

The unidentified "clown" at the county fair parade played catch with the children along main street in Syracuse and pleased the youngsters.

The buck Ends here . . . .

By Ivan D.E. Beaumont

Peggy Peoples, daughter of Mr and Mrs Oren Peoples, Syracuse, has lost a true friend.

Her aging Cocker Spaniel, "Blackie," is dead.

Peggy sent us a picture and note a year or so ago about her little friend. Her parents gave her the black cocker when Peggy was very young.

We know something about Peggy's dog. It was a pup of our Cocker Spaniel. And Peggy, you might be interested in knowing that thanks to Doctor Gigstad, Tootsie is still pretty perky and peppy.

They tell me Tootsie's age, if compared with humans, would be 100 years or better.

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Two other pups, owned by Bob Milton and Max Moyer have long since been gone. We've lost track of the only blonde of the litter, but perhaps we will find out about it Sunday when Dr James Lightbody preaches at the Methodist church.

The blonde dog was a gift to his sister from his parents, Mrs Edgar Lightbody, and her late husband.

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The 1970 Otoe county fair is now history.

There were all kinds of new records, including numbers of livestock and other exhibits and dollars paid for livestock at the sale.

On the dim side, the fairgrounds were pretty bare during the daylight hours. Commercial exhibitors said it was pretty dead during the day, but by nightfall the crowds appeared.

There were many disappointed parade watchers who went to the fair to see 4-H, home extension and civic club float competition. This year those entries dwindled to a few.

The Otoe county Fair board has its work cut out for it next season. For unless it comes up with some program of promoting attendance, the result could be sad.

As one farmer who didn't attend the fair said:

"What we need now instead of a fair is a damned good rain."

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There was a clown who made an appearance on the main street in Syracuse. The identity of the clown was sorta hush-hush, but Orville Koch and I know who she is . . . and by jimmy, by george, we've got her picture! It's on this page.

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Ron Wagner, the successful Syracuse Rocket coach, is back on the job after an absence from the gridiron. And he's talking to his boys in the Wagner tongue-wagging way. And if you know Ron, you know how he barks at the boys.

But my interest during a brief "hello" at the fair parade, was not on football. Neither was Ron's. It was on the large number of youngsters in the Syracuse Junior High band.

And in the typical Wagner way, he said:

Hmmmmph! They've got more kids in that band than I've got out for football."

(You can chalk that credit to B.A. Johnson and his peppy organization.)

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Legionnaires of Adam Schellinger Post No. 8 will sponsor the annual golf tournament September 20 at Steinhart park. Harold Bliss and Jack Chadwick who are heading up the committee are hopeful of better luck than a year ago when it rainod and the tourney was postponed three or four times.

The Legion is selling tickets this year. The big prize is a set of golf clubs — valued at $450. And you don't have to be a golger or Legionnaire to win.

The clubs and bag aro on display at the Legion club.

Not All at Once

Only John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, and Charles Thomson, the secretary, signed the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776. The formal ceremony was on Aug 2, but only about 50 of the 56 signers were there then, the others signed when it was convenient

COURTHOUSE NEWS

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

The county commissioners will meet Monday, August 31 at 9 a.m., to review officer and employe salary claims.

WELFARE DEPARTMENT

Personnel will sell food stamps in Nebraska City Friday, September 4, from 9 a.m., to 12 noon and from 1 p.m., to 2 p.m. Stamps will also be sold in Syracuse from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Community building.

NEW CARS TITLED AND LICENSED:

Michael W. Wurtele, Chevrolet, Attebery; Lester L. or Janis L. Kinnison, Honda motorbike, Bellevue Honda; Merlin or Connie Hartman, Douglas, Strong.

Gordon E. or Patricia M. Njus, Syracuse, Ford, Pfeifer Motor, Madison, South Dakota; Robert L. or Goldie J. Miller, Dodge, Rowe.

Vernon L. or Alice M. Burton, Syracuse, Ford, Griffin Ford, Millard; Adolph J. or Geraldine Vanderbeek, Adams, Panama Auto, Panama; William J. Sarraillon, Honda motorcycle, Garber's Cyclo, Fairbury.

Allen D. Ross, Syracuse, Chevrolet, Misel, Lincoln; Clemmy Holmes Leasing, two Fords, Holmes; William L. or Donna J. Meinen, Champion mobile home, Elkhorn Trailer Mart Omaha.

Kennoth J. or Mary K. Stasch, Douglas, Chevrolet, De Teau, Lincoln; Strong Brothers Leasing, Chevrolet, Strong; Clinton P. or Ruth A. Nash, Palmyra, Dodge truck, Rowe.

Maddox escapes injury in crash

STATESBORO, Ga. (UPI)—A chartered twin-engine plane carrying Georgia Gov. Lester Maddox and three other persons crash landed Friday night after a failure in the landing gear. No one was hurt.

Witnesses said the plane's wheels, apparently through some malfunction, retraced as the plane came in for a landing.

The aircraft skidded down the landing strip on its belly.

"It looked like we were going to flip over for a moment," Maddox said.

Considering the numerous naughtinesses in the world today, original sin is practically impossible to perpetrate

The Midland View

By M. M. VAN KIRK
Nebraska Farm Bureau

FAIRNESS, GOOD BUSINESS

The personal property tax is probably the most discriminatory, inequitable tax that Nebraskans have to pay, and yet schools and local governmental subdivisions continue to rely on it for a substantial portion of their revenue.

The trend nationally is for states to eliminate or alter their reliance on the personal property tax. A number of states have elected to phase out their personal property tax system over a period of years. Others have already eliminated it.

The personal property tax was looked at nationally and investigated specifically by the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations which reported:

"Of all the state and local taxes, the personal property tax on business is acknowledged to be the most discriminatory. Governors, tax administrators, businessmen and academicians condemn it with one voice. Not only is it difficult to administer because much of its base is mobile, but it bears no identifiable relationship to either the taxpaying ability of a business firm or to the benefit it derives from governmental services."

In 1965, North Dakota exempted personal property from taxation and the governor of that state in appealing to the Legislature for such action declared:

"After decades of effort, we must admit that fair administration of the personal property tax is beyond the realm of possibility. Even if it could be fairly assessed, the basic concept of the tax would remain unchanged in that possession of depreciating personal property in no way approximates ability to pay. It discourages investment in productive tools and is a depressant on our economy. It causes unfair competition against the businessman who is willing to invest in a good inventory to better serve his community while catalog companies escape taxation."

Many low income persons pay relatively high personal property taxes while many high income persons pay small sums or in many cases, no personal property taxes at all. Farm and ranch people are a notable example. The average farm and ranch unit in the state turns in a personal property actual valuation figure of around $14,500.

In 1966, the average personal property actual valuation figure on 762 attorneys amounted to $1,212. The average personal property actual valuation figure on 903 doctors and physicians in the state that year was $2,398. This simply illustrates that the personal property tax paid has no relationship to the net income of the business.

Many businesses which deal primarily in services, may have low inventories and limited investment in equipment, yet have high net income.

Business people in Nebraska's small towns, struggling to maintain inventories necessary to stay in operation, will readily recognize the validity of such a statement.

Proposition 10 which will appear on the November ballot offers voters of the state an opportunity to approve a constitutional amendment which would permit the Legislature to classify and exempt any or all personal property from taxation. In 1967, the Legislature exempted household goods, intangible property and the head tax.

It can go no farther, however, in clearing up the personal property inequities until the voters approve this proposed constitutional change.

An inequitable tax system in Nebraska actually hurts everyone, even the vast majority who no longer have to file personal property schedules, because it is a constant penalty on the state's agricultural, business and industrial economy. A dragging economy is reflected in lower pay scales for everyone. Passage of Proposition 10 can be justified on the basis of "good business" as well as fairness.

Soybean processors shattering records

ON THE FARM FRONT
(Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.)
By BERNARD BRENNER
UPI Farm Editor

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Soybean processors are winding up a year which will break all previous records for operating margins.

For the 1969-70 season which ends Aug. 31, an Agriculture Department specialist estimated today, the gap between prices processors pay for soybeans and the value of the oil and meal they sell will avorage about 50 cents per bushel.

This record-breaking figure is more than four times the 12-cent margin reported for the 1968-69 season. The widest margins recorded earlier during the past two decades had been 26 cents a bushel in 1965 and 27 cents in 1950.

Experts said the margin figures were a "good indication" of profitability in soybean processing, but did not necessarily indicate that processor profits will be record high for the current season.

"We can't say definitely what profits would be on the basis of the margin figures alone," specialist George W. Kromer said. "These figures don't give us information on costs, or on the accounting of firms which integrate their processing operations with feed sales and other businesses," Kromer explained.

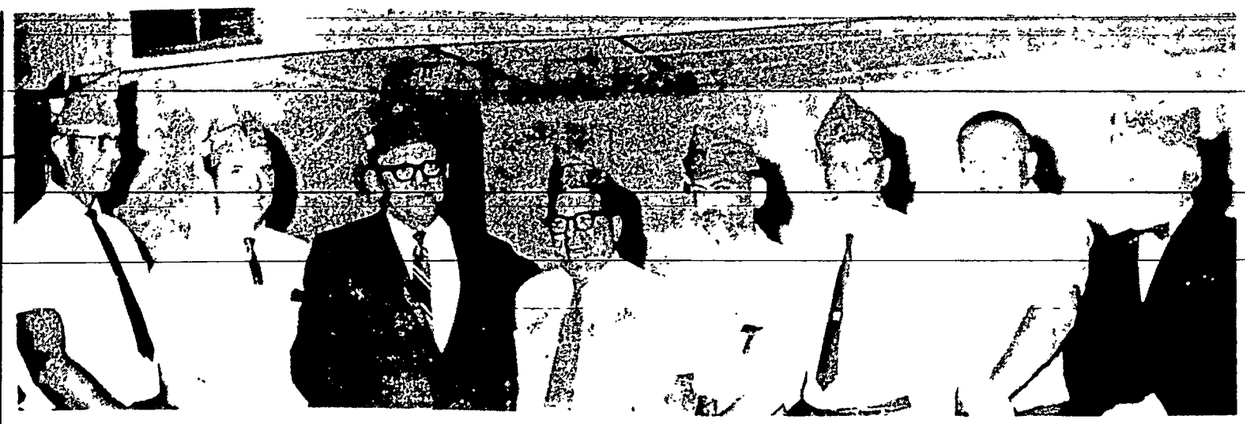
All records which are available, however, indicate this has been a boom year for the soybean processing industry.

The Agriculture Department said domestic soybean crushers in the 1969-70 season are expected to process a record 725 million bushels of soybeans—up 20 per cent from the previous year for the biggest year-to-year gain in history. Processors were estimated to be operating at more than 90 per cent of capacity compared with about 80 per cent during the 1950s and 1960s.

Soybean exports, meanwhile, according to Agriculture Department estimates, will be up 45 per cent for the season just ending. And despite the fact that last year's 1,117 billion-bushel crop was a record, total domestic and export use exceeded the 1969 harvest. This means carryover stocks on hand Sept. 1 will be down from a year earlier.

Government economists said the sharp increase in processing margins this season was due largely to an "unprecedented demand" for soybean products which strengthened prices at home and abroad.

Tentative Agriculture Department estimates indicate the cost of No. 1 grade yellow soybeans to processors at Illinois points may be about $2.46 a bushel for the current season, down 9 cents from the previous year. At the same time, the value of soybean oil and meal for the current season was tentatively estimated in June at $2.98 a bushel, up 32 cents a bushel.



Newly installed officers of Otoe County Voiture 1015 of the 40&8 were pictured during a recent meeting. From left to right are Norm Teten, Talmage; Andy Kreifels, City; M.E. Wilkens, Syracuse, Chef De Gare; Art Rains, Lorton; Ed Poggemeyer, city; Dick Niemann, city; Don Badberg, Talmage; and Ray Duncan, city. Niemann is standing in for Stan Gregg, who was absent.



Norman Teten, Talmage, Otoe County Voiture 1015 of the 40&8 presented Mrs Jo Carol Schaschmeyer, Clatonia, with her 40&8 nurse's pins. The 40&8 sponsored her through her training. She is the former Jo Carol Pucket of the city, whose parents now reside at Beatrice. She graduated from Nebraska City High School.

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