



Nebraska

"The Cornhusker State"

By EDWARD EMERINE
WNU Features.

ATOP the magnificent Nebraska capitol stands a figure in bronze, The Sower. It is the symbol of Nebraska and its faith—faith in the plains, in the soil, in nature.

Nebraska is the abode of the sower. The seeds are sown, the plants nurtured, the harvest garnered. In war or peace, food is first on Nebraska's long production line from Wyoming in the west, to the Missouri river on the east. Its corn fields, its grain lands, its rows of sugar beets, its ranges where cattle feed on native grasses—from these come the foods that add to this nation's greatness and the welfare of men everywhere. Orchards, gardens, fields and ranges are Nebraska's wealth and the top soil its source of well-being.

The plains, with nature as the sower, were the camping and hunting grounds of seven tribes of Indians. The Otoes, the Omahas, the Pawnees, the Poncas, the Sioux, the Cheyennes and the Arapahoes hunted the shaggy buffalo, the fleet antelope, the deer and other game which had grown fat on the abundant fare provided by the prairies and streams. The Otoe Indians called the region "Nebrathka," which means "flat water" and referred to the long, wide and shallow Platte river.

Battleground of Indians.

Tribe attacked tribe, fighting for this greatest of hunting grounds. The last great battle was fought between the Sioux and the Pawnees at Massacre canyon, near Stanton, in 1873. There were around 40,000 Indians living in Nebraska, and their chief occupation was hunting. Some of them, however, practiced



GOV. DWIGHT P. GRISWOLD
Gov. Dwight Palmer Griswold was born at Harrison, Sioux Co., Neb., in 1893. His parents were pioneers there. He graduated from Nebraska university in 1914. He served on the Mexican border as a sergeant in 1916, and as a first lieutenant and captain in World War I. He was first a banker, then newspaper publisher, before becoming governor in 1940. He has been re-elected twice. His home is Gordon, Neb.

of Columbus. The Mallet brothers, with a party of eight Frenchmen, named the Platte river and traveled nearly the entire length of the state in 1839.

Spain, France and England all claimed the Nebraska plains at different times. In 1769 France ceded all of her claims to the area west of the Mississippi to Spain, but in

the Nebraska region. The first military post was Fort Atkinson, established in 1819-1820.

French traders and trappers, hunters of the buffalo, soldiers and adventurers began to wear deep trails in the grass. The Indian tribes resented the white man. There was unrest and battles and massacres. Blood stained the prairie grass. Blood-curdling war cries in the night drove fear into the hearts of strong men.

Westward, Ho!

Rich land in Oregon. Gold in California. Nebraska became the highway of an expanding, restless, imaginative, adventurous nation. Westward—across Nebraska—the course of empire wended its way.

From Independence and St. Joseph came the covered wagons of the Oregon Trail. Gold-seekers came to join them and men heard of the California Trail. The Mormons, under Brigham Young, camped uneasily one winter near Omaha, then struck out boldly the next spring to mark the Mormon Trail. Intrepid riders



CHIMNEY ROCK . . . Near Bayard, Neb., one of the noted landmarks on the old Oregon Trail.

lashed their horses from St. Joseph to Sacramento, and the Pony Express was born, with 500 of its weary miles through Nebraska. Stagecoaches traveled the Overland Trail through Nebraska, and the Union Pacific struck out boldly from Omaha toward the Pacific in 1865. The Western Union's telegraph poles were often cut down by Nebraska Indians.

The Sower beckoned, and men came with plows that bit into the grassroots. Nebraska was organized as a territory in 1854 and became a state on March 1, 1867. Lincoln, named for the Great Emancipator, was made the capital. Nebraska became known as the "Tree Planter's State," for those hardy pioneers soon set out windbreaks, shade trees and orchards. The home of J. Sterling Morton, founder of Arbor day, stands today as a monument to his outstanding work in Nebraska's early home-making days.

Cattle Ranching Comes.

The buffalo were replaced by cattle, and on the open range thousands of cattle from Texas were fed and fattened. One of the most picturesque periods of Nebraska history was that of the cowboy, from 1867 to 1887. Enclosed ranches and mixed farming came next, but the famous old cow towns of Schuyler, North Platte, Kearney and Ogallala will never be forgotten. Their modern equivalents are Broken Bow, Burwell, Alliance and Valentine. The epic struggle between the cattlemen and the homesteaders is recorded in "Old Jules" by Mari Sandoz.

The Sower planted good seed in good earth. From that day in 1833 when Moses Merrill and his wife settled at Bellevue and established the first mission school, The Sower has blessed Nebraska.



EDITOR'S NOTE: This newspaper, through special arrangement with the Washington Bureau of Western Newspaper Union at 1616 Eye Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., is able to bring readers this weekly column on problems of the veteran and service-man and his family. Questions may be addressed to the above Bureau and they will be answered in a subsequent column. No replies can be made direct by mail, but only in the column which will appear in this newspaper regularly.

Freezing Army Points

This office has received many letters asking whether or not one can get overseas their accumulation of discharge points stops. The answer from the war department invariably has been that men continue to earn discharge points so long as they are in service.

This question was brought to a head recently when Secretary of War Robert P. Patterson was surprised when informed by the army newspaper, Stars and Stripes, that point scoring stopped September 2.

The war department now declares that both are right. Men in service do continue to earn discharge points for their record for use when and if a new freezing date is established. They point out that the first freeze date was May 12 when the total for discharge was 85 points. A new freeze date was established for September 2 when the discharge point total was 70. However, since September 2, the war department has reduced the point score to 50, or 20 points down, which is more than the veteran would accumulate in the four-month period. In other words, while the veteran total is figured at the number of points he had accumulated up to September 2, 1945, his point total had been lowered since that date from 70 to 50, making all who had 50 points on September 2 eligible for discharge. Further lowering of the total points necessary for discharge are promised.

Questions and Answers

Q. Here's a question I've never seen or heard of being directly answered. Are there answers, or just evasive replies? Can the boys in service in Japan take up correspondence work or study in the U.S.A.F.I. if they have the time or ability? Our son is stationed in Osaka with a medical company. He wants to get started in a veterinarian course. Will be watching closely for an answer.—Mrs. A. J. W., Neligh, Neb.

A. Yes, men in Japan can take certain courses of study with the U.S.A.F.I. However, it is doubtful if such a specialized course as veterinary could be taken by correspondence. Would suggest that your son take the matter up with his company commander.

Q. Is the widow of a World War I veteran, now receiving a pension, entitled to any additional benefits above her pension for doctor's care if she is an invalid?—Mrs. G. H., Eureka Springs, Ark.

A. No, the veterans' administration says that only in some instances of advanced age are widows of World War I veterans entitled to increase in pension.

Q. My husband enlisted in the air corps in August, 1944, for the duration and six months. He is now overseas. Will he be discharged when his enlistment period is up or must he wait until he has enough points?—Mrs. R. S., Sunbury, Pa.

A. The war is not yet over and will not be until so proclaimed by the President or congress. He will remain in the service until he earns sufficient points.

Q. My husband has been in service since August 2, 1945. I am in very bad health. We have two small children and expecting another soon. Do you think I stand a chance of getting him out?—Mrs. J. R. B., Flat Lick, Ky.

A. I am afraid you stand little chance at the moment. When the third child is born, he will be eligible to make application for discharge.

Q. I was inducted into the army August 20, 1942. I received my honorable discharge May 10, 1943. Am I entitled to the \$200 mustering-out pay? All my service has been in the U. S. A. How do I go about getting it?—A. W., Scotland, S. D.

A. Yes. The war department advises that you write to the Chief of Finance, Enlisted Personnel, War department, Washington, D. C.

Q. I have a friend in the navy. He has been in service since July, 1944, and overseas since last October, 1944. He is single and 20 years old. How many points does he have?—Miss B. C., Section, Ala.

A. As of January 1 he has 27 points. Thirty-six are necessary for discharge, 35 on February 1.

Q. I have a son who has been in service since December 18, 1944. He has six dependents, his mother, three brothers, two sisters. Is he eligible for discharge?—Mrs. G. E. P., Scottsville, Va.

A. Only minor children of the veteran are regarded as dependents in earning discharge points. It is possible for him, however, to file application for a discharge if he can make out a hardship case. He will lose his mustering-out pay, however. About his bonds, write to War Bond division, U. S. army, 4300 Goodfellow blvd., St. Louis 20, Mo.

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NEBRASKA SOD HOUSE . . . This picture, taken in 1886, shows how a typical homesteader west of Broken Bow solved his housing problem. The modern, electrified farm homes now found in Nebraska contrast strangely with this primitive structure.

primitive agriculture between wars. Many Indian graves, including Spotted Horse, are buried in Fort McPherson cemetery, while others lie in Pawnee battlefield. The names of Yellow Hand, Crazy Horse, Red Cloud, Sitting Bull and others remain a part of Nebraska's tradition and lore.

Francisco Vasquez Coronado and his party of 30 Spanish cavalry were the first white men to visit Nebraska. That was in 1541. French fur traders and trappers began to venture up the Missouri river about 1700. A Spanish expedition under Capt. Pedro de Villasur reached the region about 1720 and was promptly massacred near the present site

1801 Napoleon bought it back. Thomas Jefferson, in 1803, purchased Nebraska from the Little Corporal.

Lewis and Clark commanded the first expedition to Nebraska, 1804-1806. The Hunt party of Astorians skirted the Nebraska region in 1811 on their way to Oregon. Seven of them returned the next year, finding their way across the vast region by following the Platte river to where it joins the Missouri. Major Long with a party of 20 men in 1819 traveled from the Missouri up the Platte to the headwaters of its south fork near Denver. From 1807 to 1820 Manuel Lisa became the leading fur trader and explorer of



SENATOR NORRIS
Many people know about Sen. George W. Norris of Nebraska and his record in the U. S. senate, extending over a third of a century. But in Nebraska he is honored for more than the anti-injunction bill, the Tennessee Valley authority and the "lame-duck" amendment.

Nebraska has the only unicameral, or one-house, state legislature in all of the 48 states. The one-house system began in 1937 and has 43 members elected on a non-partisan ticket.

This reform is the handiwork of George W. Norris who devised the plan, spent his own money to campaign and work for it.

Through the efforts of Senator Norris, Nebraska has a huge grid system which, in connection with irrigating a million acres of land, supplies electric power to farms and towns. All except one or two private electric utility companies have been taken over and added to the public power system.

Senator Norris made his home at McCook until he died there in 1944.

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