

Thursday
DECEMBER 22, 1985
WAYNE, NEBRASKA 68787
ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH YEAR
NUMBER TWENTY-FOUR
25¢ THIS ISSUE
3 SECTIONS

Local merchants offer greetings
— sections b & c

Santa's hours
At Peoples Natural Gas
Dec. 22—6 to 8 p.m.
Dec. 23—6 to 8 p.m.
Dec. 24—12 to 2 p.m.

WSC Holiday tourney near
— section b

THE WAYNE HERALD

Providence, Care Centre staffs use Yuletide touch

By Kevin O'Hanlon

Not everyone is fortunate enough to go home for Christmas. To those confined to a hospital bed, or living in a nursing home, Christmas can be an empty time.

Staff members at Wayne's Providence Medical Center and the Wayne Care Centre have the task of making the holiday season easier for those people.

Sister Kevin, of the Missionary Benedictine Sisters at Providence Medical Center, said as many of the hospital's patients as possible are allowed to go home for Christmas.

"IT'S ONLY the people who are seriously ill or need better care than they can receive at home that need to stay," Sister Kevin said. "The doctors try to dismiss anyone who can possibly go home."

Until then, and especially for those patients that must remain hospitalized, the Providence staff tries to make Christmas special.

"We try to have nice, decorative tray covers, favors and so on," Sister Kevin said. "Traditional Christmas food is prepared as much as possible, according to each patient's diet."

Several poinsettias and a Christmas tree add a holiday touch to the hospital. Carollers from the community are also invited to sing.

The newborn babies at Providence even get special Christmas treatment.

"Instead of a blanket, we put them into a little Christmas stocking," Sister Kevin said.

Of course, Santa Claus pays each patient a visit.

"We seldom have that many children up here, but everybody enjoys it anyway," she said.

SISTER KEVIN said the hospital does not hold a special religious service, but the local ministers "are very good about coming around."

"They are just excellent about making sure everyone is taken care of on a spiritual level," she said.

At the Wayne Care Centre, staff members face a different situation in the people they serve are full-time residents of the facility.

Roberta Carman, activities director at the Centre, said approximately 25 of the facility's 85 residents do not have any family to spend the holidays with.

Carman said several Wayne County civic groups and businesses contribute gifts for the Centre's residents.

"We give the Woman's Club (Wayne Federated) a list of names and they distribute them," Carman said.

THE GIFTS are given by Santa Claus (Ralph Barclay) at the annual Christmas party in Dec. 22.

Santa will also distribute kits containing several toiletry items donated by the Salvation Army.

On Christmas Eve, residents will be served oyster stew, a tradition at the Centre for years.

"Christmas Eve will be relatively quiet—that's the way it should be," Carman said.

Christmas Day will include a traditional Christmas dinner "with all the trimmings."

BECAUSE CHRISTMAS falls on Sunday this year, there will be no special religious service at the Centre.

"The local ministers are very good about coming around," Carman said. "The churches take very good care of us up here."

Other activities during Christmas week include the airing of a video tape of the Redeemer Lutheran Church's nativity play and a Christmas movie obtained from the Nebraska Library Commission in Lincoln.

Carollers have been visiting the Centre throughout the Christmas season.

"The community really turns out," Carman said.

In addition, each resident is furnished Christmas cards to send to friends and family. There is also a tree in the Centre's lobby decorated with ornaments made by the Centre's residents.

"We try to make it as home-like as possible," Carman said.

STILL, CHRISTMAS can be a depressing time for some of the Centre's residents.

"We have one resident who it's particularly hard for," Carman said. "Of course, it depends on what kind of background they have."

The best the staff can do is hope all the activities will be enough to make the holiday a special time for the residents.

Carman said the residents could almost be called spoiled at Christmas time.

"I sure don't think they're neglected!" she said.



Photography: Randy Mascal

A FAMILIAR FELLA, Santa Claus, prepares to drop in on a Wayne household with a bag full of gifts. Santa said he has been making the rounds a few days early, stopping at homes of residents who will be out of town on Christmas Eve. Jolly St. Nick said he plans to slide down chimneys on all houses which have them. He added that at homes without chimneys he will enter through doors.

Several organizations offer help for the area's needy

By Randy Mascal

Christmas will be a little more merry for some families this year thanks to various organizations that will help the needy.

In the Wayne area, several organizations which are doing the most to help these needy families this holiday season are The Wayne Food Pantry, the Wayne branch of the Salvation Army and the Senior Citizens Center.

Through those three groups, needy people in Wayne will receive food, gloves and personal care kits.

THE FOOD PANTRY is in its 4th year of existence. Funds are raised through various churches in Wayne and food for the needy is purchased.

"If someone needs help, we're there to help and we would like to help," said Dorothy Stevenson, secretary-treasurer of The Wayne Food Pantry.

The Pantry can give each family a 3 day supply of food, included in the goods given by the Pantry are cans of soup, vegetables, canned meat, spaghetti and macaroni.

Fresh foods such as milk, margarine and eggs also are distributed by the organization. Between \$15 and \$20 is usually spent on that type of food for each family, Mrs. Stevenson said.

MRS. STEVENSON said last year was a slow year but added that in past years they have received requests from as many as 10 families in Wayne County.

The Wayne Food Pantry's program is not just a holiday deal, it continues throughout the year for residents of Wayne County.

Food for the program is stored in the basement of the Wayne Presbyterian Church and is distributed immediately when requests are made.

Mrs. Stevenson said any families which are interested should contact the Wayne County Social Services Office in the basement of the county courthouse.

The Church Women United of Wayne collected food for the Pantry during the recent Fantasy of Trees at the Wayne city auditorium. Canned goods and money were collected at that time.

THE WAYNE BRANCH of the Salvation Army will be distributing 240 personal care kits in the Wayne area, according to Jocelle Bull, local chairman.

Each kit consists of toothpaste, a comb, nail clippers, soap, hand body lotion, a calendar and a prayer card.

"It is a real nice thoughtful, little gift for people who are in a nursing home," said Roberta Carman, member of the local Salvation Army committee.

THE WAYNE Senior Citizens Center will be distributing gloves and mittens to area residents.

Georgia Janssen, director of the center, said about 15 needy families will be helped directly by the Senior Citizens Center. Food boxes, gloves and shoes for children will be distributed by the center.

Funds for the shoes are raised through interest earned by the M E Fund, Mrs. Janssen said.

The other mittens and gloves will be taken to the Social Services Office for distribution at the same time that free cheese is given out by that office. In all, many needy families will be affected.

Mayor Wayne Marsh received 136 pairs of mittens and gloves through a "mitten tree" drive he held throughout the first several weeks of December.

He then gave those gloves to the Senior Citizens Center for distribution.



LITTLE MANDI BURT, 2 1/4-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ron Burt of Wayne, visits with Santa Saturday afternoon at Ron's Home in IGA.

He is a 'perfect 10' at Christmas time

By LaVon Anderson

He dresses in red from head to toe. His boots are black and shiny, his long, white beard flows down his chest, his cheeks are rosy, and there is that unmistakable twinkle in his eyes.

And, yes, his belly does jiggle like a bowl full of jelly when he laughs.

"My one main concern during the year is that I'll lose too much weight," he told his 32-year-old Kevin Meyer of Pilger.

KEVIN HAS been Santa's "official" helper since his days at Pilger High School when he assisted during convocations at Christmas time.

When he's not helping St. Nick, Kevin and his wife LaRayne farm one mile west and two north of Pilger.

They are the parents of three children, Trisha, 14, Brenda, 12, and Clint, 8.

"I help Santa because it's fun," smiles Kevin. "I enjoy doing it for laughs for the adults, and I do it for the little kids because

it's just plain fun."

IN ADDITION to visiting youngsters at area churches, schools, and "anyplace else you need a Santa Claus," Kevin says that each year, about a week before Christmas, he and his wife "grab some candy canes, jump in the car, and visit nieces, nephews, neighbors, friends— whoever."

This week, he also will travel to Norfolk to assist the Norfolk Good Neighbors in distributing Christmas gifts to families in need of assistance.

Kevin's last three Saturday afternoons have been booked at Ron's Hometown IGA in Wayne where he has assisted Santa Claus in accepting Christmas wish lists from youngsters there.

Ringling his sleigh bells, Kevin zooms up and down the aisles, making sure no youngster is denied the opportunity to forward their fondest wishes to Santa Claus.

"I'm doing this because it's fun and Santa needs the help," smiles Kevin, adding that Ron's Hometown is the first store he has

ever worked in and all he asks in return is enough money to pay his gas.

"Nobody is going to get rich playing Santa Claus," he smiles.

SANTA'S ATTIRE is handmade by wife LaRayne, but the padding is all natural.

"Once a year I'm a perfect 10. Nobody tells me I should lose weight," laughs Kevin.

Kevin said if Santa has taught him anything through the years, it is "not to promise youngsters everything they ask for."

"I tell them Santa will do the best he can," says Kevin, adding that he once witnessed another of Santa's helpers promise a seventh grade girl a baby brother for Christmas.

"That's a definite no no," he laughs.

KEVIN SAYS Cabbage Patch Dolls, Care Bears and Baby Skates are topping the Christmas wish lists of little girls this year.

Heading the list for little boys are stomper sets.

Helping St. Nicholas isn't without its pro-

blems, however, according to Kevin.

"Kids are always asking to see my reindeer and that has made some of my exits pretty difficult," says Kevin, adding that just last week he was forced to "hideout" in a haystack until the anticipating faces of youngsters he was visiting left the windows.

Kevin said many youngsters also want to know if he remembers visiting Grandma's house, and how Mrs. Santa Claus and the reindeer are.

"YEAH," smiles Kevin, "this definitely is my favorite time of year."

"The twinkle in just one youngster's eyes is all it takes to make it worthwhile."

Kevin says he'll continue to help out this time of year "as long as anybody wants a Santa Claus."

"Oh," he shakes as he laughs, "you can also say I've got an elf outfit but so far there haven't been any volunteers to wear it."

Probing Commonwealth Savings

viewpoint

By Melvin Paul
Nebraska Press Association
 The insolvency of Commonwealth Savings Co. of Lincoln is likely to be the premier issue of the 1984 legislative session, which begins Jan. 4.

The Legislative Council Executive Board on Dec. 10 voted 4-1 to create a special investigating panel to probe the Commonwealth insolvency and the events leading up to the Nov. 1 takeover.

Authorizing the investigation, the executive board set aside suggestions last week by some lawmakers that the Legislature should wait for other investigators to complete their work before authorizing its own Commonwealth investigation.

FOLLOWING RELEASE of a report of Dec. 9 indication that the state Banking Department had detailed information about possible violations of law by Commonwealth officials as far back as 1979, the possibility of delaying the creation of an investigation committee was never seriously considered by the executive board.

During more than 90 minutes of discussion, the board was deeply divided on the question of which legislators should serve on the investigating panel.

The executive board agreed to assign the task to a 15-member committee comprising the membership of executive board itself and the membership of the Banking, Commerce and Insurance Committee.

Among those whose membership was in controversy were Sens. John DeCamp of Neligh and Ernest Chambers of Omaha.

DeCamp, the banking committee chairman, was appointed to the committee; Chambers was not.

THE RESOLUTION creating the investigating committee grants it subpoena power to last through the end of the 1984 session.

The resolution allocated \$50,000 for the investigation, and authorizes the hiring of a special counsel.

The investigating committee is scheduled to deliver an interim report on June 1, and a final report on Dec. 31, 1984; when the committee is scheduled to terminate.

In addition to possible impeachment

resolutions, the committee will process all legislation dealing with Commonwealth. It will attempt to determine the adequacy of state efforts to regulate Commonwealth before its closure and investigate the failure of the NDIGC.

The committee will also investigate the activities of current and past governors in relation to Commonwealth, according to the resolution.

STATE OFFICIALS are blaming a snow storm rather than a downturn in the economy for a meager state tax collection during the month of November.

Gross general fund tax receipts for November fell \$6.4 million, or 9 percent, below the projections on which current tax rates are based, according to the monthly revenue report issued last week by the state Revenue Department.

Many businesses closed because of the statewide storm on Monday, Nov. 28. Tax Commissioner Donna Karnes said. In many areas of the state, that would have been the last day to mail sales tax payments to Lincoln and have them arrive at the department before the Nov. 30 deadline, she said.

If the theory is correct, Karnes said, the delayed payments will appear in the sales tax accounting for the month of December.

Another possible contributing factor, Karnes said, may be that the department has underestimated the portion of state sales tax revenue that had been generated from food purchases.

THE FOOD SALES tax was repealed effective Oct. 1.

Karnes said the November sales tax collections represent money that was spent by consumers in October, the first month of the repeal, she said.

If the department has underestimated the food sales tax revenue, that too should become apparent in collections during future months, she said.

Department officials don't suspect that the slack collections in November are the result of a reversal of the apparent improvement in the state economy, Karnes said.

In November, gross general fund tax collections from the sales, income and various minor state taxes totalled \$64.9 million. Official projections anticipated projections of \$71.3 million for the month.

Put academics 1st

We are only three weeks into December and already it feels like we have suffered through a long, hard winter.

Most schools in the area have used up all of their allotted storm days and Christmas vacation is not even here yet.

Some athletic events have had to be postponed. That brings up a controversial subject.

Should an athletic team be allowed to participate in an event when the school was dismissed that day because of the weather?

Most schools in this part of the state have a darned good policy that forces an athletic contest to be postponed if school is called off that day. That's the way it should be.

However, there is one problem with the policy and it became apparent this past Friday night.

Suppose two schools are scheduled to play basketball. Now, what if one school holds classes and the other postpones its school day because of the weather?

Should the athletic event be held? We think not.

Dismissal of classes at one of the participating schools should mean automatic postponement of the athletic event. No matter which team is host. No matter how difficult it is to reschedule the game.

When schools continue to hold athletic contests despite the fact that inclement weather forced dismissal of school, that says only one thing: Athletics must be more important than academics.

And the day that happens, there is something seriously wrong.

By Randy Hascall
 Wayne Herald editor

Happy holiday!

Christmas time is the most celebrated of all holidays in this country. It is a time for all Christians to pay tribute. It is a time when faith, good will and generosity abound. A time when families and friends gather to celebrate. Christmas has many meanings to many people. It is a time to hope and pray for peace. It is a time to wish joy to the world. All the boys and girls. A time to give and to share. Merry Christmas everyone!

By Randy Hascall
 Wayne Herald editor

another viewpoint

Dairy dollars

The new legislation signed into law by the president, Nov. 29, can solve short-term milk surplus conditions, while enabling dairy farm families to continue to assure U.S. consumers of dependable supplies for the future. We believe that dairy farmers will respond enthusiastically and that the program will work.

The law features a diversion program financed primarily by dairy farmers themselves, that offers individual incentives to reduce production.

We commend President Reagan on signing the bill into law as a sensible and effective replacement to the assessment program. By the critical categories of evaluation dairy programs, the new law is superior to the assessment law it replaces — achieving budget savings, lowering national milk production and reducing the size of government-held dairy product inventories.

Under the new law, dairy farmers are assessed 50 cent/hundredweight to help finance the cost of a 15-month incentive plan offering \$10/hundredweight payments to dairy farmers who contract to reduce their milk marketings from 5 to 30 percent. According to USDA's economic projections, the new dairy law is estimated to cost the government over \$300 million less in FY'84 than the assessment program would have.

We now have a constructive program that allows dairy farmers to reduce their milk marketings, while maintaining net income... an important step in preserving our nation's milk production capacity for the future.

The new dairy law reduces the milk price support level immediately to \$12.60/hundredweight with further reductions authorized if milk production is not sufficiently curtailed during the diversion program. Also included is a national advertising and promotion program to increase consumption funded by a uniform 15 cents/hundredweight deduction on all milk marketed.

Dairy farmers realize that the ball is now in our court. We have an excellent opportunity to demonstrate that a farmer-financed supply-management approach will work.

Irvin Elkin
 Associated Milk Producers, Inc.

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High cost of economic literacy

By Richard Leshner
U.S. Chamber of Commerce
 Grab pen and paper. It is time for a pop quiz.

After subtracting federal, state and local taxes, how much profit do you think the average manufacturing company earns as a percentage of sales? If a company sells \$1 worth of goods or services, is the after-tax profit: 50 cents; 20 cents; 5 cents?

Now, the same question for oil companies, auto manufacturers, electric utilities and insurance companies.

Okay, hand in your papers and compare your estimates with the answers given in a recent poll by Opinion Research Corporation which asked the same questions. And then let's compare those poll results with the facts.

THE MORE THAN 1,000 adults responding to the telephone poll guess that the average manufacturer earns 37 percent after-tax profit on each dollar of sales. In reality after-tax profits are roughly one-tenth of that figure.

Those questioned believed that the big oil companies must be pulling down the big bucks. They guessed that average after-tax profits for oil companies at 60 percent of sales. Ralph Nader's histrionics notwithstanding, the true figure is 4.3 percent. (Oil company stockholders wish that Ralph Nader was right on this one.)

The auto industry? Poll respondents guessed their profits at 41 percent of sales. Detroit, I'm sure, appreciates this vote of confidence, but automakers actually lost money last year.

The gong also sounds for our 1,000 poll respondents who guessed that electric utilities were racking up profits of 48 percent of sales. They earned 11.2 percent. The guess of 55 percent profits for insurance companies was off by a factor of eight. Insurance company profits were seven percent of sales.

THE GAP between perception and reality of corporate profit levels raises three questions. How did this misperception arise? Should we be concerned by it? And, if we are concerned, what can we do to correct it?

Addressing the second question first, the answer is a resounding yes. We should be alarmed at this shocking level of economic illiteracy, for bad information leads to bad economic policy. It is a lot easier for politicians to rail against the "obscene profits" of oil companies and demand higher taxes if the voters believe that present profits are 60 percent of sales. A tax hike of 10 percent of sales would sound reasonable, when in reality

it would wipe out the profits of the oil companies and drive them into bankruptcy. The same scenario holds for other industries.

Why are we so misinformed about business profits? I would suggest two contributing factors. Both politicians and union leaders find it to their advantage to exaggerate profit levels and can often be found in front of television cameras pushing untrue, yet headline-making statements.

Too often politicians look at business not as the engine of economic growth but as the vulnerable target for new taxes. Overstating profits makes such tax hikes popular. Union leaders couple demands for higher wage increases with feigned outrage about unconscionable high profits. You have plenty of money, the argument runs, give us some of it. Recently the chickens have come to roost for those union bosses in the auto and steel industries as they were just beginning to learn that low level of earnings leads not to higher pay for workers but to plant closings and fewer jobs.

BUSINESSMEN AND WOMEN must also shoulder some of the responsibility for these exaggerated estimates of corporate profits. Too often, they highlight the dramatic growth of profits during a recovery, boasting that earnings are up, say 400 per-

cent without explaining that this growth is based on depressed earnings during a recession. Understandable, most companies downplay falling profits and losses.

Lastly, we come to the question of what the business community can do to bring down the high level of misinformation on corporate earnings. I am not going to recommend some expensive education campaign at this point, but rather suggest some small steps that businessmen and women can take.

Start with your own family. If the over 16 million Americans who run businesses on a full-time or part-time basis simply discuss the economic facts of life with their children over dinner the ignorance level would drop sharply overnight.

Schools could invite local businessmen and women into the classrooms to discuss the role and size of profits in the business world. Businessmen and women could also reach out to civic groups, church groups or sit down with their congressmen when they visit the district.

Small steps, but important. The debate over economic policy affects the future of all Americans and we cannot allow this debate to continue surrounded by the amount of misinformation revealed in this recent poll.

Merle's Message column makes its return

By Merle Von Minden
District 17 state senator

I extend my best wishes to all for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

As many of you know, I have recently completed a week of traveling around my legislative district for a series of meetings with my constituents. The meetings provided an opportunity for everyone to meet with me personally and discuss issues of interest and concern to them.

I was very pleased with the large turnout. I want to say "Thank You" to everyone who came out in the cold weather to visit with me. Your attendance at the meetings made the tour a success.

MAJOR TOPICS of concern expressed at the meetings included the license plate dilemma, property taxes on real estate, Christian schools, and the failure of the Commonwealth financial institution in Lincoln. All are sure to be major issues during the upcoming legislative session.

I will keep you up to date on these and other issues in my weekly newsletter, "Merle's Message," which appears in local newspapers while the Unicameral is in session.

Another concern was also expressed by the elderly over the current method of testing for the renewal of drivers' licenses.

Remember that you can request an oral examination and that restricted licenses are also available for those who only need to make local trips to the store or the farm. Meanwhile, I will see what can be done about improving the examinations.

The Second Session of the 88th Legislature is scheduled to convene on Wednesday, Jan. 4. As I prepare for the session, I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or suggestions about possible or pending legislation.

I WILL be more than happy to help anyone in any way that I can. I am looking forward to representing the 17th District in

the Unicameral again in what promises to be a very busy and interesting session.

My office will be in the same place as last year, Room 1115 on the first floor of the Capitol. Again, I invite everyone when visiting Lincoln to stop by my office.

I'm always glad to visit with you. If I'm not in my office, Leo and my new administrative assistant, Mikkie Camp, will be glad to visit with you. There is no way they can.

My phone number remains 475-7116. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me either by phone or mail, c/o State Capitol, Lincoln, 68509.

Season's Greetings

FROM
THE WAYNE HERALD



"Grandpa" Ray Murray and his Wayne Herald grandchildren warm up beside a lighted fire. In front from left, with parents names in parentheses, are: April Pippitt (Al and Brenda), Molly Muir (Steve and Trudy), Abbie Diediker (Dave and Tami), Kristin Eaton (Rob and Cindy), Sarah Sperry (Jeff and Joan), Christopher Henschke (Tom and Alyce). Seated behind from left: Adam Diediker (Dave and Tami), Jason Hascall (Randy and Barb), Nicholas Muir (Steve and Trudy), Beth Sperry (Jeff and Joan).

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Darin Wacker
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WAYNE

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Tracy McFarland
Jackie Filter
Mike Kaup
Sharon Foote
Neil Carnes
Brian Melton
Chad Frey
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Joan Thompson
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Belden — Mrs. Ted Leaspley
Carroll — Mrs. Ed Fort
Concord — Mrs. Art Johnson
Dixon — Mrs. Dudley Hatchford
Hoakies — Mrs. Hilda Thomas
Laural — Mrs. Gary Lute
Leslie — Mrs. Louis Hansen
Wakefield — Dorothy Hala
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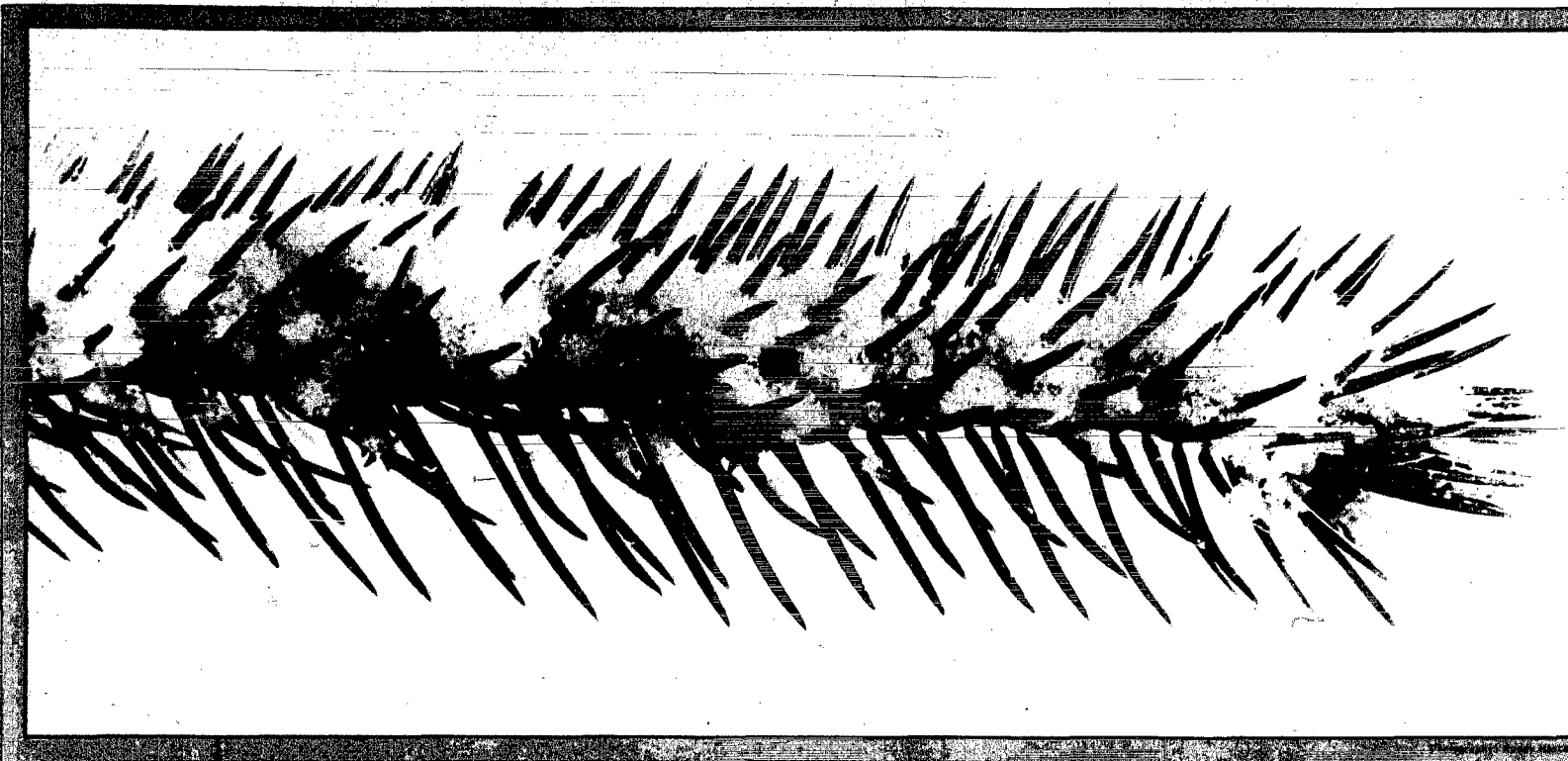
THE WAYNE HERALD

Wayne, Nebraska 68787, Thursday, December 22, 1983
108th Year — No. 24 Section B — Pages 1-10



National Weather Service forecast: Thursday through Sunday, clear to partly cloudy; sub-zero temperatures, warming to the teens by Christmas.

Carrie Junck, 8
3rd grade
Carroll Elementary



The beauty of the best

Details to appear in the next issue of the magazine. The beauty of the best is being experienced.

3 shopping days left

Cash, merchandise drawings set

Late shoppers are running out of time. Only three shopping days remain before Christmas.

More than \$7,000 in merchandise, cash, gift certificates and shopping sprees will be given away by Wayne merchants in this year's Christmas promotion. Most businesses will announce winners tomorrow (Friday).

Stores will remain open until 9 p.m. tonight and tomorrow and also will open until 4 p.m. Saturday for last minute shoppers.

Tonight (Thursday) \$1,050 in bonus bucks will be up for grabs in the weekly Grand Giveaway. One name will be announced at 8 p.m., another at 8:15 and another at 8:30.

CUSTOMERS CAN still register for prizes at any of these participating businesses.

Anchor National Financial Services, Arnie's Ford-Mercury, Bill's GW, The Black Knight, Carhart Lumber Company, Charlie's Refrigeration, Coast to Coast, The Computer Farm, Coryell Derby, Country Nursery, Daylight Donuts.

The Diamond Center, Doescher Appliance, Eldon's Standard, Ellingson Motors, First National Bank, Fredrickson Oil, Gay Theatre, Godfather's Pizza, Griess Rexall Pharmacy, Hazel's Beauty Shop, The Headquarters.

Johnson's Frozen Foods, Kaup's TV Sales & Service, Kids' Closet, Kuhn's Department

Store, M. & S. Oil, Mike Perry Chevrolet Olds, Mine's Jewelers, Melodee Lanes, Mike Perry Chevrolet Olds, The Morning Shopper.

Northeast Nebraska Insurance Agency, Pamida, Ron's Hometown IGA, Rusty Nail, Sav Mor Pharmacy, The Shepherdess, State National Bank & Trust, Surber's, Swan's Apparel For Women, T & C Electronics, Timberline Wood Products.

Triangle Finance, Vakoc Building and Home Center, Wall to Wall Decorating, Wayne Book Store, Wayne Greenhouse, The Wayne Herald, Wayne Shoe Company, Wayne True Value, Wayne Vet's Club, Widner Feed & Seed.

Dixon village board will apply for crossing signal

Citing a dangerous railroad crossing, representatives of the Village of Dixon are planning to submit a request for installation of a signal light.

A Burlington Northern line, which runs east through Dakota City and west through O'Neill, cuts through Dixon.

There is no train signal and the Dixon Village Board thinks the crossing is a dangerous one.

DIXON MAYOR John Young said as many as 100 train cars pass through the town at one time, sometimes pulled by 5 or 6 engines.

Young said there is no set schedule for the trains to pass through Dixon. "At night, you can't see a train until you get right up to the tracks," Young said.

A request is currently being typed up and will soon be sent to the State Department of Roads.

Crossing signals cost approximately \$80,000 and Highway Crossing Liaison Ellis Tompkins indicated that the Department of Roads is choosy when determining if a signal light is needed.

State department figures show that Highway 116, which runs

through Dixon probably doesn't have heavy enough traffic to warrant a crossing signal.

HOWEVER, YOUNG and Dixon's Town Board are willing to argue that point. They insist the traffic over the crossing is seasonal.

Young pointed out that during the Dixon County fair celebration which is held each fall at nearby Concord, considerable traffic crosses the tracks at Dixon.

Young added that traffic to and from the Northeast Experimental Station also is heavy during some parts of the summer.

Some of the other points that will be stressed in the letter to the Department of Roads include:

The fact that a Laurel school bus route crosses the tracks at that location twice a day.

At least 2 trains cross the highway there each day.

An anhydrous plant near the crossing will be completed by spring. The main tank already is located near the railroad crossing.

Tompkins said the Department of Roads will consider Dixon's request and probably will examine the crossing.

No Wayne Herald Dec. 26 or Jan. 2

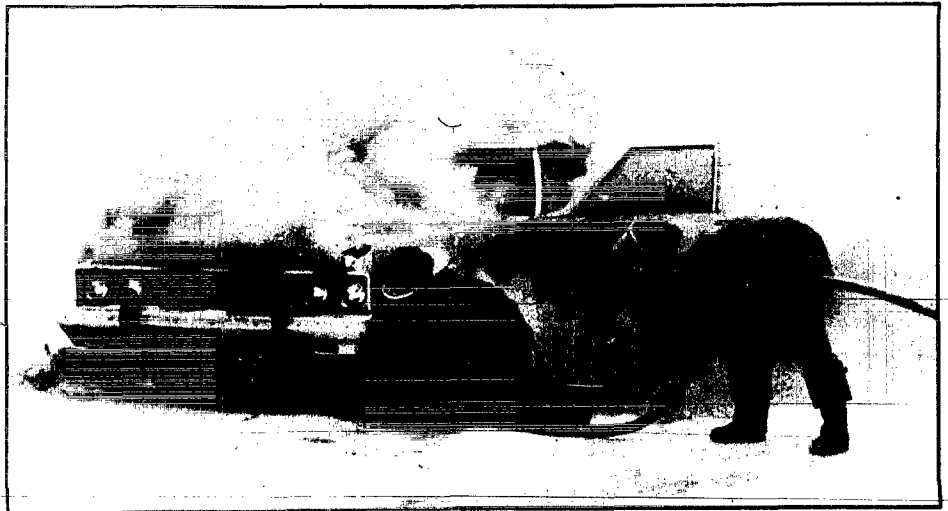
Because of the approaching holiday seasons, The Wayne Herald will not publish newspapers for Dec. 26 or Jan. 2. There will be no postal delivery on those days. The Wayne Herald will be published Dec. 29 and Jan. 5 as usual. The staff of the Wayne Herald wishes everyone a happy holiday.

Waldbaum's purchases egg laying facility

The Milton G. Waldbaum Company of Wakefield, a Midwest egg producer and egg products manufacturer, has acquired a Colorado laying and grading facility.

The purchase includes all layers and facilities of the Wrightco Southwest Division located at Hudson, Colo. The purchase was from the Wrightco Company, Monticello, Minn.

Dan Gardner, president of the Waldbaum Company, said that the company will be known as the Milton G. Waldbaum Company of Colorado.



Photography: Bob Porter, Wayne High

A hot car

WAYNE FIREMEN put out a car fire in the Wayne-Carroll High School parking lot Thursday morning. Firemen were called to the scene in sub-zero weather.

Wayne courthouse fire safety is a burning issue

By Randy Hascall

Discussion on fire safety at the Wayne County Courthouse continued Tuesday as members of the State Fire Safety Appeals Board met with the county commissioners and state fire marshals.

The three parties met Tuesday morning in the courthouse and discussed possible options to meet a list of orders issued by the State Fire Marshals Office following an Aug. 23 inspection of the courthouse.

The three orders causing the most controversy concern replacement of doors to offices and storage rooms, removal of glass transoms above the doors and installation of a second exit from the second floor.

THE COMMISSIONERS entered an appeal on the fire marshals orders resulting in Tuesday's appeals hearing.

At the hearing, the commissioners were given some options in meeting the orders. Order number eight of a 12 part list of

orders calls for the replacement of all room doors with bonded, solid core, wood doors. The doors are designed to contain fires. The commissioners learned of two options in that area.

The present doors also can be replaced with metal doors as one option. However, the other option appears to be the least expensive and seemed to be the most popular at the meeting.

It would call for stairway enclosures to be built on each floor of the courthouse, insuring that in case of an office fire, the stairs will be clear of smoke.

WHILE TAKING a stand against the replacement of doors and transoms, cost and loss of the building's historic value were major considerations by the commissioners.

Gerald Pospishil, chairman of the board of commissioners, said the delays in replacement of the doors would take away from the

historic value of the courthouse. He also thought the expense would be too much of a burden.

"I represent the taxpayers and I don't think they want to pay that much on this old building," Pospishil said. "We're still talking \$100,000 with 22 or 23 doors and transoms to be replaced. I don't think the taxpayers will stand for it."

Commissioner Merlin Beiermann reflected Pospishil's opinion. "I think that's a lot of money to ask the taxpayers to pay. I know a human life is a high price to pay but I ask how many lives have been lost in courthouses where people work all day," Beiermann said.

GORDON JENKINS, an appeals board member who is an architect from Fremont, told the commissioners they may option to close in the stairways.

In addition to building stair enclosures, the option would require installation of an

approved smoke detection system with detectors in all rooms. The system would be electrically operated with a battery backup and a central panel.

Commissioner Bob Nissen asked Jenkins and Prokop if they have any idea of how much a detection system would cost. Prokop suggested that the commissioners get an estimate on a system.

A second exit from the second floor of the courthouse also drew mixed feelings at the hearing. The fire marshals office pointed out that if there is smoke or heat in the stairway, people on the second floor have no way to go.

Beiermann said he checked the approximate price on a spiral steel stair to be used as a fire escape. He said that price is estimated at \$800 down to \$1,200.

JENKINS ASKED if a spiral stair is acceptable as an escape. "We don't like to see it but sometimes there is no other option. We

would accept it," said Larry Prokop of the State Fire Marshals Office.

Pospishil said that Wayne City Hall has no fire escape and asked why nothing has been done with it.

"I will be written up and inspected completely," said Fire Marshal Curly McDonald.

Prokop said that a straight stair is preferred over a spiral stair and should be less costly.

"I'm opposed to a stair," said Beiermann, expressing his opposition to a second exit on the second floor.

THE FIRE marshals order for a second escape was made on requirements based on the possible occupancy of at least 100 people. The capacity of the Wayne County Courthouse is listed at 110.

"I doubt if at any time there were over 50 people in the courtroom," Pospishil said.

Beiermann also questioned the attendance in the courtroom, stating that he

didn't think there were ever more than 30 or 40 people in there.

A second exit from the courthouse basement also is required but won't take much work. Prokop said there are two existing stairways in the basement which go outside. Neither is being used but can be made usable again.

Jenkins asked the commissioners to collect bids on a detection system, a fire escape and construction of stairway enclosures. The commissioners and fire marshals office will meet again on Jan. 17 to discuss courthouse plans.

After that meeting, a time will be set up for the fire appeals board to meet with the two groups.

Also in attendance at Tuesday's meeting were Dana Dannelly of Howells, an appeals board member; and Mike Lindner of the fire marshals office.

The appeals board is composed of 9 members.

