarten exercise beside a course in four-dimension mathematics. Since then the changes, although gradual, have been marked and have led up to our present complicated convention nominations that make the electoral college but a mechanical device for registering the popular decision, as between rival party organizations. It was the fluke that almost installed Aaron Burr as president, instead of Thomas Jefferson, that forced the initial modifications of the plan of the president choosing agreed upon by the framers of the constitution.

Origin of National Conventions.

Originally, members of the electoral college were to vote for two persons, the one receiving the highest number of votes to be president and the next highest to be vice president. The danger of a succession that would pull the political lever each time from one side to the other made imperative the change by which the electors should vote for only one person for president, and for another for vice president. Two or three object lessons, too, of irresponsible and haphazard action by the electoral college, throwing the choice of president to the house or of vice president to the senate, because no one had a majority of the votes cast, showed the necessity of centering the efforts of the newly aligned political parties each on a single presidential ticket and of imposing on the members of the electoral college a moral obligation to cast their ballots uniformly for the nominees of the party which had elected them.

The forerunner of our national nominating convention was the caucus or conference of members of congress of the same political faith who got together on their own initiative and without any mandate from their constituents assumed to advise as to who, in their judgment, was entitled to be recognized as the party standard bearer. This caucus must necessarily have proved to be too crude and unsatisfactory to serve long as the president-choosing machinery. In such an assemblage, only those states and districts represented in congress by members of one and the same political party had a voice and all the others were left without representation. It was to remedy these defects

Problem to Keep Capital Working After the War

Rome, June 22.—"To keep war capital occupied after the war is at once the greatest problem and the greatest danger of our tomorrow, when the war is over," says the newspaper Popolo Romano. "At present we have enormous sums in circulation because of money invested in war industries. We should now begin to devise plans to keep this fluid money working, to make sure that Italy will not be subjected to the process known as dumping, a process which destroys home industry."

Convention Leads to Party Organization.

The first of these nominating conventions, made up of delegates commissioned for that purpose, met in 1832 more than 40 years after the first presidential election. To be sure, the credentials of membership were not too critically scrutinized, nor were there full delegations from each state in the union in the early conventions; yet they were really representative, and their nominations were, as a rule, accepted as the official decrees of their respective parties. In time, national committees were appointed to carry on the work of the campaign and to set for the party in arranging the preliminaries of the next convention. A form of party organization, with a fundamental law of party government and rules to be observed by conventions and committees, came into existence, was perfected and modified to meet new conditions, and became the established custom and constitution of the political parties.

The promulgation of presidential tickets by national nominating conventions composed of delegates chosen in convention to represent state and congressional districts in the same number (later in double the number) of senators and representatives in congress has prevailed for more than 75 years. All our presidents since Andrew Jackson have come to us by this way.

A Double Surprise.

"John, dear," said the trusting bride, "what does this mean: 'Mudhorse—8 to 1?'" "That?" said the young husband. "That? Oh, that's the relic of a lost race." "Why, John, you're most wonderful. You never breathed a word to me about your being an archæologist!"—Mistakes.

MUNY CONTROL MAKES FOURTH SAFE AND SANE

Similar Patriotic Programs Will Be Held in Each of Parks Evening of Independence Day.

Omaha will celebrate a safe, sane and patriotic Fourth of July this year. The celebration will be municipally controlled in the parks. There will be no speaking nor parading on the streets. Programs will be held in all the parks, in line with suggestions of the National Council of Defense, approved by President Wilson. Everyone is asked to go to the most convenient park on the Fourth, take a picnic lunch and devote the day to enjoyment and the study of the principles of government founded by the American people.

Each address must be in English and must not exceed 15 minutes, and must have for its theme "Americanism and What it Means to Be an American." The program will begin at 7:30 sharp and will be the same in each park.

Following is the general outline: 1. Meeting called to order by the chairman of the park committee; music by the band. 2. Singing by the audience of "The Star Spangled Banner." 3. Dramatic pledging of allegiance by Boy Scouts and Campfire Girls. 4. Reading of Declaration of Independence, with brief outline of its origin and the conditions under which it was promulgated. 5. "Battle Hymn of the Republic," with brief statement as to its author.

origin and the spirit of the times which led to it. 6. Address by a citizen of foreign birth on "True Americanism." 7. Band music, patriotic air. 8. Lincoln's Gettysburg address, with explanation of its origin and the great national drama which inspired it. 9. Band music, patriotic. 10. Address by citizen of American birth on "What it Means to Be an American." Singing of "America" by the audience.

Added Attraction.

Programs and the Declaration of Independence will be printed and distributed by the local park committee. At one of the parks an extra feature will be added in the form of a patriotic playlet. Each local committee will arrange for a meeting place in case of rain. No fireworks will be permitted in the parks or adjacent streets after 9 a. m. and no automobiles will be permitted within limits to be assigned by the police. The committee in charge of these arrangements is as follows: J. B. Haynes, chairman; Francis D. Brown, Mayor Ed P. Smith, E. Simeral, Robert H. Manley and Raymond Young.

Medal for Dead Ace Is Given to His Family

Paris, June 22.—The foreign service committee of the Aero Club of America has awarded to Lt. Jean Chaput, who was one of the leading aces of the French flying corps, the gold medal of the organization, Lieutenant Chaput, who had brought down 16 planes including one "drachen," or German "sausage" balloon, was killed in action recently. The medal has been forwarded to his family. The foreign service committee, whose headquarters are here, has awarded 32 medals altogether; 14 to Americans, 12 to Frenchmen, two to Italians, one to a Belgian, two to Britishers and one to a Canadian.

And at the Picnic

Butter-Nut Coffee

The One Best Way to Make Butter-Nut Coffee

Measure both water and coffee—1 tablespoon of Butter-Nut Coffee for 1 large cup. Have the ground coffee tied in a cloth bag very loosely so the grounds will expand. Have water boiling vigorously, drop in bag of coffee, pushed down to soak well, then remove from fire, or so the coffee will not boil. Remove bag in three or four minutes.

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to the OMAHA BEE and its Editor, Victor Rosewater, on their twenty-five years of progressive newspaper building.

R. W. GARDNER.