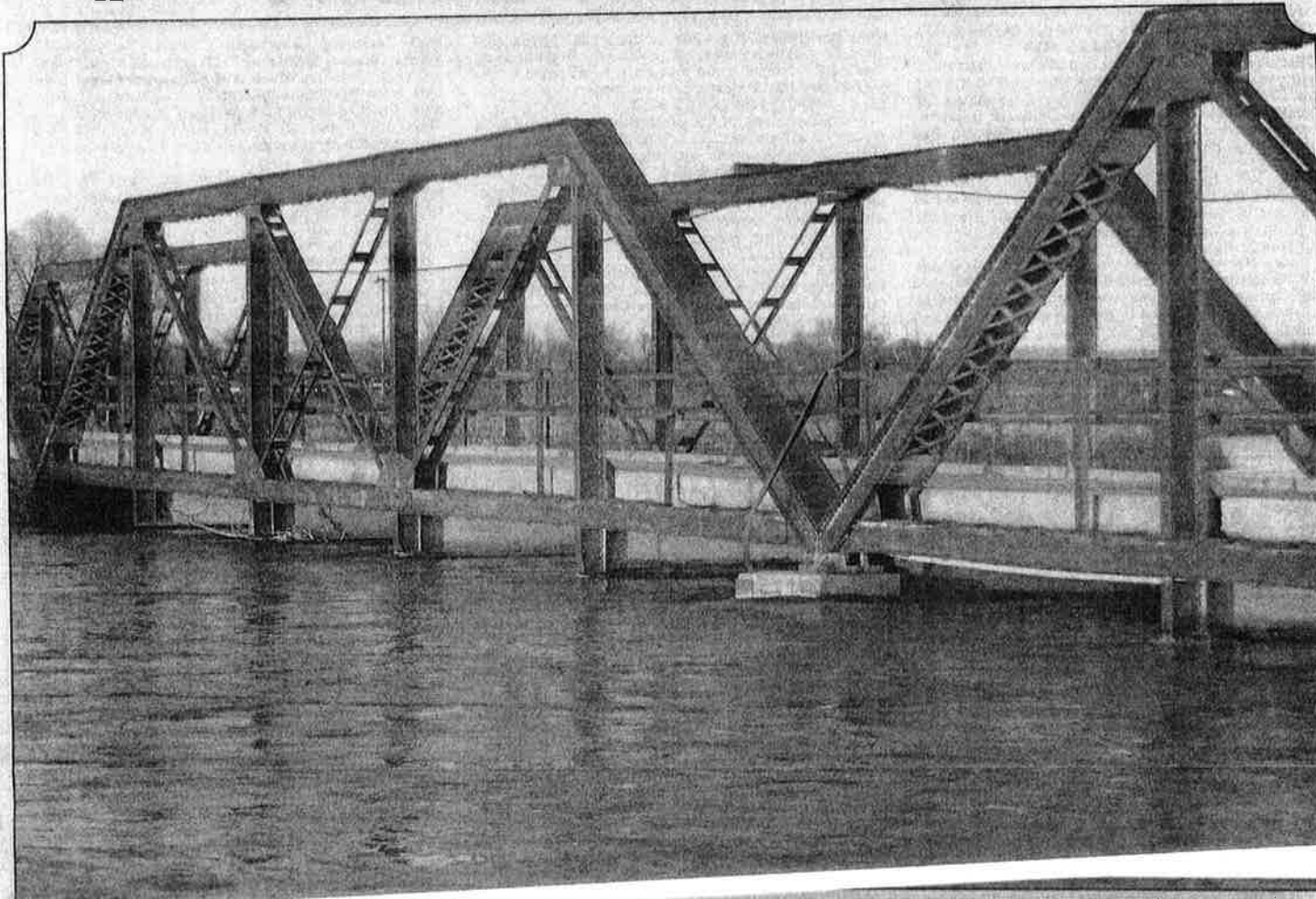




The North Platte River is Running High!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

By Loann Johnson

How many of you have made trips across the bridges over the North Platte River at Lisco or the old bridge and new highway bridge at Lewellen just to see how high the river is running and how much is flowing into the lower fields bordering the river? I have made numerous trips and there is always some cars doing the same thing.

High water can be fascinating, but we have to remember the cold facts that when it goes out of its normal banks many families who live in close proximity to the river may be in jeopardy of having water fill their basements and crawl spaces, and even enter the main level of their home if that water level continues to rise. Livestock have to be kept in high pastures. Lots of problems.

At this time, many pastures and hay fields have water running through or backing up into them. The daily reports on the water levels have stayed consistent the past week

or so at 8.0 feet. At Lewellen, 7.5 is flood stage. Even though it has stayed at the 8.0 level, the water in the fields near the river appears to be spreading out further, probably due to the high pressure of the current pushing the water out into the low areas.

NE Department of Natural Resources news release states high water conditions are occurring along the North Platte River in Nebraska and conditions are expected to continue to intensify throughout the spring according to Brian Dunningan, Director of the Department of Natural Resources and Al Berndt, Assistant Director of the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation indicates there is limited storage space in the Wyoming reservoirs along the North Platte River and its tributaries to capture all of the expected snowmelt runoff from the mountains in Colorado and Wyoming.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service is

reporting snow pack in the Upper North Platte area at 134 percent of average (with some areas having as much as 182 percent of average) and in the Lower North Platte area (including Sweetwater and Laramie rivers) at 114 percent of average.

The total conservation storage capacity of the Wyoming reservoirs is 2,787,800 acre-feet of water. At the end of February, the reservoirs were near their maximum capacity with 2,258,801 acre-feet of water. The estimated snowmelt runoff potential in the North Platte system above the lowest reservoir is approximately 1,475,000 acre-feet. In response, the Bureau of Reclamation began releasing storage water downstream in early March to make room in the WY reservoirs for expected spring runoff.

In Nebraska, Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District CNPPID, the owners and operators of Lake McConaughy, are currently bypassing some inflows

and are also storing some water in Lake McConaughy. CNPPID may request a temporary variance from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to allow an increase in the amount of water that can be stored in Lake McConaughy to help alleviate flooding downstream.

Currently there is moderate flooding at North Platte, NE and minimum flooding at Lewellen. Landowners along the North Platte River should keep a watchful eye on the river over the next few months.

The Wyoming Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation in Mills, WY has prepared snowmelt runoff forecasts for the North Platte River Basin, according to John H. Lawson, WY Area Manager. The March 1 forecast of the spring snowmelt runoff is above average.

Total April through July runoff in the North Platte Basin above Glendo Dam is expected to be 1,475,000 acre feet or 159% of the 30 year average

of 925,100 acre feet. Approximately 1,230,000 af (172% of average) of the runoff is expected to enter Seminoe Reservoir with an additional 65,000 af (110% of average) being provided to Pathfinder Reservoir from the Sweetwater River, and the balance of 180,000 af (137% of average) coming from the basin between Pathfinder Reservoir and Glendo Reservoir.

The total storage for the North Platte Reservoir System as of February 28, 2011 is 2,258,801 af, which is 141% of the 30-year average of 1,606,500 af. The total conservation storage capacity is 2,787,800 af for the North Platte Reservoir System in WY.

The release of water from Seminoe Reservoir has been increased to 2,300 cfs, resulting in the Reservoir elevation declining to allow space for upcoming Spring runoff. Currently, releases from Gray Reef Dam are being increased to reach a flow of 3,250 cubic feet per second by March 18.

release of 3,250 cfs will be maintained through the end of April. Because of the high release from Gray Reef Dam in March and April, a flushing flow will not be conducted this spring.

Due to the well above average forecasted runoff and high reservoir storage in WY, releases from Glendo Reservoir were initiated on February 22, 2011 and releases from Guernsey Reservoir were initiated on February 28, 2011. Glendo and Guernsey Reservoir releases are currently being increased to reach a flow of approximately 3,800 cfs by mid March. The early release will provide space for regulation of runoff this spring.

These releases will result in changing reservoir levels. The public should be aware of the changing flows in the North Platte River along with the changing reservoir levels and take proper precautions.

Reclamation will update the inflow forecasts again in April and May.

10/5/2011 Ken C. J. J. J.

Only Yesterday &

Taken from the archives of the Garden County News. 1931 - 80 YEARS AGO

It is now an established fact that the GCHS will have football as a part of the athletic program for the coming year. This was made possible through the subscription of the businessmen of Oshkosh and the starting of a fund by the Pirates basketball team.

The refuge is being posted by putting up shield shaped signs of yellow background with black letters with the wording as follows: Dept. of Agriculture, Biological Survey, U.S. Wild Life Refuge. A temporary lodge has been established and later on a farm building is to be pulled down from farther north and repaired and made over into a permanent lodge until really permanent quarters of brick or other like material can be constructed. A new map has been prepared which shows the true boundaries and larger scope of land.

The grading crew has started work on the north and south highway, the first grading being done on the Deuel County side of the line and working toward the intersection with the Lincoln Highway.

The Munroe Sanitary Market was purchased last week by the Publix Stores, Inc. of Bridgeport. The room is being enlarged by removal of the partition and will be known as the Oshkosh Publix Store. Mrs. Munroe will continue in the business.

Marley Brown recently made a deal whereby he becomes the owner of the old Garden Theatre building and all of the ground between that building and the railroad right-of-way. Three cars of lumber have arrived.

James Ogan and Frank Simpson entered a plea of guilty on charges of an illegal still and large quantity of liquor that was taken by officers in the Sandhill country. Simpson was sentenced to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine plus costs. Ogan will stand trial at the next term of the District Court.

Seining gained little satisfaction and few fish at Crescent Lake. A truckload of spawning bullheads was brought down by crews from Hyannis lakes and dumped into Crescent and a lot of fish taken out of Island Lake and put into Crescent.

Hayden's has 2 cantaloupes for 25¢, a doz. bananas 25¢, 2 cucumbers 15¢, a lb. of tomatoes 23¢, a lb. of vanilla wafers 29¢, a can of kraut 10¢, 3 lbs. of prunes 25¢, 1 lb. of minced ham 19¢, 3 lbs. of lard 35¢ and 100 lbs. of chick scratch 2.79.

1941 - 70 YEARS AGO

Howard Jensen received a gold medal at the University of Nebraska for having the highest four-year average among all seniors.

Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Lynes are the parents of a baby boy born Tuesday morning, a son to Mr. and Mrs. Oakley Smith; a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Jack Saunders and a girl to Mr. and Mrs. Keith Greenlee.

A Boy Scout troop can be organized in Oshkosh providing there is enough parental enthusiasm to warrant such a movement.

The Chappell and Oshkosh bands are exchanging concerts, Oshkosh's band going to Chappell Sunday and they coming here the following Sunday.

Miss Wilhelmine Pauline Koberstein became the bride of William Hannan at a ceremony in Lincoln on May 25th.

In the graduating class at GCHS this year, five have

jolt when word was received that Dr. William Bradley who had indicated he would move to Lewellen the first of June, had changed his mind and would not be locating in Lewellen.

Two life memberships were presented at the Lisco PTA meeting held the last day of school. Honorees were Mrs. Ted Cranmore and Mrs. Elmer Riter. Mrs. Cranmore was honored as outgoing president and Mrs. Riter for serving as secretary and as a teacher in Lisco Grade School.

The final honor roll of the year for GCHS was headed by some familiar names. Bob Miller and Connie Meier both had all 7's for grades both for the third six weeks and for the semester.

A class of 14 received diplomas from Lewellen Grade School. Seven rural pupils also received diplomas.

Patty Miller, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Miller of Oshkosh, is one of four members of the water ballerina team at the University of Wyoming. She received her initial basic training in swimming at the Oshkosh Pool in Carl Beard Memorial Park.

Karla Toepfer and Lou Rene Bartak received class honors at the graduation exercises for seniors of Lewellen Rural High School. Miss Toepfer was valedictorian and also received the Regent's Scholarship. Miss Bartak was Salutatorian and also received a trophy for rating second high scholastically for the class the last four years.

A new mechanic has been engaged at Lewellen. He moved here with his wife and family.

GCHS athletes failed to score in the 880 relay race in which they were entered at the Lincoln this last weekend. In the 880 relay race, Oshkosh boys won the 880 relay to the surprise of many. Bill Suit, Grant Decker, Ray W. Newkirk ran the fastest time in Class.

Reese's Valu-Mart has a lb. of frankfurters 49¢, a lb. of Am. chocolate drop cookies 39¢, a lb. of Am. 49¢, 4 cans of apple sauce 49¢, 2 lbs. of beef 89¢, 200 count napkins 25¢, Reynolds for 25¢ and a qt. of dill pickles 25¢.

The Oshkosh Drive In Theatre is showing Moe, Larry and Curley, the original three stooges in "Stop! Look! And Laugh!" Coming Sunday is Nigel Patrick and Yvonne Mitchell in "Sapphire".

1971 - 40 YEARS AGO

Fred Pennick, village clerk at Lewellen for 17 years, has resigned. He plans to travel, devote time to his hobby and take it easy. Prior to 1954, he served from the late 1930's on the village board with well over 30 years of community service. He operated a repair shop for many years and his first love has been his hobby, rocks.

Two oil test wells in Garden County were "dusters" the past week. The Jessen and Schmid tests were both plugged.

The North Platte River continues to rise. Highest flow reported so far is 11,600 second feet. By sometime in June it is expected to reach 19,000 second feet.

The River in the Lisco area has started washing out the fill on the southwest edge of the bridge. Sixteen loads of riprap have been hauled to the site.

Miller, Doctor, Stutzman, and I went with Charley Criswell

Not Just A



The North Platte River - Did You Know????????????

By Leann Johnson

We are all watching the North Platte River levels in Garden County as levels are running at 7.9 to 8.0 feet with flood stage at 7.5. This got me to thinking about the river. Where does it come from and what path does it follow?

Well the Internet has all kinds of answers. Here is what I found on the North Platte River.

The North Platte River is a tributary of the Platte River, approximately 716 miles (1,152 km) long in the U.S. states of Colorado, Wyoming and Nebraska. It forms the Platte at its confluence with the South Platte River in western Nebraska. The river provides the major avenue of drainage for eastern Wyoming and western Nebraska.

Although it is not navigable except at high water, it has been an important route of transportation in the westward expansion of the United States, providing the route of several of the major migration trails, including the Oregon Trail and the Mormon Trail.

The North Platte rises in the high basin of North Park located in north-central Colorado, near the town of Walden, on the eastern slope of the Park Range. It flows northward into Wyoming (through Northgate Canyon), along the western side of the Medicine Bow Mountains. On the north end of the range, it is joined by the Medicine Bow River in the Seminoe Reservoir formed by Seminoe Dam, then downstream of the Kortes reservoir it is joined by the Sweetwater River in the Pathfinder Reservoir.

Northeast of the reservoir, it passes through the Alcova and Gray reef reservoirs and flows northeast between the Granite Mountains to the west and the Laramie Mountains to the east.

It emerges from the mountains near Casper, where it flows east, along the northern reach of the Laramie Mountains onto the Great Plains. It flows southeast across the



plains of eastern Wyoming, past the town of Douglas and through Glendo and Guernsey Reservoirs.

It then flows past the Fort Laramie National Historic Site, where it is joined by the Laramie River. It crosses into western Nebraska, flowing ESE between the cities of Scottsbluff and Gering.

In Keith County, the Kingsley Dam forms Lake C. W. McConaughy, the largest lake in Nebraska and a significant irrigation and recreation facility for the region. East of the dam, it flows nearly parallel to the South Platte, separated by only 5 miles (8 km) for a stretch of approximately 50 miles (80 km).

It joins the South Platte to form the Platte just east of the city of North Platte. Historically this river used to be a mile wide in many places as evidenced by the old streambed and written records. By the time the North Platte reaches Paxton, NE, it is a muddy creek due to the extensive water taken from it for irrigation.

In Colorado and Wyoming, the river is narrower and much swifter flowing than it is in Nebraska, where it becomes a braided stream. The upper reaches of the river in the Rockies are popular for recreation rafting and fly fishing for rainbow trout

and other sport fish. In western Nebraska, the banks and riverbed of the North Platte provide a green oasis amid an otherwise semi-arid region of North America.

The North Platte River's tributaries are Sweetwater River, Medicine Bow River, Laramie River and its source is the confluence of Grizzly and Little Grizzly Creeks in Jackson County, Colorado at 8,058 feet elevation. It is 716 miles long and the basin is 30,000 square miles.

Now you know all about the North Platte River.

State don't say anything about the fishing, camping, and other activities that it initiates. And the irrigation and storage water it generates in its life span.

How about those times the kids are playing in the waters of the river? Or maybe that dog that needs exercise and you end up at the river letting it play and swim in the water.

It is not considered a navigable river, but occasionally you will see a tube or canoe floating by and of course a few of those hardy fishermen will be out there trying for a catch in the spots they can't reach from shore.

It actually is quite a river with a whole lot of history behind it and we just take it for granted.