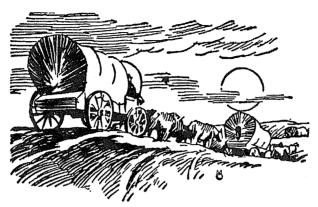
NEBRASKA CITY

1854



1954

OUR ORIGIN

Nebraska City was, of course, named after the State of Nebraska, the founders simply declaring that it would be called Nebraska City. The original settlers and claimants, as squatters, were John Boulware, John B. Boulware and Hiram P. Downs. The ground now embraced by Nebraska City was previously occupied as a Military Post by the government and later abandoned. John Boulware's claim was the present Kearney Addition; Hiram P. Downs took old Nebraska City or 160 acres of land upon which it afterward stood; John B. Boulware's claim was the present South Nebraska City Addition. In April, 1854, Stephen F. Nuckolls and, in May of the same year, Allen A. Bradford crossed the river, making an agreement with Hiram P. Downs whereby they became, with him, joint owners in the claim which he had taken. They immediately employed Charles W. Pierce to survey and stake off a city.

On May 30, 1854, President Franklin Pierce signed a bill creating the Territories of Kansas and Nebraska, establishing organized government and making possible legal white settlement.

July 10, 1854, was the real start of the building of a city, the first stake being driven that day. The original town of Nebraska City, laid out in that year, was founded by Stephen F. Nuckolls; but it was not until March 2, 1855, that Nebraska City was incorporated as a city.

Kearney City (sometimes spelled Kearny) was incorporated March 16, 1855, and South Nebraska City was incorporated January 26, 1856.

On December 31, 1857, the three cities, Nebraska City, Kearney City and South Nebraska City, were consolidated and incorporated as Nebraska City. Prairie City, Greggsport, Hall & Co., Belmont, Elmwood, Anderson's and Edgewood Additions were later annexed and became parts of Nebraska City.

On October 3, 1885, the Governor of the State of Nebraska declared the City of Nebraska City to be a City of the Second Class, it having a population of more than five thousand inhabitants. On April 17, 1891, Nebraska City, having attained a population of more than ten thousand inhabitants, was declared a City of the First Class.

On January 16, 1912, the Commission Form of government was adopted and at the present time Nebraska City is the only city in the State of Nebraska operating under this form of government.

Published at Nebraska City, Nebraska August, 1954

Compiled by Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce.

MID-CONTINENT PUBLIC LIBRARY



Aerial View of Modern Nebraska City.

Nebraska City, from its beginning 100 years ago, has progressed continuously, possibly not as much as our founders had anticipated, but until we are now a thriving city of many advantages, located in the very center of the greatest farming community in the world, on the main line of the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

U. S. Highways No. 73 and No. 75 are both paved north and south of Nebraska City and intersect Iowa's Highway No. 2 and Nebraska's Highway No. 2 which are paved to both the east and west coasts. Nebraska City, located on the navigable Missouri River, has one of the few developed dock facilities between Omaha and Kansas City. Many industries and commercial orchards are located in Nebraska City.

In the past twenty-five years Nebraska City has progressed greatly. In this period of time it has acquired, at a cost of \$800,000, the Nebraska City bridge, crossing the Missouri River, which in a few months will be made free; and combined Electric, Water and Gas Utilities at a cost of \$1,125,000, making additions and improvements to it costing \$1,338,000; built a municipal swimming pool; paved miles of streets; and installed parking meters for the convenience of shoppers. New churches, schools, business and industrial buildings, homes, etc., have been built, making Nebraska City one of the most beautiful cities in the State of Nebraska, as well as one of the oldest, and a city in which we are proud to live.

WOMEN'S DIVISION CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



First Row—left to right: Dorothy Buess, Marie Duncan, Doris Sackles, Ethel Gaskill, Ruth Ludington, Louise Zeils, President; Myrtle Donahoo, Florence Hawley, Gladys Wenzel, Chairman Centennial Historical Program Committee; Marie Bosworth, Reba Mueller.

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"Our Thanks to You"

This Centennial History was compiled by the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce at the request of the Nebraska City Centennial Corporation. To the best of their ability, a true and accurate history of the oldest incorporated town in Nebraska has been recorded through pictures and stories. Nebraska City, in pioneer days, was a gateway city of travel west. Undoubtedly time has blotted out unique history that should have been recorded at an earlier day.

It would be impossible to present in this limited record, pictures of all the worthy pioneers or details about them, and only such "firsts" as have been available are included. It would take volumes and time to record all of those who have been prominent down through the years. Some valuable material has regretfully been omitted because of limited space.

The Historical Program Committee wishes to thank and express its appreciation to the following: the members of the Women's Division of the Chamber of Commerce who so loyally served on committees; our friends whose sponsorship of the pages made possible this publication; and all those who contributed articles or pictures, especially Mrs. Mamie Gaskill for the use of pictures from the J. E. Gaskill collection, and The Press Printing Company for their many pictures, and to the Pitstick Studio for their help in recopying many of the old photographs.

Acknowledgment should also be given to the following publications from which much historical data has been gleaned: the Nebraska State Historical Society, Otoe County Historical Society, the files of the Nebraska City News-Press, J. H. Sweet's Centennial Comments, Morton's History of Nebraska, A. E. Sheldon—Nebraska Old and New, Andreas' History of Nebraska, Olson's Life of J. Sterling Morton, Minute Records of Nebraska City, Otoe County Directories of 1870-1880-1881, A. E. Sheldon's Nebraska The Land and The People.

Hours have been spent in collecting, writing, and editing the copy that went into this production. None have profited financially from its publication.

With all this in mind, your committee gratefully places in your hands this book in the hope, if you are a former resident, that it may be a lasting record of your return "back home." If you are a resident, it will give you a better perspective of what may have heretofore gone unnoticed in your work-a-day life.

Thank you.

Women's Division Chamber of Commerce, Gladys Wenzel, Chairman Historical Program Committee.

The officers of the Nebraska City Centennial Corporation wish to extend a hearty welcome to all who have come to observe this important occasion.

May we express heartfelt appreciation to every person, group, and organization who has given so generously of their time, effort, and ingenuity that the 100th Anniversary of our beloved City might be so fittingly celebrated.

To name each deserving person is an impossibility, but each will have the satisfaction of realizing that a measure of the success is his. Only through many people working together unselfishly and in harmony could such a glorious celebration be accomplished. Such has been the reason not only for an enjoyable Centennial but also the gracious and abundant living in Nebraska City down through the years.

Sincerely yours,

Nebraska City Centennial Corporation, Clarence Vigen, Chairman.

Nebraska City Centennial, Inc.

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Celebration Ball Committee Paul Knoll, Chairman.

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Special Days Committee Arthur Sackles, Chairman.

Sunday-Freedom of Religion Day Rev. Leo R. Nielsen, Chairman; Ministerial Association.

Monday-Homecoming Day

Monday—Homecoming Day

Mrs. Earl Seyfer, Chairman;
Mrs. Varro Tyler, Mrs. Earl Chappell, Mrs. John Dose, Mrs. Robert
McKissick, Mrs. Carl Overton, Mrs.
C. Peterson, Mrs. Milton Thorp,
Mrs. George Oetgen, Mrs. Emil
Niemann, Mrs. Morris Mendelson,
Mrs. Clair Cushing, Mrs. J. W.
Vogt, Mrs. Alma Adamson, Mrs.
H. F. Winkelman, Mrs. H. H.
Scarborough, Mrs. Kenneth Marunda,

Tuesday—Agricultural Day
Severin Sorenson, Chairman;
Edward Flake, Jr. Co-Chairman;
Barta Poultry, Bane Implement,
Butler Welsh Grain, Conkey Mills,
Farmers Elevator, Gibbs Hatchery,
Hart-Bartlett-Sturtevant Grain Co,
Larson's Store, Lowrey Produce,
McKim & Mishler, Nebraska City
Farm Supply, Peterson Produce,
Schminke Mills, Stites Implement,
Western Grain, Willis Hatchery,
Wilson Grain, Wurtele Implement. Tuesday-Agricultural Day

Wednesday-Governor's Day Raymond Frerichs, Chairman; Jack Windle, Co-Chairman; Parade and Pageant, Rick Budd, Chairman; Jack Windle, Co-Chairman; Dinner, Joseph Gangel, Chairman; Mrs. W. C. Kenner, Mrs. Grove Porter; Hospitality, Mr and Mrs. Arthur Sweet, Mr. and Mrs. Grove Porter, Mr. and Mrs. Varro Tyler.

Thursday-Youth Day Kenneth Sipple, Chairman; Cecil Weddle, Ely Feistner.

Friday—Industrial Day
Jack Mullen, Chairman; Verne
Jones, Harold Fouts, Don Holtz,
Merle Short.

Saturday-Armed Forces Day Adrian Newens, Chairman; Bill Berger, Co-Chairman; Hoyt Sharp, Otto Wellensiek, Master Sgt. V. S. Startvedt.

HOSPITALITY DIVISION Victor Bremer, Chairman.

Homecoming Committee
Mrs Earl Seyfer, Chairman.

Traffic & Safety Clarence Iversen, Chairman.

Mrs. Victor Bremer, Chairman.

Transportation Ed Collins, Chairman.



Pawnee Peace Treaty Painting, by Haskill Coffin, as it appears on the grand stairway of Arbor Lodge Mansion. Old settlers claimed that while the treaty was being negotiated the Pawnees danced with such excitement and rhythm that the ground vibrated and houses were shaken as far away as the river.

HOW!

One hundred years ago the land which is now our state of Nebraska belonged to the Indians: the Omaha, Otoe, Pawnee, Ponca, Sioux, Cheyenne and Arapaho. It is believed the Indians began settling in Nebraska about one thousand years after the birth of Christ.

In March, 1854, the Omaha and Otoes, plains Indians closely related to the Sioux, ceded their country along the Missouri River to the white man. Today there are in Nebraska between three and four thousand Indians, all of them American citizens under a law passed by Congress in 1924.

A treaty was signed north of Nebraska City in 1857 in which the Pawnees gave up claim to all of their country north of the Platte, except a reservation in Nance County on the Loup River. The "Denver Room" at Arbor Lodge is so called because General Denver, who signed the treaty, occupied that room while carrying on negotiations with the Pawnees. The room is now used to display Indian relics.

Now few people living can remember that Indians camped in a dense walnut grove that extended most of the length of North Sixteenth Street; that Omahas treked through this city, fall and spring, to and from Oklahoma; that they left their sick and old at the trailside to die; that a well-known Nebraska Citian belped escort the handsome, fierce, Apache, Geronimo, bound in chains, through this city to Fort Leavenworth.

History tells us that only one hundred years ago it was necessary to organize a Nebraska National Guard solely for defense against Indians.

In the busy today it's hard to believe that the courthouse now stands on ground that once was part of an Indian cemetery; that the cemetery extended from the courthouse grounds to the west and to the north; that the high road through Riverview Park goes through an Indian burial ground. Yet it is so.

The most tangible evidences of the Indians' influence are in geographical names familiar to us,—names taken from the Indian languages. Otoe County, named for the Otoe tribe in southeastern Nebraska, was formerly Pierce County, named after Franklin Pierce, president of the United States from 1853 to 1857. Nebraska is from the Otoe word, Nebrathka, which described the Platte River as flat water.

Table Creek, the original name of our town, was renamed by ambitious ones who would bring settlers here. Wyuka, the name of the cemetery southwest of Nebraska City, is an Otoe word. It means resting-place.

There are still a few native residents of Nebraska City who remember the names of the streets being Indian names. There are still fewer alive today whose childhood memories picture Indians peeking through their windows; Indians walking into houses uninvited, stealing everything they could get their hands on, white babies not excepted; eating of the offal of freshly-butchered carcasses. Old-timers remember the Otoe as filthy dirty and orderiferous but not as seriously dangerous.

Then The White Man Comes

As soon as possible after the acquisition of Louisiana Territory by President Thomas Jefferson from Napoleon of France the president procured the services of Meriwether Lewis and William Clark and commissioned them to explore up the Missouri River to find out what the new Republic had bought. This area comprised practically all the midwestern states with portions of Montana and Colorado thrown in.

It was during this historic and momentous journey upstream with their retinue that Lewis and Clark in 1804 passed what is now the eastern borders of Otoe County and saw the ground which lay between the two creeks, North and South Table. They mentioned their overnight stay nearby at what is now Camp Creek and also, a day later, near the mouth of the Platte.

In their report to Jefferson, which came soon after their return down river in 1806, they found favor with the Table Creek plateau as a military site. On their journey to the mouth of the Columbia they discovered the headwaters of the Missouri, (Jefferson, Gallatin and Madison rivers.)

It was not until 1846, forty years after the formal report, that Fort Kearny (properly spelled) was established and, among other buildings, the famous Block House was erected

On that site in 1854 Nebraska City was founded.

Henry Phifer was a maker of cigars and for many years kept a large, wooden, befeathered, gaily painted Indian near the edge of the sidewalk in front of his place of business.

Nebraska City 1854

This view of Nebraska City in 1854—

"The few pioneers who arrived that year found the old Fort Kearrey blockhouse standing in the middle of what now is Fifth Street, a few feet south of Central Avenue.

Where the foundations of the once-proud Frontier Hotel are now, was the military hospital, consisting of two log cabins with a stockade between them. It was occupied by Major Downs.

One of the very oldest settlers was the veteran surveyor, Charles W. Pierce, who left New York in 1849 and came to Nebraska City in 1854 as a census taker for the government. He said the first store in town was erected by a Mr. Walker near Fifth and Central. Troops had been here as early as 1884, (this surely meant to be 1844), and for them barracks were built in the vicinity. The government hospital finally became Downs hotel.

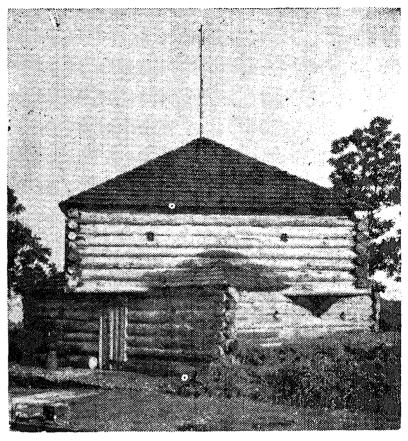
In 1854 few persons lived in Nebraska City and what houses there were, were clustered about the block house, for what protection it afforded. Prior to the summer of 1854 (Pierce came here in May) Nebraska was not open to settlement and those who came were nothing more than "squatters."

Mr. Pierce built a home across the street north from where the Frontier Hotel stood in late years. In 1852 John Boulware had built a house on the east end of Commercial Avenue, later known as Ferry street, and now East Fourth Corso. The first brick building ever erected in Nebraska City was built by S. F. Nuckolls at Sixth and Central. His hope was that the first Nebraska legislature would meet here."

The First Fourth of July

The Fourth of July celebration at Nebraska City in 1854 was described in Proceedings and Collections, Nebraska State Historical Society, Second Series, Volume X, 1907, pages 135-136:

"The 4th of July being near at hand, it was determined to have a grand old barbecue, and every one



THE BLOCKHOUSE

The original of this famous fort was situated a half block from the location of the present blockhouse on lower Central Avenue. It was erected in 1846 and was occupied by a detachment of U. S. Dragoons, who came here to protect prospective settlers from the Indians. The troops found the Indians friendly and soon moved westward. In the upper story of the blockhouse the first newspaper in Nebraska City, the "News," was published.

set to work doing what they could to make it a success. Arbors for eating, speaking and dancing were erected where the Seymour House now stands. Everybody was invited far and near. There were at least one thousand persons present, Atchison County, Missouri, and Fremont County, Iowa, furnishing most of the white people, while our locality furnished many whites and a host of Indians. Dancing and eating commenced about one o'clock of the 4th and wound up by a 'big injun' dance on the evening of the 6th, And be it said to the credit of the early settlers of Otoe County, not a drunken man was seen nor were there any disturbances of any kind during this three days' barbecuing."

The first white child born in Nebraska City after the City was located was a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George H. Benton, born in August 1854. Mrs. Benton's was the first death which occurred a few days after the baby was born.

All minute records containing proceedings of the City Council from the organization meeting held May 7, 1858, to the present time are on file in the office of the City Clerk. All the records up to 1903 were written in long hand.

After the consolidation of Nebraska City, Kearney City, and South Nebraska City, the Council meetings were held in a room over Seigle Greenbaum's store. The rent was \$150.00 per year.

The first grand jury was called in the fall of 1855 with John B. Boulware as foreman. Nearly every man in the county, including members of the jury, were indicted for gambling.

In 1854 Stephen F. Nuckolls was the only Nebraska City resident who owned a wagon. It was this wagon that carried Francis Burt to Bellevue to be the first Governor of Nebraska Territory.



Stephen Friel Nuckolis

Stephen Friel Nuckolls was called the "Father of Nebraska City." He came to the Nebraska territory in 1854 and aided in the founding of the city. (In 1855 he established the Platte Valley State Bank, acting as its first president. In 1859 he served in the Nebraska Territorial Legislature).



Mrs. Lucinda Nuckolls

He also owned the first brick house in the city, at Fifth and Central Avenue, and was also the first man to bring slaves to the "Territory." It is in his memory that our park located at 10th Street and 2nd Avenue has been named Nuckolls Square, for which the dedication was held April 22, 1938.



This early view of Nebraska City, taken from Kearney Hill, dates in the sixties. One of the prominent buildings in the upper center is the Court House; built in 1864-1865. Another prominent building, shown at the upper left, was the Nuckolls house, destroyed by fire.

Settlers' First Christmas

Nebraska City's first Christmas the first ir. which the settlers participated—took place in 1854.

Mrs. C. C. Hail, an early settler, described her first Christmas here in the News about 50 years ago.

"I came over the river with my brother, J. W. Pearman, and we had a dance in the log portion of the home of W. B. Hail, which stood where the Morton House now stands. They had a big fireplace, two beds in one room, but they took one bed cut and placed it in the hall. It was our first Christmas in Nebraska City, We had a fine supper which was prepared by Mrs. Friel Nuckolls, and while they cooked the rest of us danced. There were the four daughters of Mr. Hail, and myself, and six men -George Walters, the two Morse boys, Jim Cornutt, J. W. Fearman and Mr. Hail.

I danced the first set with Mr. Hail, but little thought then that he would be my father-in-law, but such things happen. My brother and I stayed all night and the next morning started to our home on the other side of the river. With my brother in the lead, we crossed the river on the ice. The ice was so thin that it bent with us every time we took a step, but we did not realize the danger then. The river was not very wide then at Boulwar's Hollow.

The fiddler (at the Christmas party) was John Clemins, the first person buried in Wyuka cemetery. The man I have lived with since 1855 was then at Lindin, Mo. Christmas day was a fine one, the weather being about the same as we have been naving this month. We could not get a house on this side of the river until in January and then my father built one room at the corner of Fifth street and First avenue, where Heath Nuckolls lived so long and which was moved a few weeks ago."

S. F. Nuckolls, agent for the town company, made the first quit claim deed for city property, transferring Lot 6, Block C, to Wm. Bennett.

The Platte River Names State

The name "Nebraska" first appears in American History i n the year 1842. It was in this year that Lieutenant John C. Fremont was sent from Washington to explore overland routes to the Pacific. In his reports he referred to the "Nebraska RIVER" from the Otoe name Ne-brath-ka meaning "flat water". Fremont suggested the name would be fitting to give the region and in 1844 Secretary of War, William Wilkins approved the name and people in Washington began to call the region the "Nebraska Country", and so the name became ours.

In the Omaha Indian language the name is Nibthaska; ni, water, and bthaska, flat. This name was given by the Indians to the Platte River because it is a broad shallow body of water. One frequently reads the statement that the name Nebraska is derived from "Ne-brath-ke" or "Ne-prath-ke" from the language of the Omaha and Otoe Indian tribes but these words are only approximations. There is no "r" in the Omaha Indian language.

In the Otoe Indian language the name is "Nibrathka"; ni, water, and brathka, flat. A variant is "Niprathka." The "p" and "b" are only approximate sounds. It is thought that the present pronunciation "Nebraska" came about because the government interpreter could not sound the "th" and used "s" in its place.

From Pierce to Otoe

Our County was first named Pierce County by Acting Governor Thomas B. Cumings after the then President of the United States, Franklin Pierce. To square accounts with the acting governor for his unfair apportionment of members to serve in the legislature the people demanded a change in the name of their county and took for their own the name of a tribe of Indians, and since that time our county has been called Otoe County.

One historical record says "The way the Otoes get their name is hardly fit to be named," but, Rev. Hamilton, a Presbyterian missionary and teacher, explained the matter very nicely by stating that the Otoes derive their name

from a transaction or love scrape between an Otoe Chief's son and an Iowa Chief's daughter, Watota (They call themselves Che-waerae).

By an Act of the Council a n d House of Representatives of the Territory of Nebraska approved March 2, 1855, the boundaries of Otoe County were established and the seat of justice of said County of Otoe was declared to be fixed and permanently located at Nebraska City, in said County of Otoe.

The first formal census of the Territory of Nebraska taken in 1855 gave Otoe County the greatest population of any subdivision of Nebraska, 1188 inhabitants. The population of Otoe County at the present time is 17,056 inhabitants.

Early City Officials

The first officials of the original City of Nebraska City elected in 1855 were: Dr. Henry Bradford, Mayor, who received 36 of the 60 votes cast; M. W. Ridin, Recorder; W. D. Gage, Treasurer; and James W. Stoll, Marshall. Kearney City was under the leadership of Mills S. Reeves, Mayor; Henry C. Norton, Recorder; and Byron Sanford, Marshall. South Nebraska City had for its first officers: John B. Lull, Mayor; Fountain Pearman, Recorder; and Henry Brown, Marshall.

After the consolidation of Nebraska City, Kearney City, and South Nebraska City, and the election of city officials, the Council met on May 7, 1858, and organized, with Mayor A. A. Brookfield presiding. The following Aldermen were present at this first official meeting: Wm. E. Pardee, Francis Bell, Wm. R. Craig, S. Hollister, H. R. Newcomb, John B. Boulware, and L. C. Winn. Other officers were: O. P. Mason, City Attorney; George H. VickRoy, Recorder; J. H. Maxon, Treasurer; Wm. H. Broadhead, Engineer; J. W. Stoll, Marshall; J. D. White, Assessor; Wm. Bennett, Street Commissioner; and S. B. Davies, Wharf Master.

The present city officials are: Victor D. Bremer, Mayor; Dean W. Shuey, Finance Commissioner; Dr. F. E. Ziegenbein, Street Commissioner; Vantine A. James, City Attorney; Dr. M. M. MacVean-Edmonds, City Physician; Clarence Iversen, Chief of Police; Harry Bischof, Fire Chief; and Ethel Gaskill. City Clerk-Treasurer.

First Territorial Fair In United States

The first Territorial Fair was held at Nebraska City, Nebraska. It began on Wednesday, September 21, 1859 and lasted three days. Mr. Furnas, president of the first Board of Agriculture, gave the following account of this important function.

"Last week we attended the first Territorial Agricultural and Mechanical Fair at Nebraska City. It was the first Territorial Fair ever held in the United States, and was most gratifying. times were hard, and many people felt they could not attend. The regular steamboat packets were all out of order. One was sunk and the other was fast on a sandbar. We were in the midst of election excitement. The exhibition of stock, farm products, mechanism, and works of art were credible. The attendance on the last two days was large. All classes were there from the chief executive to the humblest citizen. Entries of blooded horses and awards were: J. Sterling Morton's best stallion over four years old-\$4; best stallion for draught over four years old-\$10; best Suffolk boar one year old -\$5. President Furnas was credited with the three first premiums for Devon cattle.

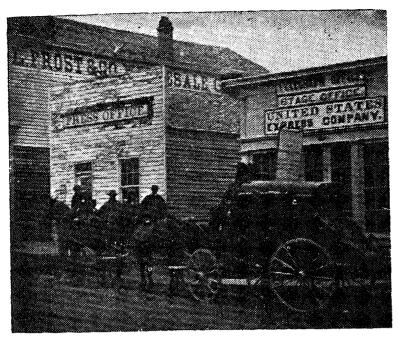
The most notable feature of the Fair was the address of J. Sterling Morton, delivered from the improvised rostrum of a farm wagon, placed in the shade of a native oak tree."

(From Morton's History of Nebraska)

FRED BEHSCHLAG—To Nebraska City from Bavaria in 1855; brewer, miller, member of the first Constitutional Convention; county commissioner for three years.

WM. BISCHOF — Pioneer merchant, to Nebraska City from Germany in 1855. Began life here as a freighter; alderman, secretary of the first Old Settlers Ass'n.; trustee of Nebraska College; prominent as a pioneer Odd Fellow.

WILLIAM E. HILL—Here in November 1856, carpenter and builder; miller; farmer; grain dealer; one time President of the Otoe County National Bank; helped build Nebraska Hospital for the Insanc in Lincoln, donated land to Wyuka Cemetery.



The Press Office looked like this in the early days. This picture was taken in the late 50's or early 60's when Nebraska City was a hub for midwest stage travel.

HISTORY OF NEWS-PRESS IS STORY OF COMMUNITY

A history of a newspaper is a history of the civilization in the locality in which it is situated. In the case of the newspaper of Nebraska City, that history extends back to a period almost preceding the settlement of the locality. It antedates the dates of the generation, and touches upon the lives and actions of those who established the community. This history will deal only with the actual newspapers, and not with the personalities involved in the establishing of the press.

On November 14, 1854, Thomas Morton, grandfather of T. Simpson Morton of Nebraska City, with Daniel Reed "made up" the fourpage paper called The Nebraska Palladium and Platte Valley Advocate at Bellevue, then spelled Belleview, and so fulfilled his wish to become one of the first printers in Nebraska. However, after five months, the publishers were discouraged because the town of Bellevue had lost the capitol of the new state, and Thomas Morton decided to move.

On April 11, 1855, the material and equipment which had produced the Palladium were loaded on a wagon and, after very nearly upsetting while crossing the Platte River, arrived in Nebraska City three days later with Thomas Morton as its owner. Here he combined

what had been the Palladium with the News, and served the paper for thirty-two years as sole owner, part owner, or publisher.

The News was owned by S. F. Nuckolls, H. F. Downs, and A. A. Bradford, the owners of the townsite. The News was an organ of townsite propaganda and its first publication was at about the same time as the first edition of the Palladium at Bellevue.

Thomas Morton put his equipment with that of the News in the Block House, then known as Fort Kearney, which had been the home of the News, and began telling the story of life here and in the world beyond in a paper called the Nebraska City News.

The News was Democratic in politics from the first and its utterances were decisive. During the Kansas War of 1857 its office was threatened with destruction, and its editor, J. Sterling Morton, with lynching, by Lane and his lawless associates.

In the spring of 1859, O. J. Nickerson of New York established a paper at Otoe City, now Minersville. He named the paper Star Of The West, but in four week's time the "Star" had clouded over and the plant was moved to Nebraska City as the property of the News.

Publication of the News was interrupted for a few days in 1860 when fire destroyed almost all the village. Of the \$100,000 paid by insurance companies, the News was the only commercial establishment to re-invest its insurance money of \$3000 and begin anew with hope and courage. It continued to tell its story until its merger with the Press in 1925.

The People's Press was established as a weekly paper in the spring of 1858 by Charles W. Sherfey. The town had appeared to this pioneer editor as a logical trading center of the West, but success did not come quickly and after a few weeks Mr. Sherfey sold the People's Press to O. A. Irish and L. L. Survey, and abandoned journalism. Under these men the Press established a Republican alignment.

In 1861 the office was sold to W. H. Waters and Royal Buck who changed the name to the Press and Herald. In 1863 the publication of a Daily Press began but the experiment proved a failure and a semiweekly was issued in its stead. During the winter of 1864-1865 the office was purchased by D. J. McCann and others. In the next five years from 1865-1870 the Press had no less than seven editors. Journalism must have been a very interesting as well as sustaining enterprise during those years.

In August of 1868 the Nebraska City Daily and Weekly Chronicle was commenced by W. H. H. Waters without a single subscriber or advertisement, but soon it obtained a prominent rank in point of circulation and influence, and proved to be a keen competitor for the News and the Press. It maintained no party alignment and was classed as radical.

From 1870-1872 financial difficulties caused a temporary suspension of the Press but in the spring of 1872 it was resurrected and united with the Nebraska City Daily and Weekly Chronicle, using the name The Press and Chronicle. Early in the summer the Chronicle part of the name was dropped. The publication was continued by W. A. Brown and his successors, Brown Brothers, as the Daily Press until it became the property of the Press Printing Company in 1907.

. Side by side the News and the Press, hoary with age but vigorous as to spirit, provided Nebraska City's population with incidents of the day.

On November 7, 1925, just one week before the 71st birthday of the News, that newspaper and the Daily Press merged under the name of the News-Press, and became the City's only newspaper. What was a morning Press so

continued for a few months and then became a five-day afternoon paper with a Sunday edition as it is now. The Press staff consisted of J. H. Sweet, editor, and F. E. Olmstead, superintendent of the plant. The News staff included E. D. Marnell, business manager, and Charles Hubner, editor.

In 1929 the News-Press moved into its present quarters on South Highth Street. Across the front of the building is a stone slab in which the following has been inscribed:

"Nebraska Daily News Press Established November 14, 1854 Nebraska's Oldest Newspaper."

J. H. Sweet is now president and editor; Arthur Sweet, managing editor; Marie Duncan, advertising manager.

EARLY DAY BANKING

During Territorial Days, around 1854-1856, not much money was in circulation and banking was among the ventures that had to be worked out. The First Territorial Legislature tried to pass a banking bill, but it was defeated. The Second Legislature did pass a banking law, over the protest of J. Sterling Morton and Dr. George Miller. This law allowed five banks to be organized, to start business when their stock had been SUB-SCRIBED to the amount of \$5,000 each. No money was actually paid; it were merely pledged. Banks were authorized to issue money but with no paid-up stockit had nothing back of it but the banker's honesty.

Among the first five charters granted was that of the Platte Valley Bank in Nebraska City. The incorporators of the early banks were men prominent in their own communities, but, except for Mr. Stephen F. Nuckolls of the Platte Valley Bank, few of them had sufficient capital of their own to retain control of their institutions. In more ways than this, however, Mr. Nuckolls' bank differed from its competitors, to its glaring credit.

In the latter part of 1857, the panic in the east had assumed national proportions and swept all banks before it, and the Platte Valley Bank went out of existence. It must be remembered, to the credit of this bank, that it was the only one in Nebraska during this period that was not involved in any fraud or financial scandal. It was a worthy founder of the long tra-

dition of safety in Nebraska City banks. Mr. Nuckoll's associates were: Joseph W. Collidge, John C. Campbell, Hiram Joy, John Boulware, Sr., Allan A. Bradford, William B. Hail, William Larimer, Jr., and Isaac L. Gibbs.

Modern Otoe County banks were organized early in the new era of sound banking. Nebraska City was fortunate again in having banks owned by responsible people. The first of these was Cheever, Sweet and Company which soon became James Sweet and Company. Later it became the Merchants National Bank which, after many years of service, in 1934 voluntarily liquidated.

J. A. Ware and Company was another early bank, but, unfortunately, it encountered financial difficulties. To save his creditors complete loss, Mr. Ware placed at their disposal his considerable personal fortune of almost \$190,000 and retired to his home in Wildwood, west of the City.

Another early bank was McCann and Metcalf. It became D. J. McCann and Company when Mr. Metcalf retired in 1865 to organize the present Otoe County National Bank. D. J. McCann and Company merged its business with the Nebraska City National Bank. In 1946 after many years of service under Col. W. L. Wilson, his son, Harry, and grandson, W. L. Wilson, the Nebraska City National Bank was also voluntarily liquidated.

The Articles of Association for the Otoe County National Bank were drawn up and dated May 8, 1865, and were signed by fourteen

Among those signing were the Metcalfs, Jasper A. Ware, Charles Vogt, Oliver Stevenson, James N. Tait and Talbert Ashton. The first president was Talbert Ashton and the first cashier, Julian Metcalf. Other presidents of the bank have been O. H. Irish, Wm. E. Hill, Charles Marshall and William H. Pitzer. Among the directors were Thomas Morton, O. C. Morton and O. A. Kimmel. John W. Steinhart served as cashier from 1892 until 1910. He was succeeded by Mr. A. E. Stocker, who in turn was succeeded by his son, John D. Stocker. John D. Stocker became president in 1941.

The Farmers Bank was incorporated in 1884 by J. H. Catron, Sr., and has been in control of that family ever since. His son, J. H. Catron, is now president of the bank and has been for many years. The Farmers Bank is one of the oldest State Banks in Nebraska.

The history of the banks of a community is almost invariably the history of the financial progress and stability of that community. This has been true of the banks of Nebraska City. For many years Nebraska City had four strong banks, and the people of the community had complete confidence in its banks. Our community has been known as a dependable community with the ability to get any job done it set out to do.

As a sign of progress made locally in the financial world, it is interesting to note that in 1909 deposits were \$1,314,000 while in 1954 they have risen to \$9,821,000.



Platte Valley Bank Note. Backed only by the banker's honesty.

ALBERT ALLYN BROWN— Early proprietor of the Press; came in 1865; earnest worker for the Republican party.

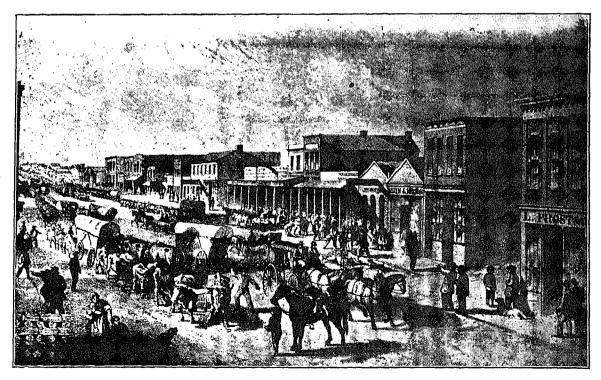
GEORGE H. BURGERT—Came in 1857; City Treasurer for years; Deputy Postmaster; employed in James Sweet banking house. HORACE MONROE — Here in 1859; liveryman; helped found the Knight Templar organization in Otoe County.

S. H. CALHOUN—Here in 1858 as an attorney; prosecuting attorney; graduate of Harvard; Mayor for four terms.



RUSSELL, MAJORS, WADDELL

Scene showing part of Russell, Majors and Waddell grounds on Fourteenth Street and Fourth Avenue. A two-story warehouse stands on the left and freighting wagon to the right.



FREIGHTING DAYS

A scene that met the eyes of many of our pioneer forefathers on the Main Street of Nebraska City as they and their families started bravely on their trek for the West, in the early sixties and seventies. The Overland Trail, starting at Nebraska City, was one of the main gateways.

Freighting Days Were Busy Times

The year of 1858 was an important one for Nebraska City, for in rebruary of that year the announcement was made that the town was to be the eastern terminus for a great over-land freighting operation by the federal government to supply western outposts.

Two great trading firms operated their wagon trains out of Nebraska City. First in size and importance was Russell, Majors and Wadell; then came Hawke, Nuckolls and Company in November of 1860.

Government contracts were not uncommon for Russell, Majors and Waddell. One in particular was spoken of in the News of March 27, 1858. "The contract amounts to \$1,-700.000. Five thousand tons of government supplies and stores are now preparing for shipment to this place to be conveyed hence in ox wagons, up the valley of the Platte and across the mountains to Utah. To move this immense mass will require two thousand heavy wagons, two hundred ox drivers and train masters, and from eighteen to twenty thousand oxen. In one continuous column this will present a length of forty miles. Mr. Majors, one of the government contractors for transporting this freight, has taken up his residence in this city, and of course will prove an inestimable addition to its society, both socially and morally, and in a business point of view. The capacious wharf, built especially to receive this freight, is nearly completed, and when finished will be one of the very best on the river"

One of the first things Majors did when he arrived in Nebraska City was to buy 138 town lots from Nuckolls and Cowles. Here it was planned to erect 25 to 30 houses and a two story warehouse 50 by 130 feet. These buildings were erected in the vicinity of what is now Fourteenth Street and Fourth Avenue.

Majors also demanded that Nebraska City enact a prohibition law as a protection to the morals of his men. He required each employee to take an oath that he would neither drink nor swear while in the employ of the company. Then he gave each man a Bible to carry on his way. It was his aim to send the boys home better men morally than when they entered his employ. Other freighters were not so particular, and in spite of all the precautions of

Alexander Majors, Nebraska City became a rather wild town in a few years.

The News of June 30, 1866, carried a small item near the bottom of one of its four pages, telling that on the day before, 163 wagons, each drawn by six yoke of oxen, left Nebraska City over the Overland Trail for the west. "Yesterday was a lively day on our street," said the newspaper "Ox and mule trains were leaving the city from dewey morn 'till dusky eye."

Freighting firms in 1865 were charging \$27 to haul 100 pounds of freight from Nebraska City to Salt Lake City. Twenty years later the railroads were charging less than one-twentieth that rate for the same distance.

Homes Built by "The Outfit."

According to a date burned in one of the rafters of a house now owned by Paul Knoll, originally owned by Thomas B. Stevenson, a lawyer of early Nebraska City days, the house was erected in 1844. It was built by the government as quarters for soldiers.

When remodeled by the late Mr. Stevenson in 1894 it was found that very few nails had been used in its construction. Corners were dovetailed, and iron rods ran along beams to hold the building firmly together. Mell Armstrong, pioneer carpenter, helped with the remodeling, and George Tolle's father found the date burned into one of the rafters at the time of the remodeling. Shingles on the original house were oak and were hewn by hand.

The F. M. Cook home was another building to house the military men of the early days. The John Gant home was once military officers' headquarters and the Bischof home at the present location of St. Mary's Hospital was a military hospital and doctors' headquarters in those days.

These buildings were afterwards used by Russell, Majors and Waddell, early ox-team freighters, plying their trade between Nebraska City and Fort Laramie. A barracks and a cattle barn were built by them in the same neighborhood:

Sam Carson was the first "scientific" ox driver.

River Travel

The following article in the Missouri Intelligencer, May 28, 1819, had this to say: The elegant steamboat Independence went from St. Louis to Franklin (200 miles) in 84 sailing hours, "being the first steamboat that ever attempted ascending the Missouri." "The grand disideratum, the important fact is now ascertained, that steamboats can safely navigate the Missouri River."

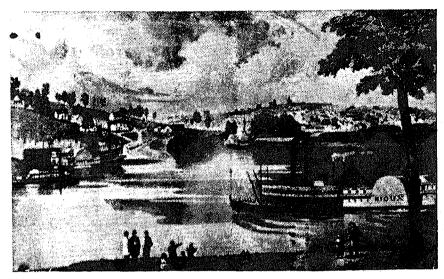
The first steamboat to pass along Nebraska shores was a little stern-wheeler, Western Engineer, which set out for Yellowstone in 1819. It never reached its destination. It was forced into winter quarters far below. She was a small boat scarcely 75 feet long, 13 feet across and drew 19 inches of water. On her bow, running forward, was the escape pipe, an imitation of a huge serpent, painted black, and its mouth was fiery red. This boat went as far north as Council Bluffs.

A May 18, 1820, article in the same paper noted: The Missouri Packet enroute to Council Bluffs was run aground on a sand bar to prevent sinking after she hit a snag, above Boon's lick. Cargo and boat were saved. This was the first accident to a steamboat on the Missouri. This boat was "mastering the current."

The St. Joseph Daily Missouri Republican of July 18, 1846, said the Amaranth just returned from Table Creek—"a short distance below Council Bluffs."

Many early-day boats carried groups of soldiers, some to different trouble spots, and others hunting suitable sites for forts along the river. One carried 1400 bales of hemp, 100 casks of bacon, 430 pounds of pork and lard, tobacco, other produce and furs, besides 80 passengers. No wonder the small town inhabitants along the way looked forward to a boat landing. On August 18, 1831, the Yellowstone brought 10,000 pounds of buffalo tongues down the river to St. Louis from Fort Tecumseh.

Getting fuel for the boat was a most strenuous problem. Wood alone was used. Often the crews had to go ashore to cut the wood, but finally wood yards were established at intervals along the river banks; however, the crews had to load the wood. Boats did not run at night unless it was moonlight or their business urgent. The day started at 3 A. M. and ended at 9 P. M. Soundings were taken continuously and were very amusing to the passengers, as the soundings



Looking at early Nebraska City from the Iowa side. The mural in the Courthouse was taken from this picture.

were often sung by the deck hands. Often the crews went ashore to hunt game to supplement their menu of pork, lyed corn and beans.

The steamboat pilot was beyond question the most skillful representative of his profession. He was beset with swift currents, snags, prairie winds and shallow crossings. He knew every bend of the stream and never relaxed for a minute. He was a strict disciplinarian, but greatly respected by crew and passengers.

The steamer Ontario is of particular interest to Nebraska City residents as this boat was sunk below the town in 1865. Father DeSmet was a passenger on the boat and gives a complete description of the boat and his early travels in his diary. Since there is no record of any other boat having been sunk just below Nebraska City, there is little doubt that the bell purchased by S. F. Nuckells, from a boat sunk at that time, and which he presented to the Presbyterian Church, is the bell from the Ontario.

Another steamer of particular interest to Nebraska City was the Sky Lark which was owned and operated by Robert Sousley. Captain Sousley lived with his family at Sixth Street and Second Avenue in Nebraska City. The captain later died at his home here.

The period from 1855 to 1860, just prior to the coming of the railroad, was the golden era of steamboating on the Missouri.

In a few places mention was made of excursions, but no more was said. There were some, however, even as late as 1901. A steam-

boat would be chartered by a group and an orchestra taken aboard to play for dancing. A pleasure boat came to Nebraska City occasionally, remaining for a week or two, and the people of the town would go aboard in droves every evening, to ride up and down the river for an hour or two, All sidewheelers had full-length cabins and were fitted with every comfort of the day. Travel was brisk and pleasure excursions "were not unknown". The steamboat captain was a hero, and the day his ship docked at any Nebraska port was a holiday.

An early-day river man, Captain Butt, named his daughter for his steamboat. It was a passenger and freight carrier.

Many of the boats met a sad end because of snags and ice jams. Among them was the Lizzie Campbell. The winter of 1883 was particularly severe for Nebraskans. The weather continued cold for long periods, and spring was late. All the old steamboat men predicted that unless the ice went out piecemeal the boats on the river would suffer. On the east side of the river were the Vice President and a transfer boat; on this side, were a government towboat and the Lizzie Campbell.

Early one Sunday morning the ferry whistles shrilled their warnings to Nebraska City. The ice gorge was beginning to move down stream. Excited people thronged the river banks. The four two-inch lines mooring the Lizzie Campbell snapped like string. The men, realizing the boat was going, grabbed ropes and went over the sides.

The ropes had been tied to saplings which were promptly uprooted. All efforts to save her were of no avail. The rush of the river carried her from all moorings. Then came disaster. The boat wedged between the two huge cakes of ice and was broken in two just below the boilers. The crew was saved only because the force of the current sent the wreck up on the land, about two miles south of Nebraska City. It was estimated that over 2000 people visited the scene. The Lizzie Campbell was the only boat badly wrecked when the ice went out the spring of 1883.

Mrs. Otto (O'Brien) Wirth lived, when a small child, on the Iowa side of the river. She and her family used to walk seven miles to the ferry on Sunday morning so they could attend service at St. Benedict's Church on Kearney Hill. Invariably, when they arrived at the ferry crossing the boat would be on the opposite side and they would have to wait. Usually as the boat started for the Iowa side they could hear the church bell ringing and knew they were too late for services, so they would turn back for the long trek home.

Steamboat tickets were sold at a building in the middle of the block east of the Faultless Castor Factory. The building still stands, now used as a residence. A large window frame still shows on the inside wall, but has been covered over on the exterior.

The first steam ferry that came to this vicinity reached Nebraska City in June, 1854. It was the Nebraska City No. 2 and was operated about a year by George Boulware, who established the ferry here as early as 1848. The charter finally passed into the hands of Wm. Beebout who in time sold it to Wells & Dressler.

Dan Lauer rode the first balky mule, coming in from Squaw Creek for groceries and created amusement when his mule wouldn't move a step toward home.

CAPTAIN O. BUTT—Owner of a transfer boat; for 13 years, without losing a day, ran boat for the Burlington, carrying trains across the river; steamboating long before 1854.

ISAAC DRAKE—Came in 1857; mining in Idaho; farming in Otoe county; builder of many pioneer structures.

Steam Wagon Venture

when freighting was at its height from Nebraska City on west. in the early pioneering days, the Steam Wagon came into existance. It was owned by Major E. Brown of Minnesota and manufactured by John A. Reed of New York City. The Steam Wagon was brought to Nebraska City on the Steamer "West Wind" on July 12, 1862 and was unloaded at the dock at the end of Ferry Street, later renamed "Fourth Corso." It's destination was to be Denver, Colorado, and later to points on west. Brown estimated the first trip to Denver would take six or seven days, but predicted the Steam Wagons would later on make the trip in a maximum of four days. Major Brown thought it would never be practical to bring the railroad through Nebraska City.

According to histories of the period, when the Steam Wagon was unloaded at Nebraska City, people from all around came to see the unloading and assembling of this huge steam wagon. It was a large machine, wood burning, steam driven and as high as the ordinary cottage. The drive wheels were 12 feet in diameter and two feet across, painted red. Inside these huge wheels were two smaller wheels about 6 feet in diameter. The front wheels were 6 feet in diameter and on the top of the machine was a huge high black smoke stack. The body of the machine proper was painted red. It was considered a very powerful machine and created a great deal of interest.

The steam wagon was tried out on the streets of Nebraska City and was very noisy. Gears squeaked and steam hissed and smoke and sparks belched forth from the smoke stack. Much mechanical trouble was encountered. One trial trip was up Kearney Hill and one was made with several freight wagons attached. Major Brown and his friends felt very confident it would do all they expected of it.

The makers of this machine expected to carry passengers to Denver in ease and comfort, as there were few railroads and they thought wood could be cut and placed at certain spots along the way to be used as fuel.

On the day before leaving, Major Brown invited some of the ladies of the town to take a ride in a freight wagon hitched to the Steam Wagon. Mrs. E. E. Woolsey, Mrs. J. Sterling Morton and Ella Larsh were in this party.

They all had to enjoy the ride standing up and holding onto the side of the wagon for there were no seats, but they had a good time and described it as a "merry party."

It must have been a rough ride for the town was new and hazel brush and sumac bushes grew along side of the street.

Judge David Goff was on the trip wearing a new straw hat and enjoying the ride so much, he didn't know sparks from the engine had set fire to his hat until his head was burned a little.

On July 22, 1862 the first trip to Denver was undertaken and it was to be only a trial run with no wagons attached. Eventually, they expected to haul several wagons and carry about 20 passengers. About seven miles out on the road west of Arbor Lodge, known since as the "Steam Wagon Road", the machine broke down and was abandoned. At the time Major Brown planned on repairs or replacement but because the railroads which were being extended on westward at this period, took over the freighting, it was never done. The machine was hauled to Arbor Lodge where it finally disentegrated and only a few pieces are left.

Ed Gregg, who always had a liking for such things, removed the cylinder and kept it. It is a queer looking thing and weighs about 65 pounds.

Seven miles out on the Steam Wagon Road, west of Arbor Lodge, is a marker designating the place where the Steam Wagon was abandoned.

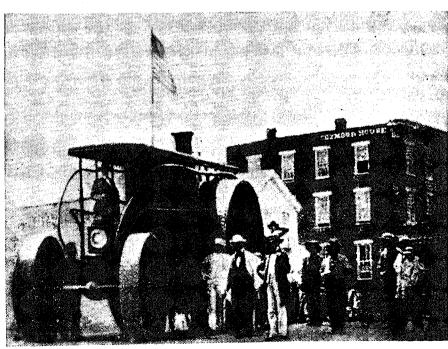
Mrs. Edmond E Woolsey, unveiled the Stearn Wagon monument on the grounds of the Burlington railroad at the age of 76, on October 30, 1914.

A Man of Might

Paul Bunyon was the legendary figure of the lumber areas, Bill Bass the oft-sung riverman who never was whipped. Nebraska City's Man of Might was "Tom" Thomas, the famous village marshal, the one-man gang who never asked for quarter, nor gave it, when it came to enforcing the settlement law.

Big, burly, insistent, a hard-hitter, a giant for strength, withal kindly and humorous, fear was no part of his make-up. He was the idol of the small fry, of that day. They listened to his tales by the hour.

A saloon riot, of which there were many in those days, was much to his liking. He entered the scene of activity, grabbed the beligerents by the scruffs of their necks and seats of their pants, put one under each arm, kicked wide the swinging doors, and unceremoniously deposited the victims of his wrath in the nearest gutter. He was truly a frontier character.



Major Brown's "Steam Wagon" or "Prairie Motor."

NEBRASKA'S FAMOUS OLD COURT HOUSE

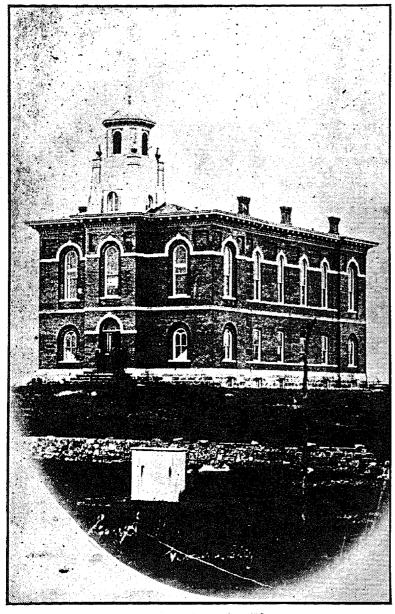
The pioneers who settled Otoe County were young and vigorous. They wanted their county to be "up and coming"; they wanted the seat of the county government to be as pretentious and fine as any in this territory.

\$22,500.00 for a court house to be erected at Nebraska City. That was on August 13, 1864. In the fall of the next year district court was held in that building after various meanderings about town in log cabins and upstairs halls.

"It is located on Tenth Street, between Main and Otoe, occupying what is undoubtedly the finest public square in the state", an early history of the community said of the court house.

From the first the basement of the structure has housed the county jail. Prior to 1865 various places about town were used to detain prisoners, starting with the old Block House on Fifth Street near Main.

In addition to the \$22,500.00 paid for the building, which was erected under the direction of W. R. Craig and F. W. Wood, \$2,000 later was appropriated for a stone wall around the square, and \$1,500 for grading, tree planting, and erection of out buildings.



Our Courthouse in 1870.

First Murderer Freed

One of the most fantastic incidents in the territorial history of Nebraska is the means by which the man who committed the first murder in Nebraska City escaped punishment for his crime.

Simpson Hargus, afterward one of the original trustees of Prairie City, had made claim to a quarter section of public lands which now lies in Nebraska City and Prairie City Addition. James E. Lacy "jumped" his claim to the west 80 acres of this tract, and in an altercation which followed, Hargus on April 23, 1856, deliberately killed Lacy with a shotgun.

The records in the court house at Nebraska City show that Hargus was charged with murder, but he was indicted by the grand jury for manslaughter. His attorney, A. A. Bradford, was a member of the territorial legislature. After the indictment, Bradford by audacious misrepresentation, procured the passage of an act repealing the entire territorial criminal code. Governor Mark W. Izard vetoed the repeal bill, but on February 13, 1857, it was promptly passed over his veto with only three dissenting votes.

Hargus was nevertheless tried, found guilty by the jury on December 9, 1857, sentenced to pay a fine of \$900, and to be imprisoned for 5 years and 3 months. On a motion for arrest of judgment, the territorial supreme court held that the conviction was invalid because the criminal code had been repealed before the defendant was tried, and Hargus was discharged.

A new criminal code was later adopted by the legislature at a special session in 1858, but for nearly two years there was no penal code whatever in the territory of Nebraska.

Lacy's administrator brought suit against Hargus for damages, but was unable to collect because the civil code had been repealed along with the criminal code.

Bradford Loved Coat and Mule

Judge Allen A. Bradford, territorial stalwart and the lawyer who succeeded in having the penal code repealed, was a very much beloved citizen of Nebraska City and a very accentric man.

Two things Bradford loved—his old white overcoat which he wore from early fall until late spring,—

and his old white mule, which matched the coat.

Bradford was a big man,-tall and heavy, but he had a pitifully bovish voice; a squeak that caused a stranger to titter when he heard the Judge speak.

One day the white mule strayed. Bradford searched for the animal. a family pet. In his wanderings over the muddy streets of early Nebraska City, Bradford met a stranger. "Have you seen a white mule" asked the attorney in his high, thin, quavering voice.

"Yes, I seen a white mule about a half mile back" said the stranger. "but you needn't cry about it."

"I ain't crying, blankety-blank you," said Bradford, "that's the only way I have of talking, damn

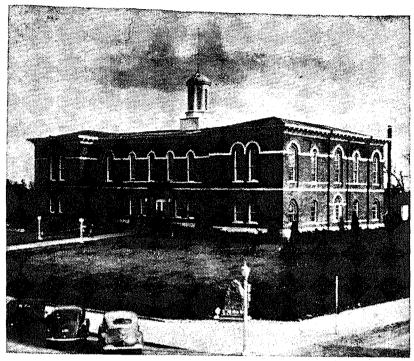
Jayhawker Raids of 1862

Nebraska City was not always a peaceable place, especially in the dark days of the Civil War, when abolishionists and pro-slavery men met and argued, and frequently came to blows.

In 1862 the notorious and feared Jayhawkers of Kansas frequently came as far north as Nebraska City. One of their visitations has been described in a letter from Mrs. James Sweet to Miss Josephine Emmons. (Miss Emmons became Mrs. Hershey, the mother of Mrs. O. N. Nelson).

"The fact is, the Jayhawkers have been making this place their headquarters for some time and although pretty peaceable here, have committed depredations around, They are under the command of the notorious Cleveland. The band, 60 in number, most formidably armed with carbines, knives, and pistols, had a camp down near Peru. They also brought numerous 'ladies' here who set up boarding houses, fortune-telling establishments, etc., so as to give them secure harbor in case of trouble. They finally became such a terror to all the country that it was deemed best to take some action.

Meetings were held for several days and an oath administered to members of the 'League.' Cleveland, with some of his band, are stopping at the American. Mason, Nick Laboo and Charlie Prue went up to arrest Cleveland. They disarmed him and it was supposed would place him under guard, but he made strong union professions and expressed his willingness to go down and take the



Otoe County's courthouse is the oldest public office building in the state. Counties who built court houses when Otoe County did have long since torn them down; most counties erected them afterwards. To make room for more busy offices in county government, after 90 years, the building has had two annexes built on, the latest in 1936 at a cost of \$60,000, but the structure has been changed little.

oath, which he did.

Before the meeting George Sroat received a dispatch from General Halleck ordering the arrest of Cleveland and any members of his band. Wishing to receive the full honor of the transaction, Sroat went with his deputies to the hotel unarmed and told Cleveland he was a prisoner. He allowed him to go upstairs to bid his wife goodbye; and the next thing, Cleveland and his men mounted horses which were brought to the back door for them and were scurrying awav.

Several people in the crowd fired at them but missed them, and they made their escape vowing vengeance on the town."

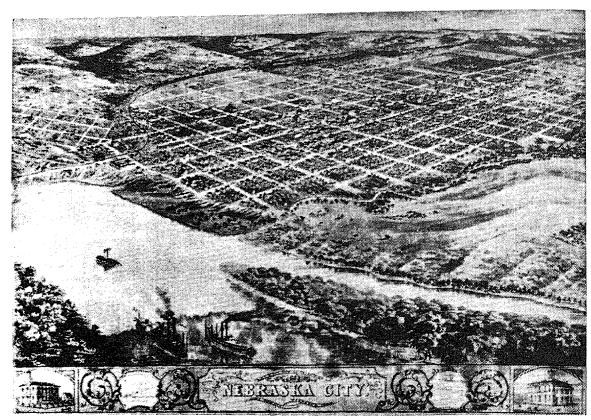
Mrs. Sweet further described the preparedness of the town people for some time. She stated DeForest Rolfe, Howard Calhoun, and Dr. Campbell patrolled their road. She kept her clothes handy at all times and her baby partially dressed in case the desperadoes returned.

Her letter continues: "All the countrymen came in and out with guns and altogether we had apprehensive times. The day before New Years it was resolved to go to their camp and attempt their capture. Eighty warriors from here and about the same number from Sidney, Brownville, and other towns went also. The last named company got there first and captured a few of the band. Two Jayhawkers were killed and one wounded in the fight, one Sidney man was wounded. The greater number of the band received word from their spies here and had 'cleared out.' Our company scoured the country pretty well, made all the people down there who had harbored them take the oath. Our boys came home, having seen nary a Jaybird."

Mrs. Sweet continues: "If anyone wants to know what these Jayhawkers are, know ye they are banditti, as formidable as those of Spain and Mexico."

Not every early-day pioneer was a loyal Union man, the letter indicates. It was necessary, for instance, to march to the News office, "haul out" the well known "Ajax" Harvey, the editor, and require him to take the oath of allegiance. The News, during the war years, was sometimes rather dubious as to its love for Lincoln and country.

Hon, Edward R. Harden of Georgia was the first district judge and held the term of court in January 1855 in the dining room of Downs house. All that was done at that term of court was to admit H. P. Bennett and A. A. Bradford. M. W. Riden was the first district clerk and issued licenses to the above attorneys.



Map of Nebraska City streets as they were in 1868. A large facsimile of this map, showing original names, is in the Nebraska City Public Library.

ROAD MAP, PLEASE!

A situation that baffled Col. S.N. Stewart, who came to Nebraska City in 1888, with a view to building a bridge across the river, was the method in which the streets were named. He thought that a more "sensible" system of naming should be used by a progressive community.

People had built homes here and there, and named the streets for things with which they were familiar. The street which led to the ferry was simply "Ferry Street". This system was satisfactory until pioneer realtors got their streets crossed. Additions were laid out and built up, but in some instances the streets didn't connect with those from adjoining additions as they should. Thus, today we have our Ninth and a Half Street.

Streets south of Main were known as Otoe, Kansas, Nemaha, Paducah, Kiowa, Arapahoe, Comanche. Delaware and Wyandotte. These were in Hail & Company's Addition, as far as 10th Street. From 10th Street east, a South Nebraska City section was formed with street, names of Nebraska, Ferry, Pleasant, Middle, Buffalo,

Elk and Antelope; then Clark Street carried across town.

Edgewood Addition, in the south part of town, had east and west names of Helen, Elizabeth, Alice and Augustus. The north and south streets, starting with 13th were named, Park, Chestnut, Poplar, Sycamore, Mulberry, Locust, Walnut, Maple, and Elm.

From Main Street north the streets of Nebraska City were named, Laramie, California, Pawnee, Sioux, Cheyenne, Harding, Table, Vine, and Emily. Between Table and Vine a half street sprang up, and Vine and Emily spread out into Walnut and Elm, then came the Allen property, which remained undeveloped, from 12th Street to 19th Street. The west section beyond Elm Street carried street names of Mill, Hazel, Prairie, Hill and Anderson. The East section became Greggsport Addition, and carried the names of Caroline, Ann, Arcade, Catherine and Bell.

The north and south streets for the most part were named first, second, third, etc. However, Belmont addition's 19th Street became Frank, 20th was Bennet; 21st Hepner; and 22nd, Mound. From First Street East the streets used the names of Table, Kansas and another Nebraska.

There were fourteen sections, or divisions to the city, Avondale, Clifton Lawn, Ware's City, Elmwood, Belmont, Prairie City, Nebraska City, Hail and Company, South Nebraska City, Edgewood, Anderson's Addition, Kearney, Stockville, and W. Payne's Addition.

Kearney Addition's streets are now named Terraces and Rues, but time was when the slanting streets from northeast to southwest carried the historical names of Tippecanoe, Madison, Washington, Clay, Boulware, Webster, a n d Jefferson. The northwest to southeast streets were simply First, Second, Third, etc. through Eighth. The south part of Kearney Addition's north and south streets were named Hazel (which is the equivalent of Third Street). E 1 m, Lorton, Irwin, McMeechem, a n d McConner Avenue. The east and west streets were known as Missouri Avenue, Parmel, Annie and Darrington.

Colonel Stewart started to "reform" Nebraska City and although there was no organized effort to combat what to many folks looked like a "joke", there was some resistance. He submitted to the City Council a plan to change all the streets on the south side of Main (later changed to Central Avenue) to Corso, taken from the Italian term to indicate a thoroughfare, All those streets on the north side of Main were to be changed to Avenue, taken from the tree-lined streets of Paris. It was discussed briefly before that body, and he was probably as surprised as anyone when the names were changed by ordinance and the names that had been used for 32 years were banned by law. After it was done a storm of protest arose, but the newspapers were rather favorable to the change and gradually the new system was adopted.

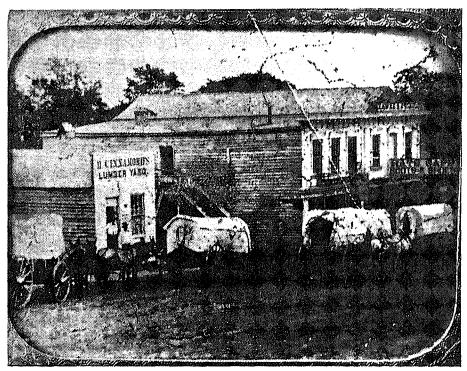
Rather a laughable feature is connected with Stewart's insistence that Nebraska City be "up to date". Solemnly, although probably with inward chuckling, he told the City Fathers that if they would adopt the change at once - possibly with the idea of rushing the thing through without publicity or a chance to arouse indignationhe would give them the suggestion free, but if they waited until later he would charge them \$500 for To an historian it the idea. sounds much like hiring a man to pull driftwood out of the river on shares, but the council fell for the bait and Stewart won his point.

Captain N. R. Pinney was one of the pioneer settlers of this section. In 1856, with his brother, he erected a sawmill across the river. They did an immense business, furnishing the lumber for this entire section, and soon accumulated what was then considered a fortune.

In 1861 they built a flour mill in connection with the sawmill. They sold out in 1868, moved to this side of the river and purchased, with E. E. Thorp, the flour mill of O. Stevenson. The mill was destroyed by fire in 1877.

Mr. Pinney was quite prominent in politics. He was a member of the city council for several terms, and a member of the House of Representatives during the eleventh, twelfth, and thirteenth sessions.

The last years of his life he was a Government pilot on the Missouri River. Ella Pinney Powell was an only daughter.



Street scene thought to be Kearney in 1859. Note the chairs on the outside of the upstairs windows. From the J. E. Gaskill collection.

Great Fire All But Ended City

Nebraska City's first great disaster was the fire of May 12, 1860, which laid low the business district of the thriving community and almost broke the morale of the people.

The fire started in a butcher shop at the corner of Sixth and Otoe (First Corso) and, as a high wind prevailed, the flames easily and quickly communicated to the other buildings in the neighborhood.

Within an hour from the time the alarm was sounded the largest portion of the city was in flames. The butcher shop was in the rear of the News building and the strong wind carried the flames through the open windows, setting the building on fire. It was done so quickly that the printers in the office did not even have time to get their coats and hats.

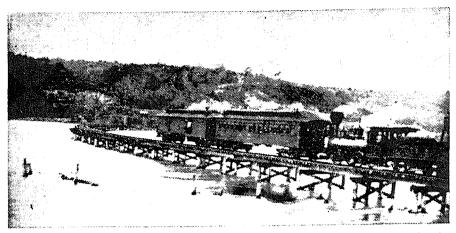
"The morning sun of May 12", says the News story of the Great Fire, "shed its rays on Nebraska City when it was flushed with success, a city teeming with life and activity, and well-established business enterprises and handsome buildings. When it sank beneath the western horizon, its last lingering rays lighted on a mass of ruin and charred remains of what once was Nebraska City."

More than 60 buildings were swept away by the conflagration, including the new Nuckolls Hotel, pride of the West. Men, who in the morning considered themselves "well off," were that night homeless and penniless.

The News saved nothing from the fire, not even its books of accounts. Its precious territorial files were also burned, and although some duplicate copies were in the home of Thomas Morton, the publisher, a few years later they also were burned. As a result, there is a "gap" in the newspaper records with only some copies of the earlier paper, which are owned by the State Historical Society, to partially fill it.

The fire did one good service to the community, however. It stopped the era of speculation, and business started all over on a solid foundation.

Nebraska City soon builded again, stronger than before, but it was not done by the losers in the fire. Of the \$100,000 insurance money received, less than \$3,000 was reinvested in the community. The first building commenced after the fire was the newspaper office, on Central Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets.



"Old 99" on the winter bridge crossing the Missouri. When the ice went out the Burlington crossed by ferry boat.

Railroads

Railroad talk came early in the history of Otoe County and various schemes were concocted prior to the Civil War, none of which bore fruit, to bind Nebraska City to the outside world with a "band of iron." According to the Jubilee Edition of the News-Press, Nebraska City at one time was seriously considered for the eastern terminus of the Union Pacific, but Omaha exerted her influence and that dream burst like a bubble.

In 1867, the Union Pacific Railroad was running to Grand Island. Nearly all eastern freight was going to that point by rail cutting Nebraska City off from the business that had given it prosperity for a number of years, thus bringing the importance of railroads home to the people of the town.

Earlier the county had voted bonds to secure an eastern connection and in 1867 the businessmen of the town decided that for the future prosperity of the city and county, there must be a western connection with the Union Pacific at, or near, Grand Island. With this object in view, on December 12th, 1867 the Midland Pacific Railway Company, composed of business men of Nebraska City, was organized.

On November 18, 1867, the Otoe County Commissioners, (Oliver Stevenson, Andrew Stout and John Roberts) in their meeting adopted a resolution to hold a special election on December 21, 1867 to determine the question of issuing bonds to aid in the construction of a railroad from the Missouri River westward, as nearly as practicable, through the county to the Otoe and Lancaster County lines.

The election was duly held and bonds were voted.

March 1, 1868, the sum of \$50,000 was issued and delivered to the Midland Pacific Railroad Company, and on August 17, 1868, after a \$200,000 bond was given by the company, \$100,000 more was issued to the company.

Meanwhile on June 2, 1868 work was started on the railroad. "The first pick and shovel were struck into the soil of Southern Nebraska to make smooth the bed for the iron highway of commerce, the Midland Road." (Watkins History of Nebraska) A holiday was declared and the people celebrated. Cannons were fired, speeches made and the Silver Cornet Band furnished the music.

"The first engine arrived opposite Nebraska City in December 1869, and was transferred across the Missouri River on a flat boat," according to the recollection of Thomas J. Ryan, who from 1873 until shortly before his death was conductor on the Nebraska City-Lincoln run. "In the process of

loading, it got away on the incline from the river bank and ran over the boat, plunged into the river beyond, leaving but a few inches of it above the water. It was necessary to construct a pair of shears above the engine to raise it and pull it back onto the boat. In a few days this was done and the engine was brought safely to the west side of the river. A track was laid from the landing as far south as South Table Creek; a double line of rope was attached to the engine and a number of citizens of Nebraska City pulled it off the boat and up on the track to a point opposite the place where the Starch Works stood, near where the roundhouse stands." This was the first railroad engine to appear in Nebraska City. This account was preserved in Morton's "History of Nebraska."

After more than five years of planning and construction, accompanied by dark periods and financial set-backs, the Midland Pacific from Nebraska City to Lincoln went into operation for the first time on complete schedule April 23, 1871.

Rejoicing was great in Nebraska City, and the newspaper pointed proudly to the Midland Pacific timetable showing four trains a day from Nebraska City to the Capitol. Old timers remembered the first ride. Chairs were placed on flat cars and the ladies and gentlemen, dressed in their best finery, settled themselves for an enjoyable ride. By the time the train reached Summit, a cloud-burst came up and all the riders were thoroughly drenched.

Edward Bignell, of Deanshanger, England settled in Nebraska City July 11, 1869. He was a fireman for the Midland Pacific and fired the first engine owned by the road, "The Lightfoot."

Thomas J. (Tommy) Ryan came



Hacks meeting the Burlington at the turn of the century.

from the County Tipperary, Ireland on December 22, 1843. He became a stagecoach driver for the Overland Stage. With the coming of the railroad he decided that if he could drive a stage, he surely could drive a train, and he became a brakeman on the first train ever run on the Midland Pacific line. Later he became conductor and stayed on the same run for fortyseven years. He knew everyone along the line and passed out the news along the way. According to Mr. Sweet as reported in "Centennial Comments," Mr. Ryan always wore a red carnation in his buttonhole.

Later the line was built to Brownville, and still later, to Tecumseh and Beatrice.

The Nebraska Railway Company was formed by a consolidation of the Brownville, Fort Kearney and Pacific and the Midland Pacific on July 9, 1875. The securities of this company were bought by the Burlington and Missouri River Railroad in Nebraska in 1876. Later the B and M consolidated with the Chicago, Burlington and Quincy and the control of the railroad went to the C. B. & Q.

Sixteen years after the News predicted Nebraska City would become a great railroad center, the second railroad began operation through the town. On April 28, 1887 the first Missouri-Pacific steamed into Nebraska City, discharged a few passengers—took on a few more and then steamed southward.

A hearty cheer greeted the arrival of the first Missouri-Pacific passenger train into Nebraska City. A number of young people boarded the train and rode to Julian—there they boarded the northbound train from St. Louis and rode home again.

The first Missouri-Pacific train consisted of three cars,—two passenger cars and a baggage car. What a contrast to the beautiful blue and silver streamliners that go through our city at this time. Nebraska City is very fortunate to be on the mainline of the Missouri Pacific Railroad.

The Burlington Railroad reached the east bank of the Missouri River opposite Nebraska City in 1867. This was three years before the mainline reached Plattsmouth, and only three years after the Burlington entered Chicago.

James H. Decker made and burnt the brick for the first brick house. It was for S. F. Nuckolls and was later used by the Transfer Company for its stables.



Harding Hampton: Son of Aunt Edie Hampton, who was a slave owned originally by Ezra Nuckolls, father of S. F. and Heath Nuckolls. She was given to Polly Dickerson Schooler, daughter of Mr. Nuckolls, and brought by her to Nebraska. Harding was a familiar figure to Nebraska City folks for many years.

Colored Folk

The history of the colored population in Nebraska City began at the time the North and South were quarreling bitterly over the slavery question. The Nebraska-Kansas Bill had been passed to allow the settlers of new land to decide whether the land should be slave or free. Nebraska people never voted for slavery but settlers from the South brought slaves with them. In 1855 there were thirteen slaves in Nebraska and in 1860, ten. Most of them were held at Nebraska City.

One branch of the "Underground Railroad" ran from Missouri through the corner of Nebraska by way of Falls City, Little Nemaha, Camp Creek, Nebraska City, and Tabor, Iowa, where there was a settlement of abolitionists. Runaway slaves traveled at night along this road and during the day were fed and hidden by friends.

The first slaves brought here were the property of Stephen F. Nuckolls (for whom Nuckolls County was named). In the fall of 1854 Nuckolls brought four Negrees: two girls and two men known as Shade and Shack.

In November, 1858, the two girls ran away. Nuckolls offered a reward of \$200 for their return and, with the aid of a United States marshal, made a search of the houses at Tabor. One man, whose

house was being searched, was struck on the head by an officer and was seriously wounded. Mr. Nuckolls had to pay \$10,000 for the injury.

Eliza, one of the girls, escaped to Chicago and was arrested the following year. She was about to be returned to her master, but a mob rescued her and she was hurried over into Canada. Nuckolls sued sixteen Iowa people for helping Eliza to escape, but the Civil War began and he did not win the suit.

It was reported that Shade, who also escaped, went to South Carolina where he prospered and was sitting in the legislature, using the name of Nuckolls.

In 1857 Alexander Majors brought six house servants here from Missouri. The slaves ran away in June, 1860, and never came back.

Two other slaves, known as Uncle Hercules and Aunt Martha, were owned by Charles F. Holly. Holly was sued by William B. Hail whom he owed money and the slaves were the only property that could be attached.

On December 5, 1860, the two slaves were sold at public auction in front of the courthouse which at that time was probably between Central Avenue and First Avenue on Sixth Street (McLennon's Hall).

Sheriff Birchfield, the auctioneer, first offered Hercules for sale. As there were no bidders, Hercules and Dinah were offered together and were sold to Hail, the highest bidder, for \$300.

Hail took the slaves to Missouri and the incident marked the last of slavery in Nebraska for in January, 1861, the legislature passed an act abolishing slavery in the territory.

John Brown's Cave

One of the most important stations of John Brown's famous "underground railway" was a cave at the edge of Nebraska City. It was dug by friends of John Brown, ostensibly for the storing of vegetables, but was used for hiding escaped slaves until they could be sent on.

On November 14, 1874, the "Nebraska City News" quoted from an October 27th, 1874 report written by Dr. John H. Blue, a newspaper man, and William P. Birchfield, the first sheriff of Otoe County: "It is very near where the corner of Nemaha (Seventh Corso) and

Ninteenth Streets would be if they were opened so far. The cave looks toward the west, in a dense thicket of oak, elm, and hickory, among which Indians or outlaws might prowl for many days unseen. The main cave ran eastward some distance till it burrowed directly under A. B. Mayhew's house, from a secret part of which a trap-door and covered passage led down into the cave, so that if contraband or suspected guests who were sleeping in the house were surprised, they could disappear into the bowels of the earth, and no one guess what had become of them. The most curious part of the cave was the cross wings, some 10 feet from the root house entrance. This wing bisected the passage at right-angles, and there guards were stationed in such a manner that they could enfilade the approach of an armed band of enemies and slaughter them in the light of the ingress. They themselves were in the side passage in darkness and safety. Half a dozen resolute men could have held the position against a battalion; and though their cruel crucifix was never tested, it was evidently planned by men who knew they carried their lives in their hands, and knew how to give a good account of themselves in an emergency."

It is not known how many fugitives hid there, but it is known that a large number of Negroes were ferried over the Missouri River at this point.

The cave has been reconstructed, a new log cabin built to replace the old Mayhew cabin, and is open to visitors, at 20th Street and Fourth Corso on Highway No. 2.

Wyuka "Resting Place"

S. F. Nuckolls was the first to suggest the idea of purchasing grounds for a cemetery in Nebraska City. At a citizen's meeting a committee was appointed to select a place for burial purposes. The committee selected the present site of Wyuka Cometery.

The ten acres comprising the original burial grounds, now known as the "Old Section," were deeded to Nebraska City August 22, 1857 by Allen B. Mayhew and Barbara Kagi Mayhew from their homestead. Plans for the cemetery and surveys had been made in 1855, but title to the ten acres was not fully established until two years later. The consideration was One

Dollar, and the deed stipulated, "Said land to be devoted to the use and purpose of a Burial Ground for the dead forever."

Charles W. Pierce surveyed and platted the acreage for the cemetery in 1855.

The name Wyuka was selected from the Otoe word "Wongkah" meaning, "he rests or lies down."

John W. Clements was the first person buried in the new cemetery. He died on the island above the city and was buried about the middle of January, 1855. His grave is marked by a white marble, upright slab on a lot adjoining rorth that of the J. Sterling Morton family.

In the late 1880°C J. Sterling Morton and others of Nebraska City formed a corporation to take over the cemetery property. Opposition arose to the conversion of municipal property and management to private interests, and the City Council voted against such a change. Supervision of the cemetery continued under the City Council until 1934 when a Wyuka Cemetery Board, consisting of six members, was formed. The cemetery has continued under such supervision to the present time.

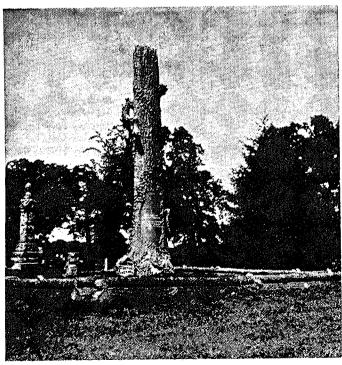
The cemetery property has been enlarged by two additions to the west. First, the far southwest part, amounting to 24 acres was a gift from William E. Hill and wife in 1890. Certain stipulations went

with the gift, one states; "no malt, spirituous or various liquors shall be sold or exposed for sale or gratuitously distributed" on the premises. The second addition consisting of thirteen acres, was owned and given by the Nebraska City Driving Park Association. The present area of the cemetery proper is approximately 2400 lots and from the first internment in 1855 to the present year there have been 10,500 burials.

Down through the years many famous persons have been laid to rest in "Beautiful Wyuka", pioneer statesman, lawyers, scholars, musicians, artists, soldiers, farmers, as well as some committing major crimes and even some lynched by mob or hung by due process of law.

One hundred fifty-three colored people are buried in Wyuka Cemetery, the first entry as of August 29, 1867 showing a man named John was buried.

On September 12, 1857 the Nebraska City News spoke of the cemetery in these words; "Wyuka is the beautiful Indian name for high ground, on a high hill. Wyuka Cemetery is one of the most beautifully romantic spots to be found in Nebraska. It is just where angels will make frequent visits, and the spirits of departed good men delight to come, and where one would wish to lie down and die. Sale of lots in Wyuka takes place today."



WYUKA CEMETERY—The unusual J. Sterling Morton family marker. In the background is shown the grave of William E. Hill, famed for his interest in Masonry and one of the Cemetery benefactors.

FIRST SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND WEST OF THE MISSOURI

In November, 1873, Samuel Bacon. Superintendent of the Institute for the Blind in Iowa, arrived in Nebraska City, and immediately started the project of such a school in Nebraska. In 1874 at a public meeting a committee was chosen to wait on the legislature and ask an appropriation of \$10,000 for purchase of grounds and erection of buildings. The committee consisted of Geo. Sroat, H. K. Raymond, Dr. John Blue, Rev. John H. Mc-Namara, Wm. Bischof, Dr. Bowen, and Samuel Bacon. Dr. Bowen was the author of the bill passed February 19, 1875.

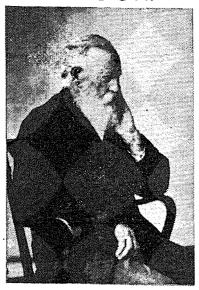
George Sroat, George Crow, Samuel Mauley, Homan Walsh, Paul Schminke, and N. S. Harding acted as a board of trustees to supervise construction of the building. Mr. Bacon, who was totally blind, was often seen climbing around on the roof, on tours of inspection. The three-story structure comprised what is now the east wing of the school. It was built at a cost of \$9,795. Lacking plumbing, water was carried in from a well. In 1877, a two-story workshop consisting of four spacious rooms was added at a cost of \$3,000.

Temporary schoolrooms in the Nebraska College, now the Mrs. E. C. Cook home, were rented and school was formally opened March 10, 1875, with three pupils. Mr. Bacon was principal and his wife assistant and matron.

It was on January 13, 1876, that Prof. Bacon moved into the new building with his three pupils: Mary, Effie, and Lucy Campbell, sisters from Cook, Nebr. Soon after, eight more enrolled. The annual cost at this time was \$250 per pupil; today it exceeds that amount many times.

The names of superintendents who succeeded Mr. Bacon are familiar to many Nebraska Citians: Messrs. Parmalee, Rakestraw, Ebright, Johnson, Jones. Harris, Morey, King, N. C. Abbott (his term of office exceeded that of any other superintendent), McMillen, and Weddel.

On the list of staff members, too, appear many remembered names: Mary French Morton, J. Sterling's cousin and the author of "Leaves from Arbor Lodge"; Flora Bullock, co-author with Harriet Hershey of "Old Town on The River"; Gertrude Sousley, Mr. Loeb, E. C. Cook, Clark Bruce, Jess Emerick Cook, Jennie E. Johnson, Einer



SAMUEL BACON, First Superintendent of the School for the Blind

Neilsen, Ruth Sexton Hassler, Cathrine Bosworth, Maude Wolfe White, Sarah Sim Burgess (granddaughter of Mr. Bacon), Evelyn Storms Beard, and Hattie Meadville Fullriede.

Each succeeding administration contributed definite improvements. The physical plant was enlarged and modernized; a sight-saving class and an annual clinic for parents of the blind children of preschool age were inaugurated. Publicity tours of the state and cooperation of the county superintendents brought knowledge of the school to those who needed the training offered. Until recent years both children and adults were admitted to the school. In 1945 there

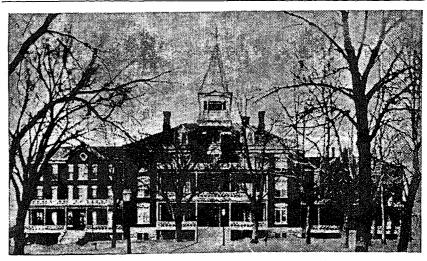
was created a special department for adults, known as "Services for the Blind." Instruction is given in clients' homes or at designated schools. Best known of the home teachers is Leona Jennings, graduate of the local school.

Graduates from the school have entered numerous fields: medicine, law, teaching, entertainment, and piano-tuning. They recognize blindness as a challenge and have the courage to accept it.

Daughters of The American Revolution

The Daughters of the American Revolution was organized on February 15, 1911 and is known as the Otoe Chapter. The charter was set up October 17, 1911. The following officers were elected: Mrs O.C. Morton, Regent; Mrs W. S. Cornutt, Vice Regent; Miss Mary Wilson, Registrar; Miss Gladys Cornutt, Treasurer; Mrs. C. R. Weeks, Historian; and Mrs. M. E. Morse, Chaplain. There are nineteen members at present with Miss Mary Wilson and Mrs. May Tackett Aldrich the only two surviving charter members. Mrs. Earl Seyfer is Regent, and Mrs Howard Baltensperger is Vice-Regent, Mrs. R. W. Bloomingdale, Secretary; Mrs. E. G. Lightbody, Treasurer; Mrs. James Barta, Registrar; Miss Mary Wilson, Historian; and Miss Ann Winsor, Chaplain.

H. P. Bennett was the forerunner of Arbor Day when he planted shade trees, the first to be put into the ground.



Early photograph of the School for the Blind

THE PONTOON BRIDGE

The first pontoon bridge to be built across the Missouri River was completed August 23, 1888, at Nebraska City, just a little south of the present bridge. On March 1st, 1888, the first pep meeting concerning the construction of this bridge was held. It was to be the only means of wagon crossing until \$100,000 or \$150,000 could be raised to build a permanent bridge. The charter for the bridge was granted in April and contractors and bridge builders began figuring on the construction.

N. S. Stewart of Philadelphia, who had wanted to erect such a crossing at this point for some time, figured the cost at \$20,000 and offered to take \$10,000 of the stock himself and let the city pay the other \$10,000 by making \$2500 yearly payments. However, in a short time citizens raised over \$13,000 so the bridge was assured.

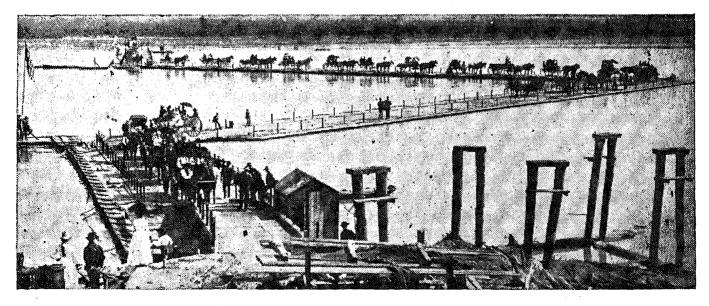
This pontoon bridge was made of a hundred or more flat boats. The main span was 894 feet long, while the approach on the east side was 1,100 feet, the longest of any in the United States. It was 24 feet wide. The center was V shaped with one draw 200 feet and the other 700 feet long. The draws allowed drift to escape and provided an adequate passage for steamers. They were operated by windlass. An inch bar of iron fastened to iron posts two feet high formed a railing on both sides of the bridge.

The bridge fare was one-half of that formerly charged by the ferry; double team, 40 cents; horse and rider, round trip 25 cents; foot passenger, 5 cents; loose horses, 10 cents; cattle, 5 cents; and hogs, 2 cents. In winter the boats were to be taken out of the river and put back in the spring. The rise and fall of the river due to the melting ice was so great that spring, however, that the bridge washed out and never was replaced. The steel bridge which we have now (then only for railroad crossing) was completed just seven days after the pontoon bridge was washed away. The pontoon bridge nevertheless had served its purpose.

When the ice ripped out the pontoon bridge John Horseley from the Iowa side was on the bridge with his team and wagon. The wagon was stranded on one part and the horses on the other. By whipping the horses he was able to pull the wagon out.

All the heavy planks used in Nebraska City's famous and ill fated pontoon bridge were bevelled on each edge by two Nebraska City artisans, one of whom is still going strong at well past 90—James Welch of Greggsport.

After the heavy planks had been prepared and fastened together in cylinder form, oakum and hot pitch were used for water-tightening. The planks were 20 feet long, 14x3 inches. Jim and Fred Welch worked each plank over in their shop on Sixth Street, and by six p. m. Mr. Welch said, "We are ready to quit." It was a ten hour day.



Nebraska City's "Pontoon Bridge" on a busy day, crowded with wagons, carriages and pedestrians. This famous bridge, built in 1888, was the only one of its kind in the world.

The Nebraska City Centennial Inc.

presents

THE GRAND DRAMATIC HISTORICAL SPECTACLE

"Prairie Panorama"

The Story of Nebraska City's First Century

1854 - 1954

Hayward Park Stadium

AUGUST 16 thru 21, 1954

PRODUCERS ERS PRODUCING CO

JOHN B. ROGERS PRODUCING COMPANY Fostoria, Ohio

Rehearsed and Staged by LEHR M. KNOWLES

General Production Chairman

Earl Dyer

Co-Chairmen-Mrs. Virgil Pitstick, Marvin Eden

Properties, Vehicles, Stage, Livestock - Jerry Livingston

Wardrobe and Make-up-Florence Hawley

Historical Material by — Frank Bartling in collaboration with the Historical Society and other citizens of Nebraska City

Narrated Script written by - Lehr M. Knowles

MUSIC

At the Organ — Mrs. Harvey Raben

"Prairie Panorama" Choral Music — Duane Schulz

Band Music — Nebraska City High School Band

"Prairie Panorama"

- Synopsis of Scenes -

The Voices you hear — Verne Jones — Robert Moore — Robert McKissick — Miss Cora Fastenau Mrs. Herman Marts — Mrs. Frances Webb

Scene 1

The roll of Drums and the Fanfare of Trumpets heralds the arrival of Nebraska City's Centennial Queen.

Centennial Cadets, Banner Bearers, and American Girls await the arrival of the Queen and her Court of Honor.

Flags of the Nations are displayed in honor of this historical event. "Miss Columbia" and her attendants, symbolizing the States, move to their places of honor.

"Miss Prairie Panorama" and her Maids of Honor appear.

We present "Miss Nebraska City Centennial of 1954," our Centennial Queen.

Coronation Ceremony (Monday Night).

Address of Welcome-"Miss Nebraska City Centennial of 1954."

The Royal Procession passes in review and the Story of Nebraska City begins to unfold.

- PRE-SETTLEMENT PERIOD -

Scene 2—THE REDMAN IN THE NEW WEST—LEWIS AND CLARK EXPEDITION — 1804

Early Indian life in Nebraska and Lewis and Clark Expedition contact with the Indians at Nebraska City.

- SETTLEMENT PERIOD -

Scene 3—OLD FORT KEARNEY AND THE EARLY PIONEERS

The Military Post in the "far northwest" - 1846.

Wagon trains of settlers come, as frontiers push westward and settlement begins.

Scene 4-ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

A-THE FIRST STAKE.

On July 10th, 1854, the first stake is driven by surveyors, which marks the beginning of the founding of Nebraska City.

B—THE FIRST NEWSPAPER.

Dr. Henry Bradford prints the first newspaper in the old Block House.

Scene 5—THE PAWNEE TREATY AT NORTH TABLE CREEK

General Denver representing the United States Government negotiates a treaty with the Indians at Table Creek. Another step toward making new lands safe for settlement.

Scene 6-"REMEMBER THE SABBATH"

Reverend W. D. Gage preaching to the pioneers in an early church.

Scene 7—EARLY SCHOOL—1855

Miss Margaret Jane Martin, the first school teacher, and the pupils learning "Readin', 'Ritin', and 'Rithmetic."

Scene 8-THE TERRITORIAL FAIR-1859

J Sterling Morton addresses Fair patrons on agriculture at the Territorial Fair.

"Prairie Panorama"

- Synopsis of Scenes -

Scene 9-STEAMBOAT DAYS, THE OVERLAND TRAIL, OLD TIME DANCE

Busy activity at the steamboat landing on the river; the stage coach, and old time dance.

Scene 10-THE UNDERGROUND

Underground activity in the Civil War period at John Brown's Cave.

Scene 11-CIVIL WAR TABLEAU

Scene 12-STEAM PRAIRIE WAGON

Major General Joseph R. Brown and John A. Reed, owners and inventors of the Steam Prairie Wagon, demonstrate its performance in Nebraska City.

Scene 13—THE COMING OF THE RAILROAD

The coming of the railroad and the passing of the stage coach days. A ceremony in celebration at the arrival of an early train.

Scene 14-ARBOR DAY

J. Sterling Morton presents this Arbor Day Resolution at a meeting of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, January, 1874. Nebraska City the "Home of Arbor Day."

Scene 15—SEYMOUR HOUSE IN THE NINETIES SO GAY

The Seymour House center of much important social, political and general activity in the early days.

Bicycles built for two, high-wheelers, horses and carriages, waxed moustaches, buttons and bows. A gay 4th of July celebration.

Scene 16-THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

The coming of the automotive age, ushering in an era of change, and revolutionizing the mode of living of all America. Square dance.

Scene 17-WORLD WAR I

The world safe for democracy. We thought so then.

Scene 18—MARCH OF TIME

Financial crash, depression, recovery.

World War II. Honor to the men and women of the Armed Forces of America.

IWO JIMA TABLEAU

Scene 19-LEADERS OF TOMORROW

Glorifying the modern school and placing the responsibility for leadership in the world of tomorrow, on the shoulders of the youth of today.

Nebraska City High School students and band.

Scene 20—"PRAIRIE PANORAMA"

Panorama of past achievement.

Vision of the future.

Universal peace.

National anthem.

FIREWORKS

PLEASE! Spectators are urgently requested to remain in their seats until after the fireworks display in order that all may witness the grand finals of the spectacle.

CAST OF CHARACTERS

NOTE: Due to printing deadline, the cast of characters in some scenes is not complete.

Sponsors: Mary Ellen Slack, Sara Jane Whitten, Janet Fullriede.

Miss Columbia-Bette Younker.

Miss Columbia—Bette Younker.

Attendants to Miss Columbia—Mary Ann Stoll, Pat Rowen, Joan Stukenholtz, Shirley Schnitzmeyer, Mary Schnitzmeyer, Marlene Schreiter, Dona Hemphill, Carol Tiede, Shelia Letellier, Jenny Harms, Cecelia Witty, Joan Neeman, Carolyn Coufal, Shirley Ramold, Virginia Boerner, Clara Durr.

United Nations Girls—Barbara Jacobson, Agnes Varenhorst, Kathryn Hinrichs, Greichen Gladstone, Carol Ann Grundman, Charlotte Hartley.

Agnes Varenhorst, Kathryn Hinrichs, Gretchen Gladstone, Carol Ann Grundman, Charlotte Hartley.

Flag Girls—Corrine Ballour, Frances Hall, Nancy Jordan, Vernelle Skiff, Jean Lechner. Shirley Fitzekam, Donna Morton, Nancy Shirley, Rose Charron, Julia Jordan, Susan Verrett, Kathleen Marion.

Attendants to U. N.—Shirley Lechner, Carol Leckenby, Betty Courtney, Doris Dixon, Betty, Weible, Patty Lutz.

Centennial Cadets—Karen Sue Earl, Esther Myers, Laurenc Moor, Wanda Head, Carol Lea Broers, Annette Hunter, Joan Turner, Andrea Hunter, Illa Gawart, Betty Emshoff, Ann Kreifels, Carol Lucas.

Trumpeters—Judy Vondrak, Nancy Madsen, Fat Chapman, Kay Chapman, Patty Marion, Willa Arthur.

American Girls—Lillian Palmer, Betty Jo Parker, Jane Morris, Marilyn Mead, Linda Wurtele, Mayone Johnson, Priscilla Tyson, Karen Woods, Kathryn Yoerg, Janice Garlisle, Nancy Lee Carr, Marilyn Heesch, Beverly Bremer, Betty Stoll, Janice Harpole, Ruth Guthals, Marion Ehlers, Sharon Cody, Evelyn Rawlings, Carol Thomas, Margaret Young, Darlene Skillett, Berniece Dieckgrafe, Kay Lynn West.

Girl Scouts—Sponsor: Mrs. Ronal Martin; Lynn Ewing, Linda Byrnes, Sharon Griepenstrch, Carol West, Sandra Kay Martin, Shirley Jo Sedoris, Audrey Royer, Linda Younker, Patty Tourville, Becky Hopkins, Dianne Jessup, Margaret Rose, Kay Aufenkamp, Sandra Near, Faith Jordan, Carolyn Merritt, Sherry Lynn Merritt, Jackie Morralle, Jolene Moralle, Sue Phillips, Sally Wademan, Judy Woods, Nancy Windle, Cheryl Armstrong, Donna Ray, Dora Parker, Mary Ann Conley, Sally Verrett, Sally Wilcox, Marjorie Earight, Rosalind Simpson, Linda Chattin, Jackie Mosier, Dee Bagley, Nancy Lazzaro, Carolyn Cox, Georgia Cox, Carol Mead, Linda Simmons, Marilly Willies, Joliene Trinkle, Wanda Bomark, Betty Jo Streeter, Elleen Everett, Judy Bird, Kay Ganzel, Patricia Herndon, Ann Lazzaro.

Ann Lazzaro.

Brownies—Sponsor: Mrs. Ronal Martin and Mrs. Emil Webering; Linda Everett, Carol Verrett, Kriste Knoll, Kathy Stone, Jane Schottler, Judy Clayton, Kay Jones, Mona Rae Cole, Linda Gibbs, Linda Dierking, Nancy Helm, Wilda Wright.

Boy Scouts—Stuart Souders, Jon Hinrichs, Marshall Fields, Glenn Grafe, Duane Hoeman, John Ricketts, Michael Mullin, Robert Ricketts, Floyd Goff, Clifford Lant, David Sheldon, Robert Smith, George Graham, Ronald Parkison, Jimmy Simmons, Gerald Jensen, Jack Vondrak, Larry Hasty, Robert Nelson, John Feistner, Tom Morton, Bill Davis, Chas. Ott, Clifford Batson, Ernest Thalman, Bill Cope.

Morton, Bill Davis, Chas. Ott, Clifford Batson, Ernest Thalman, Bill Cope.

INDIANS—LEWIS & CLARK
Sponsors: Hoyt Sharp, Jack Ryder, Mrs. Wm. Stites, Mrs Karl Weickhorst.
Chief and Braves—Junior Bruns, Paul Davis, Whoopie Landis, Lloyd Wymore, Bill Stites, Don Sharp, Cliff Rawlings, Verdis Baucke, Jim Hart, Vic Thieman, Henry Hinrichs, Bob Bosworth, Harold Puppe, Harvey Hillman, Robert Stites, Richard Stites, Jack Ryder, John Plotner, Paul Lima, Charles Gude Jr., Vic Grundman, Clyde Hatten, Lloyd Ganzel, C. C. Witty, Lewis—Cecil Witty.
Clark—Earl Goff.
Clark Expedition Men—Bernard Rea, W. C. Lant, Phil Schnell, Otoe Goff, Herbert Montgomery, Jack Schreiter.
Indian Boys—Bobby Scharp, Jimmy Carlisle, Tommy Johnson, Bobby Rawlings. Indian Women—Mrs. Jack Ryder, Mrs. Bill Stites, Mrs. Karl Wieckhorst, Mrs. Lloyd Gymore, Mrs. Clyde Hatten, Mrs. Lloyd Gymore, Mrs. Clyde Hatten, Mrs. Lloyd Ganzel, Mrs. Harvey Hillman, Mrs. Clifton Rawlings, Mrs. Dayton Arthur, Miss Jundy Pilmore, Miss Judy Carlisle, Miss Janet Carlisle, Miss Anna Rae Ryder, Miss Linda Sharp, Mrs. Paul Lima, Mrs. Earl Braye, Jr., Mrs. Paul Lima, Mrs. Ralph Klein, Mrs. Junior Bruns Mrs. Jim Hart.
Indian Girls—Julie Ruth Ryder, Beverly Ryder, Karen Klein, Donna Rae Myers.

OLD FORT KEARNY AND EARLY PIONEERS

PIONEERS

Sponsors: Mrs. Arthur Sackles, Carl Benson, George Peacock; Rev. Merrill Willis, Mr. and Mrs. Paddock, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Klingsick, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lundy, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rawlings, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sackles, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lundy, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sackles, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Lundy, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Sackles, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Coffman, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Baltensperger, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Baltensperger, Mr. and Mrs. Leocrett Coffman, Mr. and Mrs. Leocrett Coffman, Mr. and Mrs. Leocrett Coffman, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Marunda, Don Stokes, Joe Barry, Tommy Kruger, Ray Erwin, George Scott, Kathleen Hahn, Kathy Lundy, Leslie Rawlings, Lynn Rawlings, David Sackles, Clindy Sackles, Mindy Sackles, Roger and Gerry Kruger, Bradley Barbara and Steven Baltensperger, Kay, Gregory and Perry Harding, Jr., Scottle Hawthorne, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Irvin and Patty.

100 YEARS AGO—DRIVING OF THE STAKE AND FIRST NEWSPAPER Sponsor: Virginia Ziels, Victor Bremer; Mr. and Mrs. Victor Bremer, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Livingston, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Knoll, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wenzl, Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Sorenson, Mr. and Mrs. Nels Madsen, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Vigen, Jane Jenkins, Deryle Seefus, C. A. Racine, Virgil Pitstick, Earl Dyer, Neal Jenkins, Henry Flau, Clarence Iversen, Art Lindahl, Dallas Boucher, Norris Hill, Thresia Wenzl, Janet Livingston, Christie Knoll, Starla Sorensen.

zl, Janet Livingston, Christle Knoll, Starla Sorensen.
PAWNEE TREATY WITH WHITE MEN Sponsors: Herb Montgomery; Bernard Rea, Bill Lant, Phil Schneil, Earl Golf, Otoe Goff, Herb Montgomery, Jack Schaefer. Indians from Scene 2.

EARLY CHURCH
Minister, Rev. Merrill Willis. Congregation from Scene 3.

EARLY SCHOOL
Sponsors: Mrs. Bill Beason, Mrs. Ethel Gaskill, Mrs. Ralph Bosworth, Mrs. I. E. Westfall. Teacher—Mrs. Lucian Smith. Parson—Rev. Willis.

Girls—Sally Pickering, Mary Lee Smith, Joyce Schreiter, Sally Benecke, Faye Allen Golden, Janey Golden, Linda Rakes.
Boys—Orlan Prentice, Wirth Davis, Terry Hoeman, James Westfall, Kenneth Smith, Tommy Grooman, Johnny Grooman, Chipper Stever, Larry Stoll, Larry Hardenberger, Steve Bird.

TERRITORIAL FAIR
Sponsors: Joe Barry, Don Ricketts; Don Bicketts Dean Hauntman Bill Christian—

berger, Steve Bird.

TERRITORIAL FAIR
Sponsors: Joe Barry, Don Ricketts; Don Ricketts, Dean Hauptman, Bill Christiansen, Mike Roddy, Jr., Virgil Kreifels, Irvin Heng, James Bivens, Pat Donavon, Arnold Kreifels, Ed Sasse, Jerome Wirth. Men and women from Scene 3.

RIVER FREIGHTING—OVERLAND
TRAILS—OLD TIME DANCE
Sponsors: Louise Ziels, Arthur Sackles, Arlo Wirth, Mrs. George Peacock; Mr. and Mrs. Dale Long, Dianne Long, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gress, Mr. and Mrs. Elsworth Gess, Tommy Gess, Mrs. Maude Sim, Mrs. Myrtle Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kavanagh, Barbara Kavanagh, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Ott, Charles Ott, Laura Jeanne Ott, Mrs. Leonard Brothers, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Barker, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dukes, Kenneth Wurtele, Bill Bennett, George Wurtele, Leslie Olney, Tim Grey, Howard McCord, Paul Rowe, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Crouse.

OLD TIME DANCERS

Crouse.

OLD TIME DANCERS

Sponsors: Dr. and Mrs. Arden Bonebrake; Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Wirth, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vondrak, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Thalman, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Gross, Mr. and Mrs. Eag Gruber, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Gruber, Mr. and Mrs. John Freeman, Mr. and Mrs. Wes Sheldon, Mr. and Mrs. Verne Jones, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Christian, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Pitstick, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Anville.

UNDERGROUND

UNDERGROUND

Sponsor: Jack Mullen; Robert Wirth, Leland Everett, Vic Kennedy, Gerald Stoval,
Edgar Hawley, Fred Oetgen, Ed Roach,
John Watson, James Bentz, Harold Harroun, Jack Haupt, Carl Crouse, Vicki Le-

CIVIL WAR
Sponsor: Vern Livingston; Mark Bell, Charles Schweitzer, Walter Dierking, Bill Berger, Frank Bataillon, Jerry Harpster, Bob Funke, Richard Weber, Larry Romjue, Larry Owen, Vern Livingston, Jerry Hall.

RAILROAD AND STEAM PRAIRIE WAGON Sponsor: Alma Siever, George Coupe;

Men-George Coupe, Dean Yoerg, Ernest Phillips, Melville Conley, Albert Bachler, Leonard Brothers, Lloyd Hoffman, Emil Webering, Brice Bell, Elmer Branson, Fred

Webering,
Coufal.

Women-Mrs. Dean Yoerg, Mrs. Lloyd
Hoffman, Alma Stever, Myrtle Donahoo,
Mary Wurtele. Men and women from

Mary Wurtele. Men and women from Scene 4.

Sponsor: John C. Miller; J. Sterling Morton, L. E. Wilson; Nebraska State Board of Agriculture—J. H. Sweet, Chalrman; Kenneth Sipple, Arthur Sweet, Harold Fouts, Wm. Shields, Jack Windle, Leslie Yager, John C. Miller, Bob McKissick. SEYMOUR HOUSE—GAY NINETIES Sponsor: Mrs. Edwin Gardner, Carolyn Conkling, Florence Ricketts, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Henry.

Ball Players—Marv Giittinger, Mel Gittinger, Ken Kangleser, Lynn Lyons, Dean

Ball Players—Mary Gittinger, Mei Gittinger, Ken Kangieser, Lynn Lyons, Dean Lyons, LeRoy Kreifels.

Fireman—Harry Bischoff, Perry Merritt, Otto Berthold, Tim Grey, Bob Miller, Ray Frana, Bill Waters, Maurice Hopkirk, Bill Witty.

Witty.

Gay Ninety Men—Jerry Schmitz, Carl
Peters, Phil Lightbody, Phil Fahrlander,
Tom Bischoff, Bill Vacek, Pete Seyfer,
Clement Byrnes, Jim Morgan, Ronald
Martin, Fred Stearns, Deryle Seefus.

Cops—Ken Henry, Virgil Pitstick.
Bicycle Hi-Wheeler—Martin Gardner.
Bicycle Built for Two—Mr. and Mrs. Iyol
Stever.

Bleycle Built for Two—Mr. and Mrs, Ivol Stever.
Gay Ninety Women—Rose Schreiner, Clara Woods, Nola Peters, Jamet Fullriede, Joyce Funke, Carolyn Conkling, Carol Vacck, Mable Bielman, Mrs. Randall Seyfer, Mrs. Clement Byrnes, Velma Kotas, Millie Endelman, Ramona Weber, Zelda Martin, Nora Stearns, Marie Seefus, Helen Schmitz, Margaret Brawner.
Bathing Beauties—Val Dennison, Peggy Gardner, Ardelie Wilhelm, Marilyn Baucke, Connie Bohl, Jo Ella Clark, Meiva Lee Allen.

Allen.
Can Girls—Catherine Ann Gardner,
Mary Lou Stever, Vera Lee Fitzekam, Linda Fitzekam, Mary Dierks, Lois Brust.
Small Boys—Dick Ricketts, Jim Christianson, Nicky Vondrak, Gary Rhoden.
Bieyele Girls—Mary Henry, Lorraine
Nies, Alice Peterson, Sandy Stever.

Nies, Alice Peterson, Sandy Stever.

IWO JIMA
Company A of the 134th Infantry of the Nebraska National Guard. Commanding Officer: Captain Hoyt Scharp.

LEADERS OF TOMORROW
Sponsors: Mary Ellen Slack, Sara Jane Whitten, Janet Fullriede. Spirit of Education—Charlotte Sorenson.
Girls—Sue Ashcraft, Marcia Burbridge, Barbara Jo Davis, Nancy DeLong, Jane Lutz, Rita Peterson, Mary Jane Schneider, Arlene Scudder, Mary Trail, Sharon Wachter, Joan Nelson, Kay Howell, Joan Humann. ter, J.

mann.

Boys—Peter Christensen, Bill Duffey, Bob Funke, Tom Funke, Bob Gosch, Gary Harpster, George Peterson, Larry Romiue, Ron Stoltenberg, Richard Webber, Bob Hoeman, Tom Farrell, Richard Herzog, Roger Hohnroth, Don Kasbohm, Dennis Kennell.

NEBRASKA CITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND

NEBRASKA CITY HIGH SCHOOL BAND
Duane Schulz, Director.
June Hauptman, Harriett Anville, Rosalae Roser, Jeanette Willis, Elaine Gibbs,
Joan Schumacher, Lois Brust,
Sweet, Charlotte Sorensen, Mary
Lois Jackson, Donna Phillips, Jack
Pickering, Marlene Rhoades, Kay Schotler, Beverly Ehlers, Janet Madsen,
Betty Stukenholtz.
Judy Stoewe, Jack Watkins, Karen
Johnson, Delores Brown, Edward Thomas, Joan Williamson, Mary Mead, Cola
Chapin.

as, Joan Williamson, Mary Mead, Cola Chapin.
Jackie Greenrod, Sandra Hemphill, Garry Ailes, Karen Nelson, Betty James, Stanley Goc, Mary Rains, Marlene Hutton, Ardith Ehlers, Judy Shuey, Sharon Adcock.

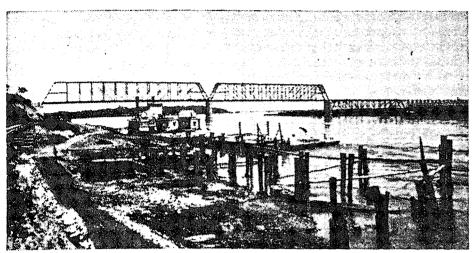
Retty Westfall Charles Olson Ray

Adcock.

Betty Westfall, Charles Olson, Ray Wallace, Keith Fox, Larry Thompson, Ronald Cole, Harold Puppe, Ronald Roberts, Henry Hinrichs, Verdes Baucke.
Richard Place, Larry Snyder, Nicky Nelson, Paul Christensen, Tom Andrews, Billy Kraft, John Christensen, Robert Shanahan.

Shanahan.
Troy Lyons, Malcolm McMillan, Harold Rowe, Bob Andrews, Larry Cole, Danny Herndon, Mac Ryder, Steve Rhoades, Kurt Brown, Phil Nieman
Beth Rowe, Maurice Jay, David Hopkitk, Richard Hatten, Douglas Chapin, Carla Wademan, JoAnn Wilhelm, Judy Cole, Beth Gilbert.

Grand Finale Spectacle-Entire Cast.



Early view of the Burlington Bridge with transfer boat in the foreground.

Burlington Bridge

The first attempt to bridge the Missouri River at Nebraska City was made by a party of Burlington and Missouri Railroad Company engineers in the winter of 1856, long before any railroad had pierced the wilderness far enough west to reach Nebraska City. The first survey for the Burlington was across the lower tier of counties in Iowa. The surveyors tied up on the bank of the Missouri River directly opposite the steamboat landing at Nebraska City on Dec. 18, 1856. The river was frozen over except for a narrow opening six or eight feet wide. A piece of timber four by twelve inches and about sixteen feet long was purchased by the railroad and was used by the surveyors to get across. That was the first bridge.

There has been some means of crossing here from the beginning of this locality. Steamboats were used as ferries. The Burlington was running a transfer boat, transferring cars from one side of the river to the other, as the tracks of the railroad ran only to the banks of the river. When the river was blocked by ice the railroad constructed pile bridges for the crossing of trains. These were destroyed

by the ice floes in the spring. The pontoon bridge was constructed, but was also washed away. Then came the building of the Burlington Bridge in 1887 to 1889, brought about because the rival railroad, Missouri Pacific, came through Nebraska City at that time.

The railroad bridge was opened August 30, 1888, with a huge celebration. Thirty-live thousand visitors were reported in Nebraska City on that date. (As an Oriental said, "Multiply by two and divide by ten."

A movement was then started for the building of a free bridge. Bonds were voted for the construction of a bridge but were never used, as the Burlington Railroad planked their bridge in 1890, built approaches, and opened it to vehicular traffic.

Edward F. Lyons sold the first bridge ticket after it was planked for travel. The toll gates were controlled by hand in order to let the trains pass over the bridge. At this time there were three men working days and one night man. This was a 12-hour day and sevendays-a-week job. Mr. Lyons served at this post for 40 years.

Between The Toots of a Steamboat Whistle a Bank Was Saved

The Platte Valley Bank of Nebraska City on three memorable occasions was saved in financial crises by the resourceful efforts of the management and their associates.

One time St. Louis creditors, hearing that conditions of the banks

were critical, sent a man to collect. When the man was due to arrive at the Platte Valley Bank in Nebraska City, the president, S. F. Nuckolls, and the cashier, Joshua Garside, locked the door and took to the brush. They left Mr. George W. Sroat, a grocer, sitting on the

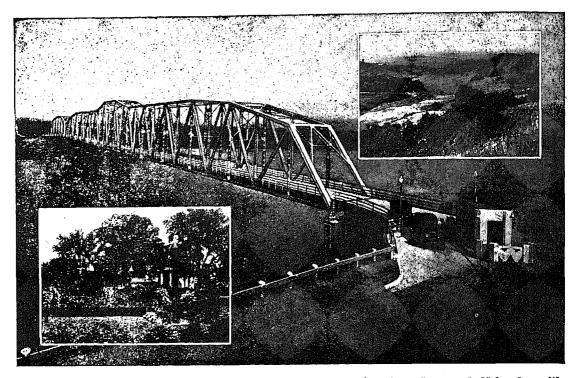
steps whittling. He told the Collector that the bank was locked and that he did not know where the President and Cashier had gone, but that they would likely be back to open the bank the following day.

The Collector hurried and caught the boat to Brownville, expecting to return the next day by Stage.

Mr. Nuckolls was fortunate in getting John Boulware (far from a friend of Nuckolls) to open his safe and put up \$10,000,00 in gold. others also helped. When the Collector returned the next day on horseback, he saw the counter full of money and gold dust. The Cashier said that the bank was trying to get in its issue as quickly as possible and would be glad of the opportunity to transact. The Collector looked at the gold, then at his saddlebags and said the gold was heavy, the journey long, and as the bank had the money he would not collect at that time. So the bank was saved.

On another occasion word got about that the bank was unsound. and a crowd of people gathered to draw out their accounts. Mr. Nuckolls explained that a boat was expected most any time with a shipment of coin from St. Louis, so the depositors waited for it. The Steamer whistled and all rushed to the river. Mr. Nuckolls followed leisurely and was seen talking to the Captain of the Boat, In a short time a man was seen carrying two very heavy bags and they all returned to the bank. The heavy bags were placed on the counter and the Cashier said in effect, "There it is if you really want it." This convinced the crowd that the bank had the money, so they left. The bags, however, did not contain gold, but iron washers which were being sent to an Omaha merchant. Later, money did come through, and the bank passed this crisis.

In another instance Mr. Thomas Morton saved the bank. One night in the early 60's the Platte Valley Bank was robbed in a very peculiar manner, reflecting on the Officers of the Bank. The news leaked out. and a run on the bank was feared. Thomas Morton, who was later founder of the Nebraska News, had just returned from the gold fields of California, and brought in a little brown satchel full of small bags of gold dust, ore, and gold and silver nuggets. He lifted the satchel onto the counter and told the Cashier, "Put this up for security for all the coin and currency you can get." They worked fast and the bank was saved and closed only one day.



This imposing span across the Missouri River at Nebraska City links Iowa and Nebraska, with concrete highways running to it from east and west. At either end of the bridge are fine state parks, Arbor Lodge in Nebraska and Waubonsie in Iowa, shown in the insets.

Nebraska City Bridge

During the years the Burlington Bridge was in use there was a desire on the part of the citizens for a bridge which would ultimately be a free crossing. In the fall of 1924 the legislatures of Nebraska and Iowa introduced companion bills for the appointment of commissions to investigate the feasibility of the construction of bridges connecting Iowa and Nebraska. A general meeting was held in Omaha in 1926 which was attended largely by Nebraskans and Iowans. Nebraska passed a bill which became a law in 1927 which provided funds for the construction of interstate bridges. The Nebraska City Chamber of Commerce appointed a permanent committee to work out plans for the building of a bridge.

The Free Bridge Committee worked hard to accomplish the dream of the community. Waubonsie Bridge was financed through sale of \$950,000 worth of preferred stock, of which \$300,000 was subscribed in Nebraska City. Woods Brother's Corporation of Lincoln, Nebraska, financed construction and handled all sales of stock.

On December 6, 1929, the first work started. On December 27 first equipment arrived. On October 12, 1930, the bridge was opened to traffic. A large celebration was held on October 17, 1930, for dedication.

The bridge was named for an Indian chief, Waubonsie, who was born in Indiana at the close of the Civil War. He ruled the Pottowattomi Indians, who came to Iowa in 1833 and settled in a village overlooking the Missouri River, on the hill today known as Waubonsie Park.

On August 17, 1940, the Waubonsie Bridge was purchased by the City of Nebraska City for \$800,000 and the name was changed to "Nebraska City Bridge." From all present indications the bridge will be free in the spring or early summer of 1955 and will be given to the states of Nebraska and Iowa.

"Doc" Kay was one of Nebraska City's characters. He was a druggist, living, and dispensing his pills from a building on the bank west of Stevenson's locker.

He was quite an artist on the fife, and led every Fourth of July parade, playing his fife.

He is remembered by early settlers as always wearing a tall stovepipe hat, and a long white linen duster.

APPLES!

Nebraska City was at one time the apple center of Eastern Nebraska. In the early days there were many home orchards and a few commercial ones. H. H. Petring had an orchard and experimental plantings between 10th and 11th Streets on Second Avenue before 1870. Mr. Draper had a commercial orchard between 14th and 17th Street and Second and Fourth Corso.

The Morton Orchard is probably the oldest continuous orchard in the community. The second oldest orchard is the Kimmel Orchard. It was begun by Val Keyser in 1915, and purchased by Richard Kimmel in 1925. The plantings have been enlarged and the whole farm put into orchard. There are no farm crops raised there.

Of the 150 varieties of apples listed in Nebraska in 1873, only two are raised here now on a commercial scale. Early day apples were sold loose in wagon loads, or in barrels. Everyone had caves and put away barrels of apples for winter. Now customers buy mostly by the pound, and five pounds of apples is a "lot of apples."

D. F. Jackson distinguished himself by having the first runaway, hiring James Fitchie to repair his wagon.

THE GREAT FLOOD

Our memories are still alive with the incidents of our last inundation, the heroic and successful efforts to remove people and livestock, to fight the menace, which probably will linger with us so long as river scoffs at man.

Nebraska City was also refuge for flood sufferers in 1881 after the Big Muddy swept through the bottoms.

Early in April, with the breaking of the ice in the Missouri river, the stream began to rise and by the middle of the month bad overflowed its banks on the east side. With heavy ice floating in the river it was impossible for the B. & M. transfer boat, the Vice President, and the ferries, J. F. Joy and Lizzie Campbell, to cross to Eastport, a town of about 40 families and the then western terminus of the C. B. & Q. railway.

The river continued to rise steadily. By the middle of the month it was twenty-three feet and six inches above low-water mark. Eastport was almost entirely submerged, and people were forced to flee to the Nebraska City side of the river.

April 21st found railway property at Eastport in great danger from the rapidly rising waters, and orders were issued to have all cars in the yards there transferred to the city.

Tracks of the K. C. Railroad running from East Nebraska City (now Payne) were under and washed out in many places as far north as Percival. The same condition existed south of Hamburg.

At this time the village of Percival was entirely surrounded by water, and the people living in that vicinity were forced to seek the bluffland to the east for safety. There was only one spot on the bottoms during the flood that was not entirely submerged, that being a plot of ground owned by the late M. U. Payne, about half a mile north of where the station at Payne now stands. A large dike, which had been constructed by Mr. Payne to protect his land, broke the night of April 22, and water was sent over the bottoms below to a depth of fourteen to sixteen inches. A week, later the situation became alarming, with only 12 houses in Eastport that were not flooded. The people of that place sought safety in Nebraska City. Dikes had been built across the bottoms at different places, from Glenwood to as far south as Watson, Mo. With the ex-

ception of one, between Watson and Hamburg, they were washed away as the river continued to rise, and this one was torn away by indignant citizens of Hamburg, because it was forcing the river to back up into the residential section of that town. One afternoon a large flat boat set out from Hamburg, captained by Dan Taylor, foundryman, and with about 20 men aboard. They drifted down the stream to the Missouri dike, and with shovels tore a large hole in the structure, letting the water on the protected farms below.

Water had flooded the south part of Hamburg from the railway station as far north as the second block in the business section, and the people living in the low land, known as Phelps Addition, had been forced to move out as every house in that section of the town was flooded.

Boats manned by Nebraska City men were sent out to explore the bottoms during the latter part of the month. On one of the trips more than 40 families were found and taken to safety. Many of these people were occupying the second story of their homes when found awaiting the arrival of the boats. On April 25th the situation became so serious that a mass meeting was called by Mayor T. B. Stevenson to make arrangements for rescuing the people left on the bottoms. The plan adopted was to send the steamer, J. F. Joy, to Percival, if possible, then send out small boats over the bottoms wherever a distress flag was to be seen. The steamer was unable to get near enough to the C. Keyser farm near Percival to rescue the members of that family, but two days later it came here with 125 persons who had been picked up in skiffs over the bottoms. The refugees were met at the wharf and taken in wagons to the City Hall, which had been thrown open for their reception. They were later provided for at the hotels. Some who had saved bedding were housed at the City Hall. Later a call for clothing was made and responded to promptly. On April 27, the Lizzie Campbell with Capt. Robert Payne left for the Otoe bottoms, 8 miles below this city on the Iowa side of the river, where several families were rescued.

John Payne, living southwest of East Nebraska City, who had one of the last farms in that part of the area to be flooded, threw open his home to refugees and at the

time the boats reached there, there were 151 persons on the premises. These were transferred by boats to the Nebraska side of the river. Mr. Payne had 1500 head of cattle on his place, and all were taken safely to the vicinity of Minersville. M. U. Payne, the largest landowner on the bottoms, had over 200 head of cattle on the high ground north of the Junction, as well as about 400 head of hogs. For some time these animals were fed from skiffs, going from one sand mound to another. This continued until the water receded.

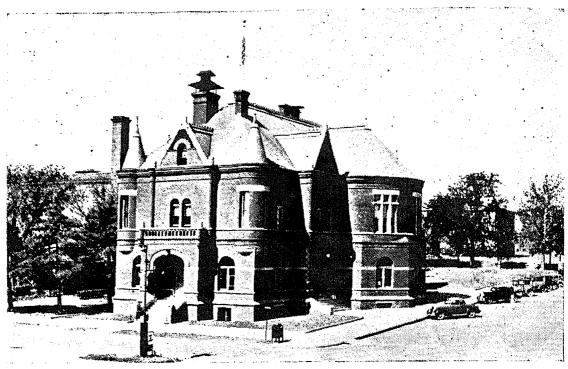
Many of the farmers, living south of East Nebraska City, sought refuge in the hills north of Hamburg; and about 1,000 persons were taken care of in that town until they were able to return home late in May. Livestock and poultry brought from the farms on the bottoms were left to run at large in the hills and many were stolen. Reports reached Hamburg that looters were busy among the refugees, and that household goods were being stolen by parties who pretended to be rescuers. This practice became so common that during the latter weeks of the flood boats were met by a committee when they landed, and if the owner was not present the goods were taken to a warehouse and stored. A mail carrier between Wyoming and Nebraska City reported that he could see people in trees on the Iowa side of the river in the vicinity of Percival, and that many of them were forced to remain there as long as 48 hours before being rescued.

WATER 18 MILES WIDE—The widest stretch of water in this section of the country is believed to have been between Hamburg and Peru, a distance of 18 miles, and many trips were made between the two places by boat.

The water began to recede about the middle of May and the farmers returned to their farms, but little was raised on the land that season, as so happened in this last disaster.

1952's battle against the Missouri, in which thousands of men, including Army and Coast Guard, were engaged in the epic of our time. We are too close to it, probably, to appreciate the enormity of the contest, of the cost in human endeavor, money, and equipment which was required. No life was lost and amazingly enough the land inundated during those awful days mostly produced bountifully in the 1952 harvest.

William McLennan ran the first steam ferry.



NEBRASKA CITY POST OFFICE BUILDING

OUR POST OFFICE, FROM CIGAR BOX TO \$105,000 BUILDING

There seems to be some debate as to when the first post office in Nebraska City was established. According to the files of The News, it was in 1851; according to Andrea's history, it was in 1852; and according to the Assistant Postmaster General's report it was in 1853.

The first post office, then known as the Table Creek office, was located on the east side of the river with John Boulware as postmaster. On May 22, 1854 Hiram P. Downs was appointed postmaster and the office was moved to this side of the river. Following Downs was Charles H. Cowles, appointed Dec. 16, 1854. During his administration the office was changed to the Nebraska City Post Office. Charles H. Pierce was appointed March 21, 1855. At that time, the post office was located at approximately 410 Central Avenue. In the winter of 1854 and 1855, according to The News, a post office was established in Kearney with Mills S. Reeves as postmaster, but as it was not in accordance with the postal laws to have post offices within a mile of each other, it was shortly discontinued.

Following C. W. Pierce, during whose administration the office was changed to the Otoe County Post Office, William P. Walker

was appointed June 12, 1855, and Miles W. Brown, March 13, 1856.

"Up to this time," says the Nebraska City News," a cigar box held all the mail received at this point and each man was allowed to go to the same and select out what might be there for him." August 29, 1857, George S. Gillette was appointed and moved the post office to a little frame building that stood east of the Sherman House on Main Street. Gillette held the office until 1861, when it seems there was a bitter struggle for the appointment.

The News account tells the tale: "J. J. Hochstetler was the principal applicant and he sent Dr F. Renner to Washington to look after his interests. The Doctor, while there, thought perhaps it would be well to look out for No. 1 and made application for the office, securing the appointment and was confirmed. However, before he was able to qualify, Hochstetler learned the true state of affairs and with his friends managed to have the commission revoked and himself appointed in Renner's stead."

Mr. Hochstetler served for ten years, during which period the post office was moved twice. For a while it occupied what was known as the McCullouch and Burnett building located at 115 South 5th Street on the alley, and later it was moved to 711 Central Avenue.

On March 28, 1871, David Brown secured the appointment. During his term, on the night of July 27, 1872, the office was burned. The block, which was then known as the Post Office Block, was entirely consumed on that night.

On July 1, 1875, W. A. Brown, then publisher of the Press, was appointed and held the office until 1877, at which time Paul Schminke took charge. During Brown's term the office was moved to the Masonic - Odd Fellows Building, in what was known as Union Block. The office address was then 517-519 Central Avenue. Paul Schminke was postmaster for ten years. During his term the office was in the old Keegan building at 801 Central Avenue, where Thygesons' Drug Store is now located.

Thomas Morton followed Paul Schminke receiving this commission March 18, 1886. During that year, the Federal Building at 8th Street and 1st Corso was started.

Congress originally appropriated \$75,000 for the construction of the U. S. Court House and Post Office in Nebraska City. Later a \$5,000 supplemental appropriation was voted to be used in building the approaches and, still later, when it appeared certain more space would

be needed, another \$25,000 appropriation was voted to make the building larger.

A story, told a number of times, is that as the size of the building depended upon the population of Nebraska City, the persons buried in Wyuka Cemetery were counted along with the living in order to get our present post office.

On March 26, 1886, G. A. Wilcox, a resident of Nebraska City, was appointed Superintendent of Construction. He rented an office in the Barnum House, a block from the building site, for \$10.00 a month. He bought, among other things, a bowl, a pitcher and soap dish for \$1.75, a water cooler for \$4.50, a slop jar for \$1.50, and a water bucket and dipper for 50 cents.

In October, 1886, the superintendent's office began to get cold, so he wrote Washington and secured permission to buy a stove for not more than \$15.00 and three cords of wood for \$7.00 a cord. He was given permission to spend \$2.00 a month for gas, \$5.00 for fixtures, and \$5.00 to have them put in place.

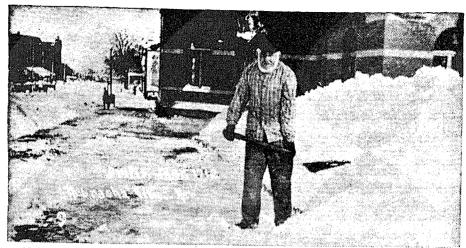
The site was purchased from Phillip Potter and John Hamlin. Harry Wales was awarded the contract for construction of the building which was completed early in 1889.

In the early days, the stage coach and the river boats played the most important roles in mail delivery. All Nebraska City mail was sent to St. Louis, loaded on a mail barge, and brought up the Missouri at the great rate of several miles a day. In 1852, according to the "Laws and Regulations for the Government of the Post Office," there were only fifty distributing postoffices in the United States. From these towns the pony express, stage coach, and river boats carried on into the interior towns.

A clipping taken from a Lincoln paper published more than half a century ago credits C. J. McCord with being the first man to carry mail between Nebraska City and Fort Kearney. That was in 1857 when the fort was established. It took him two weeks to make the trip and the journey was always sufficiently thrilling to make it interesting.

The first rural free delivery in this section was authorized July 13, 1901. Fred H. McLellen, Charles T. Leigh, Fred L. Thornton, and Schuyler U. Tipton were the carriers appointed, with H. Clifford Leigh substitute carrier. The first mail carried by the above named men was on September 2, 1891.

The Parcel Post Law became ef-



Father Dennis shoveling snow off the Post Office walks after the big blizzard of 1912. Mr. Dennis was janitor at the Post Office for many years.

fective in 1913.

Donald McCuaig was postmaster when the first free mail delivery was established in Nebraska City (1887-8-9).

The Nebraska City Post Office became a First Class Post Office in 1944

Postmasters who followed Thomas Morton are as follows: Donald McCuaig, Frank E. Helvey, Volney M. Street, Frank E. Helvey, Frank McCartney, John W. Steinhart, Frank H. Marnell, Frank A. Bartling, Arthur H. Barstler, George L. Coupe (Temporary) and Mrs. Nellie Uerkyitz.

Two Hangings And An Escape

As the following stories will indicate Nebraska City was a "rough and ready" town during its early days. Tempers were easily aroused and justice meted out forthwith.

On Wednesday, August 15, 1866, Willie Hamilton, an eleven year old boy, was murdered in cold blood while herding cattle on his father's farm south of town. The next day, it was learned a man named Casper Dierks had sold part of the cattle for \$200. More than 200 armed Nebraska City men went in pursuit of Dierks, found him in a tavern in Plum Hollow, Iowa, and brought him back to Nebraska City. Dierks was tried in what is known now as Nuckolls Square and found guilty. Within an hour he was hanged from a scaffold in Court House Square.

Another blot on the town's reputation was the murder of Apple Charlie and his wife on November 30, 1878. Three negroes, who entered his house on North 9th Street for the purpose of robbery, murdered the couple. They were

caught, tried, found guilty of second degree murder, and sentenced to serve life sentences. This was never carried out because that night a mob broke into the jail, removed the prisoners, and hanged them to a convenient tree in a little grove west of the 11th Street viaduct.

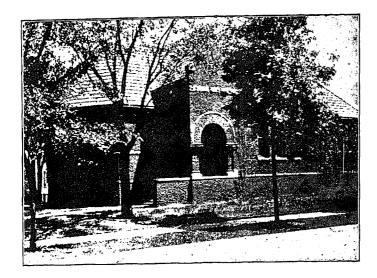
One of the unsolved mysteries of Nebraska City is what happened to Quin Bohanan. One chilly Sunday afternoon in Waverly, Nebraska, Quin Bohanan and one James Cook argued over the spelling of the word "peddler." One said "pedlar", and the other "peddler". Each was right. Finally tempers flared hotly and Bohanan drew a gun and killed Cook. Feeling ran so high that Quin was brought to Nebraska City for trial with pioneer Judge O. P. Mason as his attorney.

He was convicted and sentenced to die. One springlike night in 1887 Quin Bohanan escaped from jail, just how no one knows. No one ever set eyes on him again and what became of him is a community mystery.

2 U.S. Senators

Nebraska City has furnished Nebraska with two United States senators, Charles H. VanWyck and Monroe L. Hayward. VanWyck served one term but Hayward, elected after a long drawn out legislative battle, died before taking office.

It was during the one term of Mr. VanWyck that Nebraska City's postdffice was secured. He was very proud of the success he had in getting it but was disappointed in that its second story was not used for the sessions of federal court, which he believed would be brought here. He had hoped for a southern district of the state here.



NEBRASKA CITY PUBLIC LIBRARY

The first literary club in Nebraska City was organized in 1869 as the Ladies Round Table Club. This existed until 1882 when the Ladies Library Association was formed. At first it operated from rented rooms on Main Street and later was granted the free use of rooms on the second floor of the Post Office building. Members alternated in taking charge during afternoon hours.

In 1896, the present building was erected by Joy Morton. Contributions from individuals were used for the purchase of the ground and equipment. The Library was presented to the City, and a Library Board was created to administer

a one mill levy for its operation.

On February 10, 1897, the Ladies Library Association dissolved their society and transferred their books to the Library. They also presented a clock and a framed picture "The Reading of Homer" to the Library. These pieces still grace the building.

The services of Miss Edna Bullock, of Lincoln, were acquired to set up the Library, and Mrs. Mollie S. Cornutt was selected as Librarian

In 1932, Mr. Morton built a threefloor stack addition to the building. At present the Library houses approximately 21,000 volumes.

Oldest Continuous Masonic Lodge In Nebraska

Nebraska City is very proud to have the oldest continuous Masonic Lodge in Nebraska. Western Star Lodge No. 2, Masonic fraternity of Nebraska City, will celebrate its ninety-ninth birthday this year. The Lodge was organized May 10, 1855 having been granted dispensation by the Grand Secretary of Missouri. It was designated as Giddings Lodge, with N. P. Giddings, Worshipful Master; C. A. Goshen, Senior Warden; and Lewis Hax, Junior Warden.

Bellevue Lodge of Masons was the first organization of the order in the territory, being organized in 1854, but it later surrendered its charter.

The Nebraska City Lodge continued under dispensation until May 1856, at which time the Grand Lodge of Missouri granted a Char-

ter under the name of Giddings Lodge No. 156.

September 25, 1857, the Nebraska City Lodge aided in the formation of a Grand Lodge of Nebraska and received a charter bearing the date of 1857, with the name and number of Western Star Lodge No. 2. This charter was destroyed in the fire of 1860, and a duplicate charter was issued by the Grand Lodge of Nebraska, June 8, 1862. On July 2, 1872, fire again made the Lodge homeless and another duplicate charter was issued by the Grand Lodge.

There is no record of the men who received degrees previous to the date of the duplicate charter, except that there were 25 Master Masons on the date the charter was issued.

When fire swept the town in 1869,

the jewels belonging to the Lodge were in the home of William E. Hill, then Tyler of the Lodge. The jewels were saved and are used by the lodge in their ritual to this date.

In 1861, the Masonic Lodge and the Odd Fellows raised funds for a new building known as the Union Block, erected at Sixth and Main Streets. The Odd Fellows occupied the west half of the second story as a lodge room, and the Masons used the east half. In 1920, the Masonic Lodge purchased the Stevenson Building at Eleventh and Main Streets. This has been their Masonic Temple since December 28th of that year.

The present elective officers of the Masonic bodies in Nebraska City are as follows:

Western Star Lodge, No. 2, A. F. and A.M. - Neils C. Madsen, W. M.; William M. Gray, S. W.; Francis W. Cole, J. W.; James T. Shewell, Treas.; Fred Stearns, Secretary. Keystone Chapter No. 2, R.A.M. - W. Earl Dyer, H.P.; Earl Seyfer, King; Stanton Gregg, Scribe; James T. Shewell, Treas.; Henry E. Schemmel, Secretary. Mount Olivet Commandery, N. S. K. T.-Flavius M. Sherwood, E. C.; W. Earl Dyer, Generalissimo; Weimer West, Captain General; William W. Dermann, Treas.; Henry E. Schemmel, Secretary.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

COUNCIL No. 3152

Fr. Joseph Vanderheiden, Council No. 3152 of Knights of Columbus was chartered July 8, 1948 by Dr. Ben Haller, State Deputy of Omaha, associated with an initiation of 20 new members to bring the membership at that time to 110 members.

H.M. Vondrak was elected Grand Knight; Clark Bruce, Deputy Grand Knight; and Floyd Bourg was appointed Financial Secretary. Mr. Vondrak served two terms, followed by Charles Stastka. Rev. A. W. Bauer then served as Grand Knight until August 1953, and Michael Roddy, Jr., was elected to fill the vacancy left by Rev. Bauer's transfer to North Dakota. The membership now stands at 95 members.

John B. Boulware paid the first money into the county treasury, a ferry license fee.

T. E. Thompson, deputy sheriff, made the first tax assessment.

TOONERVILLE DAYS

For 20 years Nebraska City boasted four street cars, each propelled by a pair of mules driven by the conductor. Organized in 1888 by civic-minded citizens who expected a rapid population growth, the company was headed by the late H. H. Bartling.

The original franchise was for the construction and operation of a street railway system for a period of 99 years, requiring that daily service be provided. Construction, equipment, stock, and real estate upon which a barn was built cost \$19,533.83. The barn, accommodating 30 horses and mules, was built at 21st and Park Avenue.

The tracks ran from the Burlington and Missouri Pacific stations to Morton Park, with another line extending south on Fifteenth Street to near the packing house. Cars met all passenger trains.

Housewives in the West End used the sound of bells on the mules as a "clock", for service was fairly steady, until it was abandoned altogether, and the tinkle-tinkle of the bells was pretty dependable.

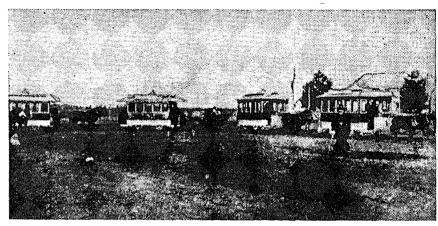
In June, 1903, a disastrous blow was struck the company when a fire destroyed the barn, burning 25 head of horses and mules. One mule was saved and, although severely burned about the head and back, recovered and was used until the line was abandoned. This scarred mule was a familiar sight in Nebraska City and usually aroused the curiosity of visitors.

In 1909 the company decided to stop operations, leasing the line to Jacob Dixon, one of the drivers of the company at that time, but he found the auto too much competition and gave up his lease within the next year.

On August 22, 1910, Nebraska City people heard for the last time the tinkle of the bells on the necks of the mules. The familiar rattle and clatter of the old cars was silenced, and that form of transportation became a memory.

OUR FAMOUS DRIVING PARK

About 1870 the first race track of Nebraska City started out as a fair ground. It was located east of Arbor Lodge and Morton Park. The "Lincoln Light Infantry" held



Picture taken at the car barns on 21st Street and Park Avenue, showing Nebraska City's complete street car system. Why the traffic cop?

an encampment there in the early 1890's, with Arthur Bischof and Frederick Volkhardt members. Buffalo Bill's circus was held there.

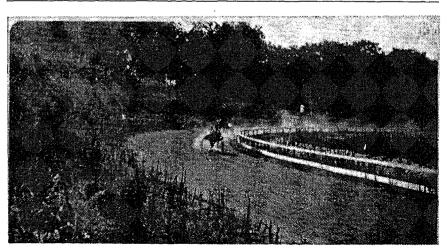
Although it was enclosed by a high board fence, the neighbors soon objected to the noise of the concessions, so it became a racing course. A few races were run there, but as it was only a halfmile course, not nearly long enough, a larger one was sought. Next, the tract of ground on the west end of Wyuka Cemetery was used for racing. However the entire course was not visible from the grand stand because it was graded too low.

In 1908, the adjoining property, now known as Steinhart Park, was bought by the Driving Park Association. Messrs. F. W. Rodenbrock, H. H. Bartling, Wm. Hayward, Otto Bischof, J. A. Nelson, G. W. Leidigh, Nebraska City News, Dr. E. M. Whitten, Calvin Chapman, George W. Hawke and Charles Schneider each contributed \$200. The land was bought

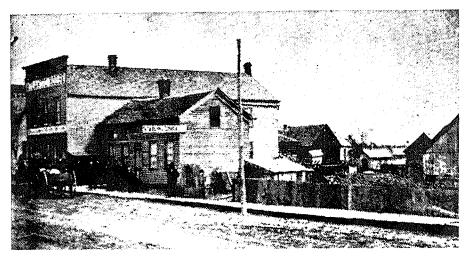
from Lars Anderson, E. D. Briggs. Joy Morton and the Charles Keegan Estate and was to be used for the construction and maintenance of a race track, meetings and driving-park purposes. (What had been Belmont School was moved across the highway.) An amphitheatre or grandstand was erected, also barns, sheds, and corrals and the dwelling house to be used by the caretaker. The grounds were to be used for fairs, expositions, etc., with authority to charge admissions and entry fees. E. A. Duff was president; L. F. Jackson, and F. W. Rottvice president; man, treasurer.

The famous Eddie Rickenbacker was in one of the first races. His car overturned in the pond. Motorcycle races were also held there. Ed McCallum and Tom Kastner were among those who exercised their horses there.

The track was not very popular. The members of the Driving Park Association relinquished their rights and interests to this property to the City of Nebraska City.



Exercise time for Sevena Mc at race track. Horse owned by Milton McClimans and named for his wife, the former Sevena Petring.



The "Atlantic House," where emigrants boarded and roomed in early times. Now Tom Beausang's Place. The stable and corral extended west to the end of the block and south to the alley.

"HOTEL De'HOSS"

Just as today's modes of transportation need garages, service stations, and repair shops, so too in days gone by did we find three classifications for services to the mode of transportation then—the horse and buggy.

First — Feeding and Boarding stables where temporary shelter and feed were furnished to farmers, travelers, and city people who stabled their horses and vehicles at these places.

Second—Livery stables furnished the same accommodations but in addition served the community with omnibuses, hacks, and delivery and baggage wagons. In some instances hearses and funeral carriages could even be rented, and, if so, the drivers were often groomed in long tailed coats and stove pipe hats.

The first livery stable was opened by Monroe, Dillion & D. J. McCann about 1856 who operated omnibuses from the ferry to uptown Nebraska City. They later moved to where Long's Drug Store is now located. This was called the "White Elephant" barn as it had a large picture of the animal painted on the front gable.

The Levi Stables moved to 8th Street & 1st Corso, the present site of the News-Press Building, after a fire in 1881 in which two men lost their lives and thirty head of horses were burned to death. This, too, was destroyed by fire in 1895 although no lives were lost in this catastrophe and only one horse was burned. This horse had been placed in the barn by Constable Oren Hail, to be held in settlement

of a claim and was to be sold to satisfy the debt. This time the stable was rebuilt and operated by sons of Leopold Levi as Levi Brothers. In later years, it was operated by Payne & McCallum with a hack line and baggage dray line and as autos came into use changed to motor vehicles.

During the 90's we find these stables operating: Felthauser's on Ferry Street—O. L. James on 15th & Central—O. K. Barn operated by Fred Meyer & Son, Dan, at 909 1st Avenue—Cal Chapman at 423 1st Corso—Effenberger & Kinderman at 1205 Central Avenue—Peter Freese & Son, on South 7th Street.

The third classification—a serv-

ice to be sure—was the blacksmith. Nebraska City had many capable horse-shoers and as there were a lot of horses in those days, all were kept busy.

Conrad Mullis has the honor of being the first blacksmith.

Dick Sheckler's shop was located where Bill Gray now does his blacksmithing. Mr. Sheckler was very proud of his work and once gave J. Sterling Morton a set of silver plated shoes for one of his favorite horses.

A Mr. Topping, whose place of business was 4th Street and 1st Corso, shod the horses for the Stage Coach.

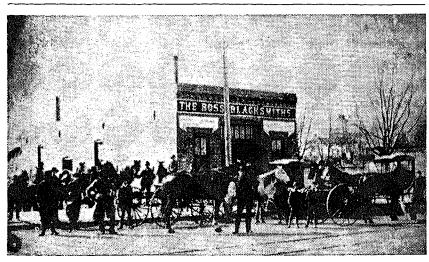
The Porter Hand shop was also on First Corso as well as that of Jack Pallister whose shop stood on a sort of "little mountain" at 6th Street and 1st Corso before it was smoothed off for the greenhouse. Jack Pallister once said if he ever became rich he would smoke nothing but "good, five-cent seegars."

LEOPOLD LEVI—Livery stable proprietor; here in 1863; early day farmer; a native of Germany, graduate of Wurtenburg University.

WASH McCALLUM—Son of Daniel McCallum; Deputy Sheriff; Chief of Police; horseman; livery stable owner.

J. Sterling Morton proudly owned the first jackass, which, characteristically he called, "Henry Ward Beecher".

A. B. Mayhew owned the first Shanghai rooster.



THE WILLIAM BROWER BLACKSMITH SHOP

Pictured from left to right are Bill Lueck and Bill Brower wearing leather blacksmith aprons. To the right of the picture is Northcutt's corn crib. In the background—right—the Thomas Hughes house (home of Mrs. Roy Berger's grandparents), and the old Fourteenth Street School.

AUTOMOBILES

The first car, or horseless carriage as it was called then, came to Nebraska City in 1901. It was a Steam Locomobile, Style No. 934, manufactured by the Locomobile Company, Bridgeport, Conn., under Pat. November 14, 1899.

This car was purchased and owned by William Hayward, who employed Ed Gregg to get it and drive it for him. It was considered one of the wonders of the day. According to our research, this was the first car, or horseless carriage, to arrive in Nebraska.

According to history, it was a very pretty little Steam Locomobile, somewhat smaller than a buggy, equipped with wire wheels and rubber tires. To steer the car you used a steering rudder instead of a steering wheel. Steering wheels had not yet been invented for automobiles. Every youngsster in town that took a ride (and none missed the opportunity) got a thrill; but many of the older people were afraid to ride in the "thing" because the driver's seat was directly over the boiler. This was not too good as on different occasions the boiler did blow up.

This horseless carriage, or car, was later sold to Mrs. Harry Villars, of Tecumseh, Nebraska and it is now on display in the Historical Society Building at Lincoln, Nebraska.

The first Automobile Legislation was introduced by Representative W. L. Hand, of Buffalo County in 1905. This celebrated law required the operator of an automobile to halt on the highway until the driv-

er of any frightened horse could get by.

Automobile Carry-all or Bus

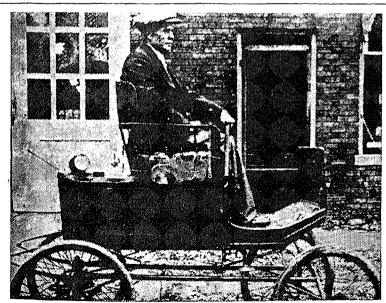
The first automobile carry-all or bus on record in Nebraska City was owned and operated by Harry Freese, of the firm Peter Freese & Sons, livery and feed stable owners at 115 South Seventh Street.

The bus or carry-all had the name of "The Rapid Automobile." It was used as a bus for hotels and was sent to the railroad depots to meet the travelers. It was also for rent by the public for picnic parties, attendance to meetings in neighboring towns, etc.

On August 3, 1907 probably the first fire alarm turned in for an automobile fire was a call to put out a fire in the body of the "Rapid." Cause of the fire was explosion of a can containing flammable liquid. The fire TEAM responded, the loss to the auto was small.

The First Automobile Taxi

Guy Barnhart, who operated a garage on the Northwest corner of Fifth and Central Avenue, owned the first Automobile Taxi. About August 1913, Mr. Barnhart purchased a used Regal four passenger car from Lee McDaniels. W. A. Williams was the mechanic - he reconditioned the engine but the body was replaced by a four passenger phaeton type car purchased from Mrs. N. A. Duff. The driver rode out in front-separate from the passengers, with only a roof and windshield for protection. The Taxi was put in use about September 10, 1913. In two months time a second taxi was needed.



First Horseless Carriage. Owned by Wm. L. Hayward. Ed S. Gregg at the Wheel.

The First Endurance Run

Early in 1910, Ralph Duff who had a garage on Fifth Street and sold Regal, Moon and Matheson cars, drove a Matheson from Dunbar to Nebraska City in 10 minutes over a dirt road. Every intersection was guarded and instead of road markers, big batches of wadded up paper were dropped at intersections to indicate where to turn. The passengers on this historical event were John W. Steinhart, The Honorable Mayor Logan Jackson, and J. H. "Hyde" Sweet. All the passengers and driver were dressed with dusters and wore goggles, because there was no windshield.

Behind the Duff car were several others from Kansas City, making in those days what was known as the endurance run. The stunt was promoted by the Kansas City Star, and there were 5,000 people to watch them enter town. It must have been quite an event and achievement in those days.

EARLY BURIAL GROUNDS

Andrea's History of Nebraska Published in 1882 gave the following description of what was possibly the first burial grounds in Nebraska City before Wyuka was established: "Prior to the year of 1855, the remains of the few, in the new settlement who had died, were buried in the square bounded by Laramie and Main and Eleventh and Twelfth Streets." Note: Laramie Street on old maps of Nebraska City is the first street north of Central Avenue and is now named First Avenue.

The Elmwood Cemetery, situated on the Kennedy land one half mile north on Sixteenth Street, was originally a neighborhood burying place. The tombstone dates tell all that is really known of its beginning. The land was first owned by a man by the name of Vincent. Mrs. Vincent sold the land to Joseph W. Anderson who in turn, sold to the Kennedy family. One half acre near the center of the land was reserved and deeded to the Elmwood Cemetery Association.

The cemetery is in great dis-repair now, with underbrush, lilacs and other shrubbery so dense the broken stones can hardly be found. Many graves were removed when the Missouri Pacific came through and bought a corner of the land. The only road into the cemetery is through a farm yard.

Early Garages

To the best of our knowledge Ralph Duff operated the first Sales and Service Garage on 5th Street and Central Avenue. He had the agency for three cars, the Regal, Moon, and Matheson. His partner and officer manager was Harry Rolfe.

The intricacies of the early day automobile (1909-1910) were such that Ralph Duff, pioneer in Nebraska City automotive activities, bought books that were available at the time to instruct such workers for him as Tom Carmody, Bob Kregel, Harry Johnson, and Walter Armstrong.

The building at 5th and Central had been completed when Rolfe began his duties as Office Manager. The cement floor was large enough for cars to drive in, using both the east and front doors and still have ample room for storage and display. The repair shop was at the rear with a single door facing the alley. The first floor had two offices. Upstairs was Mr. Duff's private office and a workroom with adjoining space for stock and parts. Bob Kregel was Master Mechanic in charge of repair details.

During those years they handled the Velie, Moon, Regal, Hupmobile, Matheson Six, and the Overland (not one of these cars is today familiar to 1954 drivers). Pedal drive was popular, and the gear shifts went outside the body of the car.

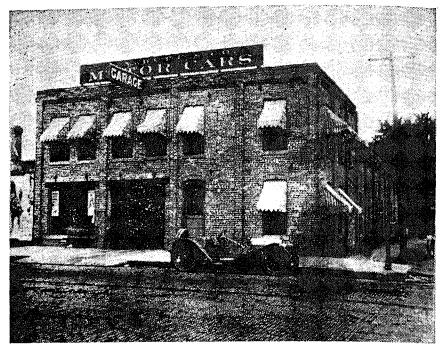
Another first was Henry Markel, a hardware dealer, who was the first Ford dealer, and he displayed a Ford Roadster in his store window. It was sold to him by the late Lt. Gen. Knudsen, who was at that time a Ford salesman.

The first Chevrolet dealer was McCaffrey Motor Co., appointed January 15th, 1926.

The oldest and continuous dealer in Otoe county is C. A. Sweet, Jr., of Palmyra, Nebraska, who has been a Ford Dealer since 1912.

Samuel H. Fields and family came to Nebraska City in 1871, from England. He and his sons planted some of the beautiful shade trees on First Avenue.

His son, Frank H. Fields, has probably planted, and given away for others to plant, more trees than any other one person in Nebraska City. Last Spring, Mr. Fields observed his 50th Arbor Day of planting one or more trees.



Nebraska City's First Garage. Built by R. A. Duff. Now occupied by Novak Auto Co. Stevens Duryeau parked in front.

Our Fire Department Organized In 1856

The Nebraska City Volunteer Fire Department has three companies, which have been in continuous existence for more than 98 years. The 98th Anniversary date is based on evidence in the files of the "Nebraska City News Press", and by these facts the Otoe Hook and Ladder Company No. 1 of Nebraska City claims to be the first fire company organized in the state of Nebraska, and maintains its continuous existence as a volunteer organization of firemen.

The first company organized in Nebraska City for fire protection was in that part of the first ward known as Kearney Addition. Membership was composed of businessmen and citizens of that section of the village. Honor of being the oldest fireman in Nebraska City belongs to A. F. Mollring, who organized a bucket brigade in 1856. He was authorized to have the ladders and hooks made with all necessary requirements. These six ladders were made in ten foot sections and placed so they would be handy in case of fire. In those days a building of more than one story was a novelty, and a short ladder enabled them to get to the top of most any building. A bucket brigade was pressed into service

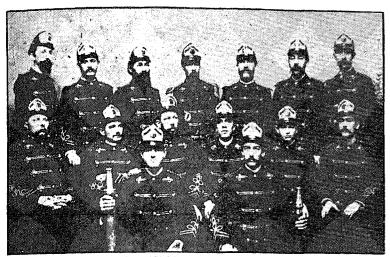
and unless prompt action was had the fire would get beyond control. For a truck they used the first wagon that could be found. At one time the company made its own truck by using a Peter Schuettler farm wagon (nationally famed wagons at that period), equipped with homemade ladders, pike poles, leather buckets, and oil lanters.

When the business section abandoned Kearney and moved to Nebraska City proper, the "bucket brigade" and "ladder company" were made into a more permanent organization by forming a Hook and Ladder Company, November 28, 1861.

Nebraska City Company No. 1 was organized in 1865, but this lasted only a short time. The Great Western No. 1 was organized in 1869, and for many years the membership was made up almost entirely of young Germans.

On November 21, 1867, the City Council contracted for a steam fire engine and named it R. H. Dickey, after the Mayor.

Then in 1874 the Babcock Engine
—Jennie Carr—was purchased and
housed in a one story brick building
opposite the Court House on Main
Street, also headquarters of Great



MEMBER OF GREAT WESTERN FIRE COMPANY—1883

Top Row—Left to Right—G. H. Meyers, Emil Heiser, Theo. Cope,
J. H. McClellan, B. H. Noelting, Wm. J. Butt, and Geo. F. Kregel.

Second Row—John J. Teten, Herman Muellenstadt, Emil H. Buhlman, Lutz Bredehoft, Herman Ermshaus, and Horace Kuwitzky.

Third Row—George Kees and Fernando Mohrmann.

Western and Hook & Ladder Com-

John Darley, captain of the Hook & Ladder Company, was very active for many years in fire department affairs. The captain was provided with a silver megaphone, supposedly to be used for calling out orders to the men at fires, but principally used in parades and drill practices. To complete the company organizations boys were made auxiliary members and given the office of torch-bearers. Coal oil torches were provided, to be used in night parades and at band concerts and for use at night fires in gathering up equipment, tools, etc. John Larsh, Ulyssis Fraker and Chas. W. Trail were officially designated as torch-bearers for the Hooks.

A code of signals was adopted, the captain using the trumpet to call out orders, and torch and lantern signals were used for night calls.

The Hook & Ladder Company was active, like other companies, in giving dances to raise funds for their organization. They joined with other citizens in promoting community celebrations. Parades were events of the day; firemen appearing in full uniform of helmets, bright colored shirts (principally red ones), fancy belts, etc.

The date of the first dance given by the company is not definitely established. In 1900 the minutes state that it was the 34th annual ball, which would establish the fact that the first dance was given in 1866. Then the minutes in 1906 state that it is the 37th annual ball, which would set the date of the first dance as 1869.

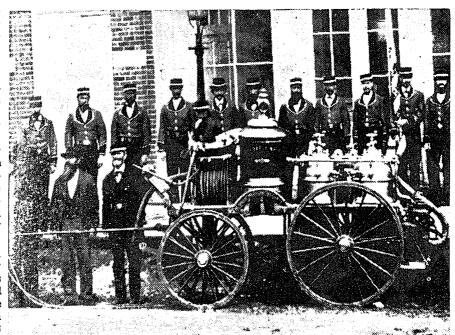
Many dances were given at the City Hall, with an occasional one at the Opera House. Masquerade dances were very popular, the mask committee being an important one and responsible for good behavior at the dances. One of their duties was to see that all dancers removed their masks at a designated hour. J. W. Whitehead was chairman of such a committee in 1884 and was responsible for conduct of that particular ball. He neglected his duty, and charges were preferred against him at the next meeting for permitting dancers to wear masks all evening. These charges resulted in his resignation. Monroe W. Neihart comes into the record in the 1880's when he was engaged as a caller for the square dances of that day, and his ability and popularity made him greatly desired for most of the dances of that time.

Dances provided the means for raising money to finance the company, these social events being well attended by citizens of Nebraska City. Usually the three companies united in a parade preceding the ball, all firemen being in full uniform and regalia and the Silver Cornet Band assisting. In 1878 the Hook & Ladder Company joined other companies in promoting a dance and celebration on July 4th to raise funds to buy a bell for the City Hall.

The first motorized fire apparatus put into service in Nebraska City was in 1916. The fire truck was first a passenger car, a "Kisselkar," originally owned by Henry Schwake and bought by the city from John H. Markel, an automobile dealer. Robert Kregel remodeled the car into a fire truck.

The finished fire truck was a combination chemical truck and hose truck (no pumper). The minutes of the City Clerk and the secretary of the fire department of April 1916, show the cost to have been \$1,067.80.

Mr. White Handley, driver of the fire team for many years, attempted to handle the auto apparatus but was afraid of the risk. He made one drive, an early evening alarm. In making the straightaway



GREAT WESIERATIRE CO. 1874. CHEMIST WARDON JEDNIE CHEST

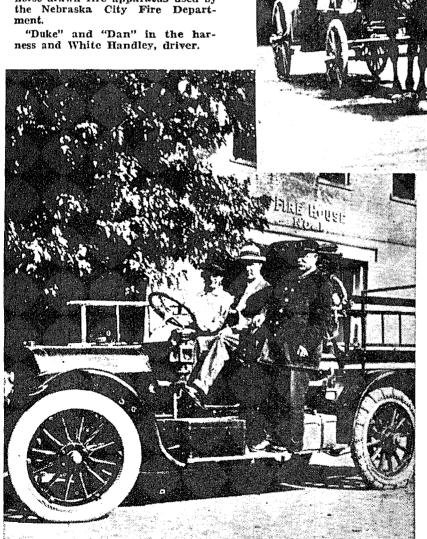
and after turning the corner of 6th Street and Central Avenue, the street car tracks or the rough pavement caused the fire truck to swerve and go out of control. The vehicle cracked into the store front at 606, Central Avenue where the Donut Shop is now. The truck and store front were slightly damaged, but fortunately there was no injury to the driver, White Handley.

Mr. Handley refused to handle the truck again, and as the fire department was completely motorized, he soon retired.

On April 19, 1902, the old gray fire team "Frank and Ned" was sold for \$24.

The Nebraska City volunteer Fire Department has forty-one members at the present time. Harry Bischof is Fire Chief.

Last team of horses and last horse drawn fire apparatus used by



are Louse

KO. L

First motorized fire apparatus used by the City of Nebraska City. Men in the picture, left to right: Lee McDaniels, driver; Henry H. Bartling, Chief; and White Handley, veteran fireman and driver of horse drawn fire wagon.

The harness was a gift to the fire department from the late Carl Morton and was highly prized by Chief Mike Bauer. When the city commissioners sold the team in 1923 to make way for motorized equipment, the harness was disposed of to the same buyer. This displeased the late Chief Mike Bauer very much, he desiring to keep the harness as a relic. The wagon was dismantled, the fire equipment kept at the station, and the wagon sold to a local drayman.

When this equipment was used the wagon was placed in the front part of the fire station, with stable for horses and other equipment to the rear. Horses were kept in separate stalls each side of the wagon. Harness, of the patented quick hitch type, was hung from ceiling to be dropped on horses as they took their positions when an alarm came in.

This team was very fond of plug chewing tobacco, devouring good sized pieces of tobacco and eagerly wanting more. Giving tobacco to the horses would arouse the protests of White Handley.

Buffalo Bill Was Here

The very first show in Nebraska City was held in what was known as Hawke's Hall.

One memory of this Opera House was a Shakesperian Play put on by talent from the Nebraska College. The boys were coached by Mrs. Julian Metcalf.

The curtain in Hawke's Hall was really something unusual. The painting showed the Bay of Naples with Mount Vesuvius erupting in the background. Along the front of the curtain a marble ballustrade gave the impression of a balcony, where two people stood, dressed in sweeping velvet clothes.

As the population of the city grew, Hawke's Hall was too small, and the Turner Society determined to erect an Opera House suitable to the wants of the city, where first class drama could be produced.

The Society owned a lot, fortyeight by one hundred and twenty feet, on Otoe Street (now First Corso), between Sixth and Seventh Streets, where they proposed to build.

There were funds in the treasury, liberal citizens contributed, a loan was secured and stock was issued and sold. The work was finished in 1873. Under the management of W. T. Canada, the German Opera House became a very popular place. It secured many first class companies and was the first and only Opera House for the Nebraska City people for many years.

The Turner Band comprising Mr. Levi, Henry Kessler, Henry Bachler, Sr., Mr. Schmidt, Chas. Fisher, Fritz Johns, and Adam Kloos was very much in demand for important evenings.

W. F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) caused, what local historians recall, a near riot. In a pistol demonstration, tallow was substituted for parrafin. After the first shot the tallow melted, caught fire, and the explosions sent young Frank Helvey into the street yelling that Buffalo Bill was massacring the whole audience.

The Juvenile Comedy Co., including Harry Rolfe, John Patterson, S. H. Calhoun, Alex Calhoun, Jimmy Green, Sanford Overton, M. E. Evans, and Ted Whitten, was formed years later. They presented the "Green Burglar" and "Julius Caesar, Jr." Pete Wilhelmy was presented a watch for being the "most handsome" man in the company. Music was by Arthur Bischof, violinist, and Fred Rottman, pi-

anist

Political speakers also used the building and many Nebraska City people remembered their first school days in the basement of the building.

The Eagle Lodge bought the old Opera House and remodeled it. The building still plays an important part in the social life of Nebraska City.

A story told of the Opera House is of a capacity audience—but no show. The steamboat was late. When it finally arrived the members of the big minstrel show came in through the doors and down the aisles. The cheers of the excited theater goers and the speech of the equally excited show manager will long be remembered.

Movie Tickets Five & Ten Cents

The first moving picture show in Nebraska City was "The Great Train Robbery," and pictures of the Japanese-Russian war. It came here with a carnival company and was shown in a tent at 11th Street and Central Avenue.

The first movie theatre was located in a store building at 815 Central Avenue about 1907. It was owned by Schnitzer & Wallern. The

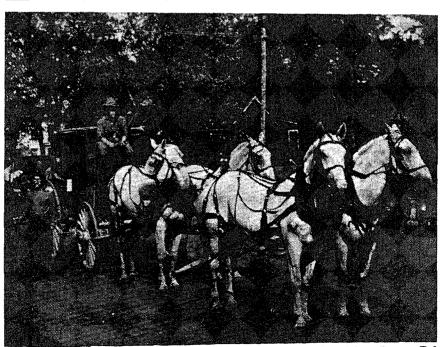
chairs were of the wooden folding variety, nailed together. The building was heated by a huge stove "down in front" and tended by the owner, Bill Schnitzer. There were three changes of program each week, with a Saturday matinee, but no Sunday shows. The tickets cost five and ten cents.

The program in the daily paper stated Miss Evelyn Storms, (Mrs. Reuben Beard) was musical director and Andrew Storms, soloist, singing the illustrated songs. Frank Morris at one time was narrator from a balcony in the rear of the theatre. Mary Pickford and Marguerite Clark were among the favorite actresses. In the summer time the theatre moved out of doors to the Air-Dome.

Later the Empire was remodeled and called the Paramount. This burned down a few years ago.

About 1908, the Fairyland was located at 620 Central Avenue, and the Empress stood where now stands the Arbor. The Overland Theatre was also a movie theatre before it burned.

Nebraska City is fortunate in now having the beautiful Pioneer Theatre located on South 11th Street, between Central Avenue and First Corso. This is one of the finest movie theatres in South eastern Nebraska and was completed in 1948. Two large murals, painted by Frank Zimmerer, grace the walls of the theatre and depict scenes of pioneer days.



The stage coach from Arbor Lodge, the one Buffalo Bill used to drive. Parson Bob, standing with rifle, was a member of the original Long-Haired Scouts, friend of Buffalo

CHAUTAUQUA

The Nebraska City Chautauqua Association was founded in 1907. To Nebraska Citians it meant the study of music, dramatic interpretation, hobby demonstrations, lectures, oratory, stereoptican views-AND CAMPING. It was maintained purely for the advancement of the Nebraska City community and all the money was used for the improvement of Chautaugua. During its brief span, 1909-1919, people and organizations of fame appeared on the Chautauqua platform set up in the Arbor Lodge Park where now the famous maples stand-"an ideal location with entrancing scenery and purest atmosphere," then known as Morton Park.

Living quarters were established to the southwest of the entertainment tent. Tents 10x12 with a three foot wall rented for \$4.00. If a floor was added, the rent was \$5.25. The more spacious the tent, the higher the rent. Quiet hours were declared from 11 p. m. to 5 a. m. One program stated that no complaint had been registered the previous season. Merchants delivered daily to the tent area. No lunches were allowed to be eaten in the entertainment tent.

Transportation was furnished to the Park by an ample number of "automobiles, hacks, and carryalls." Each was compelled by a Nebraska City ordinance to carry a sign stating the fare. The name PAYNE AND McCALLUM appeared on some of the programs. This company advertised rides from Sixth Street and Central to the Park for ten cents. Patrons were asked to co-operate by having their change ready so as to avoid delays. The tent occupants—entire families—arrived early in the week prepared to stay the duration of the season.

Printed programs were available. Every program carried the advertisement of the Gaskill Music Company, which furnished the piano for the yearly series. The name of Dr. S. P. Cresap, platform manager, appeared for years. One program stated that he "gave his services freely." Chautauqua Week was designated "Home Coming Week" by the Business Men's Association.

In 1911 family tickets were selling for two dollars. By 1919 they had risen to six dollars with a ten per cent amusement tax added. Any boy over fifteen years of age was not included in the family. Reserved seats for patrons above seventy years of age or anyone with an infirmity could be obtained at "no extra cost for this courtesy, in two rows in the middle of the tent."

The Nebraska City Merchants Band always played a part in the Chautauqua program. This organization gave nightly concerts each season. "Other musical organizations may come and go and win their applause but 'our band' we keep a special place in our affection and appreciation." (1909 program).

For years Miss Osborne appeared on the program for the kiddles. Other names and organizations appearing on the Nebraska City platform included: J. W. Conover, Farmer Pianist, who played between discourses on methods of producing better hogs; Chicago Ladies Quartet; Dr. A. A. Brooks, Chaplain, lecturing on "Making a Better World"; Chautauqua Preachers' Quartet; Bohemian Orchestra; Davis, Master Magician; Arthur Walwyn Evans, Welsh wit and humorist; Schumann Quintet. which carried a specially built organ; Mark Sullivan, former editor of COLLIERS! Dr. Titus Lowe, Nebraskan: Dr. William J. Cadv: Miss Edna Lowe, Health lecturer; Metropolitan Glee Club; Maupin's Band; Chicago Opera Company presenting scenes from FAUST. ROMEO AND JULIET, MARTHA in costume; Edmund Vance Cook; Chicago Glee Club; Boston Symphony Sextet; Chester Aldrich, Governor of Nebraska: and the Dixie Jubilee Concert Company.

By 1924 Chautauqua had slipped into memories of the past.

Bicycle Racing

Bicycle riding and racing was an important competitive sport in Nebraska City in the early 1890s. Clubs were organized and contests held. Mr. Frank Fields, seen daily in 1954 on Nebraska City's streets, was one of the spark plugs of the organizations as well as one of the racing participants—usually in the winning class.

Some of the other early day members of the bicycling club were James Shewell, W. Anderson, George Homeyer, Ezra Johnson, Robert Hawke, Robert Click, Henry Homeyer, Henry Guinn, Dr. Nesbitt, Frank Landis, Harry Wilson, Benj. Fulton, Fred Carey, John Johnson, Floyd Billman, Willie Hayward, Lester Flatner, W. Black, John Barrows, Jas. Bramblett.

In 1893, Mr. Fields purchased an eliptical Century Columbia bicycle costing \$150.00, and described by the newspaper account as being the latest and finest wheel on the market.

One notable race was between Mr. Fields and a racing mare belonging to a Mr. Cassel in which the mare came off a bad second. Mr. Fields was clocked at 1:36½ for the half mile. Bystanders agreed he could have done the half



AT THE CHAUTAUQUA GROUNDS

Hazel Fullriede, Lucy Stephens Cordelia Fields. Robert Kelly Mrs. F. H. Fields Frances Fields

Richard Kelly Herbert Kelly, Mrs. M. In the background—Mrs. M. C. Davis holding Florence.

Mrs. Albert Harmon
Milton Powell, Mark Fullriede
Herbert Kelly, Mrs. M. C. Powell
Davis holding Florence.

mile in 1:25 at least if he had really tried.

One much publicized bicycle race was held on First Corso between Sixth and Eleventh Streets. The entries for that race were Al Johnson, Walter Davis, Ezra Johnson, and Frank Fields. The first heat was won by Ezra Johnson, Frank Fields second, and Al Johnson third in 49 1/5 seconds. The second heat was also won by Ezra Johnson in 53 3/4 seconds.

The ladies were not left out of the bicycle field. Misses Cornelia and Savena Petring were among those who became enthusiasts with the purchase of Columbia bicycles. According to Mr. Fields, "the only difficulties experienced by lady cyclists was in securing the necessary impetus at the start, since they could not very well run and jump on like their husbands and brothers". Therefore a device containing a powerful spring was attached to the weight bearing wheel to supply the necessary momentum.

Newspaper accounts from both local and metropolitan newspapers indicate that Nebraska City was but part of the widespread interest in bicycle racing, since we have a clipping reporting upon a cross country bicycle relay race between Washington and Greeley, Colorado in which local cyclists participated.

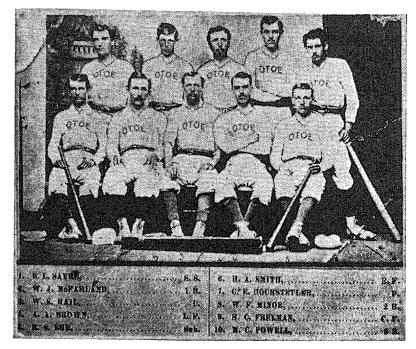
Let's Play Ball

Mr. James Welch gave the following story about Nebraska City's early-day baseball team, one of the most famous in the country. The Otoes were organized in the early '70's with Charles Hochstetler as manager. The playing field was two blocks south of Central Avenue not too far from what is part of the Missouri Pacific "flats." In that era there were no railroad tracks.

The ball used was known as a "live" ball and would go much farther than the ball of today. A hit into center field was usually good for a home run.

Some of the players on this team in 1875 were: Lot Brown, captain; Scott Hail, pitcher; Bill Minor, Henry Smith, and Bob Egie.

By the turn of the century, several city teams had been organized. A team composed of merchants was known as Field's Fillies. Players on this team were F. H. Fields, H. O. Rice, Art Schwentker, J. C. Thygeson, A. Reif, G. Evans, A. Peck, Bill Leibold and George Homeyer. Kelly's Colts were men from the courthouse: Will Kelly, Paul Jessen, W. W.



THE FAMOUS OTOES. Ball team, organized in the early 1870's. The team won almost all its games and finally played a game with the Cincinnati Reds.

Wilson, Bill Hayward, William Moran, George Thompkins, George Heinke, Herb Schwaderer, and later, Art Barstler and Leo Chandler.

The Mink League which took its name from the four states interested-Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas-was organized in the early part of 1910. Among the sponsors were: J. Robin Bonwell, managing editor of The Morning Press: Edwin Duff, a grain dealer; F. W. Cleveland, a merchant; and Henry Bartling, a grocer. The towns comprising the league in the beginning were Maryville, Mo.: Shenandoah, Clarinda, and Red Oak, Iowa; Nebraska City, Auburn, and Falls City, Nebr.; and Hiawatha, Kansas. In the second year the Kansas and Missouri towns dropped out, leaving only six participants. These six towns ran through to the late summer of 1913 when, for lack of financing, the league disbanded.

This was a Class D league and operated under the strict rules and supervision of the National Baseball Association. Nebraska City was believed to have spent, exclusive of gate receipts, at least \$25,000 in support of the league during its four years existence, but managed to win two penants-in 1912 and 1913. However, the town was graced by the purchase of one of its top players, Leslie Mann, by the Boston Club of the National League. He played in one or two World Series games and is still quite active as a scout for the National League.

Albert Chapman, steward of the Elks Club, was an infielder for the Mink League during the first year. The Nebraska City Club was known as The Foresters—named by Milt Wessel. J. H. Sweet was the official scorekeeper for the league for the four years.

The Packing House Certified, a semi-pro team, was organized in 1919. Earl Denniston, catcher, and Griffen, pitcher, were salaried men on this team. Joe Curtin was the manager. The team did tournament playing in this and neighboring states. Other players were Roy Ott, Grover Jackson, Joe Blumel, Bun Hoberg, Edison Sprague, Carl Poling, Cecil Poling, Williams, Brown, Charlie Gude, Clem Gude, Russel Neeley and Glen Parriott.

These men helped organize the Twilight League which operated until 1924, the final year of Nebraska City's organized baseball.

Steinhart Park is now the summer-time locale for all ball activities, the JC's sponsoring a Midget Softball League and the American Legion having a junior baseball team.

Nebraska City's first golf course was located just west of town with the Club House now the present home of Mr. and Mrs. Grove Porter. The nine hole course covered twenty-seven acres of ground and included a portion of what is now Arbor Lodeg State Park. There was water to every green and the fairways were blue grass almost without exception.

From the City Hotel to the Grand Hotel

Hotels began in Nebraska City in the fall of 1854 when Major Hiram P. Downs built the two-story, 25 by 30 foot City Hotel on the site of the present Blockhouse Replica. Downs was custodian of the blockhouse property after it was vacated as a fort. Laier the City Hotel was operated by Jackson and Jones, G. W. Kepner, Barnum Barnes, John L. Armstrong, and Fred W. Hattendorf.

When Simpson Hargus acquired it in 1858 and began excavation for a basement, the building caved in. Hargus immediately began erection of the four-story brick structure he named the Morton House in honor of J. Sterling Mor-



Morton House—Seymour House— Morton House - Frontier.



Cincinnati House

It was destroyed by fire in 1863.

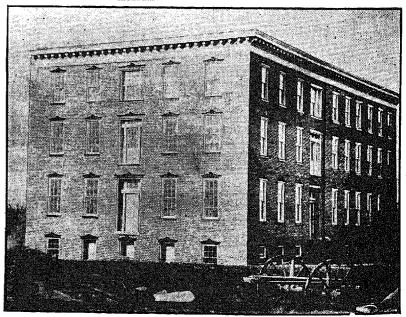
The Nuckolls House, a four-story brick building, was built at the northwest corner of Main (Central Avenue) and Sixth Street in 1837 by John L. Armstrong who was assisted in its management by his son, Thomas J. Armstrong, and his son-in-law. Harvey E. Hills. Mr. Armstrong was the grandfather of Mrs F. M. Sisson and great-grandfather of John C. Watson.

The Cincinnati House, a large and serviceable wooden structure, was built by John Hamlin in 1866 at the corner of Otoe and Eighth Streets (present post office location) and managed by Henry Brown. When the present post office was built, it was moved in

ton. In the early '60's Albert Tuxbury, grandfather of Mrs. W. C. Davis, took over the management of the hotel.

In 1862 or 1863, under John Seymour, it was operated as the Seymour House. In 1883 it was purchased by the Ncbraska City Hotel Co. and renamed the Morton House, this time in honor of Paul Morton, Assistant General Freight Agent of the Burlington Railroad. The structure was torn down in 1936 after operating as the Frontier Hotel.

In 1855 Col. John McMechan built the Planters House in Kearney.



Nuckolls Hostelry

two sections, one being located on the south side between 6th and 7th on First Corso, and the other on the south side between 7th and 8th on First Corso. This section still stands.

In 1869 the Barnum House, a fourstory brick building of 50 rooms, was built by A. I. Lindsay on the corner of Main and Eighth streets. Under the management of Winn and Cleveland it became wellknown in the West. It was subsequently operated by Steven Hale and George Wilcox. It was bought by Jake Sichl, father of Mrs. Fred Cleveland, and renamed the Watson House in honor of John C. Watson.

The Farmer's House was a two story frame building on the southeast corner of "In and Central and extended from Main Street to the alley. It was run by Vincent Straub.

The Shoff House was built by Jacob Shoff on the northeast corner of 10th and Main. It is a three story brick structure of 57 rooms and cost \$50,000. Its name was later changed to Grand Pacific and then to the present Grand Hotel.

Teddy Webster has been associated with hotels in Nebraska City for approximately 50 years. She started with Mr. Otis at the Watson House and until her present illness has been a loyal member of A. M. Stephenson's staff at Grand Hotel.

Mayors of Nebraska City

Since the consolidation and incorporation of Nebraska City, Kearney City and South Nebraska City on December 31, 1857, Nebraska City has had forty Mayors. They are as follows: A. A. Brookfield, Frances E. Bell, Thomas J. Goddin, Wm. E. Pardee, George G. Gillette, E. S. Reed, S. H. Calhoun, R. H. Dickey, W. E. Dillon, Albert Tuxbury, C. H. Korff, Alexander Street, John H. Tomlin, Thomas B. Stevenson, W. F. N. Houser, H. F. Cady, D. P. Rolfe, N. B. Larsh, E. Reiber, Frank P. Ireland, Paul Schminke, H. H. Bartling, Charles W. Stahlhut, O. N. Nelson, John Mattes, Jr., C. H. Kressen, John W. Steinhart, L. F. Jackson, O. C. Morton, J. D. Houston, Henry Katzenstein, Bert Ryder, Frank Thomas, John Pfann, M. M. Vaughn, Frank E. Zeigenbein, Wes Trail, W. E. Nieman, Guy E. Mickle, and Victor D. Bremer, our present Mayor.

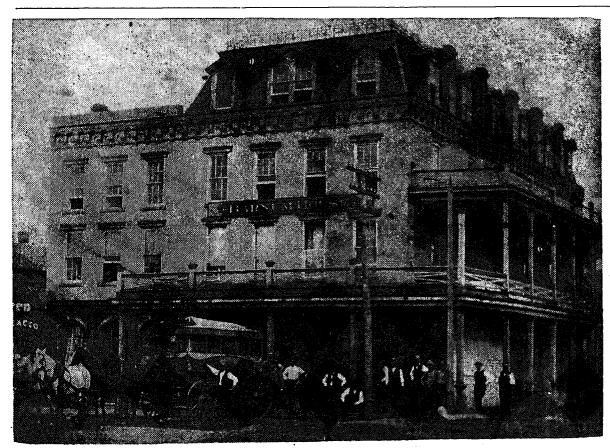
Joseph Blunt made the first shingles, which were used for covering the Downs Hotel.

George W. Nuckolls and Sarah Kennedy were the first couple married in Nebraska City.



One of the West's notorious bad men There is a legend that when the law was hot on the heels of Jesse and his brother, Frank, the Missouri bandits used an Otoe County farm west of Nebraska City as their resting place until it was safe to move on.

ROBERT HAWKE — Came in 1859 and began merchandising; outfitter for the Union Pacific; freighter; richest man in Otoe County at the time of his death.



Barnum House

Watson House

EARLY MAIN STREET

The history of the town should include at least some of the early retail and wholesale stores. Many of them were short lived and only L. Wessel's Sons & Co., and the Bischof Hardware still bear the family name.

Witt's Rexall Drug has been in the same location for 60 years but was originally the Schwake Drug Store. Lulu Scharp Bachler was the first woman to be employed (other than wives or relatives) by a druggist. Laurine Oetgen Kimmel was the first "lady druggist" with Thygesons'—1918. Make-up was not generally accepted and timid ladies sidled up to her and asked for rouge in whispers.

An early directory of Nebraska City shows these people in business prior to 1860. Charles H. Cowles and Heath Nuckolls were early merchants in 1854 dealing in Groceries and General Merchandise. L.F. Cornutt started a lumber business in 1854. In October, 1855, Philip J. Girardet was a furniture dealer. The Lorton and Davenport Grocery was also started in 1855, followed by the M. T. Johnson General Store, and the Imhoff & Mc-Comas Commission Merchants in 1856. 1857 brought Jacob Waldsmith, F. W. Rottman, Robert Hawke & Co., Korff & Arends; all General Merchandise stores. Hawke & Nuckolls, were dealers in Boots and ,Shoes, and were also a Freighting and Outfitting firm. The Hawley Burke & Co. sold agricultural implements.

Before the Civil War, Soloman Weimer (maternal grandfather of Sara Jane and Merritt Whitten) freighted through Nebraska City on his route from St. Joseph to Denver. He was so impressed with Nebraska City that he came here after the war and ran a general grocery and dry goods store where Payless Grocery now operates.

The first Petring store was on the V. of land just west of where the Port of Entry now stands. For the convenience of his customers Mr. Petring had two entries, one on Ferry Street (now Fourth Corso) and the other on the Kearney Hill side. One day a woman came in the Ferry Street door and inquired of Mr. Petring if he bought eggs and what price he paid. She was told and she left the store. Later, the same woman came in the Kearney Hill entrance,

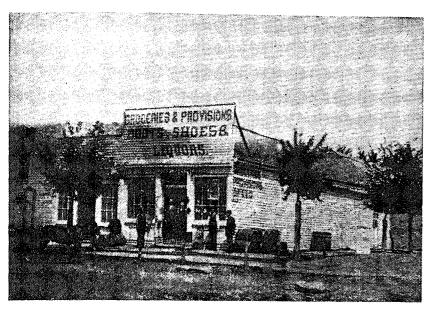


Bischof Hardware in 1880. This hardware store is the oldest continuous business in Nebraska City that has remained in the same location and the same family through succeeding generations. Picture shows Mr. Bischof and Mr. Zimmerer. The boy and woman are unknown. Will Murdock's Variety Store is next door.

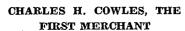


An interior view of L. Wessel's Sons and Company at 623 Central around the year 1900. Present location of Montgomery Ward. This was the third location for the Wessel store which was started in Kearney in 1855. The firm has remained in the Wessel Family continuously to the present day.

asked Mr. Petring if he bought eggs and how much he paid for them, then, with a sigh she remarked "Well, all the stores in town seem to be paying the same price."



First Rodenbrock store at 1200 Central Ave.—established in 1873. Present location of Funke's Tire Shop. Note the small trees. People can remember some of these trees as huge when they were felled.



First merchant of Nebraska City, and member of the first Territorial Legislature, was Charles H. Cowles. Mr. Cowles came across the Missouri in 1853, went away, and then came back early in 1854, before squatter rights had been established. He believed that the territory would make a fine place for a home.

Mr. Cowles was owner of the first regular store in Kearney. C. H. Cowles and Robert Hawke, the "John Wanamaker of Nebraska City," were fast friends.

A man came into Schwake's drugstore for a remedy for a stomach ache. The men asked him what he had eaten. He answered, "Me edda da bigga da eye chick." He had eaten an owl.

WILLIAM PHIFER—To Nebraska City in 1860; tobacco dealer and cigar manufacturer.

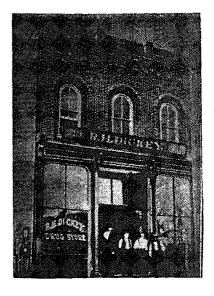
R. M. ROLFE—Here in 1860; retailer; wholesale grocer; outfitter; farmer; interested in New Mexico mining; for years lived at "Boscobel" north of Nebraska City.

F. W. ROTTMAN—Here in 1858; farming; mercantile business; builder; owner of Nebraska City properties; councilman; lover of horses.

George North opened the first Jewelry store.

SAMUEL E. HARRIS—Contractor and builder who came here in 1855; served in Civil War; father of many children who later taught in Otoe County Schools.

C. W. SHERFEY—Nursery and gardening for years; established the Peoples Press in 1858; also publisher of Plattsmouth paper.



Dickey's Drug Store, 1865. Present location of E. & S. Bootery.

HEATH NUCKOLLS—To Nebraska City in 1854; mercantile; farming; councilman; for a time lived in Richardson County. Father of Mrs. Joy Wesner.

M. T. JOHNSON — Pioneer of 1856; first ice dealer in Nebraska; mercantile trade; Alderman from First Ward.

J. B. NORTHCUTT — Came in 1866; grocer; coal dealer; city councilman.



H. H. Bartling, Groceries, Provisions, Boots and Shoes. "Cash paid for Grain".

Store established in 1871. Now Barta Poultry Service.



164 MAIN

"One Hundred Sixty-four Main Street."

The man who made that street address famous also brought a unique style of advertising to Nebraska City.

He was John Steinhart, grandfather of Morton Steinhart, president of Otoe Food Products Company. He was a pioneer tailor and a sterling (Morton) Democrat.

John Steinhart's place of business was 164 Main Street— in a building on the north side of the Avenue between Sixth and Seventh Streets, in those days "way up town."

Whenever a local sensation was ready to "break" for the reporters, John Steinhart turned the news to good account by putting the facts in an advertisement, cleverly concealing the real purpose of the "item" until the reader had completed the reading of it.

"The murderers of 'Apple Charley' were seen in the vicinity of Such-and-Such a place," read one of the ads of "164 Main Street." "But they were not in our tailor shop this morning," continued the notice.

Mr. Steinhart came to Nebraska City from southern Missouri, was a warm friend of Paul Schminke, a Republican wheel-horse, and a member of the City Council on several occasions.



Interior view of Kees Store showing old time stove and gas lights. Note rounded show cases, old-time sewing machine, musical instruments, hobby horse, pickle barrel. "If they didn't have it—you didn't need it." J. G. Kees is standing behind the counter.

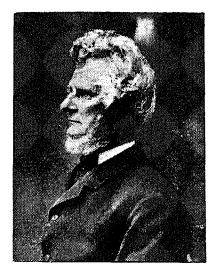
THE COUNTRY DOCTOR

OTOE COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

The Otoe County Medical Society was organized in 1868 with the following officers: President, Dr. Daniel Whitinger; Vice President, Dr. John C. Campbell; Secretary, Dr. H. W. Hess; Treasurer, Dr. James W. Parker; Librarian, Dr. David W. Hershey. Other members were Dr. N. B. Larsh, Dr. W. M. Line, Dr. S. L. Gant, Dr. Frederick Renner, and Dr. Aurelius Bowen.

The society consisted of practitioners who had received their diplomas from the regular medical colleges, and who lived in obedience to the Code of Ethics of the Medical Association.

Dr. John Campbell was the first practicing physician.



AURELIUS BOWEN — Pioneer physician; founder of the first medical society; famed not only as a physician but as a lawyer, member of the Constitutional Convention; largely responsible for the establishment of the School for the Blind.

N. B. LARSH—Pioneer physician; came to Nebraska City in 1859; Superintendent of State Hospital; Army Surgeon in 1862; Councilman and Mayor of Nebraska City.

GEORGE M. BRINKER—Pioneer physician and surgeon; arrived here in 1865; early proprietor of the Seymour House.

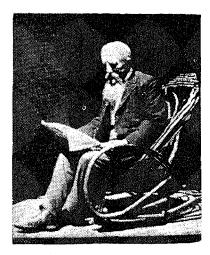


AN OFFICE CALL—DR. WHITTEN.

Patient, Eleanor Robbins Osborne, held by her mother, Vida Robbins.

ELISHA MERRITT WHITTEN-Born in West Bath, Me., in 1837. Came to Nebraska City in 1867. Physician and Surgeon; fourth president of Medical Society, member of Pathological Society, Ne-State Medical Society, American Medical Assn., president of Nebraska State Medical Society in 1879; member of Examining Board of U.S. Surgeons for Pensions; local surgeon for Burlington and Missouri Pacific; City Coroner. Overseer of the poor, President of School Board; Physician for School for Blind. Early years of practice compounded his own medicines; lover of fine horses. His pocket visitation books were a roster of early pioneers-prominent and humble.

DR. JAMES W. PARKER—Physician; here in 1863; Army service; California fortyniner; school board member for years.



D. H. HERSHEY—Came in 1867 and practiced medicine for years; Civil War surgeon; Coroner of Otoe County; member of the Board of Education; physician to School for the Blind.

UTILITIES— Then And Now

The Water Works Company was organized in May, 1887, with D. P. Rolfe as president and E. A. Rudiger as superintendent. The plant operations were commenced in October, 1887.

This was back in the "Dark Days"—when we say dark days we refer to the water—as at that time there were 8,000 people in Nebraska City using only 20,000 gallons of water in seven days. Now, we have a thousand less people and use a million gallons of water per day. Of course, we must remember that there were two breweries in those days.

The following is a description of this early plant as compiled by the late Dan Hill, who served as manager of the complete utility plant for a number of years.

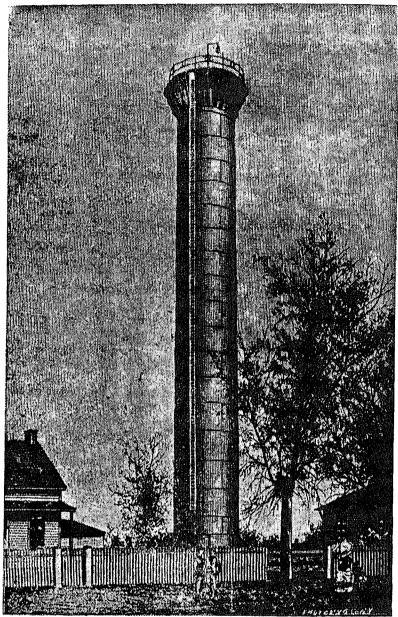
The original water plant consisted of one small boiler and a small water pump, which was used to pump the water from the river to a basin to settle. Old-timers will remember that this did not work.

The basin was built on the hill above the plant. It was dug into the ground and lined with lumber. The board-lined basin caused much trouble in the way of leaks, causing the soil to give way, settle at the foot of the hill, and have to be hauled away. The use of this basin was soon suspended, and the water pumped directly from the river to a standpipe, between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets, on First Corso.

The standpipe was 100 feet high and 12 feet in diameter, with a Capacity of 90,000 gallons. It often overflowed, flooding that part of town. John Hoffman, being engineer, fireman and waterman, had no way of knowing when the standpipe was full until someone informed him at the plant. To overcome this annoyance a pressure valve was installed, connected to a bell with a two-wire extension from the standplpe to the plant.

The bell was supposed to ring when the standpipe was full, but it did not always work, and the standpipe overflowed. Mr. Meyers, who lived about 20 feet west of the standpipe, became angry when the water poured down on his house and yard any time of the day or night. The books show that Mr. Meyers was given free water service if he would "let on" he didn't mind the flood.

The mud in the standpipe settled, and on an average of three times



Nebraska City's early standpipe, located between 16th and 17th Streets on First Corso. It was 100 feet high and 12 feet in diameter, with a capacity of 90,000 gallons.

a year the water was drained out. A manhole, about five feet from the bottom, was taken out and the men got inside with scoops, and shoveled out the mud. This is the reason for the high ground between Sixteenth and Seventeenth Streets.

Several years later a new power house was built. In it were installed two eight-inch steam pumps and one 50-kilowatt alternator belted to an 80-horsepower steam engine. There were two water filters in the building. These were supposed to filter the mud out of the water but were not satisfactory. The building was two-story brick, and the engineer lived on the second floor.

The board lining was taken out of the basin, and it was relined with cement. Another basin was built later.

The plant shut down at 10:30 each night, except Saturday when it was operated until 12, and started at five Sunday morning. The standpipe had to be filled twice a week, Tuesdays and Fridays. There was very little city water used for domestic purposes.

Some water was used for power. The old German Newspaper, Staats Zeitung, had a five - horsepower water turbine to run its printing press. Herman Schaden had a one-horsepower water turbine to run a fan in his saloon to blow the flies off the bar.

Much water was used in case of fire. The way muddy water would spatter up inside of the clothing stores of those days would afford plenty of opportunity for a damaged-goods sale.

In about 1904, 24-hour service became necessary and in 1907 continuous service was installed. In about 1912 a new electric pump was installed and another basin built.

An attempt was made to clear and purify the water by use of chemicals. B. P. Eagan was manager. Mr. Hill wrote, "We rigged up a crude affair and filled it up with chloride of lime, and did we kill the bugs! But that was not all we about killed."

The plant has been remodeled many times. During 1952 fluoridation was installed. The maximum consumption of city water for 1953 was 1,500,000 gallons per day. The distribution system consists of approximately 20 miles of water main, and 170 fire hydrants.

Natural Gas

Fuel from the Texas gas fields was burned for the first time in Nebraska City on December 29, 1931, and, on that date, the plant at the foot of Central Avenue was closed down.

Mayor Miles Vaughn turned the valve in the "gas room" of the Central Power Company's electric plant on North First Street to allow the first gas to enter the mains.

During the ceremony C. L. Paullin, Manager of Central Power, told the Mayor, "You're saving the gas consumers of Nebraska City \$10,000 a year when you turn that valve."

Over the city, forty to fifty gas flares were burned to "bleed" the old gas from the mains, and a crew of forty men spread over the city to regulate burners, so they could properly handle the new and hotter fuel.

Nebraska City's artificial gas history harks back to the year 1870, when first there was talk of providing the growing community with light at night to guide stumbling footsteps over the rough paths that served as sidewalks.

The project of lighting the City with gas became so agitated in 1879 that the City Council adopted the necessary ordinance and the Nebraska City Gaslight Company was formed. The central figure in the agitation at the time was Col. J. V. Barringer, the contractor.

The first gas was piped through Nebraska City in 1872, and for nine years the Gaslight Company furnished fuel for the City's street lights.

A Missouri river flood in April

of 1881, however, cut off the plant's supply of coal necessary to the manufacture of the "coal gas." The plant was shut down, and the City discontinued street lights.

The plant was sold in 1927 to the Water and Light Company, then passed into the hands of Central Power.

Back in 1931, when natural gas first was brought into the City, there were about 800 customers served with gas for cooking and water heating. Today, City Utilities has 2,375 gas customers.

In 1931, there was less than 100,-000 cubic feet a day demand for gas. Today, the demand averages 3,800,000 cubic feet a day, and in January, 1954, a new one-day record consumption of 4,250,000 cubic feet was set.

"The amount of gas our customers now use in one day provides more heat than the old gas plant could provide in two months," John Schottler of the Utilities commented.

Besides providing gas for Nebraska City customers, the Utilities also furnishes gas for Syracuse, Dunbar, and 38 farmers.

Electric Service

The Nebraska City Power Company, the oldest industry in Nebraska City, now one of the most complete plants on the Missouri River, holds a record of over sixty-five years of service to this community. It has grown from a two man job to the present employment of fifty-five.

The first residence to be wired for electricity was the S. B. Eastman home between Twelfth and Thirteenth Streets on Second Avenue. Wessel's Store was the first commercial installation. At that time there were no lights after 10:30 p. m., except on Saturday and then only until midnight.

About thirty years ago the Company built 150 miles of transmission line which served twelve towns, villages, and farmers in Otoe, Nemaha, and Lancaster counties.

The first manager was Mr. D. P. Rolfe, and the present manager is Mr. Vern Livingston. Owners of the plant have been Watson, Down and Anderson, New York Bankers; E. A. Potter, Samuel Insule, Midwest Utilities and Central Power Consumers. In 1941, Nebraska City purchased the gas and water departments and, in 1945, the electrical department; combined it is now known as the Nebraska City Utilities.

LAUNDRY-1852 - 1954

The Nebraska City Laundry is the oldest in Nebraska. It has the reputation of having its beginning in 1852 and has been in operation continuously since. The first location was near Third Street and Central Avenue, opposite the Morton House, with Mr. R. E. Harkins as sole proprietor. (A report stated that "Mr. Harkins is an active and energetic business man, rapidly making friends and customers"). Soap making was a major industry as well as the washing and ironing of clothing.

Freighters left their clothing to be washed and ironed, returning for them months later from their trip with the cargo to the West Coast. The next closest laundry was in Oakland, California, the Contra-Costa. Some soiled clothing was reported to have been sent on to the Hawaiian Islands for laundering and returned. This method required about six months to complete the trip.

A book on Nebraska City, dated 1888, states, "Steam laundries are among the necessities of all cities of any importance whatever and Nebraska City is not behind others in this industry. The most important laundry in town is the new Nebraska City Steam Laundry, The building occupied is brick, 25x100 feet in dimensions and is thoroughly equipped with all the latest improved labor - saving machinery driven by steam power. The character of the power turned out is surpassed by no similar concern in this part of the country, and prices are always reasonable in the extreme."

Several laundries operated here at one time but in about 1903 the plants were all consolidated into what we know as the Nebraska City Laundry at the present location.

JOHN C. CAMPBELL—Came in 1854; first physician here; member of the Constitutional Convention; six years on the school board.

MARSHALL S. CAMPBELL—To Nebraska City in 1855 as public land surveyor; Justice of Peace; for years was Clerk of District Court.

JOHN A. GOODLET — Here in 1867; Surveyor for the Land Office; Clerk of the District Court; farmer; traveler of the Plow Factory.



Lincoln Telephone and Telegraph Building

number please

The first telephone company in Otoe County was known as the Mutual Telephone and Telegraph Company. It was organized in Nebraska City in 1881, just five years after Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone. W. A. Cotton was president of this first company: Julian Metcalf, secretary; H. F. Cady, treasurer; and John T. Burke, the manager. Milton R. Thorpe and William Leibold were among the first employees. These men served in the capacity of operators, installers, troublemen, and "general flunkies," There was no specialization of telephone duties in those days, and, unless a man was a jack-of-all trades, so to speak, he was of little value to the company. Louis Ertl was given fifty cents a night to sleep in the exchange and answer the night

This first telephone exchange was located at 6th and Central Avenue over the Nelson Brothers' Shoe Store, now McKim & Mishler Implement Store.

The B. & M. depot had telephone number one at that time and, for that matter, still retains it today. The old Levi Livery Stable, which was located on South 8th Street at the present site of the Nebraska City Federal Savings and Loan Building, had number nine. Number four was assigned to a house of ill repute which was located on 4th Street, and reports indicate that the majority of night calls were made between this place and the Levi Livery Stable. The old horsedrawn hacks were apparently pretty much in demand at night.

The Mutual Telephone & Telegraph Company was taken over by the Nebraska Bell Telephone Company sometime in the early 90's. About this time there was a group of business men in Nebraska City who apparently felt the telephone company was having it too easy and should have some competition. Thus, Articles of Incorporation for the Nebraska City Telephone Company were filed with the County Clerk, January 4, 1899.

The Nebraska City Telephone Company was first located at 8th Street and Central Avenue over the Kloos & Bauer Saloon (now Pay-Less Grocery). Telephone operators worked ten hours a day for \$17.50 per month.

There was a considerable amount of friction between the two competing telephone companies, and of course the grocery stores and other business houses had to have both systems to accommodate their patrons.

In 1910, the Nebraska Bell Tele-

phone Company purchased the properties of the Nebraska City Telephone Company. Shortly thereafter negotiations were started between the Nebraska Bell Telephone Company and the Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Company to do away with competition and leave only one company in operation. Thus, we find the Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Company starting its operations in Nebraska City in 1912.

In 1921, the exchange was moved to its present location where a beautiful new two-story building had just been erected and new equipment of the latest type had been installed.

At the present time there are approximately 2650 telephones in use in Nebraska City. Mr. A. N. Newens is the area manager.

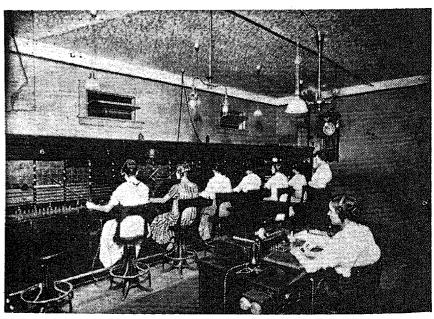
J. H. MASTERS — Nurseryman; fruit grower and florist; early day proponent of the Plant Trees idea; appointed Justice of the Peace by Governor Izard.

JULIUS METCALFE — Here in 1857; grain dealer; financier; banker; early day elevator owner.

JAMES S. MILLER—Came in fall of 1864; freighter; mercantile; real estate and insurance.

RICHARD H. MILLER—Brother of James S.; came here in 1857; mercantile; lumber; County Treasurer; married Marietta Craig, daughter of one of the first settlers.

HENRY F. CADY—Pioneer lumber dealer; alderman; secretary of the School Board; early interested in telephone development.



HELLO GIRLS . . . About 1917

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

Over the years various hospitals and infirmaries had been established in Nebraska City, but they usually "came and went" and failed to meet the great need for adequate hospital facilities. As far back as 1913, the St. Francis Hospital Association, with the late B. H. Bruggeman, president, and Fritz Funke, secretary, appealed for funds for a hospital to be built on Kearney Hill at a cost of not less than \$50,000.

The ball was started rolling for St. Mary's during the closing months of 1925 by Dr. G. W. Fegers, who began the association with the Sisters of St. Francis, Maryville, Mo., and by Dr. A. L. Barr, who appeared before the Nebraska City Chamber of Commerce with a detailed report of the needs and advantages of a modern hospital. As the idea began to find favor with the various organizations of the city, the plan gained momentum, and it was only a short time until the first meeting between the Sisters and Nebraska City business and professional men was arranged and held on Jan. 5,

The hospital committee, which worked under appointment of the Chamber of Commerce, during the latter part of 1926 and early months of 1927 was composed of the following: Wm. H. Pitzer, chairman; F. B. Hall, Paul Jessen, S. P. Cresap, Dr. S. S. Wilson, H. O. Rice, W. W. Metz, Walter A. Wessel, C. M. Aldrich, John W. Steinhart, Frank Thomas, J. H. Sweet, Morton Steinhart, George Bischof, C. L. Paullin, N. C. Abbott, Father Theo.

Sauer, Dr. C. G. Zimmerer, Varro E. Tyler, J. C. Thygeson and B. H. Bruggeman.

The original plan called for a 35-bed hospital and was to cost \$10,000. However, the plans finally submitted were for a \$150,000 structure, half of which would be furnished by the Sisters of St. Francis and the other half by popular subscription by Nebraska City, Otoe County, and others interested. This proved to be one of the most interesting and successful drives ever conducted in Otoe County because by May 4, 1926, \$75,639 had been raised and by the finish of the campaign this amount had swelled to a total of \$76,305. The Bischof property in northwest Nebraska City was deemed the most desirable location and on this block on June 1, 1926, active work was begun on the erection of the hospital. The hospital was open for public inspection on Sunday afternoon, February 13, 1927, and the first patient was admitted that evening,

On October 24, 1937, open house was again held, this time for everyone to see the new \$85,000 north wing. This addition enlarged the bed capacity from the original 35 to 50 beds, and since that time, due to the need of even more accommodations, several of the private rooms have been converted into double rooms, making St. Mary's now a 60-bed hospital.

Since the opening of the hospital in 1927, up until January 1, 1954, a total of 42,796 patients and newborn have been cared for, and this does not include the thou-

sands of out-patients who were treated or diagnosed and not admitted to the hospital.

Plans are being visualized for the future, the near future we hope, for the construction of a south wing as large or larger than the north wing.

Odd Fellows

FRONTIER LODGE NO. 3

Nebraska City has the honor of having the first lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows organized west of the Missouri River. Nebraska City Lodge No. 1 was formed in May, 1855, and after an existence of about one year was merged with Frontier Lodge No. 3 which was organized March 14, 1856, with John Hamlin as Noble Grand. The membership has grown from the original six to fifty-five at this time.

Nebraska City was also the site of the Institution of the Grand Lodge of I.O.O.F. of Nebraska on the 27th day of April, 1858. C. F. Holly, D. D. Grand Sire and H. A. Newcomb of Nebraska Lodge No. 1, and Miles W. Brown, J.W. Stull, John Hamlin, W. L. Boydston and George Allen of Frontier Lodge No. 3, Nebraska City were at the institution.

Since the organization of the local lodge in 1855, several subordinate lodges have been formed here but Frontier Lodge No. 3 is the only one in existence at present.

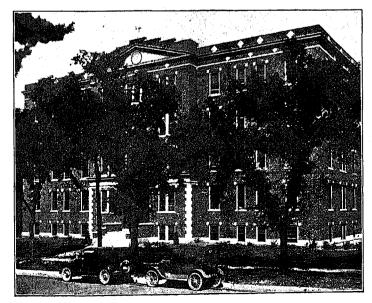
Among the members of Frontier Lodge, who did much to maintain the lodge for many years at a high standard, and who were active workers in the order were William Bischof, Ernest Guenzel, Anton Zimmerer, John C. Watson, J. J. Hochstetler and many others who have long since passed away.

The order passed through the great hardships of the pioneer days with the Masonic Lodge, but withstood all these and today is one of the flourishing fraternal orders in the city.

The present officers are: Joseph Carter, N. G.; Arnold R. Hall, V. G.; John C. Miller, Sec'y.; Loren P. Smith, Treas.; Vernon Stukenholtz, Chaplain; W. A. Letellier, Warden; Wm. Bischof, Conductor; Edward J. Kreuger, D. G.; and Lawrence Kreuger, O. G.

R. H. DICKEY—Came from Virginia in 1865; a druggist for years; Probate Judge for 11 years.

DONALD MacCUAIG—Came to Nebraska City in 1857; County Clerk; farmer.



ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL

AMERICAN LEGION

ADAM SCHELLINGER POST No. 8

Adam Schellinger Post No. 8 received its charter August 1, 1920 with 164 charter members. The Legion post was named after William Adam Schellinger, the son of Mr and Mrs William Schellinger, who was born in Nebraska City June 23, 1892. He went overseas as a member of Company I, 355th Infantry, 89th Division and was killed by an exploding shell in the St. Mihiel salient on September 14, 1918. He was the first Nebraska Citian to lose his life in the conflict.

Thirty-five men of Nebraska City have served as Commanders of the Legion. The first was Frank Schwake, and the present Commander is Lester Kinnison.

Since its founding here, the Legion Post has been active in the construction of the Memorial Building, Boy's State, County Government Day, Fourth of July celebrations, Memorial Day and Armistice Day programs, a Christmas Gift program for the less fortunate, Legion Junior baseball, Apple Bowl football, and Legion oratorical contest.

The American Legion Auxiliary received its charter on August 14, 1924 with 93 charter members. The

Auxiliary sponsors Girl's State and an Americanism essay contest.

Both organizations have been active in Boy and Girl Scouts and many other civic affairs.

In 1947, the American Legion Club was organized and a club room started at 610 Central Avenue. This building has recently been purchased by the Club, and will be operated for the use of Legion and Auxiliary members.

United Spanish War Veterans

United Spanish War Veterans organized November 21, 1914 with 24 charter members. In 1915, the camp became delinquent but was reinstalled April 21, 1921, and since then has been active. Among the charter members still living are Herman H. Fass, Adolph Gamlin and Willard S. Harding. The camp now has a membership of 52. A. F. Whyte is the Commander.

JOHN W. PEARMAN—One of the first, coming in May 1854; County Treasurer in 1856; Civil War; saw Lee surrender at Appomattox; farmer; politician; pioneer in the cause of temperance.

MR. & MRS. C. S. WADE—Here in 1859; gave Homestead for Capitol building site.

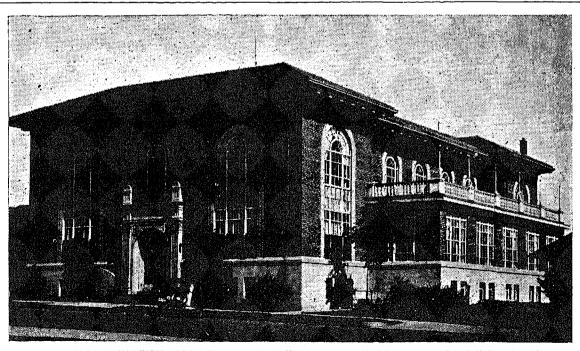
Veterans of Foreign Wars

POST No. 2634

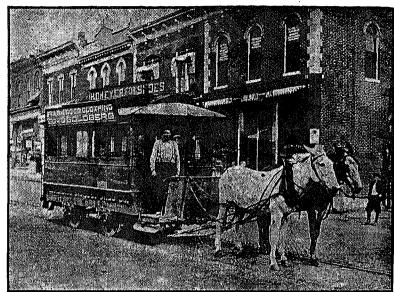
The Veterans of Foreign Wars was named for John E. Walls, a Nebraska City boy who gave his life during World War I. John E. Walls died of wounds received in action at the Argonne Forest, on October 27, 1918. His body was returned and buried at Wyuka Cemetery on September 11, 1921. The charter of the V.F.W. was closed on September 23, 1932 with 75 members. Oliver G. Leidigh was the first Commander; the present membership is 125, with Bill Berger as Commander.

On November 14, 1933, the John E. Walls Auxiliary was instituted with 51 charter members. Leona Kussman was the first Auxiliary president. There are 17 charter members who are continuous members, and there are 13 Gold Star members. The present membership is 111, with Doris Sackles as president.

MONROE L. HAYWARD—To Nebraska City in 1867; Attorney at Law, Prosecuting Attorney; Constitutional Convention; Chairman of Republican State Committee, always interested in politics; Veteran of the Civil War; elected to United States Senate but died before he could take his seat.



MEMORIAL BUILDING—This fine \$75,000 building was erected by the people of Nebraska City and the surrounding community as a memorial to the men who served in the Civil, Spanish-American, and World Wars. It provides permanent quarters for veteran's organizations and civic organizations, as well as an armory for two Nebraska City National Guard companies. It contains kitchen and dining room facilities for public gatherings and has a prominent place in Nebraska City's "Civic Center" group.



Early picture showing location of first office of the Nebraska City Building & Loan, at the corner of Eighth street and Central avenue, over the present Pay Less Store.

NEBRASKA CITY FEDERAL HAS SEEN 67 YEARS OF GROWTH

Sixty-seven years ago, back in the days of mule-drawn street cars, handle-bar mustaches, high wing collars, petticoats and free lunches at the corner bar, the Nebraska City Building and Loan Association was founded. Throughout the past sixty-seven years this Association has assisted thousands of families to become home owners and, in addition, has poured hundreds of thousands of dollars back into the community in the way of dividends paid to its savings and investing members.

Starting with \$916.35 the Association has kept pace with the development of Nebraska City until at the present time it has assets in excess of three and one-half million dollars.

At the first meeting of the shareholders, which was held in the courthouse on the evening of May 5, 1887, a portion of this original capital was loaned to several of its members for the purpose of providing homes. Hester Jane and George Padgett took a loan in the amount of \$200 to purchase Lot 4, Block 43, in Prairie City Addition; and D. C. and Mary Proper borrowed \$600 to buy Lot 6, Block 13, Prairie City Addition.

Money was scarce in those days, and housing was just as urgent as it is today, so much so, in fact, that both the Padgetts and Propers were willing to pay a 30% premium for the privilege of being able to borrow the money.

The funds to make these loans were secured from the sale of shares to its members. Old records, still in the possession of the Association, show that Certificate No. 1 was issued to Miss Emma Levi on March 21, 1887. Miss Levi was the daughter of Leopold Levi who, by way of coincidence, owned and operated a livery stable on the same site that is now occupied by the Association's modern office building. Miss Levi, now Mrs Katzenstein, is still living and makes her home in St. Louis, Mo.

Mr. D. P. Rolfe was the Association's first president and he was succeeded by Mr. H. Fastenau, who served in this capacity until his death in 1927. Mr. Fastenau was the father of Miss Cora Fastenau, who is the Assistant Secretary; this father and daughter combination represents over sixty years of service to the Association.

The first office was located on the second floor of 802 Central Avenue. It occupied a number of other second-floor offices until 1928 when, due to the increasing volume of business, it was decided to erect a building of its own. This was done, and the Association moved into its new home at 115 South Eighth Street, where it is still located.

C. L. Thomas is now President and Manager.

Famous People Played Here

Although most citizens of Nebraska City called the Overland Theater a "landmark," in the light of construction ages, it was not so aged. In the past decade of its life, it was allowed to become decrepit because of lack of maintenance and repair.

The Overland was built and opened as a legitimate playhouse in 1897. The first performance, in December of that year, was William Gillette's "Secret Service," a famed story of war and intrigue. It was performed by one of the most notable companies of the era.

The opening night, described by contemporary reporters as "gala," was attended by practically everyone in the community interested in the theater. Before the curtain rose on the show, speeches of approval and congratulation were made by J. Sterling Morton, Paul Jessen, and other citizens, who had seen the building go up.

The cost of the structure never was made public, but thousands of dollars went into the building of the structure itself, and more thousands into the ornate and attractive interior.

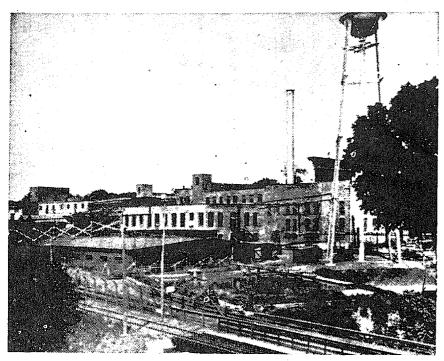
One of the most famed, and frequently discussed, furnishings was the drop curtain painted by Haskill Coffin. The curtain depicted the scene of an Indian attack on an Overland Stage, just as Thomas Ryan, early-day stage driver, had narrated the incident to the artist. The curtain was supposed to be the first asbestos curtain in this vicinity.

For years the Nebraska City stop was a convenient "break" for the companies playing Omaha and Kansas City. As a result, the town was entertained by most of the notables of the stage of that day, both dramatic and musical. Talent liked the theater, the management (Carl Morton was the first entrepeneur), and the public response. Such notables as Sothern and Marlow, Montgomery and Stone, May Robson and many others gave performances here.

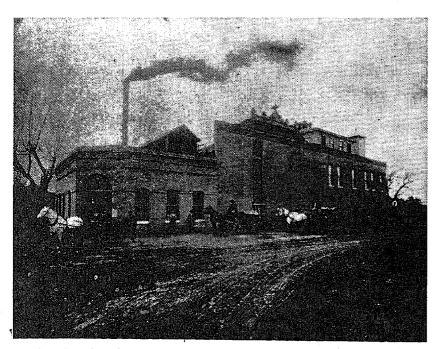
W. B. Hail & Co. sawed the first lumber; the mill near the site of the gas works. C. H. Cowles built the first bridge across Table Creek, about where Main Street Bridge once stood.

E. Wilhelm established the first steam sawmill.

A CENTURY OF INDUSTRIES



MORTON-GREGSON COMPANY



Mattes Brewing Company-John Mattes, Sr. and Robert Greeble are in the buggy. Mr. Damman with his foot on the buggy wheel and Mr. Ulmschneider, the engineer, standing in front of the window. The large wagon is loaded with beer kegs and the smaller one with beer cases.

PACKING PLANTS
The first packing plant in Nebraska City was the Nebraska & Iowa Packing Company. It was built by Portus B. Ware of Chicago in 1885 and was located on South 15th Street. The citizens donated 40 acres of ground at a cost of \$4,-000. J. Collins Lloyd was the first manager. This plant later became known as the Chicago Packing & Provision Company. Eventually it was purchased and operated by the Western Cold Storage Company, who also carried on some poultry processing.

In about 1886 or 1887, Thomas C. Powers of Montana built the second packing plant, south of the Wyuka Cemetery. The citizens raised \$10,-000 to purchase this site. J. Sterling Morton donated 40 acres of land for the plant. This plant was known as the Trans-Missouri Packing Company and, at a later date, J. Sterling Morton prevailed upon his son, Joy, to buy the plant. It was operated under the name of Morton-Gregson Packing Company. It, in turn, was sold to Wilson & Co. Inc., who suspended operations in 1932.

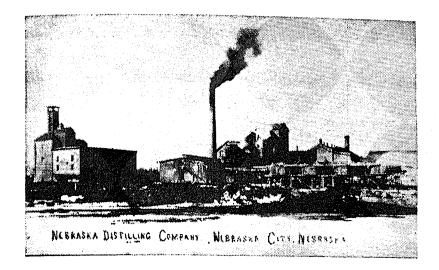
VINEGAR WORKS

The first Vinegar Works in Nebraska City was owned by D. A. Damman and was established in 1870. It was located on 5th Street between Main and Otoe Street (now known as 1st Corso). When the Plow Company moved to its new location the vinegar works moved to South 15th Street, on the east side of the street, between the Burlington and Missouri Pacific tracks. George Robinson and Wiley S. Cornutt were operators of the firm. At one time the Otoe Preserving Company made vinegar and kraut in this plant. The plant later was sold to the Speas Mfg. Company who operated it for a few years and then moved away. Harry Winkelman dismantled the plant and the concrete bases for the vats are still standing at this location.

THE BREWERIES

Nebraska City had two early breweries. The first one was organized by A. Roos in 1885 and was located at 9th Street and 7th Corso.

The Beyschlag family started the second brewery about the same time on 13th Street and 6th Corso. It was later sold to the Mattes Brewing Co., which continued operation until the advent of prohibition.



NEBRASKA CITY DISTILLERY

The Distillery was another industry in the history of Nebraska City. It was located at the foot of Central Avenue in the buildings now occupied by the Winkelman Roofing Company. The plant was constructed sometime in the early 70's and was in operation during the high water of 1881, when the flood waters quenched the boiler fires. A Mr. Cohn, from Chicago, was the builder and operator of this plant and George Hawke was one of the federal inspectors. Ed Thomas was one of the early engineers, and is the authority for the statement about the quenching of the fires in the high water of 1881. The plant was closed and dismanteled in 1893.

This Distillery had the first electric lights in Nebraska City. It had its own generating plant and used the old carbon contact lamps which later were adopted by the city for street lighting.

ARGO STARCH COMPANY

The Argo Starch Company, built in 1890, was a local stock company promotion managed by Carl Morton. The plant was located at the foot of Main Street just south of South Table Creek, on what is now Argo Avenue. Later the bulk of the stock was sold to the Morton family, who, in turn, sold it to the National Starch Company. They, in turn, sold it to the Corn Products Company, who dismantled it and moved it from the city. The plant was the first to manufacture Argo Starch, the name given it by Mr. Morton. Mrs. G. H. Oetgen has a sample of the first starch made there. Bill Bartling was a chemist there.

At one time there was a cheese factory in Nebraska City; run by Gilchrist and Allison. It was operated in the building which was later the office for the Great Western Cereal Mills and currently the office building of the G. E. Conkey Co.

FAULTLESS CASTER COMPANY

The Faultless Caster Company was started by a man by the name of McElheney, who moved here from Syracuse, Nebraska. He built the plant and installed the machinery for the making of flower pots, at 4th Street and Central. In 1890, Mr. McElheney sold the building, the machinery, and the right to manufacture casters to B. H. Noelting. In later years, after the turn of the century, due to the unfavorable freight rates from this area to the east, where manufacturing of furniture was located, this plant was moved to Evansville, Indiana, where it is now one of the largest manufacturers of casters. The company is still in the Noelting family.

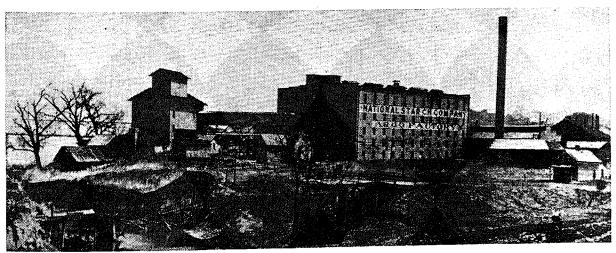
BRICK YARDS

At one time there were three brick plants located here. The Bickel family operated a yard near the present Water and Light plant, just south of North Table Creek. Another plant was located just north of Wyuka Cemetery on 19th Street. Our present brick yard is operated by the Western Brick & Supply and is located on the river bank, near the Nebraska City Bridge.

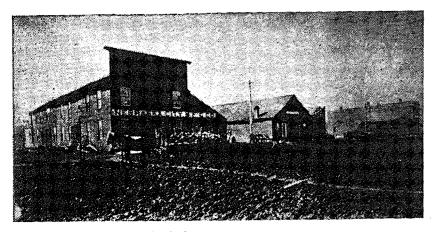
The first extracts and baking powder were packaged by Ed. Chase, who owned the home now occupied by our John C. Miller. (Mr. Chase made his home in Lincoln where his daughter Janet lived until the time of her death.)

C. W. Cowles and George H. Benton were the first carpenters in Nebraska City.

John Nash was the first welldigger and dug a well for S. F. Nuckolls on Lot 12, Block 6.



This picture of Starch Works taken in 1904. High water in South Table Creek has taken out the bridge.



NEBRASKA CITY MANUFAC-TURING COMPANY

The Nebraska City Manufacturing Company was located at 1401 Central Ave. This company was incorporated in 1881, and the products made were 16", 14", and 12" breakers, wood and steel beam stirring plows, harrows, tongue and tongueless wood and iron beam walking cultivators. Much virgin prairie was opened to cultivation by these plows. In 1882, the company sold over 900 units. After a number of years the prairie was broken to the sand hills in the West and the call for the one kind of plow they made, the Grasshopper Breaker, had diminished. In 1888, the company was dissolved and later the lumber yard of W. S. Cornutt was moved to the location. The Pauley Lumber Company is now at this site.

MILLING INDUSTRY

The early mills were operated by the Pinneys and the Stevensons. In 1875, the Schminke family founded the Star Flour Milling Company. This plant is still in operation at 9th Street and 7th Corso.

Graham's mill was a water-powered plant and was located north of Nebraska City. Later it was known as Catron's Mill. The mill was dismantled long ago. JOHN McMECHAN — Here in 1854; laid out Kearney City; early day financier and business man.

CHARLES W. SEYMOUR—Came here in 1861; lawyer; early day Notary Public; Civil War service.

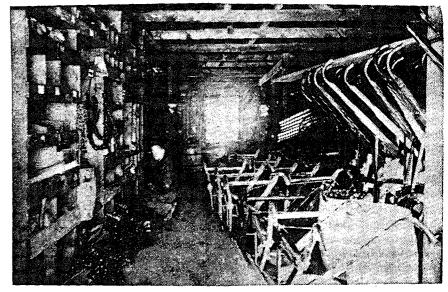
SMALL INDUSTRIES OF NOTE

One of the small industries to come along in the 90's was the E. M. Chase Baking Company. E. M. Chase and Edgar A. McCartney were the operators of this baking company.

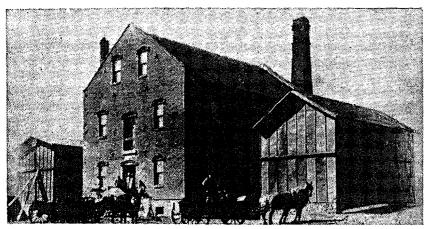
The Missouri Valley Soap Works was located on 4th Corso at South Table Creek. It was operated by D. A. Sargeant & Son. "White Prussian Soap" was made in this plant.

Another industry of short duration was a barbed wire factory. It was located at what later became the Missouri Pacific Freight Depot, on 3rd Street and 4th Corso.

Miles Vaughn operated a barrel factory in Nebraska City for a number of years during a period when the orchard business was active.



Interior view of Nebraska City Manufacturing Company showing stock of Grasshopper Breaker Plows. The type of plow that broke the sod of Nebraska's prairies.



SCHMINKE MILLING COMPANY

NEBRASKA CITY BOTTLING COMPANY

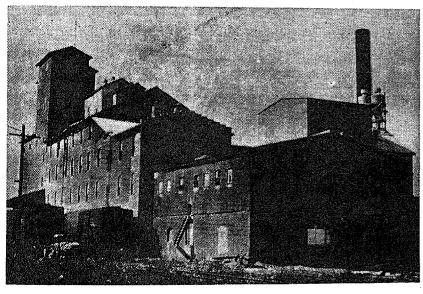
Ernest Guenzel was the first pop bottler — starting in business in 1860. This industry has been continued since that time. Mike Selzer was in charge of the business for many years and in later years the company was sold to Metz & Chapin. It is now the Nebraska City Bottling Company and is still operated by the Chapin family.

E. W. TERRY — Came here in 1862; wholesale grocer and outfitter; banker.

KREGEL MANUFACTURING COMPANY

This wood constructed windmill was manufactured by Kregel Mfg. Co. during the years 1879 and 1880. Partners in the venture were two cousins, Louis G. and George F. Kregel. Pumps, wood tanks, and well supplies were also sold. An odd addition to their sales were telephones and wire, selling around \$13.50 per set. However, they did not make them. The material used in making these windmills gradually changed from wood to steel, and for many years Eli windmills were sold in Nebraska and surrounding states. Repairs are still sold but manufacture was discontinued, the mills being replaced by electric pumping equipment. In 1903 the present building at 1416 Central Ave. was erected.





G. E. CONKEY COMPANY

The G. E. Conkey Company is one of Nebraska City's important industries, all because of Fred Beyschlag who wanted to manufacture starch from potatoes. After making a trip to Germany, he found that potato starch was not a good investment so the plant was converted to a grist mill making corn flour, hominy and brewer's grits. Later, he changed this to a cereal mill with the manufacture of Quail Brand Rolled Oats. This company was then known as the Nebraska City Cereal Mills. After Mr. Beychlag's death, the business languished until purchased by Joy Morton. This plant later was sold to the Great Western Cereal Mills and the brand name was changed from Quail Brand to Mother's Oats.

After a succession of ownerships and the raising of \$11,000 by Nebraska City merchants, to purchase the buildings after the equipment and machinery had been moved to eastern plants, the G. E. Conkey Company obtained the site and conducted a successful milling enterprise. This firm has recently been purchased from eastern interests and a local organization set up with Harold Fouts, president; and Granville Heebner, treasurer. They will continue to carry the G. E. Conkey name on their line of poultry, hog and cattle feeds.

NEBRASKA CITY IRON WORKS

The Nebraska City Iron Works was established in 1877 by a Mr. Touts, as a machine shop.

Sometime in the 80's, John Wale and Frank Eccleston purchased the business and added a foundry. Many of the grates, man-hole covers, and store front castings they manufactured are still in use in this city today.

About the year 1905, Mr. Eccleston became the sole owner, and for a number of years Frank Carmody and Oliver King were associated with him.

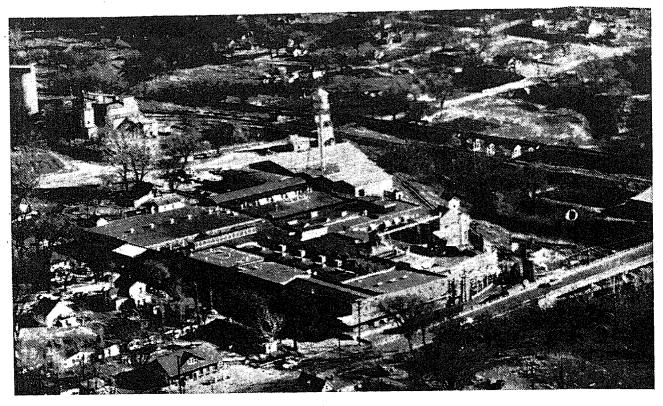
L. J. Ertl purchased the business about 1917. He discontinued the foundry about 15 years ago and a welding shop was put in its place.

M. K. Short, the present owner, purchased the business in 1948 and conducts a machine shop and welding shop and also manufactures miscellaneous steel items such as gate slides, railing, manholes, etc., for irrigation canals, dams, and levees, and also manufactures disc carriers, hand trucks, and gas tank heaters.

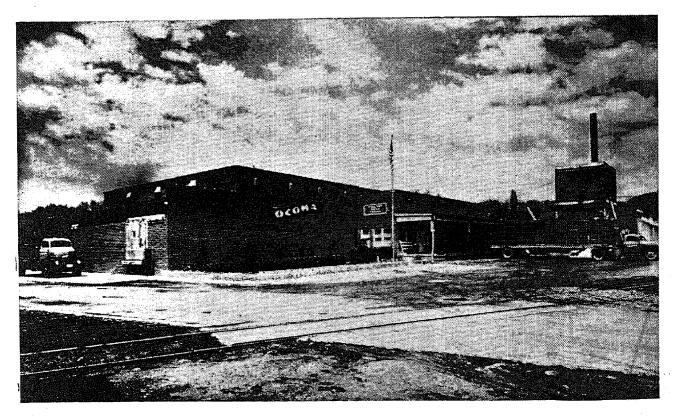
W. E. DILLON — To Nebraska City in 1863; early day real estate dealer; pork-packer (Eastport); insurance business; member of the legislature; Mayor for two years; vice president of Nebraska City National Bank.

PAUL SCHMINKE—Here in 1856; miller; legislator; councilman; Postmaster.

R. F. McCOMAS—Here in 1856; transportation; freighter; mercantile business; farm owner.



OTOE FOOD PRODUCTS COMPANY



OCOMA FOODS COMPANY

OTOE FOODS PRODUCTS COMPANY

Through the promotion of John W. Black, who came here from Shenandoah, Nebraska City now has the Otoe Foods Products Company. This company was organized in 1886 as the Nebraska City Canning Company with F. W. Rottman, President; Fred Hellier, Secretary; J. W. Black, Manager; and Sterling Swinney, Superintendent.

Products canned then were sweet corn, tomatoes, and pumpkin. It is interesting to note that each season's requirements of cans were made during the winter by the hand soldering method.

In 1901, the Otoe Preserving Company was organized, at which time they acquired the assets of the Nebraska City Canning Company. The officers at that time were: John W. Steinhart, President; R. E. Hawley, Vice President and Manager; E. L. Steinhart, Secretary; Sterling Swinney, Superintendent.

In the year 1914, the business was again reorganized and the Otoe Foods Products Company was formed with John W. Steinhart, President; Morton Steinhart, Vice President and Manager; and E. L. Steinhart, Secretary. The products thus far were limited to seasonable or vegetable products. Some additions to the line were made, including spinach, apples, green beans; etc.

In 1918, production of off-season products was started, including pork and beans, hominy, soups, and others which supplied employment during the winter season. Later beef, pork, and poultry products were added until up to date, an assorted year around production is maintained, totaling approximately 2,000,000 cases annually. The factory floor space has been increased to 250,000 square feet, and the employees number from 285 to 400. The trade brand products are marketed throughout the entire United States.

The Can Division of Otoe Food Products Company was built in 1940 by the Crown Can Company of Philadelphia and operated under that name. On January 1, 1949, it was purchased by Otoe Food Products Company, who increased its size and capacity by over fifty percent. The capacity of the can plant is now 400,000 cans per day. This is quite a production improvement from the original hand method used when the company was first started.

OCOMA FOODS COMPANY

Ocoma Foods Company, as it is known today, was formerly the Omaha Cold Storage Company, and has a long record in the growth of the State of Nebraska. It was established 60 years ago and has grown in its industry as the State of Nebraska has grown.

The processing plant in Nebraska City is only 13 years old, but has the second largest payroll in the industries of Nebraska City. Its products of eviscerated frozen poultry and turkeys, frozen eggs and shell eggs are distributed throughout the United States, Canada and foreign countries.

All of the poultry, turkeys and eggs are purchased in the Nebraska City territory and adds materially to the income of the farmers and commercial poultry raisers in this area. This income, of course, flows through the Nebraska City banks and retail establishments and when added to the plant payroll, means a considerable amount of business to Nebraska City.

Ocoma Foods Company is in Nebraska City today all because of an idea that wouldn't die. The location of the plant here was in part a Chamber of Commerce project, in that the group cooperated with Verne Jones, its local manager, in telling the advantages of the community and pointing out possible sites. After two years and many sites considered and rejected, work was started in February 1943 at the location of the CB&Q Freight House on 7th Corso between 6th and 7th Streets. In fact, part of the freight house was moved over and is now used for storage and an egg candling room. The formal opening of the plant was May 29, 1943.

From the original size of 70 by 150 foot the plant has grown to its present 120 by 300 foot with the enlarging of the eviscerating lines and the addition of a large freezing room and two blast freezers, thus allowing a chicken to be completely frozen two hours after it is placed in the freezer.

During the war the company was engaged in almost 100 per cent war work and in recognition of this the War Food Administration's "A" Award for outstanding performance in the nation's war time food program was presented in June of 1945.

The number of persons employed at the present time is 175 with a monthly payroll of \$30,000.

In addition to the Nebraska City plant, Ocoma Foods Company have production plants at Omaha, Nor-

GARMENT FACTORIES

Down through the years Nebraska City has had a succession of garment factories. The first was the Inter-Ocean Company from Lincoln. This was started in 1907, in the upstairs of the building where the Dairy Queen is now located. The M. E. Smith Company of Omaha purchased this plant in 1909 and moved to where Stevenson Packing Company is now located. Overalls, shirts, aprons and girls dresses were made here until 1922, when the plant liquidated.

From 1923 to 1929, the Wheeler & Motter Company of St. Joseph, Missouri, made overalls and shirts at Fourth Street and Central Avenue.

The Master White Goods Company was formed in 1929, by a group of public spirited local business men. This was headed by J. W. Steinhart, F. S. Cleveland, George Eicher, and William Utterback. At first only shirts were made, but later medical uniforms were made.

In 1939, the name was changed to Midland Garment Company and in 1945, to Nebraska City Garment Factory. In 1947 the name was again changed to the Mo-Neb Manufacturing Company and in 1949 the factory was closed.

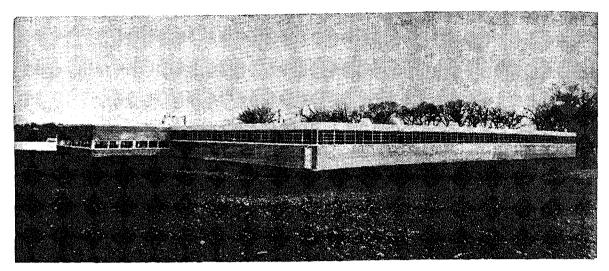
Weatherfield Neckwear came into Nebraska City in 1950, with Glen Pope as manager. In 1952, this firm was sold to Thunderbird Shirt Sales Company, Inc., of Phoenix, Arizona. This firm is now in business at Ninth and First Corso. Beau Brummel shirts are made on contract, also Thunderbird Western shirts for men, Painted Desert trousers, Squaw dresses and women's Western Wear.

KING DRILL COMPANY

The present King Drill Company operated by William Bischof, was brought to Nebraska City by Charles E. Van Pelt. Mr. Bischof was the instigator of bringing the plant here and J. W. Steinhart was the man who raised the funds to build the building for this enterprise.

The plant was started in 1896, and Van Pelt later sold it to Mr. Bischof. A 1906 directory indicates that the plant then employed 75 to 100 men, and had an annual output of 300 drills, plus 2500 to 3000 tworow lister cultivators. The principal production now is press drills for planting wheat.

folk, Holdrege, Ravenna, Central City, West Point, Nebraska; Winner, South Dakota; Carroll, Iowa; Berryville, Arkansas; and Jersey City, New Jersey.



The American Meter Company congratulates Nebraska City on its one hundredth birthday and is proud to be a part of it. Thriving industries, fine schools, churches, hospitals and recreational facilities testify to the foresight of the founders. The American Meter Company celebrated its centennial eighteen years ago and understands the just pride Nebraska Citians have in the observance of this, their Centennial Year.

MEMORIES OF YESTERYEARS

By MRS. BRICKNELL

My parents, Mr and Mrs James Linton, came from Ohio to Nebraska in 1869. They bought a farm five miles southwest of Nebraska City. I was born on January 27, 1869.

The country was new and luxuries were few. There were many kinds of fruit trees on the land. When father and mother drove to town for staple supplies, they bought a barrel of cane sugar and loaf sugar for the table when company came.

When the Indians drove into their yard, they would say "How". Father would offer them a chew of tobacco. The Chief would put the whole plug in his pocket. Father soon learned to cut the plug into squares and give the Indian one square. If the food was on the table and the Indians were there, they would take the food off the table after the family had finished, go out into the yard and eat it. If it were cold weather, they would bring blankets and lie on the floor. Father gave them corn for the animals they had with them.

In the early 70's, the Indians would be going on a pilgrimage and they would stop at the farm with covered wagons, many loose horses, dogs, and children. The squaws carried their papooses on their back. A buffalo and a white cow would be hitched to the first wagon. Indian boys on ponies, with tent poles lashed to a cirsingle around the ponies' necks, followed.

The squaws would often walk behind the wagon.

I was afraid of the Indians and would crawl under the bed when they came to the farm, for I had been told they would steal me.

When I started to school, I walked two and a half miles through the fields in nice weather, and around the road in winter. The school furnished plain benches for the children, and a desk and chair for the teacher. A big pot-bellied stove stood in the middle of the room. There were few advantages blackboard and erasers, and a bucket for drinking water. The children all drank from the same long-handled dipper or gourd. When the bucket was empty, two small hands would be raised to get permission to get more water.

When the weather was bad in the winter, father would come with the wagon. I remember seeing the horses' eyes frozen shut. The farmers would clear the roads. Snow would last until spring came. When the thaw came, the roads were impassable. In good weather I would carry my little tin lunch pail home and change my clothes. I would get on a horse and take the herd to the stock field to glean the fields for fallen ears of corn dropped by the men who had husked the fields. My brother, who was older, went to the barn and filled the trough with corn and the mangers with hay for the horses when they were put in the stable. The milking was then done. Corn cobs were all picked up and used for fuel.

By THE MISSES RODDY

In the early 90's at times a small circus traveled from town to town over country roads in horse drawn wagons. One such circus we met on our way home from school, on the river road near where the Kimmel Apple Shed now stands. They were resting their horses and we stood near a wagon where the monkey cages were loaded. We laughed so hard, but the monkeys were the only ones having any fun. The circus people were very cross with us. We even met a circus wagon crossing a bridge; they had heavy planks laid down to get the wagons across. The elephant walking alone frightened

In the 90's we always enjoyed seeing the covered wagons going through. Many nice families traveled that way, either to visit relatives, or to homestead some land. Some only asked for water, started a roadside fire and had their own food. They often had a cow tied on behind the wagon, or a crate with a few chickens.

The strangest way to travel we can remember was when a man came in one hot summer day, pushing a wheel barrow. A little old woman was sitting in it. He had started out at Plattsmouth and they were on their way to Brownville. The little old Woman walked around for a while, got a drink of cold water, then climbed into the wheel barrow and off they went. She was the mother of the man.



NEBRASKA CITY HELICON BAND-1876

Top Row left to right-Grovner Trahn, Jesse McCallum, Will G. Hail. Fred Mutton, Iver Iverson, Jack Williams. Bottom Row-Bud Brubaker, Fred Welch. Chris Nelson, A. B. Huckins, Musical Director, Henry Huckins, Milt Huckins, Jewett Thomas.

We Shall Have

Pioneer stories ring with a note of music. Fiddles were played for the "hoedowns" and the bands were the main event of every parade. By 1860, the Nebraska City Cornet Band was organized. The 1882 officers were S. J. Thomas, Business Manager; N. W. Niehart, Secretary; Jesse McCallum, Treasurer; and J. C. Iversen, Music Director. The Turner Band, whose players included Mr. Levi, Henry Kessler, Henry Bachler, Erhardt Schmidt, Chas. Fischer, Fritz Johns, Adam Kloos, and several others was very much on hand when the "Old Opera House" (now Eagle Hall) erected by the Turners, an organization of men of German birth, was completed in 1873 and dedicated with a festival and ball.

Arthur Bischof played the violin in the Opera House Orchestra and Fred Rottman was pianist.

The Nebraska City Band went to the National Contest in Chicago in the eighties and came home with second prize for bands of 20 pieces. In 1894, the Otoe Cornet Band met in the rooms over the Henry



NEBRASKA CITY MERCHANTS BAND-ORGANIZED 1901. PROF. A. LOEB, DIRECTOR. Top Row, left to right: Roy Flscher, Armour Wright, Herman Karstens, A. Z. Johnson, Wm. R. Hill, Daniel M. Hill. Second Row, left to right: Ernest Hill, John Shannon, Lester Harmon, Herman Spier. 3rd Row, left to right: Ernest Klein, Frank Spier, E. W. Clark, Frank Penn, Prof. A. Loeb, Joseph Platner, Archie

Kautz, Russel Kautz, Adolph (K) Richter.

Fourth Row, left to right: M. H. Collins, Dr. John Ballard, Sr., Frank Fields (plays in present band), George Curtiss.

Bachler store. The following were members: George Curtis, Will Curtis, Nels Nichelson, Larsh Crandell, George Rice, Bert Poling, Henry Bachler, Fred Shannon, John Shannon, Carl Gerber, Sam Poling, with Toby Klinger as Director.

The present Nebraska City Band has 52 members and is under the direction of Claude Crandell. Band concerts are now held each week during the summer months. The concerts are held at Nuckolls Park one week and at Steinhart Park the following week.

Our High School band is composed of 76 members and plays for athletic events, local entertainments, participates in parades and enters competitive contests. Students are given special instruction in instrumental music.

B. P. O. E. NO. 1049

Nebraska City Benevolent Protective Order of Elks, No. 1049, was organized July 18, 1907 by Dan O'Brien, S. F. Shannon, F. S. Marnell, Thomas Roddy, M. J. Beausang, W. H. Homeyer, and W. B. Payne. There were forty-five charter members and of these, four are still living in Nebraska City. They are J. H. Sweet, J. H. Catron, H. O. Rice, and F. A. Bartling. The Lodge now has a membership of three hundred ninety.

Since its organization, the Lodge has been very active in youth activities, welfare work, and all civic activities.

The present home of the Nebraska City Elks was built by an early pioneer, Robert Hawke and remained his home until purchased by the Lodge.

BROWN HOSPITAL

Nebraska City is fortunate in having a second, smaller hospital, known as the Brown Hospital. It was organized and established by Dr. C. E. Brown in 1937 to meet a community need for osteopathy, which is a system of medicine.

The hospital is located at 1702 2nd Ave. The original portion of the building was erected in 1895 by A. D. Richards. Dr. Brown has enlarged the building, which now contains 12 beds, an operating and delivery room.

Brown Hospital serves the community by making available modern equipment for the care of general types of surgery, illnesses and obstetrics. Osteopathic manipulative treatment is also available when indicated.

THE THREE ''R'S'' 1854-1954

On Monday, January 2, 1860, the public schools were opened. The term ended March 30, 1860. The second term began December 8, 1861. J. Pardee and John H. Croxton, County Examiners, examined the first teachers in the public schools.

An 1882, history of Nebraska states that, "In 1872 the Legislature abolished the School Board and placed the management of the city schools in the hands of the Mayor and Council. This grew out of the action of the board in discharging a teacher whose friends wielded influence with the Legislature. In February 1872, the friends of the Board of Education secured the passage of a law from which we quote: Section one gave the powers to establish and govern high and graded schools and other public schools to Boards of Education to consist of four members elected by the legal voters of the district." Section two provided that "all schools erected or organized within the city limits of said cities shall be under the direction and control of the Boards of Education."

The first election of a Board under the amended act took place April 6, 1875, and resulted in the choice of James Thorn, J. D. Kerr, William Fulton and E. Huber.

Nebraska City Public Schools now have a total enrollment of 1458. A broad curriculum is offered with home making, shop programs, guidance, athletic, band and vocal music programs, F.F.A., F.H.A., and Drivers Training courses offered. Special education is provided for the retarded and handicapped, night classes are available to the adults. Schools provide a hot lunch

program and a school nurse.

Modern aids are projectors, film strips, maps, globes, deleniscope, biascope, tape recorder, TV, radio and records.

COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IN NEBRASKA CITY

In 1859, Otoe University was founded by the Presbyterians. It was located at 14th St. and 4th Ave., where the Dr. Stonecypher home is. Scholarships of \$100.00 were offered. The building was owned by Waddell and Majors the freighters, and purchased from them. The College reached it's peak in 1869-1871 with 100 students. Because of bickerings between the manager and the board of trustees the building was sold to the trustees of Nebraska College, in 1872, for \$3,500.

During the years 1861, 1862, and 1863, a Female seminary was successfully taught by B. W. Vinevard.

A "Male and Female College" maintained a foothold for a few months, but proved an unprofitable venture.

Talbot Hall designed for a diocesan school for boys, was first located on a commanding hill three miles west of Nebraska City, on the J. A. Hallabaugh farm, now the Stooker home. The college was moved into town and combined with Nebraska College when Otoe University was purchased.

Nebraska College, founded by Bishop Clarkson, was under the control of the Episcopal Church. The main building was a substantial brick, 42x42, two stories and basement, costing \$4,500. Three wooden buildings, and the "outfit"

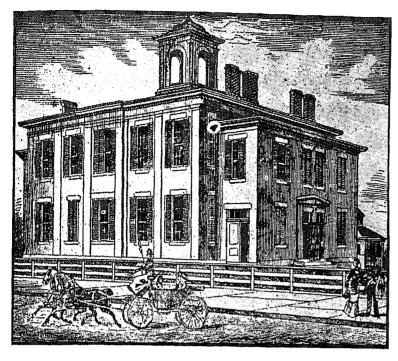
building, comprised the campus. The school grew from 27 students to more than 70. The brick building still standing was the "old hospital," and is now an apartment house. It stands in the middle of the block on 4th Avenue between 13th and 14th Streets. Nebraska College was one of the cheapest education institutions in the west: \$250 for board, tuition, washing, fuel and lights. The first graduate was H. A. Remick. Mrs. James Welch prizes a medal she received from the College.

Shoenberger Hall, a select school for girls, established by the Episcopal Church in 1870, was open more than twenty years. Dawson Collins, who owned the music store, was teacher of music. The brick building still stands on the north side of Park Ave. between Fifth and Sixth Streets. It is now used for apartments.

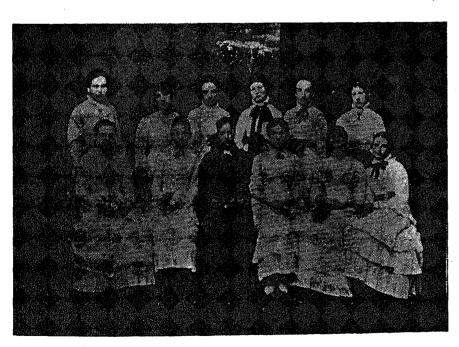
The Nebraska City Directory of 1870, J. M. Wolfe publisher, tells of the "Prairie Institute or College, located on the corner of 13th and California (Second Ave.) It was established in 1869 and conducted under the Methodist Episcopal Church. There are nearly fifty students."

The Academy of the Annuciation, for young ladies, was opened in 1856 by the Benedictine Sisters in a building adjoining the Church in Kearney Heights. The regular attendance was about 40, many coming from abroad.

"St. Mary's School is located on the corner of Tenth and Otoe, and is under the charge of Mother Emmerana, and has a thorough system of teaching in all branches of knowledge." Nebr. History 1882.



FIRST HIGH SCHOOL—"Second Ward" building was erected in 1865, as a High School, the first one west of the Missouri River. The cost was \$31,000. Rev. J. M. Taggart was the architect and contractor, Dr. Aurelius Bowen, the active manager. In 1874, it was used for a grade building, Sixth Street School being replaced by the present building in 1917. In 1875, J. P. Worthen was chosen principal of Second Ward at a salary of \$85 per month. Miss Elizabeth Downey is now principal.



First High School graduate of 1880 (in black) pictured with the class of 1881. Back Row: Ida Henry, Della Nuckolls, Emma Davies, Hattie Gerhardt, Kate Mitchell, Jessie Morton. Front Row: Lydia Holland, Harriet Hershey, Cornelia Petring (Mrs. O. A. Kimmel), Mattie Mathews, Pat Larsh (Mrs. Sam Kellogg), Annie Seymour.



NEBRASKA CITY'S FIRST SCHOOL TEACHER

In 1851 Margaret Martin with her father, who had been a soldier in the War of 1812, started down the Ohio River by steamboat, then up the Mississippi and Missouri Rivers, to St Joseph, Missouri.

In the winter of 1853 and 1854 she and some other young people came across the Missouri in John Boulware's ferryboat to attend a celebration in Nebraska City.

Margaret liked the appearance of the country between North and South Table Creeks so well that she and her father came here in 1854 to make this their permanent home.

At the request of pioneers, Margaret Martin opened the first school for white children south of the Platte River at Nebraska City in March, 1855. This primitive schoolhouse, built of cottonwood logs, stood on or near the site of the J. E. Gaskill home at Tenth Street and First Avenue.

In November, 1855, she married Andrew Jessen and moved onto a farm west of the city where Indians were her only neighbors for years, Mary Jessen and Margaret Jessen Mullen, living at 1502 First Avenue, are her grand-daughters.

Sara Lucretia Graves taught music during the seventies over the Charles Stahlhut store at Twelfth Street and Central Avenue.



LUCY BOWEN

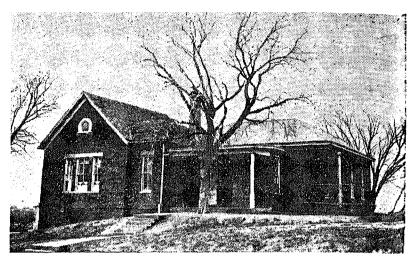
Miss Lucy Bowen, sister of Dr. Aurelius Bowen, a well-known pioneer physician, taught the second school in Nebraska City, opening in the spring of 1856. Miss Bowen's former home was in Ulster County, New York, where she had had three years' teaching experience prior to coming here in 1855. Her school, at the beginning, was a private school located in the Nellie McKean house, now occupied by Lloyd Adkins, across the street from Kearney School on Third Rue, Sixth Terrace.

Bessie Thornton has a vivid memory of having gone to school to her. Like yesterday she remembers Miss Bowen's locking a small boy in a closet for discipline. When Miss Lucy opened the door, out marched the young man with jam on his nose. Upon investigating her store of jams and jellies on a high shelf in the closet, she found one jar that was particularly well sampled.

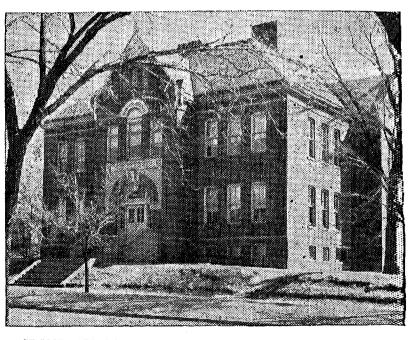
Miss Bowen kept a bundle of sticks on her desk as a reminder that she was a strict disciplinarian. She would use one stick and apply it in accordance with the offense. Her pupils considered her just and very kind.

One day Mary Wilson's mother was driving down a Kearney road and asked Miss Bowen if she would like to ride into town. Miss Bowen replied, "I'd like to but I have three young shoppers with me." Later it was learned that Miss Bowen had outfitted the three poor children with her own money.

It was said of Miss Bowen that



KEARNEY SCHOOL, a three room brick building built in 1888. There were between 125 and 130 pupils each year and the school went through the fifth grade. The new building was erected in 1939. Miss Clara Showalter is now principal.



SECOND AVENUE SCHOOL—From September 1889 to 1940 this red brick school stood on Second Avenue between 12th and 13th Streets. Bonds of \$20,000 were issued for its erection. It was the pride of the city school system until the new buildings on 14th and 6th Streets were built. Miss Anna Fastenau was a most beloved and well remembered principal for many years is this building. Mrs. Harriett Anville is now principal of the new building which stands in its place. This was erected in 1940 after \$25,000 in bonds had been voted for its erection.

she was "an old maid New England school teacher," but she had a very wonderful character, giving her life and much of her earnings to her profession.

Miss Bowen not only taught a private school but became a public school teacher as well.

White - haired Kathryn Tynon, principal of Fourteenth Street school for many years, left the imprint of her character upon hundreds of boys and girls.

Elizabeth Boese followed Miss Tynon as principal of Fourteenth Street school. She married Dr. Mcc. Kinney and moved to Pennsylvania.



MARY CORNELIA PETRING

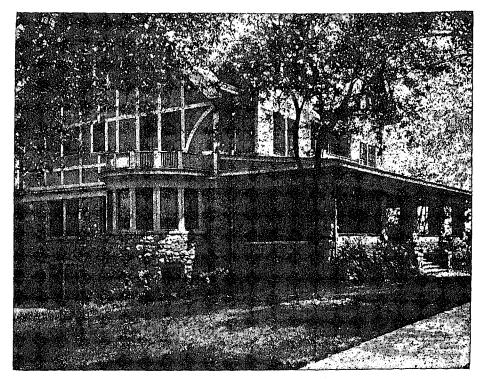
Mary Cornelia Petring, Mrs. O. A. Kimmel, was born in Nebraska City, Nov. 3, 1862 to parents who were both emigrants from Germany. She attended the Sixth Street grade school, and the high school erected in 1865, both at the present Sixth Street school site. In 1880 she graduated as the first graduate of not only this high school, but also of the first high school west of the Missouri River.

After graduation she taught at a country school near Syracuse, before teaching at the Third Ward school and then in the new Second Avenue school built in 1889. At Second Avenue she had fifth, then sixth grade and finally assistant principalship. Salaries recorded on her contract were for \$40,00, \$45.00, and \$50.00 respectively.

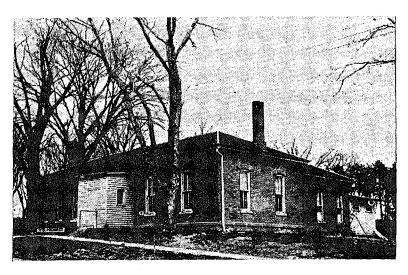
Cornelia Petring was a faithful attendant of the First Lutheran Church, teaching a class, singing in the choir, and serving as an active member of its Ald Society. In connection with school she co-edited a School Journal. She was elected the first president of the Alumni Society June 2, 1881. She served as secretary-treasurer for the "Accrescent," a study group. Mrs. Kimmel was a charter member of P. E. O. Sisterhood of Nebraska City.

In 1895 Cornelia Petring married O. A. Kimmel, banker, cattle-raiser, and landowner. To them three children were born: Richard, Dorothy, and Katharine.

Cella Burget Boyington is the oldest living pioneer teacher. Her work in English, adapting the interpretive method in literature to primary reading, attracted national attention.



ST. BERNARD'S ACADEMY—June 8, 1909, this native stone building was deeded to the Bernadine Sisters by Wm. and Sarah Hayward, who had built it for their home. The same day on which the property was deeded to the Bernadines, exercises were held to commemorate the closing of the first year of school taught in the frame building. Average enrollment has been around 210 pupils.



GREGGSPORT SCHOOL—Erected in 1875. Originally a one room building 22 by 36. Miss Adoo, Miss Lizzie Hebard, C. W. Sherfey, Prof. Meadville, Prof. Craft, Misses Lina and Lena Powell, and Miss Fannie Kiddoo taught in this one room building. In the early 80's, two rooms and a hall were added, making room for 60 pupils of all grades. James Welch attended the original one room building. Miss Marle Bosworth is principal of the new building erected in 1940.

Myrtle Fraker Fields graduated in 1887 from the Nebraska City High school, taught the first grade at Second Avenue school for 8 years, and boarded at the Thorpe House while teaching. She played the organ at the Methodist Church for years.

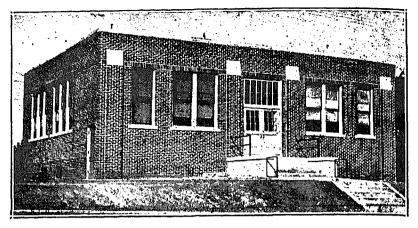
Following Miss Fraker was one of Nebraska City's most loved teachers, Minnie Wilhelmy, who devoted her life to her profession.



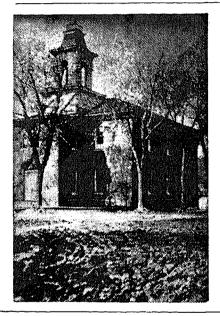
AMELIA WILLE

In 1878, Amelia Wille came to Nebraska City where she was to devote fifty years of her life to the guidance of the young of this community. She was born in Brooklyn, New York, and, although she had been reared in a cultural surrounding unlike this pioneer community in the young west, she took conditions as she found them. She was an inveterate reader and applied modern methods to her teaching.

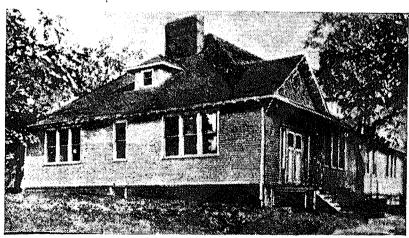
Most of Miss Wille's teaching was at Greggsport School where for many years her room was heated with a wood stove. She carried water from the neighbors' wells and cisterns.



SOUTH SIDE SCHOOL—The original Edgewood School was a one room, frame building, located at 12th Street and 12th Corso. It was sold and later burned. The present South Side School was built in 1940. It is a two room brick building and has four grades. Mrs. Herman Brandorff is principal.



FOURTEENTH STREET SCHOOL—"Third Ward School" was built in the summer of 1869 at a cost of \$10,000. It was destroyed by fire on February 24, 1874. Being fully insured, it was immediately rebuilt, the pupils going to school at "Second Ward" during the rebuilding. This is the east entrance to the building, which stood where the present building is now located. Miss Ruth Stroble is the present principal.



This frame High School building was torn down when the gray brick, now used as the Junior High, was built in 1911. It stood at 10th Street and Second Corso. Three years before the new building was erected some Senior boys climbed to the roof and painted across the roof in large letters "LIVERY STABLE." This may have speeded the brick High School on its way.

Third generation graduates of the Nebraska City High School are:

1881—Cornelia Petring - Katherine Kimmel - Joan Raben - Margaret Raben.

1887—Myrtle Fraker-Cordelia Fields - Marvel Conkling Carolyn Conkling.

1890—Emma Palister - Mary Hughey - Jane Porter - Morton Porter.

1891—Georgia Weimer - Merritt Whitten - Greta Whitten - E. M. Whitten.

1898—Lenora McAllister - Ardis Vaughn - Constance Yates Mildred Yates,

CHURCH HISTORY

Anniversaries are always great events in the life of man. They are not only an occasion for special rejoicing, but also for serious reflection. Therefore, it behooves us to look back over the years that have passed and take inventory of the events which have led up to this occasion—our 100th birthday. In that 100 years the churches have had an important part as the pioneer settlers were quick to realize

that the sound development of any community depends to a large extent upon its moral and spiritual growth. As soon as settlements were made, oftentimes before, the sturdy pioneers began building churches to satisfy the need for religious instruction and worship.

The history of Nebraska City churches dates as far back as 1853 when Rev. W. D. Gage, a Methodist missionary, arrived at Old Fort Kearney and began holding regular services.

It is possible that occasional services were held previously at the Old Fort, but, if so, all records of such services are lost and so it is that to the Methodists goes the credit of founding the first permanent organization.

In all there have been eightyseven church organizations in Otoe County, of which fifty-four are still



First Methodist Church

Methodist (1853)

The Rev. W. D. Gage, the first to be assigned to a pastorate in this territory, served also as chaplain in the first Nebraska Legislature and later, in October, 1854, was assigned to the Nebraska City Mission which included several settlements.

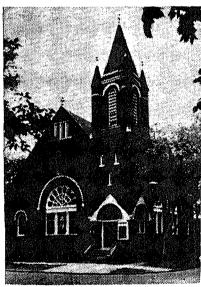
In December, 1854, Rev. Goode, who followed the Rev. Gage, called the first quarterly meeting to be held in the Territory. The following April the church was officially recognized with seven charter members. In the fall of 1855 Rev. Hiram Burch became pastor and at this time the first Sunday School was organized with John Hamlin as superintendent. Mr. Hamlin was then awarded the contract to build a church. The walls were raised in the fall of 1855, but a terrific storm leveled the walls, and nothing further was done until 1856 when the church was completed and dedicated in November, 1856.



First Presbyterian Church

Baptist (1855)

The first Baptist Church was organized August 18, 1855. The first services were held in a rude frame affair in Kearney Heights. In 1856 the Baptists and Presbyterians rented a building in the "Excelsior Block" and used it on alternate Sundays. The first church building was built in 1862. In 1894 the old church was torn down and the present church erected. There have, of course, been numerous repairs and additions.

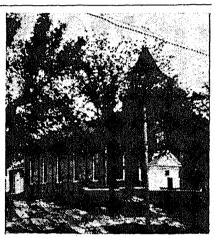


First Baptist Church

Presbyterian (1855)

In 1855 Henry W. Giltner caught the vision of the promising plains of Nebraska. He came with his bride, in their own conveyance from Hanover, Indiana, commissioned by the Presbyterian Board of Home Missions to serve as a missionary to the Territory of Nebraska.

On August 10, 1855, Rev. Giltner began his work in Nebraska City and, with a small group, organized the first Presbyterian Church. The first Presbyterian Church was built in 1857—the second church building in the Nebraska-Kansas



St. Benedict's Catholic Church

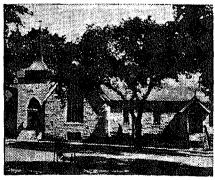
Territory. This territory extended from Kansas to the Canadian Border and from the Missouri River to the top of the Rocky Mountains.

The church bell which for years has called many to worship was the first bell in the territory and was taken from a steamship that sank in the Missouri River.

The first building was built on the same site now occupied by the First Presbyterian Church. This small building was used until 1902 when the present building was erected.

St. Benedict's Catholic (1855)

St. Benedict's was the first Catholic Church in Nebraska City. Its history really begins when the Vicar Apostolic residing in Leaven-



St. Mary's Episcopal Church

worth, Kansas, visited Nebraska City in 1855. Father Cavanaugh was sent out from Omaha in 1856, actually the beginning of St. Benedict's.

Mass was said in private homes and in a hall at the foot of Kearney Hill until 1860 when the erection of the present St. Benedict's began. It was completed in 1861 when Father Emmanuel Hartig was resident priest. Father Emmanual prepared a document and placed it in a globe in the cross of the church. The document read: "The ground for the church site was secured from N. Boulware for \$3.00—the cost of the entire church was about \$4000.00."

Even though the twelve stainedglass windows were not added until 1915 they are of such unusual beauty that a visit to the church just to see them is well worth the time. The pews, communion rail and sanctuary furniture are all of native walnut.

In order to preserve this historical church in its original beauty, and because of the sinking of one of the walls, within the last few years an extensive remodeling job has been completed.

St. Mary's Episcopal (1858)

The St. Mary's Episcopal Church was not formally organized until 1858, although Rev. Eli Adams had conducted services for a year prior to that time. Their first church building, which was erected in Kearney Addition in the second year of this parish, was the first Episcopal Church in this Territory. This building was moved to its present site in 1866—then called 9th and Otoe Streets—and enlarged to twice its original size.

In 1860 Joseph Cruickshank Talbot became Bishop of the Trans-Missouri territory which included Nebraska, the Dakotas, Montana, Colorado, Utah, Idaho, and Nevada, and made this parish the Cathedral and Nebraska City his See City. This was later moved to Omaha. Nebraska.

There have been two schools in connection with St. Mary's Episcopal Church: Talbot Hall, named in honor of Bishop Talbot, and Schoenberger Hall, a select school for girls. Both passed out of existence many years ago.

In 1916 the church was again remodeled and enlarged and the Bishop Talbot window added. This window is at the east end of the church and is divided in three panels. In the center panel is the figure of St. Paul, representing the Church, standing with his back to the rising sun suggesting the East. In the left panel are the figures

of a frontiersman and ox representing the early pioneers; to the right, an American Indian, between them flow a river representing the Missouri. Over the whole group is an inscription, "Come over and help us" (Acts 16:9), representing an appeal of the West to the East.

First Christian Church (1866)

The First Christian Church was organized by Rev. J. V. Johnston in 1866. The first church building was located at 6th Street and 1st Avenue and cost \$14,000.00 which was a large sum for that day. However, they went heavily in debt and then, when the money was raised to make a payment, a member to whom the funds were entrusted left town without accounting for the money, and the building was lost.

The organization was reorganized and disbanded twice and then, in 1883, a building site was secured at 9 1-2 Street and 3rd Corso. The site was donated by J. B. Northcutt. After the new church was built in 1927, this building was remodeled into a dwelling and at present is the residence of Mr. and Mrs Jack Ryder and family.

In 1927 the new church was built at 8th Street and 1st Avenue at a cost of \$35,000.00 and is one of the nicer church buildings in this area.

Latter Day Saints (1866)

This body was permanently organized April 6, 1866. The first meetings were held in Major's Park in the summer of 1865. Later the Seventh Day Adventist's Church was rented and still later the Odd Fellows' Hall was used; then finally a church was purchased from the Lutherans. The pulpit was made and donated by James Bush. The first presiding elder was R. C. Ervin who served from 1866 to 1882.

First Lutheran Church (1866)
This church was organized in 1866 by the Rev. Eli Huber. The only building this congregation has ever owned was erected on the present site at 9th Street and 3rd Corso.

Originally services were held in the Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon. Here the Rev. Eli Huber preached in both German and English.

In the original church, built on the present site, there was a spiral stair case leading to the choir loft. An amusing incident concerning the choir loft involved the then Miss Julia Petring (mother of Oliver Stevenson), Miss Cornelia Petring (mother of Richard Kimmel and Katherine Raben), and their father, Mr. H. H. Petring, who were all singing in the choir. They were singing the first hymn preceding

the sermon when the small reed organ broke down and refused to utter a sound. However, during the sermon, Mr. Petring, who was mechanically inclined, took the organ apart, fixed it and by the time the next hymn was announced, the organ was ready to "make a joyful sound unto the Lord."

On January 20, 1867, Louisa M. and Charles F. Holly deeded the present site to the Trustees of First Evangelical Lutheran Church for the sum of \$240.00.

St. Mary's Catholic (1870)

In 1870 the English people from St. Benedict's, which had been organized as a German Church, separated and began St. Mary's Parish. Father John Goldrich was the first pastor and a church was built at the corner of 10th Street and First Corso. This building was used until 1879 when they moved to a building which had been built as a Christian Church at the corner of 6th Street and First Avenue. This building is now used as their C. Y. O. Hall. The present building was built in 1941 at a cost of about \$78,000, and is one of the most beautiful in this section.

Mount Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church—1879

Mt. Zion African Methodist Episcopal Church was organized in 1879 under Reverend Jackson. The first church was located on Fifth Street between Second and Third Avenues. The church was later moved to Twelfth Street and Fifth Avenue where it was destroyed by fire. After being rebuilt, in 1907, it was moved to its present location directly across the street.

The present minister is the Reverend C. C. Baker who is serving his eighth year. Mr Baker lives in Omaha and conducts services in Fremont and Nebraska City on alternating Sundays.

Bethel Evangelical Church (1887)
The Bethel Evangelical Church
was organized December 4, 1887, by

the Rev. F. H. Freund. The church was known as St. Paul's Church, then as Zion Evangelical, and then in 1931 it was changed to Bethel Evangelical.

The present church was erected in 1889 at 12th Street and 1st Cor-so.

Mrs. P. H. Niemann, wife of one of the charter members, is still living and able to enjoy the progress that has been made in her church and city.

Free Methodist Church—1890

The Free Methodist Church Was organized in 1880 by George Griffith. First services were held in a tent put up on C. B. & Q. Railroad property. Later the present

building, located on 8th St. and First Avenue, was secured from M. U. Payne and wife. This building had previously been built for the German Methodist's. The first minister was the Rev. B. F. Summers and the present minister is the Rev. C. W. Gossard.

The congregation of this church is small but very loyal.

First Church of Christ Scientist (1898)

This church was formally organized January 19, 1898. First services were held in a hall at 817 Central Avenue. In October, 1908, their beautiful church was built at 12th Street and 1st Avenue. The first reader of this organization was Mrs. T. Eloise Ireland.

Seventh Day Adventist (1914)

Although services had been held for a number of years prior to this date, there was no formal organization until Elder George Seltzer came in 1914 and started holding services in a tent. In 1915 a church was built at 14th Street and Central Avenue and in 1927 the building was moved to its present site on 15th Street and 1st Corso.

Jehovah's Witnesses (1908)

This society, non-denominational, was organized in 1908 by Mrs J. C. Kautz and her husband. Meetings were always held in private homes. Study consists of question-and-answer periods on subjects selected by the members. Their number has always been small.

Church of God (1933)

This church was organized in 1933 under the guidance of Rev. E. C. Hilton. The church is located at 15th Street and 2nd Corso.

Assembly of God (1936)

The Assembly of God Church was organized March 30, 1936. The first minister was the Rev. George Baker. This church is located between 11th and 12th on 5th Corso.

Christ Lutheran (1925)

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's first mission in Nebraska City began in 1925 with services held in the Seventh Day Adventist church. Because of lack of interest and numbers these services were discontinued in 1939.

With the arrival of new families in Nebraska City, interest was revived in 1942. Christ Lutheran was the name chosen for the church by the members at an organizational meeting in 1949. The congregation continued to meet in the Seventh Day Adventist church building until 1952, when work was begun on a Church of their own. The building which stands at 22nd St. and Park Avenue was dedicated in 1953. The present pastor is Mr M. P. Dreyer of Auburn, Nebr.

MEMORIES

By MARY WILSON

"For convenience I will begin at the top of the hill (Kearney) where I lived; born there shortly after my parents came from Pennsylvania in the early seventies.

There were three families living at the extreme edge of the hill, which ended in a ravine and was called 'pasture.' Lovely walnut trees grew there and an attractive small stream called us children to wade, build dams and gather nuts and haws. It still looks as it did, except that part of it was made into the Utterback Orchard.

Those houses were built by freighters who took freight to Lincoln, Denver and all over the state. Our house was old fashioned, with pointed gables, and was very comfortable, but we found it very cold in winter. We had one hard coal stove in the dining room, and the buckwheat cake batter almost froze on the back of the stove. They soon made the cellar and downstairs warmer by banking it with leaves and dirt. This was real pioneering.

The next house was occupied by S. H. Calhoun, who was a very able lawyer, descendent of John C. Calhoun of early history fame.

The third house was more pretentious, occupied by Hugh Ward, well known socially and in business and afterward prominent in Kansas City affairs.

In the next row was the German Catholic Church and Convent. I began school there, learned my letters and how to do my first fancy work.

Going on down town were the homes of the Starrings, the Otts, the Misses Wallbaum and the Robert Paynes. Down near the overpass was the original Wessel store, but it was occupied in my time by a family named Peter Dold. His daughter, Josephine, went to the Catholic School I attended. This was the center of town at the time and near there was the first station. I remember when the roundhouse was built. I thought it was wonderful. You could see the transfer busses lined up when a train came in. Everyone piled in and four horses were needed to pull people up the hill to the hotel. The mud was very deep during a rainy time. They used the same road to the river before the bridge was built. They called it the "cut" as there was a hill to be dug through and it was a dangerous place and some early tragedies, with murders, occurred there.

I remember when we went east on the train, the car we took was run on a transfer boat called the J. F. Joy. It carried three railroad cars over across the river to Eastport. Another station and eating house was located there and we were taken to Red Oak to the main line from Eastport.

On the other street farther south was Miss Bowen's school, which my brother Harry attended.

The first Episcopal Church was near there but moved to its present site before my time. We had a grand view of the river. It used to be over farther on the Iowa side and people would drive up and gaze at it, especially during the spring floods.

On Sundays my father took my brother and me down to the river to walk, and perhaps we could go on a boat. There was one, the Lizzie Campbell. Wagons were carried over on it.

A very delightful gentleman of Kearney Hill was Fr. Emmanuel Hartig, the Priest in charge of the St. Benedict Church. At that time he lived across the street south of the convent. If my brother and I would see him coming out of his gate to go to church, we would each take hold of his hand and escort him to the church door. This pleased him no end, then we would proceed to town to our school.

Out beyond the City limits were the Watermans, McLennens, Paynes, and Barrie Simpson and his daughter, Irene, who married Otoe Morton and lived here all her life. Farther on lived the Boyers, Taits, and Ernest Guenzel families.

This home where I was born during the grasshopper scourge was very beautiful most of the time with a row of shapely maples around the entire place; inside every kind of fruit tree and a nice garden, lovely blue grass all around the house. One morning when my mother looked out the window where all had been beautiful and green the grasshoppers had eaten every blade of grass, all the vegetables, and leaves off the trees; this was the 3rd day of August, 1874."

Elijah Yates was the first shoemaker, upstairs over Henry Bradford's store.

James H. Masters established the first nursery.

Hugh Pearman planted the first apple trees.

They Came Early

Nebraska City has a number of citizens who enjoy long and interesting lives but the number of "native born" residents of the sixtles is small.

Walter McNamara, 93, was born in 1861, two miles south of Nebraska City. Their home was a frame dwelling, his father having brought the lumber from Indiana. He does not care to be reminded of his childhood because of the hardships they endured. Indians were many, especially when they came to visit from nearby reservations, then the road was thick with them when they went to school.

Mrs. Ida Tait, living at 318 North 8th Street, is 91 years of age and was born a short distance south of town and has lived continuously in Nebraska City.

Mrs. Minnie Burgert Bickel, 90 years old, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Burgert who lived at 1211 First Avenue, where Mrs. Bickel was born. She remembers her father helped grub out the hazel brush to make First Avenue a street. With the exception of a short time following her marriage, Mrs. Bickel has resided in only two homes during her long life—the house of her parents and her present home at 703 Third Corso.

William Bischof, now living at 1005 Second Avenue, was born in 1866 at 707 First Corso, the present home of Mrs. John DeFord. His father was influenced by Anton Zimmerer to come to Nebraska City, Mr. Zimmerer, also a native of Germany, had walked to Nebraska City from Des Moines. Iowa. With exception of the distance between Buffalo and Cincinnati the elder Mr. Bischof came here from Germany by water, coming up the Missouri from St. Louis, Mr. and Mrs. Bischof were living at O'Fallon's Bluff near North Platte and came to Nebraska City for William's birth.

Mrs. Rachel Watson Sisson, who resides at 923 Second Avenue, and is a daughter of Dr. and Mrs. N. B. Larsh, was born in 1867. The family home was at 9th Street and First Avenue where the Harry Novak house now stands. Her mother, with her parents, the John L. Armstrongs, came to Nebraska City in 1857. Her father, a well-known physician, came in 1859. Mrs. Sisson, one of eight children, is the only surviving member of the family and probably has as broad a knowledge of early Nebraska City as any other resident.

S. Emory Arrison was born in 1867. His parents' home was on the west lot of the Post Office site where he was born. His mother was Sophia Hail, a daughter of W. B. Hail, one of the founders of Nebraska City. His father had what was probably the first furniture store in Nebraska City, Mr. and Mrs. Arrison lived in Lincoln for a time after he retired from his duties at the Post Office but Nebraska City has been their home again for a number of years. His life-time friend and co-worker, Reed Carlton, who possesses a wealth of knowledge about Nebraska City, was born here but moved to Washington in recent years so that he and Mrs. Carlton could be near their children.

Fred Roberts was born in 1864 in the log house we know as "John Brown's Cave." His parents came to Nebraska City in 1849 stopping here on their way to the "Gold Rush" because their oxen gave out and they could not go on. Mr. Roberts says they had plenty of corn bread and wild game to eat. At the age of 13 years he herded "town cattle" to a site near Riverview Park and once fell in a well that had been covered with brush. The cows went home and bells were rung for the lost boy. With the aid of a knife and because he was barefooted he was able to climb out the next day. He is proud he has seen Nebraska City "grow up." He is living at 715 First Corso.

Mayros M. Fowlkes, 85, lives with his sister and her husband, the E. A. Davidsons at 705 Fifth Corso. He was born a short distance south of town. His father, Dr. Wm. C. Fowlkes, was a soldier in

the Mexican War, stationed at Fort Kearney, and at the close of the war was given the papers to take the homestead where Mayros Fowlkes was born.

Although not native-born, I. B. Manson is our oldest active business man. He has worked in Nebraska City for sixty-five years having built some of the finest homes and business houses in the city. Agile and alert at 93 years, doing all types of cabinet work and making deliveries in his own truck, he wonders why people are concerned with the past when the present is so interesting.

FRATERNAL ORDER OF EAGLES Aerie No. 968

Nebraska City Aerie No. 968, Fraternal Order of Eagles received its charter on January 27, 1905. There were 108 members who were initiated into the Order on that night. Dan W. Livingston, now deceased, was made the first Past Worthy President. Of the original charter members, Lemmie Cope of Nebraska City, and O. W. "Bill" Lane, of Olatha, Kansas, survive. They now have 928 members in good standing.

The Order, in addition to being a social organization, has a number of very worthy benefits. Among them are the Military Service Certificates which kept the dues paid while the members were in service; and "The Memorial Foundation Fund," providing for the care of widows and orphans of servicemen who were members. There is also a Youth Guidance program. The Aerie also sponsors a Brownle Troop and a Girl Scout Troop.



Faunce and McNamara Store showing sidewalk display of groceries.

Could that be a chicken in the coop?

HARMONY REBEKAH LODGE NO. 3

Harmony Rebekah Lodge of Nebraska City was first organized July 18, 1856 and after a few years became inactive. It was reorganized in 1890.

On December 2, 1904, the present Harmony Lodge No. 3 was instituted and presented a charter. The Nehawka Degree Staff initiated the charter members, Wm. Bischof, Jr. and the late Anna Poling, representing the entire group. Officers elected were Mrs Gertrude Ganson, Noble Grand; Mrs Gertrude Clark, Vice-Grand - (Mrs Clark later served as Secretary for thirty years); Mrs. Sarah Chivington, Secretary and Harriet Chapman, Treasurer. Of the 28 who signed the charter, Wm. Bischof and Maude Sheckler are the only ones still living. They are both active members at this time.

For several years one meeting a month was held in the Hall, and the other meeting held in some member's home. The Lodge has had homes in various locations, but now is in the Hathaway building. The present membership is 122 members, and the officers: Vera Kruger, Noble Grand; Vere Bodle, Vice-Grand; Emma Walters, Secretary; and Zitta Dore, Treasurer. One very interesting fact is that in all the years of the Lodge's existence, it has had only five secretaries.

The Past Noble Grand Circle was organized here in 1930 by Mrs Vida Robbins, and the first meeting was held in her home.

The Ladies Encampment Auxilliary was organized in 1947; Mrs. Emma Walters is the Matriarch.

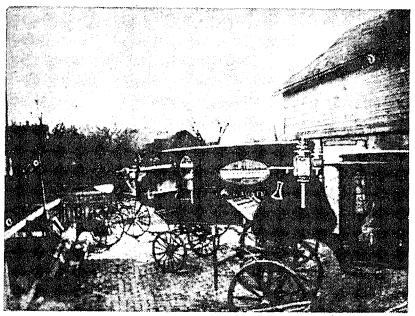
The Rebekah Lodge sponsors the Theta Rho Club.

The Rebekah Lodges of Nebraska held their first convention in Nebraska City in October 1884. The 22nd assembly was also held in Nebraska City with Harmony Rebekah Lodge No. 3 as the hostess lodge. Mrs Rachael Larsh Watson gave the welcoming address. At that time the total membership of Harmony No. 3 was only 29 members.

The Rebekah and Odd Fellows Lodges in Nebraska contribute to the I.O.O.F. home at York.

Lewis Hax established the first cabinet shop and sold furniture at a profit.

THOMAS B. STEVENSON — To Nebraska City in 1863; Civil War; ardent Republican; five times Mayor of Nebraska City; prominent as a lawyer.



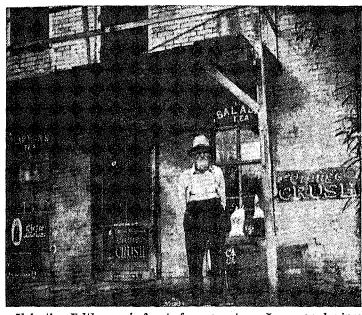
HEARSES OF A BY-GONE ERA

UNITED COMMERCIAL TRAVELERS OF AMERICA

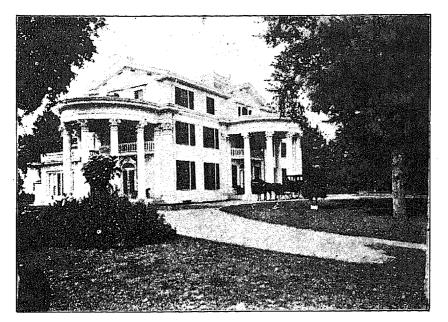
The Order of United Commercial Travelers of America was founded in 1888 in Columbus, Ohio by a group of traveling salesmen as a fraternal service order, primarily for the purpose of bettering conditions under which the traveling fraternity were required to work. Later this was extended to cover all types of business and professional men of good moral character.

In 1916, a Council was organized in Nebraska City, known as Nebraska City No. 569, but did not endure and gave up its Charter after a year or so. In 1928, a group of local men under the leadership of A. L. Kitz and James L. Carpenter, became interested and on January 29, 1929 the Council was reinstituted. At that time Mr. Kitz was elected the Senior Counselor and Mr. Carpenter as Junior Counselor.

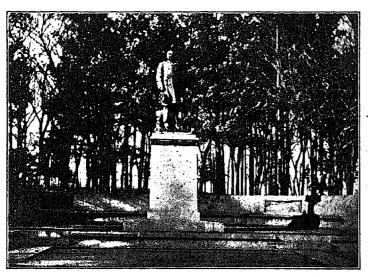
The Charter as issued at that time, bore the names of forty-two men as Charter members and since then has continued to grow, until today the local membership numbers close to 400, giving Nebraska City one of the largest Councils in proportion to the population, of any city in the country.



Valentine Felthauser in front of grocery store. In grocery business for 74 years, 60 for himself and 50 years in same location at the foot of Kearney Hill.



ARBOR LODGE MANSION



STATUE J. STERLING MORTON



ITALIAN TERRACED GARDEN

ARBOR LODGE

STATE PARK

Arbor Lodge, one of Nebraska's most popular state parks, consists of approximately 65 acres of woodland surrounding a magnificent colonial mansion.

Arbor Lodge was settled sometime during the spring of 1855 by J. Sterling and Caroline Joy Morton, who had arrived here from Bellevue. They had come to Bellevue in October, 1854. A portion of the preemption of J. Sterling Morton is contained in the park. In the spring of 1855 he secured a "squatter's right" or privileges of entering on the land after the government survey. He received his patent from the Federal Land Office, May 1, 1860.

Mr. Morton at once built a four room house, which was the only shingled house between Nebraska City and the Rocky Mountains. This was soon after the passage of the Kansas-Nebraska Bill and the organization of the Nebraska Territory. Many of the Indian tribes had not yet ceded their lands to the government and were still in the habit of camping along the small streams flowing through the homestead.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Morton were great lovers of nature and soon flowers, shrubs, and vines adorned the premises. In 1858, an orchard was set out as well as shade trees and evergreens. Arbor Lodge represents one of the earliest attempts at home beautification in Nebraska and should be of particular interest to all Nebraskans.

The original house was remodeled and enlarged in 1871 and again in 1878, but some of the original timbers were preserved and are still in service today.

At the death of Mr. Morton in 1902, the homesite passed into the hands of his eldest son, Joy, of Chicago. The son again remodeled the building, adding the three story front portion of the imposing colonial structure. In June 1922, Joy Morton offered the property to the State of Nebraska for use as a State Park and the Legislature accepted the gift. On April 1, 1925, the 52 room mansion was opened to the public for the first time.

Visitors find at Arbor Lodge State Park many points of interest, of which the mansion leads the list. Due to the many contributions of the Morton family, most of the rooms on the first and second floors have the original furniture and wall decorations. The third floor houses suitable historical exhibits. The Arbor Day motif, as carried out

today in the older part of the old mansion, was used on much of the family china, and always as a crest on the Morton stationery.

Two of the famous rooms in the mansion are the Denver room, which the Mortons used as a library, but was originally a bedroom and occupied by General Denver in 1857 when he stayed there, and the second floor bedroom, which was occupied by President and Mrs. Grover Cleveland when they visited Arbor Lodge to dedicate the large bronze statue of Mr. Morton.

The stables, just west of the mansion, attract considerable attention. Here were housed the coach horses and carriages. It now houses most of the carriages and specimens of harness and farming implements belonging to the Mortons, together with an old stage coach and fire engine.

Near the east end of the park is the Morton Memorial, designed by Rudolph Evans and made possible by contributions from school children of the United States.

Just south of the mansion is the Italian terraced garden, landscaped by Frederick Law Olmstead in 1903. North and east of the mansion is the arboretum, for the tree and bird lover probably the most interesting feature of the park, Related species are grouped together and are readily accessible by a graveled Tree Trail. There are about 175 varieties of trees and shrubs at Arbor Lodge and a great many of them are labeled for study. North of the stables is the thriving Pine Grove, planted in 1935-37 to replace the original one which was destroyed by drought.

Kearney

When the name Boulware is mentioned it seems fitting that the name of Kearney Addition should be thought of also.

Col. John Boulware established a government ferry at Fort Kearny in 1846, and was given charge of the ferry in 1849. He continued to run it until his death in 1864, and "left the reputation of having been a man of strong common sense."

In 1852, John B. Boulware, a son of the old trader, built a ferry house on the river bank at the foot of Commercial Street. It was the first permanent habitation in the county. He remained in Kearny City until "civilization became too apparent for a natural frontiersman." Then he moved still farther west.

George W. Boulware, another



J. STERLING MORTON
Arbor Day

Arbor Day, the Day that gave the world a "Great Idea," was the brainchild of J. Sterling Morton, one of Nebraska City's most famous pioneers.

The great territory of Nebraska was a vast plain of grass with only a few trees growing along the creeks and rivers. Pioneers coming from the states east of us naturally missed the trees very much.

H. P. Bennett was the local forerunner of Arbor Day. He planted shade trees, the first to be put into the ground here. Also, a Mr. Matthews is reported to have started a movement to improve living conditions by planting trees.

In 1872, through the action of the State Board of Agriculture and the direct efforts of Mr. Morton, one day in each year was set apart as

son, assumed charge of the ferry upon his father's death. He also carried the mail between here and Sidney, Iowa. At one time a man of large property, he died poor.

Samuel W. Black, fourth governor of the territory, lived on top of the hill overlooking the river, the present site of the Adams Nursing Home.

James Nelson Tait is a name that will recall memories of the Ashton and Tait store. This was a general store and warehouse located on the bank above the river. almost straight south of where the river bridge now stands. Ashton and Tait were agents for different steamboat lines, leased the levee from the city, and collected wharfage from all boats landing there. There was much handling of freight as it was taken from the boats for overland freighting to Denver, but much of it went into the warehouse of Ashton and Tait first. Mr. Tait kept this agency until his death in 1869. Third and fourth generation decendents of Mr. Tait are living



CAROLINE JOY MORTON

a perpetual "Arbor Day", to be devoted throughout the state to the planting of shade and fruit trees. Mr Morton's birthday, April 22, was finally named "Arbor Day" and has been observed diligently ever since.

Every state in the Union observes Arbor Day now, many of them on April 22 as in Nebraska but others on other dates more suitable for planting in their locations. Many foreign countries have also adopted the "Great Idea".

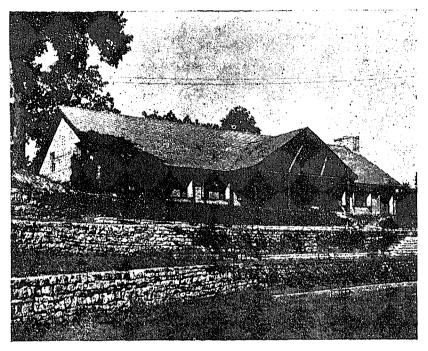
Nebraska City today is a city of trees, because it not only gave the world the "Great Idea," but practices the idea, and the same holds true of many other communities throughout the land.

"Love of home is primary patriotism. Other holidays repose upon the past, Arbor Day proposes for the future." J. Sterling Morton

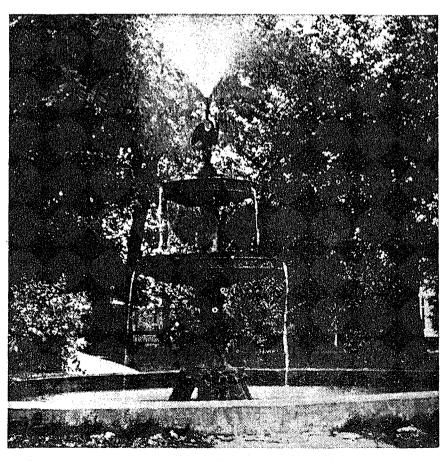
Greggsport

Because of its many spots of natural beauty, the lovely views which it affords, and its contributions to the development of Nebraska City's industrial, professional, and cultural life, the section known as Greggsport most certainly merits special recognition.

The Greggs, for whom the addition is named, came to Nebraska Territory in 1857. James Gregg with his three brothers purchased a tract of unbroken prairie and started the first nursery, which they named the Platte Valley Nursery. In 1868, this same tract was laid out in lots and named Greggsport Addition to Nebraska City. Of the five children of Mr. and Mrs. James Gregg, Ed S. Gregg is the best known to most Nebraska Citians. The town is indebted to him for most of the beautiful historical markers we have in our community.



STEINHART PARK LODGE



THE FOUNTAIN-NUCKOLLS SQUARE

STEINHART PARK

West of the city, off Nebraska 2 and Central Avenue, is popular Steinhart Park, named in honor of John W. Steinhart, pioneer banker and food packer. Steinhart Park is the playground of southeastern Nebraska and one of the beauty spots of the whole State. It has a golf course, swimming pool, baseball diamond, tennis courts, children's playground, picnic grounds, and fishing ponds. Tables, barbecue pits, and fireplaces complete with firewood, are available for picnickers.

On high ground overlooking the park is Steinhart Park Lodge. The Lodge, a gift from Morton Steinhart to the city, is similar in design and material to the famous lodges in Yellowstone and other National Parks. It is larger than most National Park Lodges and is made of native limestone from a quarry in nearby Cass county. Over the fireplace in the Lodge is the picture, "The Origin of Corn," painted especially for the Lodge by Oscar Howe, a native Nebraska Sioux Indian, the son of Chief Don't Know How.

Wide picture windows afford an interesting and beautiful panorama of the Park's swimming pool, ball diamond, and golf course. Excellent meals are served in the Lodge.

Nebraska City is very fortunate to have such a beauty spot for the use of its own citizens and all visitors to the city.

RIVERVIEW PARK

In the northeast corner of Nebraska City is an inviting rustic park which is the delight of picnickers.

It is easily reached either on foot or by auto. The street leading to it from the city runs along the brow of a hill overlooking the Missouri River, on the slope of which are leafy trees and succulent berry patches. Across the river are the foothills of Iowa.

At the entrance of the park a monument has been erected to the honor of James H. Gregg, the first mayor of Greggsport.

A winding road among native trees leads down to the bank of the river. There is a wide level slope which is ideal for picnics; tables, benches, fireplaces, and conveniences for the visitors are provided.

Supplement to Second Printing Nebraska City Centennial Book

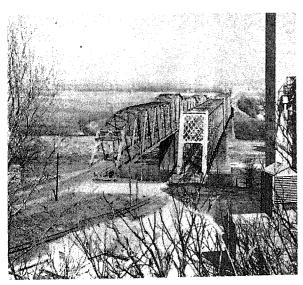
REPRODUCED BY THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

13 YEARS LATER . . .

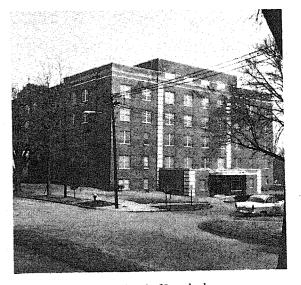


Otoe County Courthouse

1967 IN NEBRASKA CITY



Nebraska City River Bridge CB & Q River Bridge



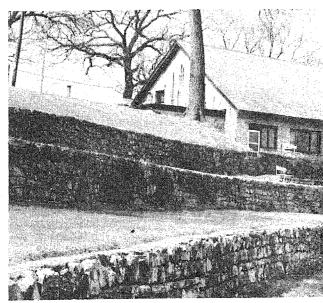
St. Mary's Hospital



Arbor Lodge Mansion

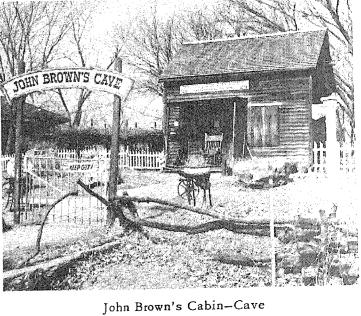


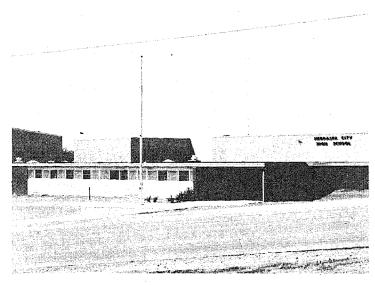
Steinhart Park Golf Course



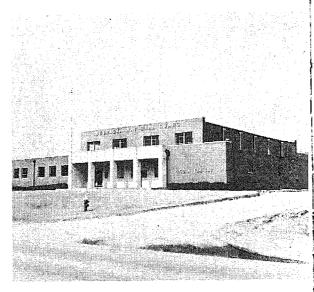


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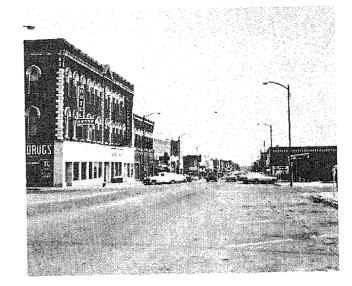




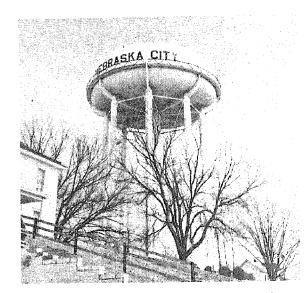
Nebraska City Senior High



Company A Armory



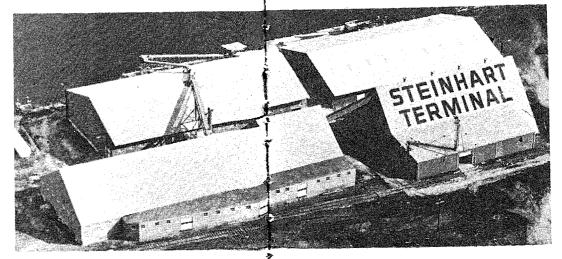
Central Avenue



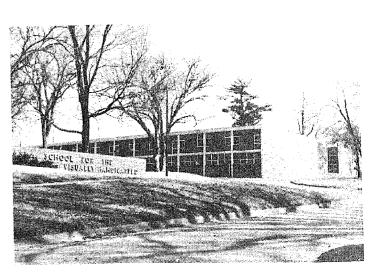
City Utilities Elevated Storage Tank



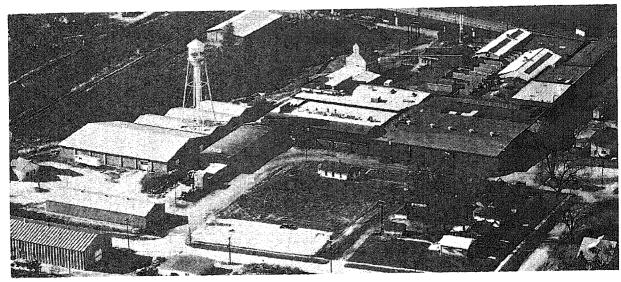
Otoe County's Duff Memorial Nursing Home



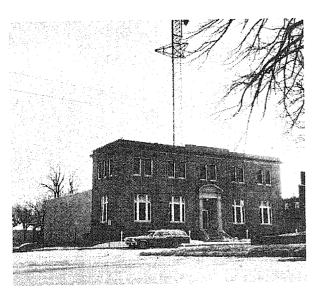
Steet Terminal



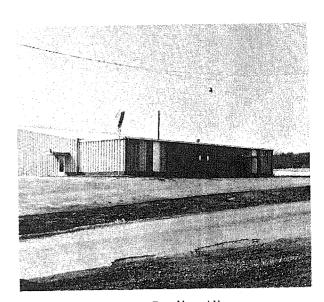
Nebraska School for the Visually Handicapped



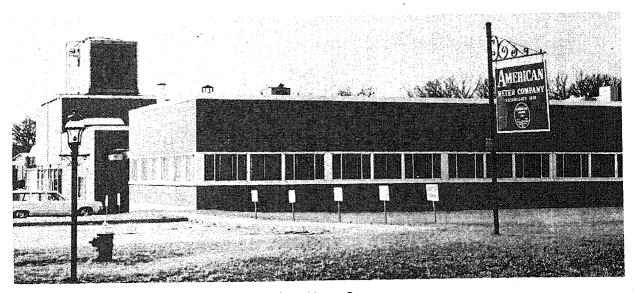
Morton House Kitchens, Inc.



Lincoln Telephone & Telegraph Co.



V-Lanes Bowling Alley



8 7484

American Meter Company