Birth rate is down in state

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) — Nebraska's 1973 birth date was the lowest ever recorded, according to data from the state Department of Health.

The state's birth rate for the first half of 1974 was about equal to that recorded in the first six months of last year

In 1973, the state recorded just 14.8 births for each 1,000 Nebraskans

The Health Department said 11,281 babies were born in the first six months of this year That is 102 more than were recorded in the first half of 1973.

However, the births include women from other states who use Nebraska medical facilities. The resident count is limited only to Nebraska-domiciled women, no matter where they had their babies

The 1973 birth rate was the lowest ever, although there were fewer actual births in 1937, 1938, 1939, 1940 and 1941. Nebraska's population at that time was barely 1.3 million, contrasted with an estimated 1,542,000 for 1973.

Out-of-wedlock births declined for the first time in 15 years during 1973, and the Health Department speculated that the number of abortions in the state last year (966) for resident women "probably has had an effect upon the number of out-of-wedlock births "

The departmented noted 1,932 such births in 1973, down from a 1972 total of 2,167.

Out-of-wedlock births account for 8.5 per cent of all Nebraska births. Women under the age of 20 were mothers in 53 9 per cent of such births

Fremont county population is up

Fremont county, Ia. had a three-year population increase of 518 to 9,800 in 1973, according to the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The farm population which decreased about 21 per cent in the 10 year period prior to early 1970, has leveled off in recent years. Meantime, industrial development has increased and a record number of new jobs have been created.

GAMES PARTY

Tuesday, Sept. 17

8:00 p.m.

Talmage

Community Building

JACKPOT $210

Consolation $25

No Minors Allowed



A portion of the exhibit for the Omaha Flaming Festival benefit is displayed on the dining room table in the mansion at Arbor Lodge State Historical park with Mrs Eugene Wilhelm, one of the tour guides at the 'able.

The exhibit for the Festival is "Supper in Flow Blue." It will be on exhibit Thursday, September 19, in he Omaha Peony Park ballroom from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. and is sponsored by the Omaha Church Women United.

The complete exhibit will be shown at the mansion on September 23 and 24, Craig Bergman, superintendent of the state park, reported. The Flow Blue Willow China is from the collection purchased by J. Sterling Morton for the mansion when he was Secretary of Agriculture in the 1890's.

Burst of controversy to have lasting effect

By WALTER R. MEARS
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Ford is spending valuable political capital in the Watergate pardons controversy to deal with an issue he once called a nightmare that was over

It wasn't It remained to haunt the new administration

Ford's pardoning of Richard M Nixon, and later suggestions that other Watergate pardons were being considered, drew the first major barrage of congressional criticism of the new President.

That will subside, particularly now that the White House has said there will be no blanket pardons of Watergate defendants, and none in any case before trial.

But that burst of controversy will have a lasting effect It will make it easier in the remaining weeks of the congressional session for Democrats and Republican dissenters to challenge Ford on other issues

It hastens a return to the strains, frictions and arguments that are normal between Congress and the White House, particularly when different parties control the branches

Furthermore, the Nixon pardon decision marked as had no prior issue the distinction between Ford the congressional veteran and Ford the President

In the pardon decision, there was no use of the ways of the Capitol, the habits of consultation, base-touching, checking it out with potential critics. It was the decision of one man, and Ford said he made it to end "the bad dreams that continue "

Sunday's pardon led to Monday's widespread criticism and to Tuesday's miscalculation — the statement of a White House spokesman that pardons for others involved in Watergate were under study A common theme in criticism of the Nixon pardon had been that the former president should not be spared while his former aides stand trial for the Watergate cover-up

But the suggestion that their cases would be studied with a view to possible pardons drew even more protest The Senate adopted a resolution opposing any pardons before trial, but by that time White House spokesmen had disowned the earlier statement and were saying that no pardons were under study

It was understood that the initial statement about a White House study had been intended to counter complaints that the Nixon pardon set a double standard of justice for the former president and lesser Watergate figures Instead, it made the situation worse

While many Republicans defended the Nixon pardon, there was no evidence of support for the suggestion that a broader Watergate amnesty might be considered White House spokesmen now insist that it never was, and that word of the purported pardons study had been distorted or misunderstood

But the initial version stood for nearly 24 hours with no White House attempts at correction or clarification

Amid the congressional clamor, Rep Ken Hechler, D-W. Va , offered his assessment of the pardon situation

"The quality of mercy is getting very strained... It messeth up those that give and those that take "

Spencer Foods reports gains

SPENCER, Iowa (AP)— Sharp gains in profits for the first nine months of the fiscal year have been reported by Spencer Foods Inc of Spencer.

However, a labor dispute and volatile cattle market conditions cast a shadow on the outlook for the fourth quarter.

Generally favorable supplies of fed cattle during much of the year had been a factor in gains so far, said Gerald Pearson, chairman

Spencer Foods earned $2,368,000 or $2 25 a share for the nine months ended Aug 3, up from $990,000 or 93 cents a share in the same period a year ago

Third-quarter net income was $673,000 or 64 cents a share, compared with $178,000 or 17 cents a share a year earlier

Sales were $333 8 million—up 1 8 per cent from the $327 8 million a year ago Third quarter volume rose 5 4 per cent to $111 7 million from $106 million a year earlier

The Buck Ends Here

By IVAN D.E. BEAUMONT

The American Legion has extended its dates of eligibility for membership for veterans of WWII, Korean and Vietnam, but left the dates the same for the WWI "war hosses" at April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918

Any American citizen who would like to suggest changing anything from November 11 had better look for a place to hide.

The WWII eligibility is from December 7, 1941 (same) to December 31, 1946 (previously it was September 2, 1945)

The Korean eligibility is June 25, 1950 (same) to January 31, 1955 (previously it was July 27, 1953)

The Vietnam war never had a closing date The new dates are August 5, 1964 (same) to August 15, 1973

This means simply that Post No 8 Vice Commander Walt Hunker, the membership chairman, can now ask many previously ineligible veterans to join.

+++++

We lost a couple of friends the past week. We'll miss Mrs John (Coletta) Heng Jr. and Herb Tiede. Aside from seeing Mrs Heng in the neighborhood, we saw her many times at the checkstand at Norman's IGA. Her pleasant and smiling attitude was always apparent.

And we'll remember for a long time the active part Herb Tiede took in a men's church group He enjoyed the men's organization and he was always willing to pitch in with many church assignments. They were more pleasure than church chores to Herb.

+++++

Tom Allan, Omaha World-Herald reporter, said the other day that when his son left home for college, dad was told that the young man wanted to get away from the strings at home

"Ha!" dad said later, "the first weekend he was at the door with a bag of dirty clothes."

Young Mr Allan is wired. Dad sez the boy must have a built-in radar

"Everytime we have steak there's a knock at the door and you-know-who is standing there."

+++++

Have you read about the "Peabody Ducks" of the Sheraton Peabody hotel in Memphis?

According to the Knight Templar magazine, the ducks follow a daily route beginning at 7 a.m. from the roof of the hotel to the lobby fountain. At 3 p m. they leave the fountain — to processional music — and return to the roof

+++++

There is a little more to the story

Generations of the Peabody Ducks have been going through the ritual for nearly 50 years. They travel by elevator to the lobby and leave the fountain to music, walking single file on a red carpet for the elevator ride to the roof at 3 p.m

Whoa, there podner . . .there's something else Once they get inside the elevator, they turn and face the door as if to say that's all folks, see you tomorrow "

+++++

If you've been reading pork, pork and more pork, then you know we've got something going.

We're working with the pork producers and next month will print a special section about that food industry

There is also a recipe contest

I was going to suggest that Millie offer her recipe of pork, rice and tabasco sauce, but I changed my mind

Why should I share that with anyone? First thing you know there'd be a shortage of some ingredient like there was with the Mason and Ball jar lids that caused many home canners to flip their lids and cheated me out of my usual supply of peaches.

+++++

A special art show will be held Sunday at Syracuse and among the items on display will be those from the Chick Boyes Players.

Oh, that brings back memories

I guess just about everyone in my hometown and elsewhere in north central Kansas knew the Chick Boyes. Their performances were always a big thing in any community.

+++++

The book "Growing Older and Staying Young" by Dr. David Stonecypher, Jr is being circulated in Inglewood, Calif

We mailed an autographed copy of the book to my parents and they wrote that it was especially good reading. My mother said she was having a hard time getting through it because she enjoyed certain chapters so much she re-read them to make sure she didn't miss a point.

She told some friends about the book and they have ordered copies from their favorite bookstore. The store clerk said it would take about two weeks for delivery

+++++

The American Legion claims to have a pretty high batting average in its baseball program According to the Nebraska Legionnaire during the past 10 seasons over 60 per cent of the major league players — Johnny Bench included — were graduates of American Legion baseball.

+++++

Stolen from Today

A patient was lying on a stretcher in the emergency room of a Roman Catholic hospital.

A priest came by and spoke a few words of condolence and reassurance, then said.

"You are Catholic, aren't you?"

"No," the patient replied, "I'm a Methodist."

"Well," the priest said with a pat on the shoulder of the ailing person, "get well anyway "

COURTHOUSE NEWS

Marriage license application

Roy William Oetken, Cook, and Alberta Marie Humphrey, Nebraska City

County court

State vs Gilbert L Hespen, Plattsmouth, intoxication, $15

News cars titled and licensed

Robert or Doris Miller, Fiat, Newport, R I , Myrna Warlick, Syracuse, Chevrolet, Berner, Louisville, Clemmy Holmes Leasing, three Fords, Holmes, Norval or Diane Wiles, Syracuse, Chevrolet, Misle, Lincoln, Richard W Bond, Yamaha, Johnny's, Esther Wellensiek, Syracuse, Ford, Hauschild

Clinton A or Sadie C Cowell, Talmage, Ford, Pohlman, Auburn, Gailen D or Jana V Bohling, Syracuse, Plymouth, Tecumseh Motors, Randy J or Verona Esser, Ford pickup, Holmes, Marlene or Clifford Saunders, Syracuse, Chevrolet, Strong, Carol D Swanson, Chevrolet, Krum Hallam, Vicksburg, Mich

Cecil M or Caroline Asa, Talmage, Mercury, Holmes, Lawrence H or Martha Adkins, Holiday trailer, Andrew, Clarinda, Iowa, Terry or Diane Coble, Chevrolet, Haley's, Sandra Sue Straw, Chevrolet, Haley's, Ben Kohout, Jr , Chevrolet, Haley's

Gas erupts into a ball of flame

GRIFFITH, Ind (AP) — Liquefied petroleum gas escaping from a massive underground storage cavern here erupted into a ball of flame early today, but authorities said there didn't appear to be any danger to persons in the immediate area

"It caught fire about 5 15 a m ," said Larry Bartley of the Indiana State Police post in Schererville just south of here "We could see it explode in a big ball of fire, but now there are hardly any flames "

Bartley said experts from Lakehead Pipeline Co of Madison, Wis , owners of the large underground vault containing 3 million cubic yards of gas, told him the explosion was probably the best way of controlling the geyser of gas

"There is no danger for anyone in the immediate area now," Bartley added

He said it was not known if anyone was injured in the explosion, the cause of which had not been determined

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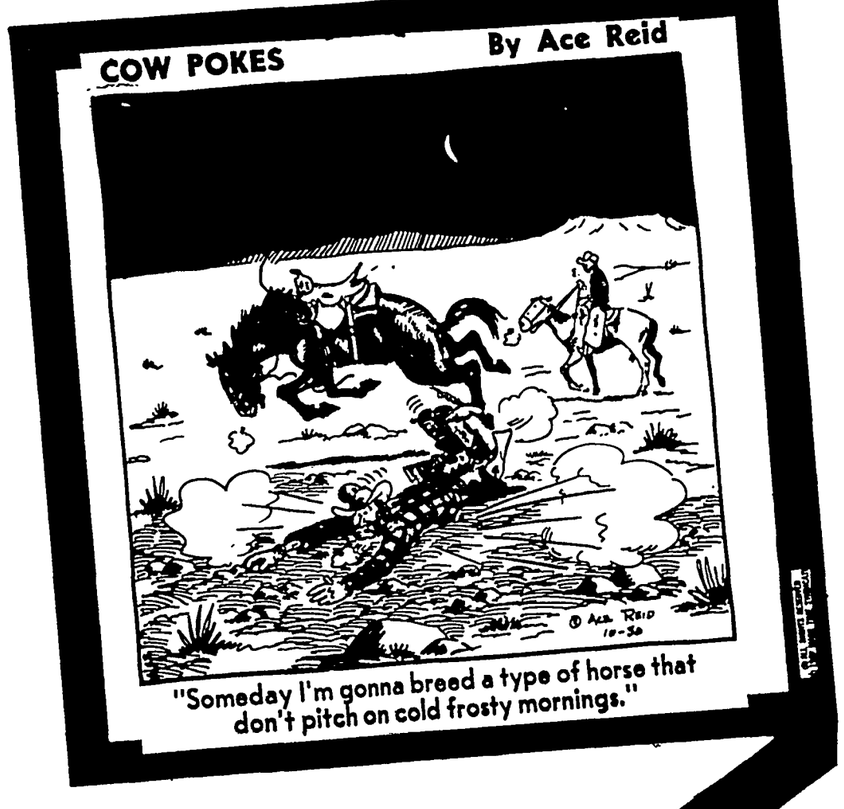
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