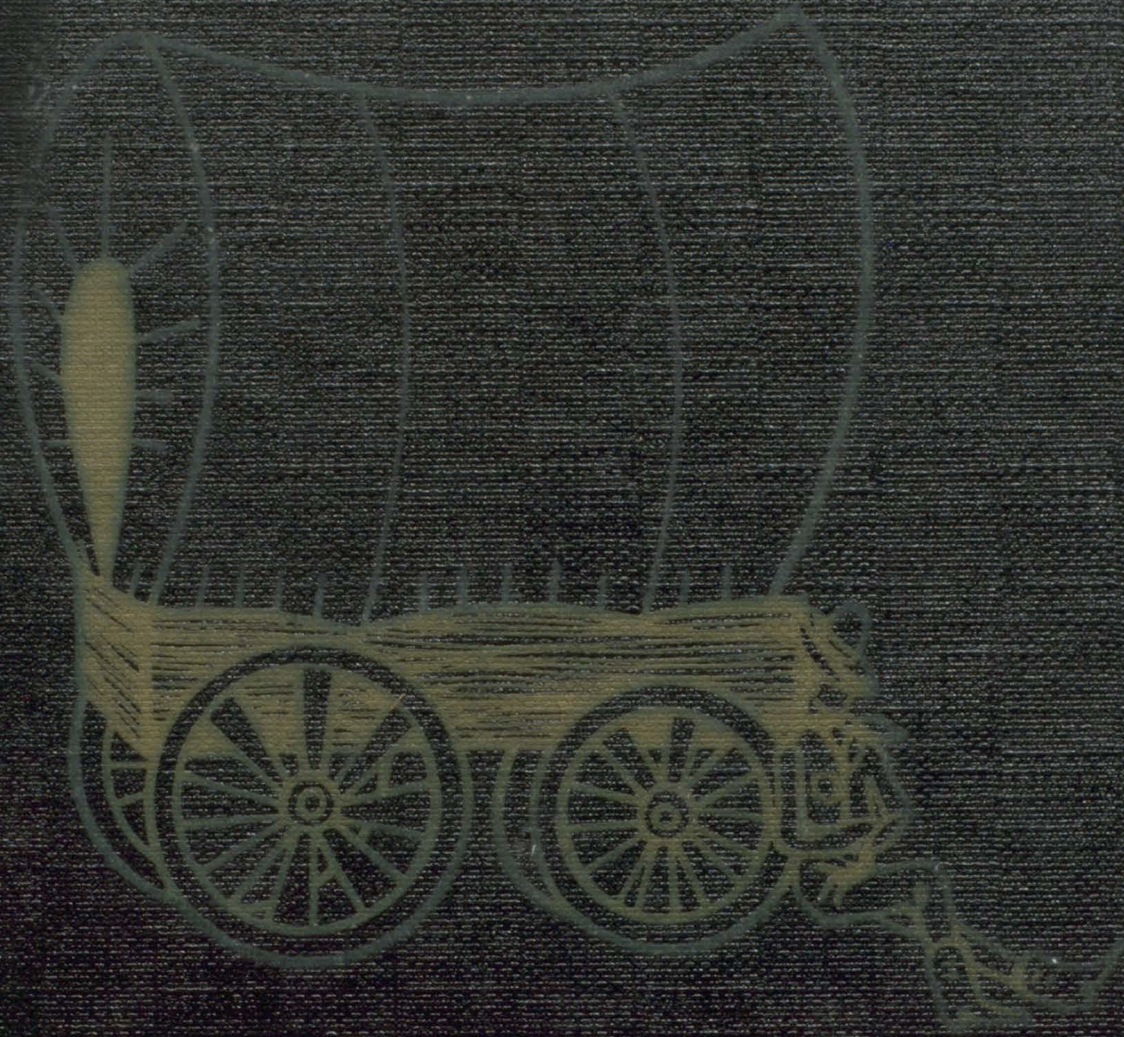
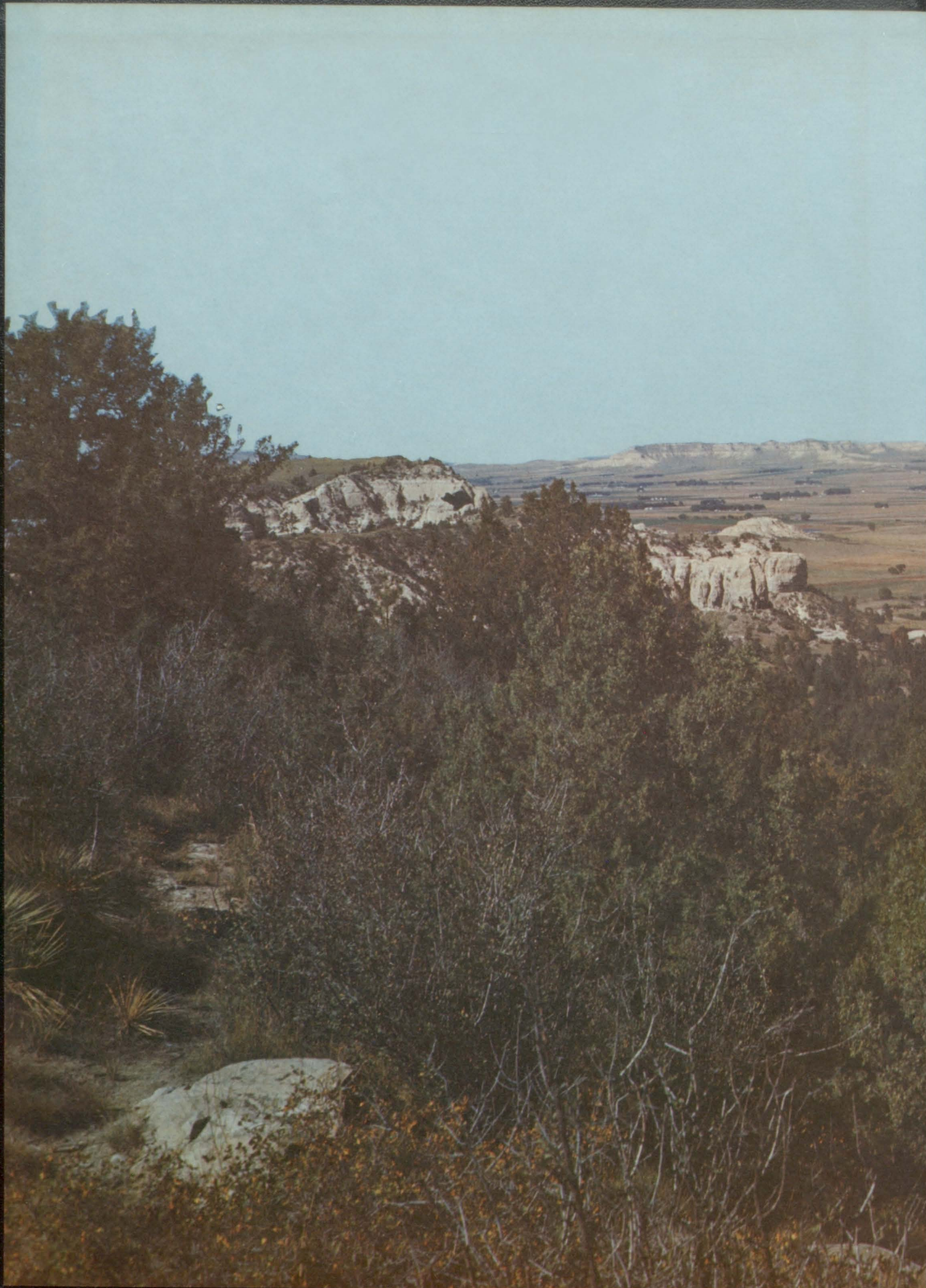


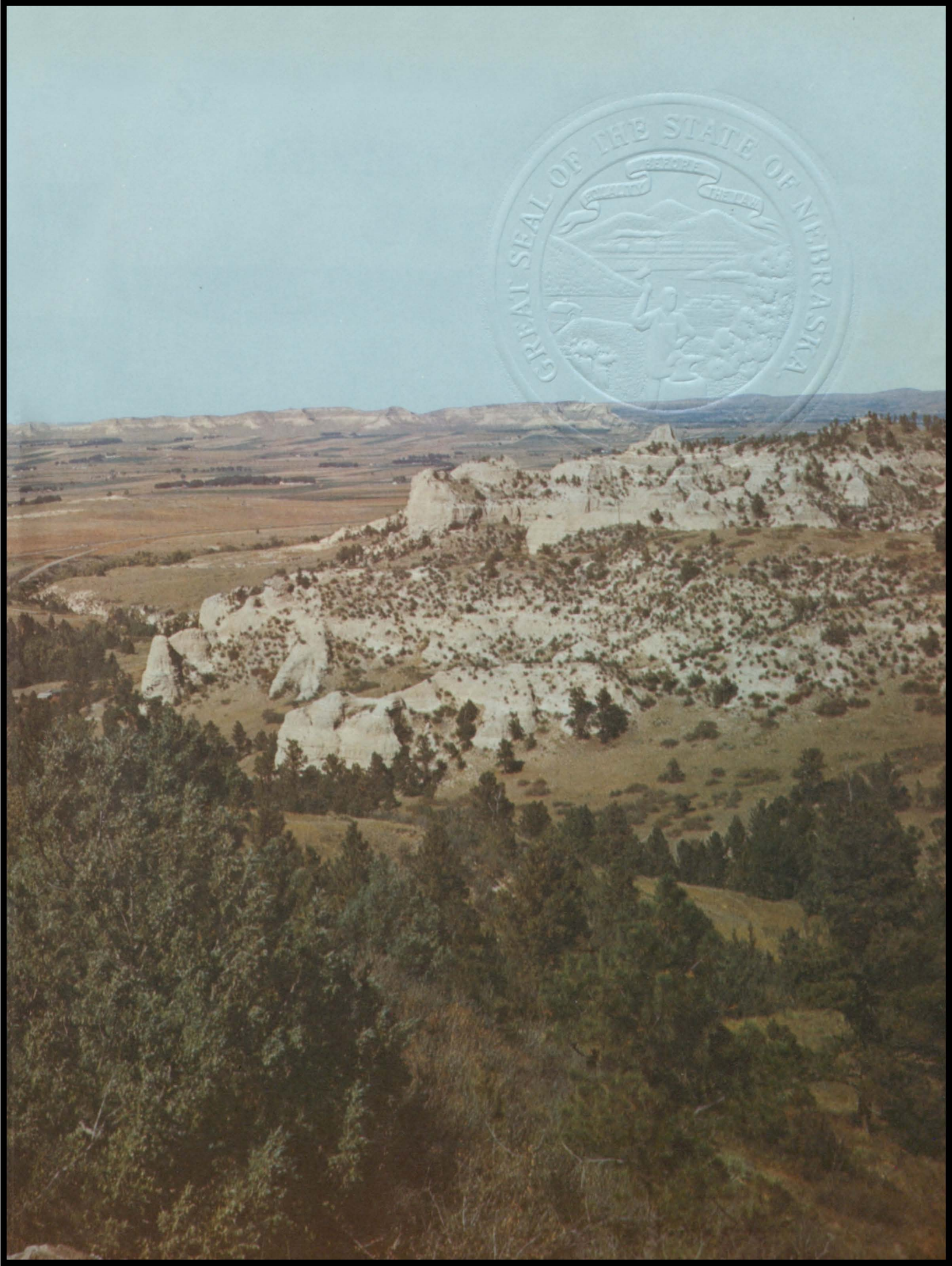
CENTENNIAL



SILVER CREEK, NEBRASKA

1866-1966





SILVER CREEK, NEBRASKA

CENTENNIAL BOOK

JULY, 1967



Best over-all float in the 1966 Centennial Parade

EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

Carol Atkinson

Cynthia Borowiak

Clara Bryant

Dorothy Burger

Mabel Carter

Veva Hutchinson

Carolee Matousek

Edsel Matousek

Marilyn Meyer

Lee Peterson

Theresa Robak

Dean Spike

LeJoy Vanek

THE BIRTH OF A TOWN

Eleven miles west of Clarks on the Union Pacific Railroad is the station of Silver Creek. It contains about 150 people, and is the center of a good country. A fine wagon bridge across the Platte, noted elsewhere, brings it into communication with the counties to the south. The town was platted by the Union Pacific Railroad Company in November, 1866. The first building erected after the section house, was built by B. F. Hobert during the early part of 1870. In September, 1870, Cyrus Lee erected a hotel called the "Lee House," which is at present unoccupied. Silver Creek has, however, one public house for the accommodation of travelers. Soon after the erection of the Lee House, Thomas Lee built a dwelling house, and located also at Silver Creek.

Among the earliest settlers in and around Silver Creek were the Shaw brothers, Mr. Lathrop (who kept a ranch two miles below the town), J. and Ed. Howland (who located one half mile north), and James Brown (who built a house in the spring of 1871). It was during the year 1870 that Rev. H. C. Shaw, one of the pioneer Episcopalian ministers of this region, organized the society which has remained in his charge up to the present time. It now has a membership of about twenty. A district school was organized in 1871, which is now under the superintendency of Dr. E. L. Robinson. The attendance is about thirty. The first marriage occurred July 4, 1871, Thomas Gannon and Mary Foster being united in the holy bonds. Soon afterward, D. C. Kelley and Ella Lee were united in marriage.

The Congregational Church was formed in March, 1874, with the following charter members: Asa Nichols, Thomas W. Lee, Mrs. Thomas W. Lee, C. H. Lee, Mrs. C. H. Lee, James A. Brown, Mrs. J. A. Brown, Joseph Gardner, Isaac Brown and Mrs. I. Brown. Rev. C. C. Starbuck next took charge of the society, and after one year's service was succeeded by Rev. J. P. Dyas, the last pastor. There is no settled pastor at present. The church building was erected in 1879, at a cost of \$2,000. The membership of the society is about fifteen.

Silver Creek derived its name from the clearness, sparkle and color of the little stream which meanders over the prairie near the town. The first post office was established at Lathrop's ranch, two miles below Silver Creek. It was called "Silver Glen" but after Silver Creek was platted, the post office was removed to that point.

The business houses of Silver Creek consist of two grain elevators, a flour mill one half mile east of town, lumber yard, two general stores, two blacksmith shops, one harness shop, one drug store, a butcher shop, etc., etc.

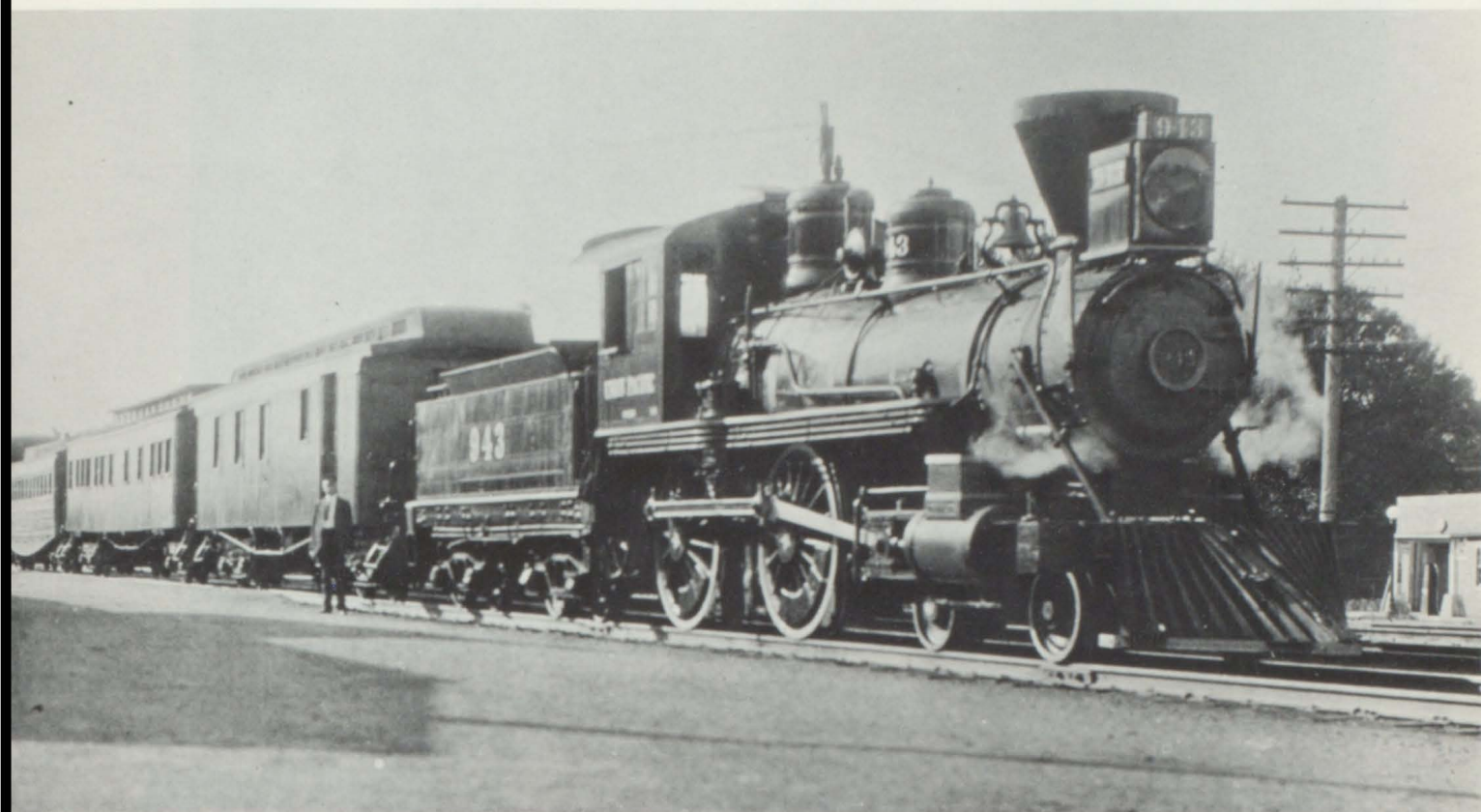
The flour mill is operated by Crawford & James, has three run of stone and was built in 1879.

Silver Creek is in the midst of a rich stock-raising country, and does a large business in the pressing of hay.

Silver Creek, Merrick County, Nebraska

Taken from the files of the Union Pacific Railroad



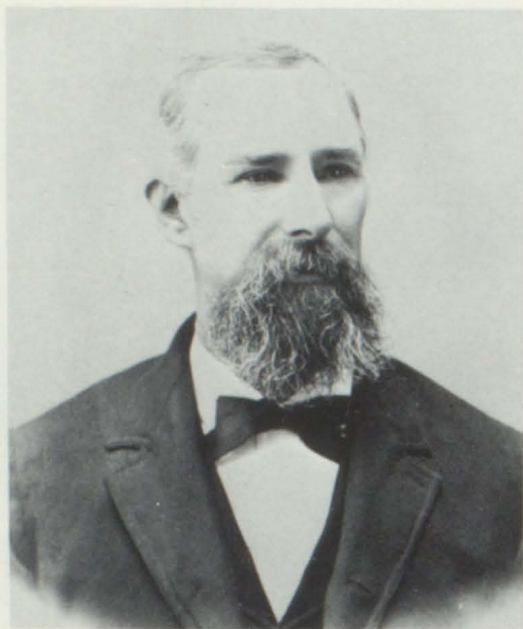


THE UNION PACIFIC RAILROAD IN 1866



PLATTE RIVER BRIDGE, SILVER CREEK, NEBRASKA

FIRST FAMILIES



Frank B. Hobert



Mrs. Frank Hobert

THE FIRST RESIDENTS OF SILVER CREEK 1866



Paul Hobert



Ivy Hobert



Lee Hobert

CHILDREN OF MR. AND MRS. FRANK HOBERT



Charles Wooster, Sr.

Homesteaded 1872

THE SECOND RESIDENTS

Some of the earliest settlers were John Alpaugh, Thomas Lee, H. N. Lanthrop, Charles Wooster. Later settlers were Leris Maurer, Martin Karges, Sr., Lawson Harris, T. Pethich, Sol Towsee, and others. In the country were William Lauderdale, The Terrys, Simmons, Shepherds and many others.



HARRIS FAMILY

Viola, Persy, Will, Mae, Veoa. Front: Eleanor, Angeline, Myrtle, Grandpa Laroson.

Silver Glen, Nebraska
July 28, 1872

My dear little Wife

I do not know what to say to you. You inform me that you are coming this fall. I certainly hope you will do so for it is very unpleasant for me to live alone and do my own house work, no less so perhaps than for you to be without any fixed place in Michigan. But these are only a part of the reasons why we wish to be together. It seems to me however that it would not be very wise for us to undertake to go to keeping house when we have no money even to pay your fare here saying nothing about freight, which would be 50\$ at least, the incidental expense of living and things which it would be necessary to have to supply our table which the farm will not afford. Fuel would necessarily cost something. How could we live without a cow? A good one would cost 50\$ - a second rate one might be had for 40\$. In the spring if I did not have a team and some farming utensils a little money would be almost a necessity. How should we get the seeds that I had intended to, for hedge plants, fruits and forest trees? True my corn crop ought to be worth 200\$, but whether I could realize anything on it would be a very doubtful question . . . You can estimate our resources and the necessary expenses of settling up here as well as I can.

If I said I could live cheap here alone, it has been

proved that I was correct for since the 26 day of April, living, fuel, cooking utensils and all probably has not cost me 10\$. I have had no butter for two months and I do not use more than a pound of pork in a week. Of course it would be expected that I should supply you in Michigan as well as myself here. Both together would be more than keeping house here . . . As I said, I have some good land and I intend to keep it. The more I see of some other places the more I think of my own. I can prove up on it next spring and then I could raise money on it if I wish to, though I do not wish to if possible to avoid it. As heretofore I shall try to get along as well as possible but, if in so doing my feet should slip from under me and I should slide into hell, I should endeavor to endure the fry with all fortitude . . .

I know very well that your father preffers Greeley to Grant. Then why not vote for him? . . . He ought to oppose Grant, in my mind, notwithstanding all the little one horse political intriguers in Hillsdale or any where else. Greeley has the ability and the honesty properly to administer the government. Grant has neither. Greeley would consider the interests of the nation. Grant considers the interests of himself, his family and those who have rendered him personal service. . .

Bye bye

Charley

THE COUNTRY STORE



First store built on corner of highway 30-39, was replaced in 1914 by present Kula's store. Note the raised wooden sidewalks which took care of high water. Also the hitching posts on all sides. The building at the end of the street is the livery stable. Horses and buggies or carriages were rented out for transportation.

TOWSLEE STORE

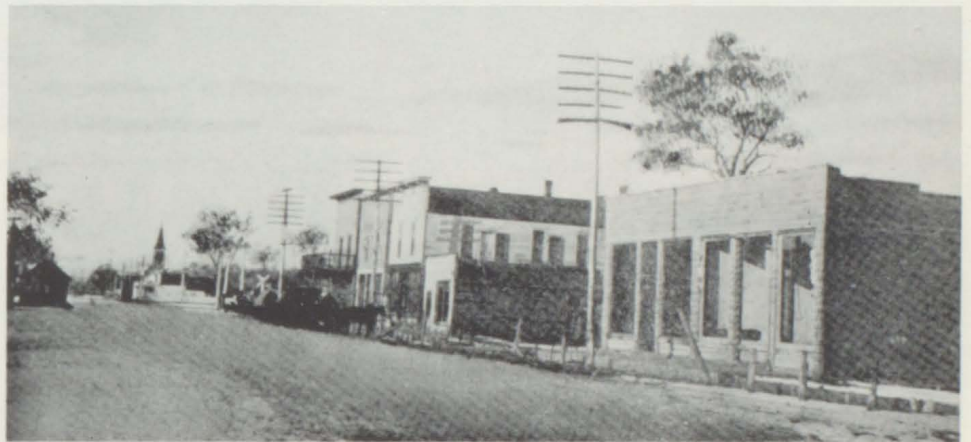




KULA STORE 1896

At right:

East side of Main Street facing north. Kula's store with white rail. Old hose or fire house small building on west side of street.



Below:

John Kula came in 1890



THE STORE

The grocery store carried dry goods of all kinds, "Notions for sewing etc., groceries, feed, hay and grain. People bought staples in large quantities as they did not come to town often. The groceries were shipped in from Chicago, mostly and were in bulk. For example, rice or beans or sugar came in large sacks or boxes. There was a great "cheese block", a round piece of wood as large, almost, as a table, which was kept on a counter by itself with a large cheese on it, covered by a wire screen to keep the flies off. A piece would be cut off and weighed for a customer as he needed it. The cheese itself was covered with a very fine cheese cloth which came around the mold. There were crackers in a large barrel or boxes. It was easy to have a quick lunch of sliced cheese and crackers.

STREET SCENES

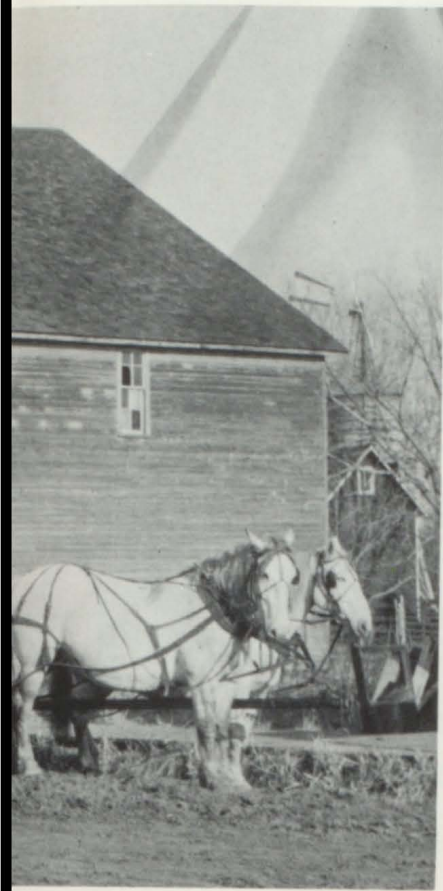


The street where the Silver Coin and Robak Oil Station now stands.

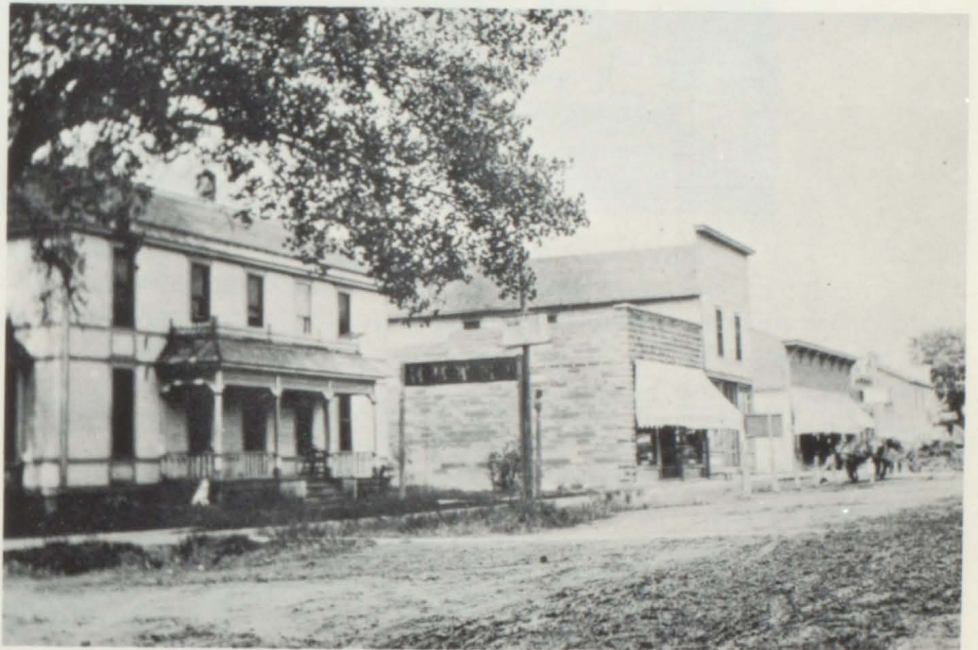


Silver Creek Fire Department 1896

Picture taken north of intersection of Highways 30 & 39. Firemen are facing north. Only buildings left as seen in the picture are Silver Creek Bank now owned by C & O. Drug store now owned by Benny King.



Old telephone office in 1920 flood, Eleanor Harris operator. Old Sand office building to left.



West side of main street.

Hotel where Hutch's cafe now stands.



West side looking south.

Note white carriage, the way in which mail was carried in the 1900's. George Rose was the mail carrier.

NEWSPAPER HISTORY



Mrs. Leap - owner of Millinery. Dyo F. Davis - editor and owner. The building on right temporary quarters until new building went up across the street. This picture was taken on North Side of Tracks, facing northwest side of streets - in 1920's.

The first newspaper was placed before the people in 1877, called the Silver Creek Times. In the first issue, the following advertisements were listed:

Bargains for cash -- D. B. Young, Druggist

Chicago Lumber -- Complete line of building material.

Livery, feed and sale stable -- First Class

Rigs. Terms reasonable

J. D. Frank

Bank of Silver Creek -- J. H. Pope, President:

F. C. Caulton, Cashier

J. C. Martin -- Attorney, office in Town Hall

Clifton House -- R. G. Bennet, Proprietor

Central House -- J. E. Munger, Proprietor

J. A. Brown -- Notary -- Insurance agent

J. D. Frank -- Real Estate, Loans & Insurance

D. Towslee and Son -- Groceries, hardware, queen's ware, crockery

C. N. Phelps -- Grain at elevator

H. H. Hudson -- Hardware, groceries, hanging lamps

Brooks Brothers -- Groceries, tobacco, first-class meat

E. S. Bailey -- Hardware

Sol Towslee -- Dry goods, Clothing

Squier and Son -- Merchandise

Amos Gates -- Tonsorial Artist

Photographer -- Take your homely face to Lundy and get a good looking photo taken.

J. H. Pope -- Grain Dealer -- Of this year's crop, Mr. Pope handled 75,000 bushels of corn. Mr. Phelps handled 70,000 bushels of corn.

More hay was shipped from Silver Creek than from any other town along the Union Pacific. Markets: Hogs \$2.40 -- Cattle \$2.25 to \$3.25 -- Butter 8¢ to 10¢ -- Eggs 7¢ per dozen -- Rye 25¢ bushel -- Oats 11 1/2¢ bushel -- Corn 13 1/2¢ bushel. Baled hay \$3.50 per ton.

In 1890 the Silver Creek Times changed hands and Charles Wooster, Sr. published the paper while running a ranch west of town. Later an attorney, D. F. Davis bought it then sold it to N. M. Hutt, who did not like the size of the business men of Silver Creek so he printed a very small sheet of paper in comparison to the advertisers, packed bag and baggage and that was the end of the Silver Creek Times.

On October 3, 1903, the Sand was edited by D. F. Davis and son, Dyo. They put out a fine paper -- as good as any in the country.



THE SILVER CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL - DIST. #6

In the foreground stands the old school ready to be demolished to make way for the new - (now present High School) school. The Brick-structure was built in 1910 and many of our residents went to either one or both of these schools.



THE OLD FLOUR MILL

Highway 30 was being paved past it. C. R. Metzger bought the mill when it was about 6 years old - in 1906, which means it was built in 1892 by the Black Brothers.

There were four churches. The First organized was St. Stevens Episcopal in 1869, The Congregational Church in 1874, The Methodist Church in 1888. The Catholics attended the various churches in surrounding communities until 1905, when they built their church in Silver Creek.



ENTERTAINMENTS



Silver Creek Chamber of Commerce Banquet with Senator Gilbert Hitchcock of Omaha as honored guest and speaker. Other honored guests were the Honorable Charles Wooster, "Sage of Silver Creek", and Attorney Jack Martin from Central City, Nebraska. Young ladies of the community served as escorts. They met the train and formed an archway with flags under which the honored guest was led to the hall.



ELMER MAURER - SILVER CREEK'S "EXPERT"
CHECKER PLAYER

This title was gained by defeating his opponent of Central City in a match over the telephone. The checker boards were numbered and moves were relayed to the contestants. Special arrangements were made through the Silver Creek telephone exchange as the match was played after 10 o'clock - the time when the telephone office normally was closed.



4TH OF JULY 1908

Egg Race took place on Highway 30.
The "Old Bee Hive", building is opposite.
(now Robak Oil Company)



BICYCLING ANYONE?
1890



Sadie Terry, Ruth Robins, Iva Towslee, Harriet Hobert, Ida Rossiter, Matt Kerr, Esther Terry.

SILVER CREEK BANDS

Through the years, Silver Creek has shown much musical talent. There was regular practice for singing. Silver Creek boasted two good bands made up of fellows about town. There was a small grandstand where band concerts were given and they were invited to play for surrounding towns. One year, driving two teams of horses to the band wagon, they journeyed to Lincoln to play at the State Fair. The band was pronounced the best in attendance.

Baseball was the attraction on Saturday afternoon when everybody went to town.

For a number of years a big tent was raised for a week of entertainment. We were given some of the best talent in the nation.

There was music, political speeches, plays, spiritual singers, magicians and sermons. How it was ap-

preciated by our people who hungered for the good things!

Skating and hunting and dancing furnished winter time pleasure. In summer, fishing gave enjoyment, as well as being profitable in supplying food for the families. One catfish caught by C. M. Terry weighed one hundred and one half pounds (100 1/2). It was more than than five feet in length.

In the picture below, the Silver Creek Band drove from Silver Creek to Central City, Nebraska to participate in the band there.

Can you identify the band members in this old picture? They are as follows: Drum Major - O'Fraves, Baritone - N. L. Squire Ed Terry, Alto - Charles Terry, Cornet - Ed Kerr, Drummer - Tom Pethick, Tuba - Clarence Dexter, Cornet - Walt Gulet, D. D. Hall and Frank Sprague.





North of the school house looking south on the old 39 road. The boy in the foreground became the governor of Michigan Kem Sigler.

Taken in about 1915, this shows the method of doing laundry. Pictured are Mrs. Will Harris, Mrs. Percy Harris, Mrs. A. Harris, Mrs. Veva Hutchison, and Earl Harris.





SILVER CREEK SELECTS THREE QUEENS TO REIGN OVER THE CENTENNIAL FESTIVITIES

Friday evening events began with a skit and a reading of the towns history, read by Mr. Robert Tooker. The Silver Creek "Country Club" a local club of ladies, put on the skit about an old country school class which proved to be full of humor. This club has been in existence for some fifty years. Mrs. Mabel Carter, a long time resident, chronicled

the history article and helped arrange the skit. Other members include: Mrs. Ed Maurer, Zee VanWinkle, Betty Carter, Mrs. Ed McCauley, Verneta Fuehrer, Mrs. Carl Bivins, Mrs. Wallace Strong, Mrs. John Rood, Phyllis Peterson, Mrs. Gertrude Ward, Neola Van Winkle, Eleanor Opplinger, and Rosalie Kielian.

Three queens were crowned in separate categories. Mrs. Mable Hoy was crowned as eldest queen for her being the eldest living - long time resident; Annette Powers chosen teen queen to reign over the parade, selected by popularity vote; and Mrs. Clara M. Bryant who was chosen as Honorary Queen by popular vote, for her work in civic affairs. Her father was one of the town's pioneers. Mr. Elmer Tooker crowned the queens and served as Master of Ceremonies. The queens were escorted to the stage by Dean Spike, Don Spike and Harold Skarka.

The parade on Saturday also featured Miss Betsy Byers, Merrick County, Nebraska Centennial Queen and Cynthia Borowiak, the Silver Creek Homecoming Queen (and king) as well as the three queens mentioned above.

**MISS ANNETTE POWERS
CENTENNIAL PARADE
QUEEN**





PRESENTING MRS. HOY ELDEST QUEEN

We proudly show this picture of Mrs. Mabel Hoy, who was selected to be the "Eldest Queen" on the basis for being the longest residing - living resident lady in the Silver Creek area. She was crowned at the Friday night activities and had a place of honor both in the parade and at the feed on Saturday. She cut the Centennial cake before a very large crowd. Although the busy activities of the day tired her some she had a cheery smile and talked with many. We hope she lives many more happy years and wish her the very best.

CLARA BRYANT SELECTED HONORARY QUEEN

Clara was chosen honorary queen by a popularity vote. The daughter of John Kula, a pioneer storekeeper, she and her son Jack still run the Kula Grocery Store here. Clara preferred her picture not be in the book but we want her to receive full recognition and the thanks from all of us for her civic affairs work and her ever cheerful smile and pleasant words to all.



THE CENTENNIAL CAKE

The Centennial Cake was baked and decorated by Lee Peterson. It was decorated with large pink flowers on a background of white lattice work, with gold leaves. The top ornament had bold gold numbers, 100 with small white lillies of the valley shooting up out of gold and white lace ruffles. Mrs. Hoy, the eldest queen, cut the cake before hundreds of people at the feed.



IS THAT THE NEW FIRE CHIEF?

The local fire department really had this "31" vintage fire truck shined up for the big day and I'll bet the "town belle" did a little shining up--to someone to get the seat of honor.

GO BIG RED!

Chapin (Pete) Peterson won first prize in the old car division on this 1938 Chevy. He has rebuilt much of this car but gives it a mighty snappy modern look by painting it metallic maroon. It runs like a top too.



I'M SO HAPPY I COULD CRY

Gayle Wyman, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ted Wyman, doesn't seem too happy at winning first prize in the children's dress contest. Kelley Chohon, daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Don Chohon, won 2nd in this division.



SILVER CREEK OR BUST
Mark Wyman won 1st
prize in the single horse
group.



SMITH-OPPLIGER TEAM
These two fellas
brought home a 2nd prize
in the horse competition.
Now we can see why girls
like cowboys!

THE DALE BECK FAMILY

Everyone gets into the act and it turns into a family affair. 1st prize winners in the horse competition were the Dale Becks, and they certainly deserve it. That's Mr. & Mrs. Beck, Gay, David, Joni, Joe and Pat.



STRINGING THE FIRST WIRE

A cubscout entry to represent the first fences going up. It won second prize in the children's category. The cub scouts also had a nice display of their projects downtown for the crowd to see. Mrs. Shirley Spike and Mrs. Grace Wilcox are den mothers.



1866 - SILVER CREEK - 1966

CENTENNIAL

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 5

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

1:00 P.M. Parade — (Prizes for the best entries).
 Pony Rides for the kids — Horseshoe tournament — Tug of War — Games for the Kiddies — Greased Pig Contest, 14 and under—
 Centennial Queen selected by popular vote.

3:30-7:00 P.M.—Olde Country Feed

\$1.00 Centennial ticket entitles you to one serving and a chance on the prizes.

8:00 P.M.—CENTENNIAL DANCE

Al Grebnick and his Orchestra. Tickets are \$1.00.
 Sponsored by the American Legion Post.

COLOR TV AND OTHER PRIZES

to be given away at the intermission.

COME---LET'S CELEBRATE!

PARADE CENTENNIAL

The Centennial celebration was highlighted by Saturday's Parade which proved to be quite an affair. More than 50 entries appeared in the parade which followed a course along U. S. 30 and through the business district of town.

The best over-all entry in the parade was Dist. 28 school's float, entitled "Nebraskaland" which was a prairie schooner making its way across the midwest. Mrs. Barbara Morgan, teacher, with the following students participated on the Nebraskaland float: Jim Carlson, Steve Carlson, Gaylene Carlson, Terry Engel, Tom Engel, Luanne Engel, Susan Bryan, Alan Bryan, Chris Hayes, Richie Hayes, Joan Hayes, Gordon Carlson, Denise Carlson, Diane Carlson, Julie Carlson, Jim Viergutz, Sheri Viergutz, Paul Klassen, Bonnie Klassen, Alan Church, Rosie Church, David Church and Verlene Cobb.

Other prize winners can be found between the Parade pictures on pages eighteen through thirty-three. We hope you will enjoy looking back through them all.



COULD THIS BE ANYONE YOU KNOW?

(Left to Right) Ralph Jilg, Don S. Spike, Bruce Kershaw, LeRoy Vanek, Julius Schmid. (Back Row) Frank Vetick, Eugene Kershaw, Frederick Alexander, Al Wandro, Ed Konwinski, Kenny Reed, Bill Hunter, Dean Spike.



PETTICOAT JUNCTION

1st Prize Winner, Children's Category. Children of Mr. & Mrs. Dwain Schultz and Mr. & Mrs. Leroy Geier.



"GOAT KART"

Wayne Rystrom and son of Stromsburg won 3rd prize in the Miscellaneous Category with this entry.



THE SILVER CREEK BAND

Under the direction of Mr. John Ellis, the Silver Creek Band played several selections while marching in the Parade. That's Judy Schott out front as Drum Majorette.



Harold Skarka owns this old buggy and mare. He not only drove it in the parade but from his farm to town, many times! Two of the Skarka children are on the pony behind the buggy.

METHODIST CHURCH SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

Rev. E. S. DesPain, Teachers-Betty White, Mrs. DesPain, Kathleen Schott, Elsie Martin, Carol Atkinson.





ONE LAST CHANCE TO PICK THE WINNERS OF THE WHISKER CONTEST!



Ed & Joe
Konwinski



AND HERE THEY ARE - THE WINNERS



Bill Hunter (At right) won 1st prize, Ed Konwinski - 2nd prize, with third going to Harold Skarka. (The fella with the pipe). Frederick "Torpedo" Alexander won the Booby Prize.



A CLOSE UP OF THE
WINNERS

Bill Hunter - 1st

Well girls - shall we let
them keep the beards another
year.



FANCY DRESS COMPETITION

Mrs. Charles Smith, First; Jackie Turek, Second; Mrs. Charles Gentleman, Third.

THE AMERICAN LEGION COLOR GUARD

Hup-two-three-four. Here come Silver Creek's boys leading the parade. You look real fine fellas.



PHIL SOCK & SHIRLEY SPIKE

These two were among the boosters that went to other towns to let everyone know about our centennial celebration.



THE PROSPECTORS
Bill Hunter and
Phil Sock look like
the real thing in their
costumes. They
brought along their
jugs to wet their
whistles in the hot
noon sun.

PLAIN DRESSES

First Place in plain dresses went to Mrs. Eleanor Podraza; second place was Mrs. Phil Sock and third to Mrs. Ted Wyman.





P & M BAR HOEDOWN

Pictured at left is the entry which won second prize in the Adult Group of Floats. It has a poker game going while an old country band is playing. Saloon girls look on to give a signal now and then.

WOMEN'S COUNTRY CLUB

An old quilting bee is the theme of the float submitted by this group. A club which has been in existence over 50 years and is still having regular meetings, we are happy to announce they won first prize in the Adult Float Division. Some members were unable to be on the float due to being on other floats or for other reasons. Those below are: Mrs. Ed Maurer, Mrs. George Van Winkle, Mrs. L. T. Van Winkle, Mrs. Carl Bivens, Mrs. Wallace Strong, Mrs. Mabel Carter, Mrs. Henry Fuehrer, Mrs. E. J. McCauley, Mrs. John Oppliger.



ED WANDRO WITH HIS GAL

Ed Wandro seems to have caught the attentions of the prettiest gal in town the day of the parade (pictured below.) Ed's 31 Ford won 2nd prize in the Old Car Division. In case you're wondering what the doll's name is- it's Dan Oppliger.





"THE TOWN BELLS"

Scott Cowgill and Dan Opplinger posed for us after "following the ponies" in the parade. Scott is pictured at the left and Dan is the "gal" in the white sweater - at the right. Jayne Mansfield has nothing on these gals - except our's are a little more bashful!

(Pictured Below) Dan Opplinger again but it looks like the "Marshall" (Phil Sock) has her. Charges?



Randy Chinn is pictured below in his clown suit and hardly a soul knew him. I see he's riding his little red Honda which he got from Sick-Em Motors but he's forgotten his training wheels today. Look out crowd!





LOOKING ON

This is a street scene after the parade that shows all the lovely centennial costumes.



BILL & GLADE WYMAN

Bill and Glade won 1st prize in the miscellaneous category in their costumes which date back about 75 years ago.



VIRGIL & VIRGINIA WILLITS

"Gid" was parade chairman and "Virg" was in charge of raffle tickets. Don't they look like a couple of typical old timers?

SATURDAY NIGHT IN AN OLD
COUNTRY KITCHEN

2nd prize in the children's category and overall went to this 4-H float. Lee Peterson and Phyllis Peterson are Leaders. Children are: Sue Lamb, Sherry Peterson, Bob Peterson, Margie Hawthorne, Rodney Eschliman, Mike Hawthorne, Kay and Kathy Eschliman and Rosalie Brand. Out front (not pictured) were Mike Peterson, the Father, out looking for game for the family; Ricky and Randy Eschliman--the town bankers with the mortgage note.



STREET SCENE



LITTLE STEAM ENGINE

This was a 2nd prize winner in the miscellaneous category. Randy Chinn is the clown on the red honda in the background.





Duane Spike won third prize with his Indian-Travois outfit. That's Duane's little brother on the travois.



Kozy Bar Float was brightly decorated with yellow crepe paper and King-size Hamms beer cans.

THE SHRINE HONDA CLUB

The Shrine Honda Club came down in full costumes of maroon and black and entertained the crowd with their street maneuvers which they do with such precision! These fellas came down from the Columbus Shrine to be with us and we certainly did enjoy them.





JULIUS SCHMID AND FAMILY

At the left is a very nice family entry depicting the Indian teepee with Indians sitting in front and inside it. It looks like much work went into this one. Pam and Wendy Schmid are the little Indian gals plus they had the little Siemek girl along.

AND THAT CONCLUDES THE PARADE OF 1966

Miss Vicki Willits and Mrs. Fritz Sohl hold the Centennial Banner high to remind us one last time - that it has been a good one hundred years, as we look back. Looking to the future, let us pray that the next 100 are every bit as good to our children and their children. We hope they can look with pride at the things we have accomplished in our life times and that they will deem their heritage as rich as ours!





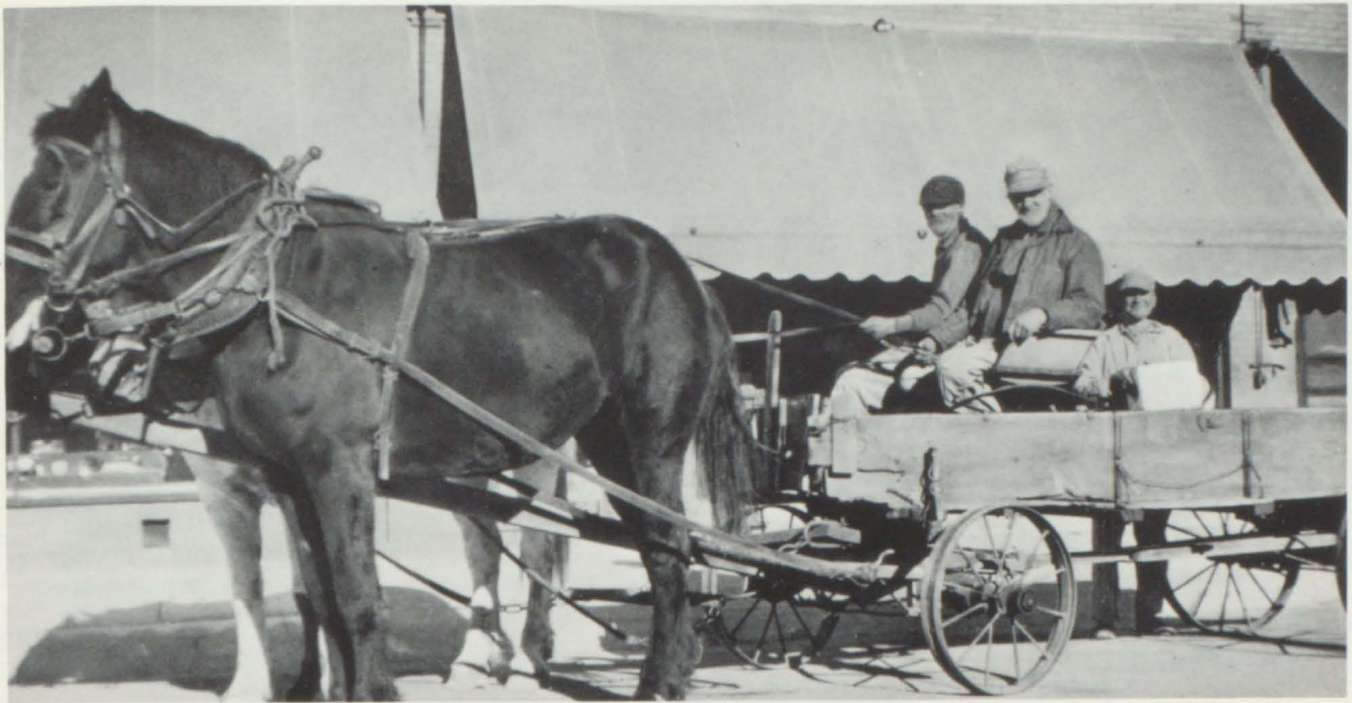
MODES OF TRAVEL

Myrtle Harris with her horse and buggy, which she used in her day to get back and forth to school. The horse was used for farm work to pull the machinery as well as to pull fancy buggies, wagons, etc. In the background is a one room school house - typical of the country schools which are now fast becoming a thing of the past.

The Patterson Six was sold by T. W. Datamore, the agent for this car, in this area. What fella wouldn't get a big thrill while driving in this snappy number? Note the flags woven through the spoke wheels. Do you recall seeing these sitting around town?



The early 1900's brought many kinds and shapes of car. This picture is the Will Harris family car with Will and family in the car. The picture was taken around 1915.



THE OLD HITCHING POST

Pictured from left to right are Fritz Hosner, Willie Hosner, and Red Witt. The Hosner Brothers were the last to use the hitching post. Red Witt was the produce dealer and Fritz and Willie were a couple of bachelor brothers who lived just south of Silver Creek for fifty years. I bet a good many of you remember this scene well!

FLASHBACKS FROM 1890 TO ABOUT 1915

BY CLARA BRYANT

"Old settlers picnic" each summer by the Platte river.

"Boston Bloomer Girls" traveling baseball team defeated by Silver Creek 2-0 in 21 innings. John Zepper was the winning pitcher.

Annual summer circus, tent-shows staging 3 act plays, with real good talent. Opera companies performed during the winter in the old town opera house.

Annual fireman's ball, a gala affair with formal dress-up.

The special presidential train of President Teddy Roosevelt stopped long enough for him to wave and shake a few of the outstretched hands.

Annual Tuesday pancake and chicken supper, with another one on Election day.

Opening of the 4th of July celebration at 5 A.M. with the firing of a cannon.

Ushering in the New Year with the ringing of the four church bells, the school bell and the fire bell, which was in a high tower in the park.

"Frontier Days" lasting about 3 days. State League baseball teams and some of the best rodeo riders in the country were the features.

Chatauqua tent shows. Talent was exceptionally good and the musical numbers and the speeches were outstanding.

Race track east of town where horse-races were held. The track still is visible.

School children sang at the "Memorial Day Services" at the cemetery. They arrived in hayracks pulled by horses.

Senator Hitchcock was a guest speaker at the Chamber of Commerce Banquet.

Hitching posts connected with heavy chains were in front of all the business places and some homes.

Flooding was especially serious when the Platte River, Silver Creek and Prairie Creek overflowed and met in town. Board sidewalks were swept completely away.

Fire destroyed a large portion of the business section of our town.

Dynamiting the ice gorges in the Platte River to save the wooden bridge over it. However a number of times, the wooden pilings and a few spans of the bridge were carried down stream.

Red flags tacked on homes were signs of a contagious disease. Quarantine usually lasted three weeks.

Telephones were installed about 1906. Electric lights around 1914. The telephone exchange and the light plant were located here.

Cement was mixed and poured to make sidewalks to replace the old wooden ones.

We could go on and on but I bet all you Mothers, Dads, Aunts and Uncles as well as Grandpa and Grandmas could tell a lot more. Try it sometime. Just sit and reminisce!

WORKING TOGETHER

As the Farmers prospered they began bringing in grain in big sacks or by wagon loads, to be shipped out. A big scale was installed in front of the store so that loads of grain could be hauled on by horses and weighed. All grain was then sacked and shipped out, in freight cars.



Farmers went together with their neighbors to shell corn or to harvest.



Taken in the year 1910, 15 head of horses and mules on 4 plow rigs. The men are Basil Wyman, John Wyman, Sam Wyman and Nels Johnson, plowing for wheat.

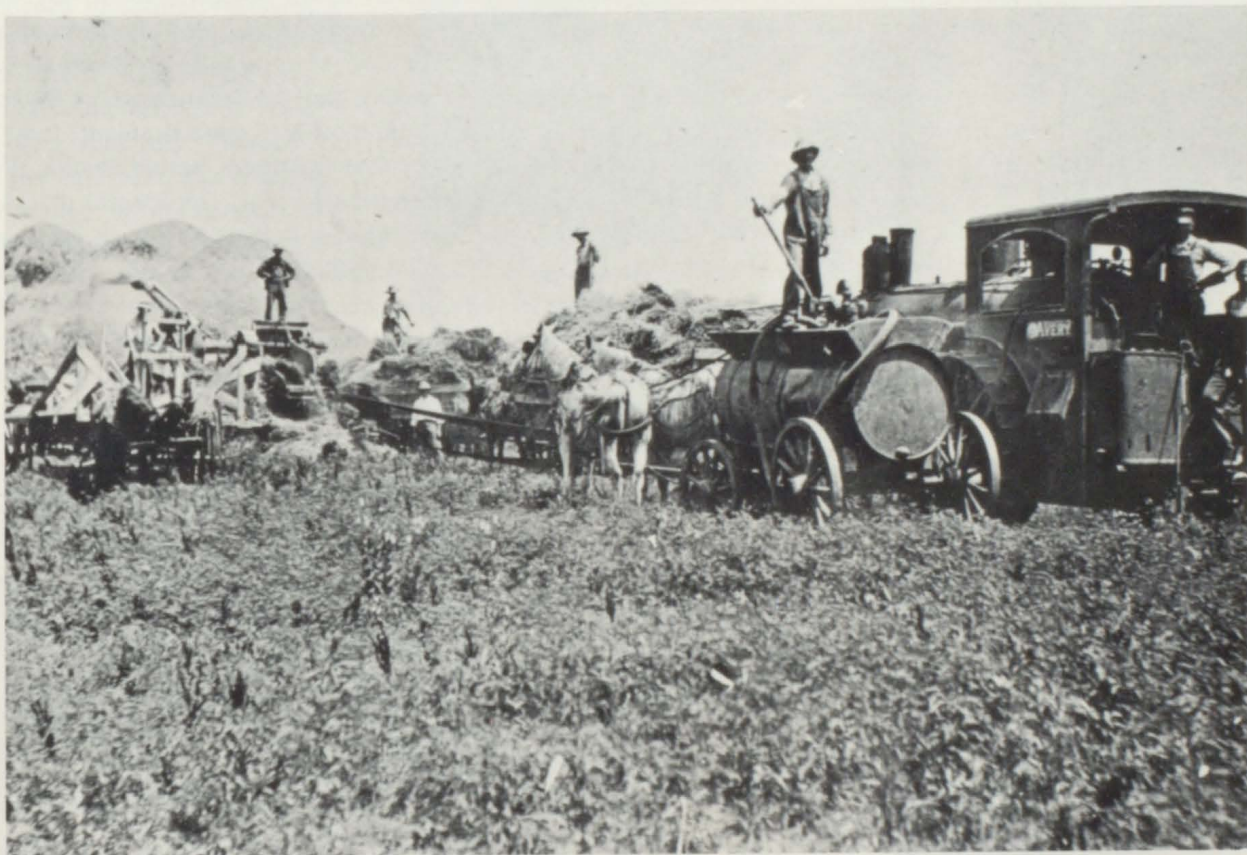
The Nebraska soil was new and very fertile. People soon learned what to plant. Wells were shallow, as the water level at that time was very easy to reach.





This is the way we got ice from the ponds and rivers which was packed away for the summer's use. This was a hard, cold job, usually "made" ice for a week or so, to put in everyone's supply. Pulling into the Wyman farmyard.

GOOD OLD DAYS



THRASHING

Doesn't this picture bring back some pleasant memories of yesterday? Pictured are Basil Wyman, San Wyman, Louis Schuster and Nels Johnson plus others. It took 20 men to operate. This was the method used about 1910-1915.



JACK BRYANT - TREASURER



DEAN SPIKE, DON SPIKE, JUNE ESCHLIMAN AND LEE PETERSON
Current Chairman, Activities Committee, Assistant Food Committee,
Secretary-Co-Treasurer.

YOUR CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE

The Centennial Committee was formed to plan the centennial celebration many months prior to the big event. Some of the very first to organize were: Harold Skarka, Dean and Don Spike, Norman Euse, Joe Konwinski and Ralph Jilg. By the second and third meetings many more had joined and a committee was set up as follows: Norman Euse - Chairman; Dean Spike and Joe Konwinski - Co-Chairmen; Lee Peterson - Secretary and Co-Treasurer; Jack Bryant - Co-Treasurer; Jid Willits - Parade Chairman; Virgil Willits - Ticket Chairman; Elmer Tooker - Advertisement; Judy Tschantre - Food Chairman with the aid of June Eschliman and Carol Atkinson - Co-Chairmen; Harold Skarka, Vern McCormick, Julius Schmid and Don Spike - Activities; and many others held numerous jobs too. Our special thanks go to all the women who helped serve the meal, decorating the halls, etc. Almost everyone in town helped in some way! Others who helped in special ways were - Mr. & Mrs. Phil Sock, Mr. & Mrs. Glen Mustard, Mr. & Mrs. Edsel Matousek, Mrs. Don Spike, Mr. & Mrs. Walter Spike, the Chohan family, Mrs. Joe Konwinski, Mrs. Frank Carman, Mrs. Roscoe Aye, Mr. & Mrs. Dan Hinkle, Dick Tschantre, Terry Hutchinson, Bruce & Eugene Kershaw, Al Wandro, the Davis sisters, plus many, many more. To all of you - we dedicate this book, which we hope will bring back many happy memories as you go through it in the years to come. Thanks seems a small word in comparison to all those long hours you worked. May God bless each and every one of you as you go through life.



VIRGINIA ("JID")
WILLITS - PARADE
CHAIRMAN (left)



JUDY TSCHANTRE -
FOOD COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN

THE SILVER CREEK SCHOOL TODAY

The new addition of the school houses the kindergarten through 4th grades, while the 5th through 12th grades are housed in the High School Building, which was built in 1910. The new portion was built in 1959 and 1960. It opened for the second semester of 1960 year. Some of the students first to attend the new kindergarten were: Carl Gentleman, Scott VanWinkle, Mike Peterson, Connie Cutsor, Jackie Carter, Mary & David Powers & others.

THE SILVER CREEK PUBLIC LIBRARY

Built in 1934, the public library of Silver Creek looks pretty much the same as it did, except for an increased amount of books. Kindergarten was held in the basement the first semester of the 59-60 school year. Several clubs use the basement as a meeting place yet today. At the present time, Mrs. Henry Fuehrer, Jr. is the librarian.



THE DUTCH MILL

This mill is a familiar sight to all of us. It used to be a filling station while there was a cafe and motel to the West and rear. The mill is not currently running, but the motel is open and the cafe has been turned into a much needed laundromat, now owned by Louie Sock.





ST. LAWRENCE CATHOLIC CHURCH

This lovely new church was started in 1966 and finished in April, 1967. Father Parr is the priest of this parish at the present time. The first Catholic Mission Church was erected in 1903. Father Rembert Stanowski O. F. M. of Duncan served as the first priest of the parish. The old church still stands one block east (on same block) from where it originally was. Many years ago the Congregational Church stood in that very place. The old church still will be used for various functions in the future.

PRESENT-DAY CHURCHES

THE FIRST METHODIST CHURCH OF SILVER CREEK

Organized on March 29, 1888, the first meetings were held in what was known as Hill Hall. The first pastor was the Rev. J. E. Moore, who came on the field in March, 1888. The first church building was erected in 1889 and the present church was started in 1918 and dedicated on September 11, 1921. The parsonage was built in 1924. Rev. E. S. DesPain is the pastor at this time.





**LOOKING EAST ON
HIGHWAY 30**



**LOOKING WEST ON
HIGHWAY 30**



LOOKING SOUTH ON MAIN ST.

“SILVER CREEK TODAY”



LOUIS M. SOCK

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In the years to come you may look back at the year 1966 and wonder what kind of prices we had to pay and the tax on gas, etc. Here is an example of these:

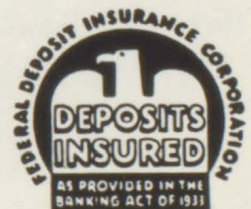
During a "Gas War" we sold gas at 27.9¢ per gallon, the tax was 11.5¢ per gallon while the price of gas itself was just 16.4¢ per gallon. Our normal price 33.9¢ per gallon with a tax portion being 11.5¢ per gallon on regular gas. Our tank wagon price was 28.5¢ per gallon (11.5¢ of this tax). For you farmers the price of Tractor Fuel was 16¢ for #1 fuel and #2 fuel sold for 14¢. How will this compare to prices in 25 years? Let's all check and see.



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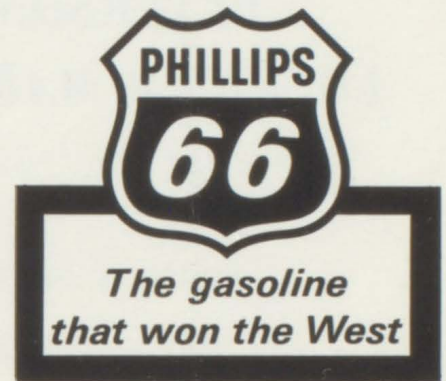
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