

2008 Cemetery Tour

The Movers and Shakers  
of *Little Chicago*  
Saturday



September 20, 2008

1:00 PM—5:00 PM

North Platte Cemetery

Proceeds benefit the North Platte Public Library Foundation

The Ghosts on this year's tour were shaped by the times they were living in: The Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression of the Thirties.

The cast of characters includes the infamous Annie Cook; a female doctor who performed illegal procedures; the man convicted of burning down the Lincoln County Courthouse; a tragic accident victim; the local "Al Capone" and more!

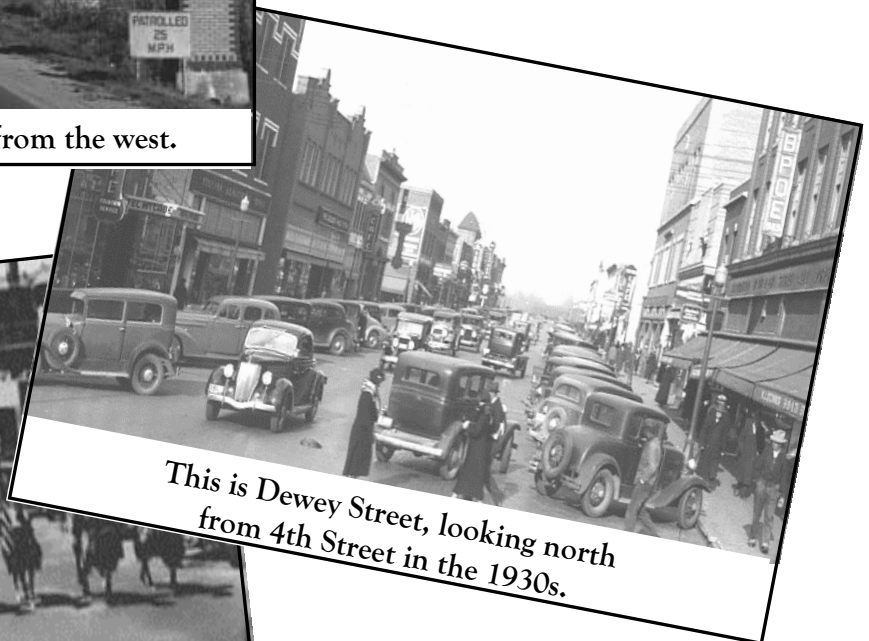
Many of the Ghosts on this tour either did business with the Annie Cook or were affected by the corruption and illegal activities of the time. Some ghosts have tragic stories to tell, but most played a large part in giving North Platte its nickname of "Little Chicago."

Please enjoy the tour as we revisit North Platte during its wilder days! If you want to see additional photos or read books about North Platte's younger years, please visit the North Platte Public Library!

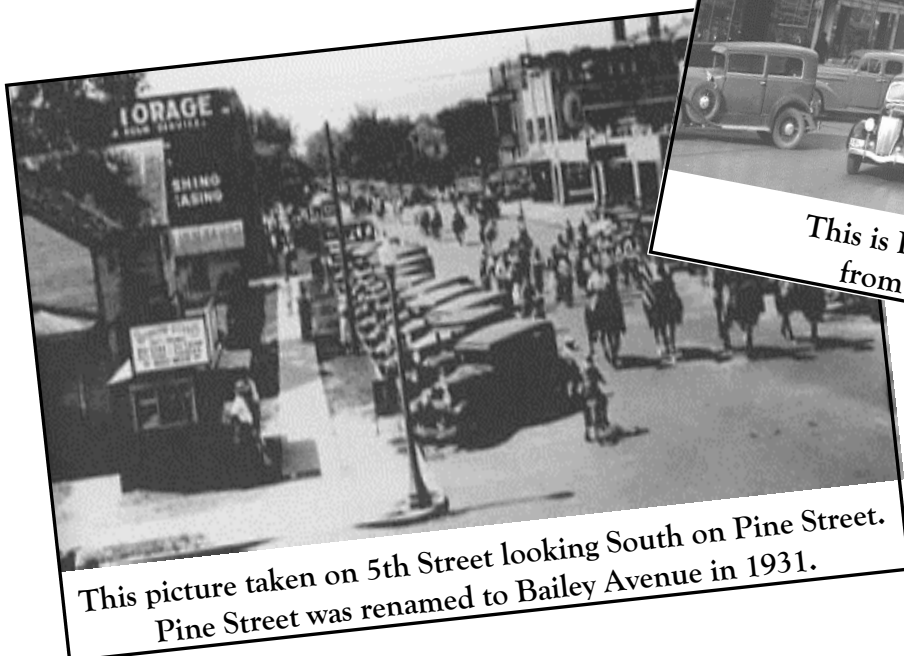
Welcome to **The Movers and Shakers of Little Chicago Cemetery Tour!**



The old Highway 30 entrance into town from the west.



This is Dewey Street, looking north from 4th Street in the 1930s.



This picture taken on 5th Street looking South on Pine Street. Pine Street was renamed to Bailey Avenue in 1931.

# Ghosts and Their Portrayers

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# **Two American Decades:**

## **The Roaring Twenties and the Great Depression**

It was one of the wildest decades in American History. The “Roaring Twenties” was the period between 1920 and 1930. It began with the hope for world peace and ended with the fear of economic ruin in the nineteen thirties, called The Great Depression.

During the summer of 1919, long parades of soldiers returning from World War I marched down main streets while bands played “When Johnny Comes Marching Home.” The first world war had brought fear and uncertainty to the land. Americans wanted to go back to their normal pre-war routines. However, the 1920s proved to be anything but a normal new era.

One of the most notable changes of the new decade was the closing of all the nation’s saloons. Prohibition, the forbidding of alcoholic drinks was the dominant issue of the 1920s. For decades, churches and women’s groups had sought to ban alcohol, insisting that drinking was destroying the minds and bodies of American men. By 1919, the voters in three-fourths of the American states had approved the eighteenth amendment to the U.S. Constitution. This amendment forbade the import, sale or manufacture of alcoholic beverages. Gangsters defied Prohibition laws and controlled America’s underworld during the Roaring Twenties. No ordinance in American history was so openly violated as was Prohibition. All levels of society rebelled against the ban on alcohol. Within six months after Prohibition began, thousands of secret illegal taverns called speakeasies had sprung up all over the land.

Americans were dazzled by an array of new inventions. The phrase, “What will they think of next?” was the motto of the 1920s. In 1919, only one-third of American homes had electricity; by 1929, that figure had climbed to two-thirds. Radio became the highlight of family entertainment. Pittsburgh’s KDKA was the first commercial radio station and began broadcasting in 1920. By 1929, more than 600 radio stations were in business. KGNF, North Platte’s first radio station went on the air on July 5, 1930.



KGNF—located at 1521 W 12<sup>th</sup> St.

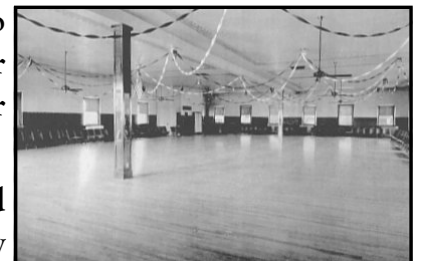


Hendy-Ogier Ford.  
East 4<sup>th</sup> & Pine Streets

The single device that produced the decade’s most revolutionary change was the automobile. Mass production had driven the price down and by the 1920s, anyone with a decent job could aspire to own a “gas buggy”. By 1920, 23 million cars jammed American roads.

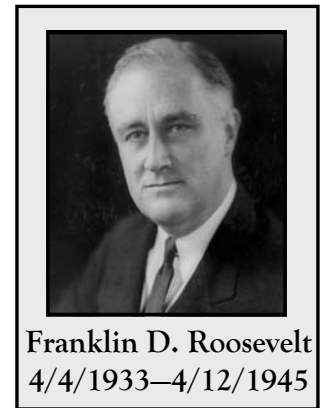
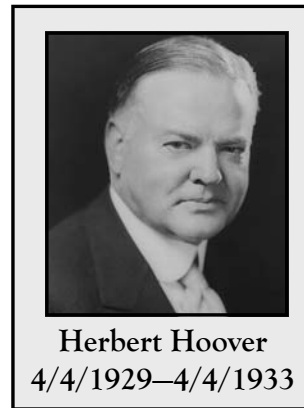
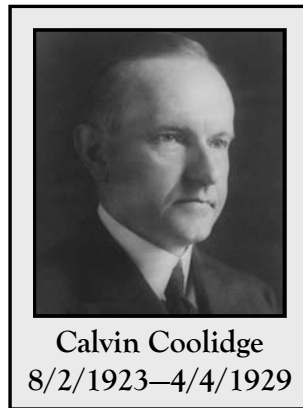
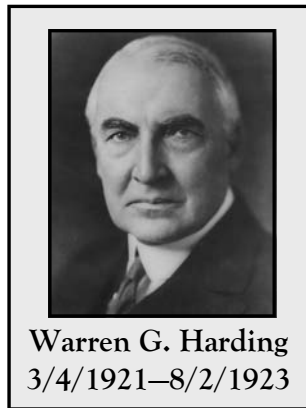
A social revolution began to take place among the young people of the 1920s. Teenagers and young adults loved fast paced music and frenetic dancing, such as the Charleston. Fads and zany antics were a passion with both young and old alike. Sitting on a flag pole and playing tennis atop a soaring bi-plane are examples of the crazy antics attempted by thrill seekers in the 1920s. Young women led the youth craze by changing their attire. Neckline’s plunged and hemlines rose to reveal a woman’s knees. Women who dressed in such a shocking manner were called flappers. Flappers further defied authority by bobbing their hair, using lipstick, and rolling their stockings down to their knees.

Middle class Americans never had it so good. The expanding electrical and automotive industries provided jobs. People had money in the bank; many families put their spare dollars in the stock market. Millions of eager buyers bought shares in the stock market. And why not? Between 1920 and 1926, the average price per share on the New York Stock Exchange increased 62 percent!



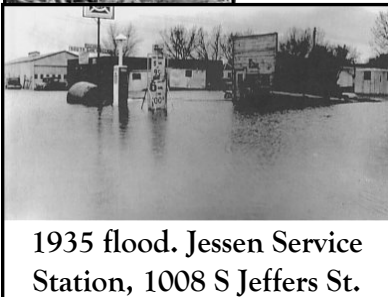
Dickey’s Dreamland  
Ballroom, 1929.  
116 1/2 W 6th St.

United  
States  
Presidents  
and their  
terms of  
office



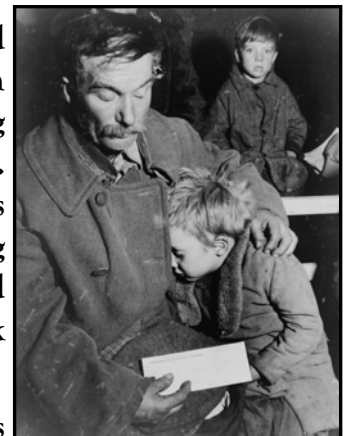
Politics in the 1920s were tumultuous. Warren Harding served less than 3 years and after his death, the public learned that some of the president's friends had been helping themselves to government money. Calvin Coolidge, known as "Silent Cal," became President after Harding's death. Coolidge believed in giving free rein to big business, because business interests were seemingly behind the prosperity the country was enjoying. Herbert Hoover was elected in March of 1929 and served until 1933. President Hoover was later blamed when the booming economy suddenly went bust.

In the fall of 1929, prices on the stock market began to drop when worried investors who had bought stock on credit began to sell. Panic seized investors on October 24, 1929, "Black Thursday". Black Thursday was followed by Terrifying Tuesday, when so many shares were unloaded that the market crashed completely. The stock market affected not only stock holders, but banks. Most Americans kept their savings in banks and when the market crashed, the banks had nothing to give their clients. In one mind-numbing week, the fortunes of rich people and the life savings of poor and middle class families were wiped out. The stock market crash ended the great party that was the 1920s.



By the 1930s, the good times had become hard times. America's boom had collapsed. The Great Depression spread from America to around the world. Businesses were ruined, and millions of workers lost their jobs. They and their families faced a future without hope. Natural disasters in the form of drought, floods, and tornadoes contributed to the poor economy. On Herbert Hoover's last day of office, he was informed that the banking system of the United States had collapsed.

The number of unemployed was between 13 and 15 million. Farmers were getting less than 50 cents for a bushel of wheat. In their misery, the unemployed citizens rebelled. They joined in protest marches. They rioted and fought the police who tried to stop them. It seemed that law and order



Unemployed father with son at a workers Alliance meeting held in North Platte, 1938.

was crumbling across the United States.

Franklin D. Roosevelt took office in March of 1933 and introduced a startling array of legislation called the "New Deal." This "New Deal" was a sequence of programs designed to give relief to the poor, reform of the financial system, and provide a stable basis for economic recovery during the Great Depression. Although recovery of the economy was incomplete until almost 1940, the programs he initiated such as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA), and the United States Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) continue to have instrumental roles in the nation's commerce.

**Now, relive this time period through The Movers and Shakers of Little Chicago!**

# Elmer Baker



Elmer Baker was born on April 24, 1869 in New York to David A and DeEtta Baker.

The family moved to North Platte in 1875. His father (a Civil War Veteran) was appointed town marshal and county sheriff for six years.

Elmer married Mayme Landgraf on April 5, 1900 in North Platte and made their home on 313 East 6<sup>th</sup> Street. Elmer followed his fathers footsteps and began working in County Government.

On April 30, 1923 the Lincoln County Courthouse was set on fire. During the investigation it was revealed that Sam Souder (County Treasurer) and Elmer Baker (Deputy County treasurer) had both been involved in setting the fire.

After a lengthy, well-publicized trial Elmer was indicted for arson on June 18, 1923. He was found guilty and sentenced to a three to ten year prison term on January 23, 1924. Mr. Baker filed an appeal in September of 1924 and lost. He then filed for a rehearing in the Supreme Court as that was his last hope for freedom. He lost the case and began his sentence.



Courthouse on Fire.

Then, just short of his 5th year in prison, Elmer Baker requested a pardon in January 1928. Mr.

Baker was considered a model prisoner. He was a trusted prisoner: granted a leave to go to Omaha for cancer treatments; allowed to come back to North Platte for seven days to attend the funeral of his wife in 1926. Nearly 150 petitioners from North Platte asked that he be given parole as he had always been a model citizen in North Platte for fifty years. But the pardon of 1928 was not granted.



Palace Hotel, located at 210 East Front St.

Mr. Baker finally got his freedom on February 14, 1936 and came back to live with his mother in North Platte. His mother passed away in January of 1939 and in her will, she gave everything, including the house she and Elmer were living in, to Elmer's brother-in-law. Elmer didn't live too long after that. It seems that the town that supported his release from prison wasn't there for him in the end; he died alone and unemployed in a room at the Palace Hotel. Mr. Elmer Baker died at age 71 in 1940.

# Mrs. W.R. Maloney



William Maloney was born in Green County, Iowa on September 18, 1882. He came to Nebraska with his family and in 1898, eventually moved west to North Platte. He made his home here for the rest of his life.

In 1902 William went to work for C.A. Howe in his furniture and hardware store. After a period of time, he got into the undertaking business (funeral home), making \$28 per month.

William stayed with Mr. Howe's business and was such an outstanding employee, that Howe sent him to the Hohenschuh School of Embalming in Omaha to improve his skills. Mr. Maloney was always driven to earn more money and although Howe had treated him well, he switched jobs and worked for the Union Pacific Railroad as a brakeman for 4 years before getting back into business with Howe.

At that time he bought one-eighth of the business and his financial status began to grow. After Mr. Howe's death in 1914 William took total control of the business and made it



W.R. Maloney Co. Mr. Maloney was a very well-respected member of the community and very involved in all matters of the city, county and state.

Being very involved in community affairs meant he was also good friends with Annie Cook. He was a regular visitor out at the County Poor Farm. Maloney took care of many of the mysterious deaths that occurred at the farm. Mr. Maloney was also chairman of the North Platte Cemetery Association and was well-known for his style of "cutting corners" when it came to burying the poor residents of our community.

Mr. Maloney was the original director, organizer and Vice President of the Platte Valley Public Power and Irrigation District. In June of 1946 a dedication ceremony was held at the lake south of North Platte in honor of William Maloney's service. Lake Maloney was named in his honor.

Mr. Maloney, his wife Erma and daughter Maureen lived in the large, pink house located at 504 West 4th Street, which still stands today.





# Dorsey & Burdette Leypoldt

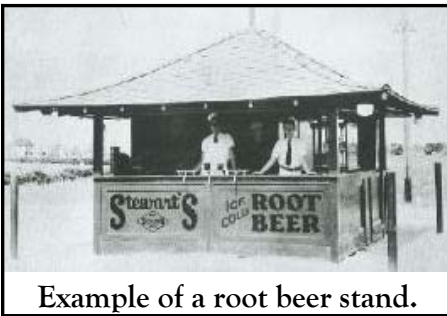


Burdette's NPHS  
Senior Picture

This is a true story of a parent giving his life for his child.

Dorsey Miles Leypoldt was born in Yutan, Nebraska on January 18, 1876. He graduated from an Omaha High School in 1894 and moved to Hershey, Nebraska with his family shortly after graduating.

In 1895 he started what would become a very successful hay and grain business. The business had several partners throughout the years with Dorsey always being the head of the business. He eventually dissolved his partnerships and became the sole dealer in hay and grain all over central and western Nebraska, and eastern Wyoming. Some years, his gross volume exceeded two million dollars. Mr. Leypoldt built the big beautiful brick home on 902 West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, which still stands today.



Example of a root beer stand.

Burdette was born on April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1908. Burdette graduated from North Platte High School in 1928. He was one of the foremost tennis players in Nebraska. He was also involved in football, acting, and on the yearbook staff. After graduation, Burdette started his own root beer stand called Leypoldt's E-Z Park Root Beer Stand. It was located on East 3<sup>rd</sup> street and served hotdogs, popcorn, & soda.

On June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 1931 Burdette was at work when there was a large gasoline explosion. He sustained severe burns over most of his body. His father immediately donated large amounts of his skin for his son in the hope that the skin grafts would save his life. A few days after donating his skin, Dorsey died of blood poisoning. Burdette died a week later not knowing the sacrifice that his father made in hopes of saving his life.



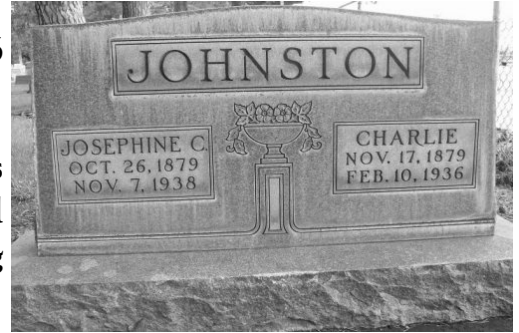
St Mary's Hospital.  
Once on the edge of  
North Platte,  
it is now in the  
center of town and  
the current location  
of the Craft State  
Office building.  
Circa 1920.



# Josephine Johnston

Josephine Christine Johnston was born October 26, 1886 in Iowa.

She came to North Platte around 1906. The 1910 census shows Josephine being married to Chas. Johnston and living in North Platte. The record shows them as being married for three years.



Charles Frank Johnston came to North Platte as a small boy with his family. At the time of their marriage Charles was the manager of a saloon. In 1920, they were the owners of the Ritz Bar located at 605 Locust Street which is now Jeffers Street. Even during prohibition, the Ritz Bar didn't seem to hurt for business.

Josephine was the "Madame" who ran the Lotus Rooms upstairs; Charles took care of the Pool Hall and bar downstairs. Charles died on February 11, 1936 and Josephine hired Verne Austin to run the bar and pool hall.

Josephine continued her business up to the time of her death in 1938; she was 52. Josephine was a very wealthy lady when she died. In her will, she gave the bar to Verne along with her Lincoln Zephyr Coupe. She gave her three brothers, \$1000 each, and all of her jewelry to her sister-in-law Clara Owen and Clara's three daughters. Everything else went to her sister, Sister Mary Barbara (nun). Her sister received quite a bit of land, as well as several postal bonds, which were worth a lot of money.



Example of a pool hall. This picture is actually Lem Bailey's Billiard Parlor & Cigar Store. 1915.

# Myrtle McHugh



Myrtle L. Pease McHugh was born on March 13, 1894 to Joseph Gardner and Ida Mae Pease in Arnold, Nebraska. She was the third of seven children.

Myrtle gave birth to a daughter, Lula Belle Blackburn, when she was only 17 in Comanche, Oklahoma. She was not married.

Aside from her short stay in Comanche, she lived her entire life in North Platte. Sometime between 1911 and 1919, Myrtle married Patrick J. McHugh, a local gangster. Life as the wife of a gangster was rough; and it was he who introduced her to the life of a Madame.

Around 1919 she became the proprietor of the Madison Rooms located at 511½ North Dewey. Life with Pat was never easy, and he eventually left "Mertie" for a one-legged prostitute named Violet Gosney.

While Patrick and Myrtle never did divorce, they ended up living apart for many years. Mertie was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary and of the Royal Neighbors. She died at age 55 on July 13, 1949 after a brief five-day illness.



Prostitution  
Said 'Brazen'  
In North Platte



Unknown Flapper.

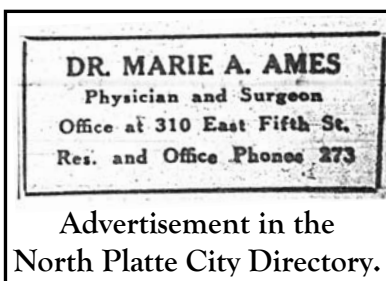
WOMAN PICKS  
CITY POLICEMAN  
—  
SCARLET WOMAN SOLICIT CITY  
POLICEMAN BY MISTAKE  
LAST EVENING  
—  
PROPERTY OWNERS TO BLAME  
FOR SUCH DIVES—AGAIN.  
ST STATE LAWS

# Dr. Marie Ames

Marie Antoinette Sloan was born in Lanark, Illinois, on January 23, 1863. Marie was a well-educated woman who began her education at the school for Christian Workers at Springfield, Massachusetts. She then taught school in Yankton, South Dakota.



After marrying Albro Joseph Ames in 1895, they both attended Creighton Medical College in Omaha Nebraska. They both graduated with the class of 1901. During her college years Marie was superintendent of the Presbyterian Hospital in Omaha.



The Ames' worked in Sargent, Bayard, Whitman and Hyannis before coming to North Platte in 1905.

In September of 1913, Marie sued her husband for divorce. In 1914 Marie was involved in a court case to recover diamonds she gave to William Dolson while she was engaged to him. She won that case, but her legal troubles weren't over.

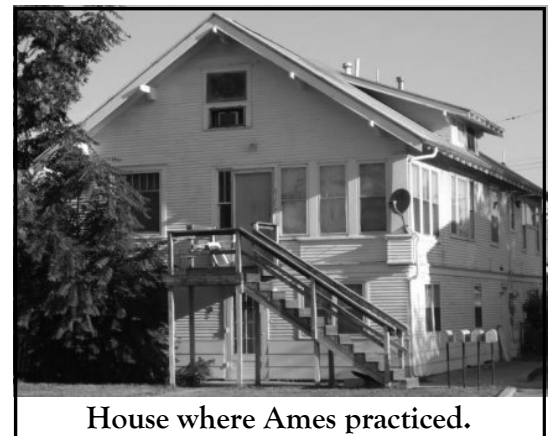
Marie was taken to court for performing an "illegal operation". It seems that Dr. Ames performed a criminal abortion on a lady in Kearney which resulted in the woman's death in June of 1913. On June 27, 1914 the Lincoln Daily Star reported that the charges had been dropped.

Ten or so years went by, and to the outside world, Dr. Ames was a kind doctor who helped the sick, infirm, and ill. If she was continuing her "illegal operations," she was performing them in the dead of night in back rooms.

Then more legal troubles emerged. On November 14, 1927 the Nebraska Attorney General's office filed papers accusing Dr. Marie Ames of performing illegal operations in North Platte on June 23, 1925 & again on October 5, 1927. The charges were dropped when it was shown that she had not renewed her medical license.

Dr. Ames was well-known to be the doctor to utilize if you were running a boarding house. She had a staircase up the back of her house that the young girls would use when her services were needed. The house in which she had her practice in was located at 310 East 5<sup>th</sup> where the Sears store stands today. Today the house still stands, on west B Street.

When she passed away on September 6, 1937 she was survived by her three nieces (whom she raised) and one adopted son, Roy Melville Ames.



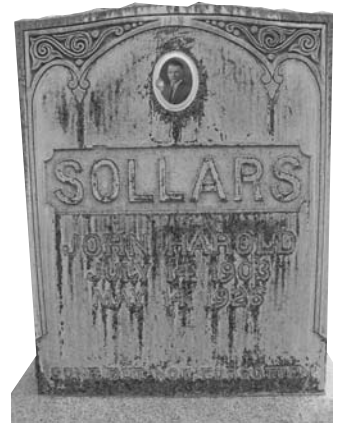
House where Ames practiced.

# John Harold Sollars

John Harold Sollars was born on July 14 1903 at Schuyler, Nebraska.

When he was only one year old, his father passed away. In 1917 his mother and stepfather moved to North Platte. Louis Oliver Kingdon (his stepfather) was the only father he ever knew and his mother married him in 1905.

John went to school through the 10<sup>th</sup> grade, and then decided he'd rather be working. He went to work as a clerk in the Derryberry & Forbes store, then changed jobs and went to work for Higbee & Keyes. [see left]



On May 14, 1926 John decided to go on a drive with Goldie Robb, a local school teacher. While on the drive back into North Platte from the north they came upon a road block with two cars parked crossways on the highway. The men yelled for them to stop. John, thinking the men were drunks, stepped on the gas and sped away from them.

When they passed, the men began shooting at them. John was shot through the back, the bullet entering the lower part of the stomach and lodging in the pelvic bone. Goldie, noticing he was hit and still conscious, helped him drive the rest of the way into North Platte to the Rincker Drug Store where Dr. Wurtele then rushed him to the hospital. He died about an hour later.

Shortly after arriving at the hospital, Dr. Wurtele immediately notified the sheriff's office, who in turn notified the County Attorney. A deputy and the county attorney took Sollars last statement.



They went back to the county jail and were then told by the Chief of Police that three officers shot at Sollars, thinking he was a bootlegger. The County Attorney filed charges against the three "officers:" Runyon, Johnson, and Frohm. Of the three shooters, Frohm wasn't really a policeman, but rather a Union Pacific officer. Frohm was eventually acquitted of all charges because he fired his gun into the air, not at the car. After lengthy, well-publicized trials, Runyon was sentenced to 7 years and Johnson to 6 years, even though Johnson fired the fatal shot that killed Sollars.

# **Lizzie Knox &**



# **Mary Cauffman**

Elizabeth (Lizzie) Louise Petske Knox was born February 26, 1878 in Denver, Colorado. Lizzie was a happy, friendly child who loved helping her parents with their livery stable. Unfortunately, her sister Annie had other ideas.

Annie convinced their parents that Lizzie's mental status was so low that she would never find a husband. So Annie invited Lizzie to come and live with her, promising that she would take good care of her little sister. Lizzie moved to Hershey Nebraska in the summer of 1900 and thus began her lifetime of abuse by Annie.

But Lizzie had a secret no one knew about. She had struck up a friendship with a man from Hyannis, Nebraska named Joe Knox while she was still living in Denver with her parents. After moving to Annie's farm she wrote Joe letters telling him of all the abuse. He asked her to marry. So in May of 1901 Lizzie ran away from Annie's and married Joe in North Platte. They left immediately for Hyannis and a new life for Lizzie. It didn't last long.

Lizzie and Joe's daughter, Mary, was born in July of 1902 which just added fuel to Annie's fire. It was another warm body to put to work on her farm. Annie just had to convince Liz to come back. Finally in 1905, after much trying on Annie's part, it worked. Annie wrote a letter to Liz telling her to come for a visit so she could see her new daughter. Liz, being the nice person she was, fell for it. As soon as she got to the farm the abuse started again. Annie also chased Joe off after he made several attempts to save Liz. He eventually stopped trying to rescue Liz and Mary.

Lizzie and Mary experienced unspeakable horrors and abuse until 1924; when Mary had a chance to get away. One evening Annie tried to force Mary into prostitution. A fight started and Annie stabbed Mary. Mary ran and kept running until she got a ride to North Platte. Mary went on to marry three different husbands who all died before she did. Mary is buried next to her first husband and greatest love, Lewis Cauffman. She spent her life worrying about her mother and trying to figure out a way to rescue her. She got her chance in 1952 when Annie finally died. Mary went right out to the farm and got her mother. After 28 years of not seeing her mother and living just 10 miles away she finally had her back! But the years and years of abuse had taken its toll on poor, little Lizzie. She spent the rest of her years as comfortable as Mary could make it for her. Liz had several medical problems and it was difficult on Mary. When Lizzie was close to dying she asked for one last wish: "When I die, don't bury me next to Annie." She got her wish. Mary lived 29 more years and got her dying wish to be buried next to her first love, Lewis. She also got her last wish.

# Annie Cook

Annie Cook was born in July 1875. Her parents immigrated from Russia and moved to Denver, Colorado. Upon arriving in Denver, they opened a livery stable.



The Cook's had a large family and everyone worked hard, even Annie and her sister Liz. Annie didn't mind the hard work. What DID bother her was the fact that since she was female she didn't get paid for all her hard work. In 1893 an opportunity came along that was just what Annie needed to get her away from her family and start making some money of her own.

A man named Frank Cook from Hershey, Nebraska had came to Denver for supplies for his new 80 acre farm. After striking up a friendship with him, Annie found out that the farm was in fairly good shape.

Annie knew a good thing when she saw it and immediately accepted Frank's offer of marriage. They arrived in Hershey in the late winter of 1893. Her childhood frustrations of being denied money (because she was female) fueled her desire to own land and make money. She demanded power and respect from everyone around her.

After she arrived at the farm, she quickly became dissatisfied with the land. So she devised a plot to make more money, so she could buy the land from her neighbors, thereby doubling the size of her farm and acreage. Once that was accomplished, she still wanted more—more land, more money, and more property. Annie was smart and realized that in order for her to be as successful as a man, she needed to grease the palms of corrupt government officials. Annie knew just how to exploit those around her for her own selfish gain.

In 1896 Annie gave birth to a daughter, Clara. Annie's daughter was just another employee, as far as Annie was concerned. As soon as Clara was old enough, Annie put her to work in a prostitute house that Annie acquired in her many business dealings.

Annie's husband Frank became fed up with the overbearing nature of his wife. Frank was not a confrontational man and when Annie accused him of sexually assaulting Clara, he was finally fed up with Annie. Frank moved into the barn and lived there until he died in 1936.



Annie's life was driven by the almighty dollar and she didn't waste any time settling into a life of what became many, many years of her selfish, greedy, domination and abuse of anyone who crossed her path. Many North Platte residents knew and feared Annie. She was a player in the town that was "Little Chicago."





# Albert Hastings

Albert Hastings was the Al Capone of North Platte, Nebraska.

Hastings was notorious during the Prohibition Era of the 1920s and 1930s, for his control of the North Platte underworld. Al controlled the flow of illegal liquor, gambling rooms, and houses of prostitution. There were no rival gangster syndicates in the area, so Al Hastings was the lone godfather of the underworld.

In order for Al to operate under the radar of the law, he had several policemen and a few key municipal and county government officials on his payroll. If he found out a bar was getting whiskey from a source other than his; that bar was mysteriously shut down and the owner beaten by men in uniform. Al took his cut from every underground establishment he could.

Although many people knew he had criminal ties, he was also well-liked, by just as many people. If you were on his good side, there wasn't anything he wouldn't do to help you. For example, if you couldn't get a loan through a bank, Al would probably loan you the money. Of course, his interest rates and other assorted payment requests may lead to illegal activities. He helped many, many people get a home. However, he generally operated under the "you scratch my back and I'll scratch yours" motto.

On the surface, Albert appeared to be an upstanding business man. He owed Platte Valley Realty. He was married to Lena and had five children, four boys and one daughter. He loved boxing and sponsored Golden Gloves Boxing events in North Platte.

So the question is, was he a good guy helping out the poor man, or just a criminal thug. Talk to him and decide for yourself!



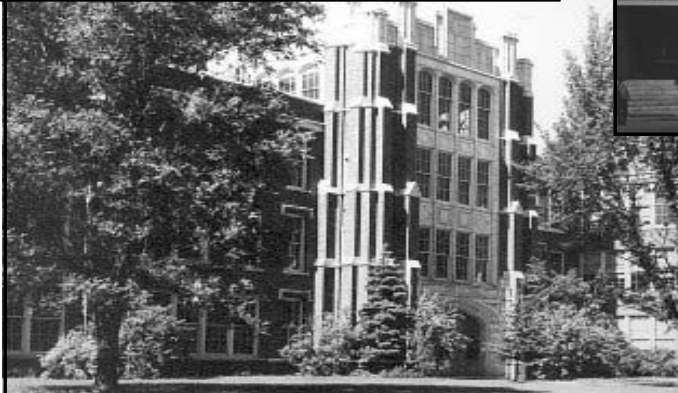
# Photographs from Little Chicago



First National Bank, 603 N Dewey Street.  
Built in 1916.



Swift & Company  
Brookfield  
Butter Produce  
Plant. It was  
built in the early  
1920s and was  
located at 7th  
and Pine  
Streets.



Third North Platte High School, built in 1930,  
torn down in 2003.



An old-fashioned good time—fishing and  
swimming. The location of this is unknown, but  
probably a newly created man-made lake  
from a Works Progress Administration (WPA)  
hydro-irrigation project of the 1930s.

Maid Rite  
dinning  
room,  
circa 1920.



Hinman's US Tires and Gas Motor  
Inn & Storage. Located on East 4th.

This building stands today and  
Sherwin Williams & KODY radio  
station currently occupy this corner.





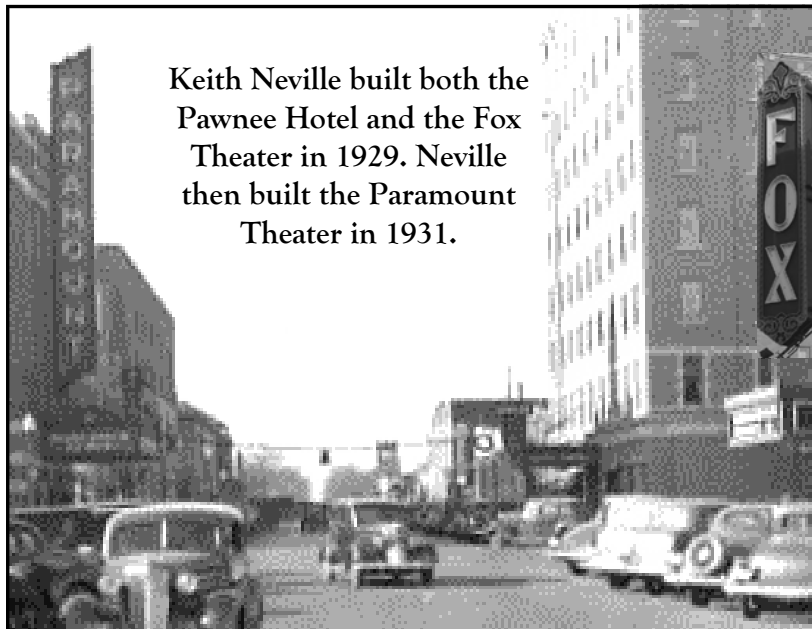
# Photographs from Little Chicago



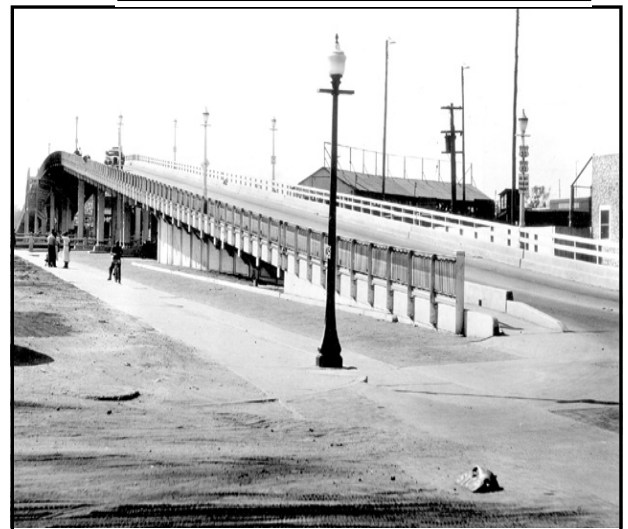
The first police station that North Platte built was located in the Original Town on the North Side. It was located at 420 East 8th Street. This is approximately where today's water tower currently stands.



Mildred Irwin playing at the Alamo bar, 1930.



Keith Neville built both the Pawnee Hotel and the Fox Theater in 1929. Neville then built the Paramount Theater in 1931.



Newly constructed Jeffers viaduct, circa 1930  
Note the gas lamps and the road to the west.

Originally named The North Platte Air Field, the airport was constructed in 1921 with private funds to serve the needs of the U.S. Air Mail Service.

Using fuel burning barrels to demarcate the perimeter, the airfield became the site of the first night airmail flight on February 22, 1921. That flight originated on the west coast when two airmail planes left San Francisco at 4:30 a.m. heading east. Shortly after takeoff one of the planes crashed, leaving the other to carry on eastward. After several fuel stops and three changes of pilots, the plane landed in North Platte at 7:48 p.m. where Jack Knight was waiting to take his turn in piloting the mail to Omaha. Knight left at 10:44 p.m. in a sea of darkness and heavy clouds, and headed toward Omaha.



Noel E. Bullock and his father formed the North Platte Aircraft Company in 1921. They performed aerial programs throughout the Midwest.



# Photographs from Little Chicago



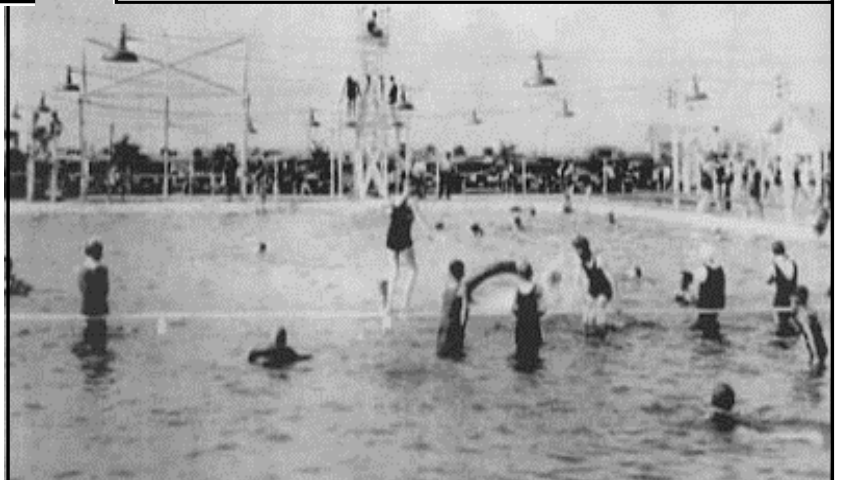
North Platte High School Cadet Band.  
Picture taken on North side of the  
1913 Post Office Building. Circa 1920.



This picture of canal bridge construction was most likely done in the 1930s as part of a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project.



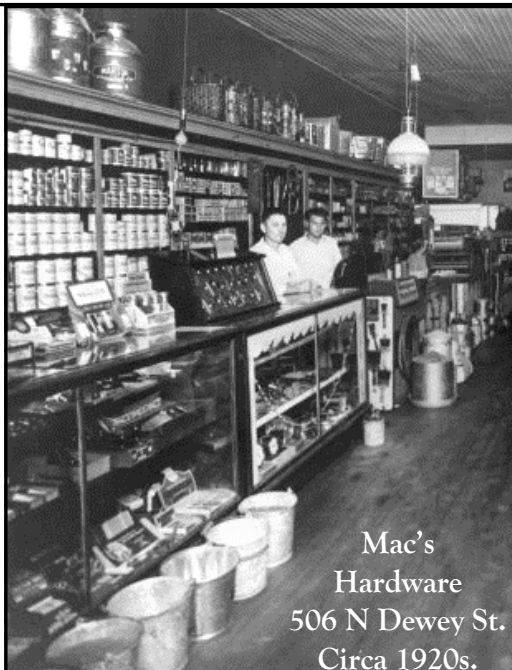
Northwestern Public Service Co. Located at 601 N Locust Street. Locust Street is now Jeffers Street.



The Gerle swimming pool was located at 2000 W 9th St.  
Circa early 1930s.

## How much did things cost at the height of the "Roaring Twenties?"

Beef Rib Roast .....	39¢/lb
Bread .....	9¢/lb
Butter .....	55¢/lb
Chicken .....	39¢/lb
Coffee .....	50¢/lb
Eggs .....	25¢/doz
Flour .....	31¢/lb
Macaroni .....	25¢/3 lbs
Milk .....	28¢/half gal
Navy Beans .....	10¢/lb
Oranges .....	57¢/doz
Potatoes .....	38¢/10 lbs
Sugar .....	35¢/5 lbs



Mac's  
Hardware  
506 N Dewey St.  
Circa 1920s.

## How much did things cost during the "Great Depression?"

Prices for goods and services typically went down because nobody had very much money.

Bananas .....	14¢/4 lbs
Bread .....	8¢/lb
Chicken .....	20¢/lb
Coffee .....	50¢/lb
Eggs .....	18¢/doz
Ketchup .....	9¢/lb
Pork & Beans ...	5¢/can
Potatoes .....	18¢/10 lbs
Sugar .....	49¢/10 lbs
Steak .....	22¢/lb
Wieners .....	8¢/lb

# CREDITS AND REFERENCES

Thank you to the following researchers, individuals, actors, books, and websites that helped create **The Movers & Shakers of Little Chicago Cemetery Tour:**

## ACTORS

Carolyn Clark	Kevin Winder
Denise DiGiovanni	Tristen Winder
Jason Gale	Lynette Niles
Bill Kackmeister	Traci McKeon
Colin Taylor	Vicki Pleiss
Daisy Toft	Sharon Owen

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North Platte Public Library  
North Platte Public Library Foundation  
North Platte Community Playhouse  
Lincoln County Historical Museum

## WEBSITE RESEARCH CREDIT

www.npbulletin.com  
www.mtfca.com  
www.dot.state.ne.us  
www.thehistoryplace.com  
www.northplatteairport.com  
www.stewartslebanon.com  
www.thepeoplehistory.com  
www.21stcenturyschools.com/roaringtwenties

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## BOOK RESEARCH CREDIT

The Roaring Twenties by R Conrad Stein. Children's Press: New York. 1994.

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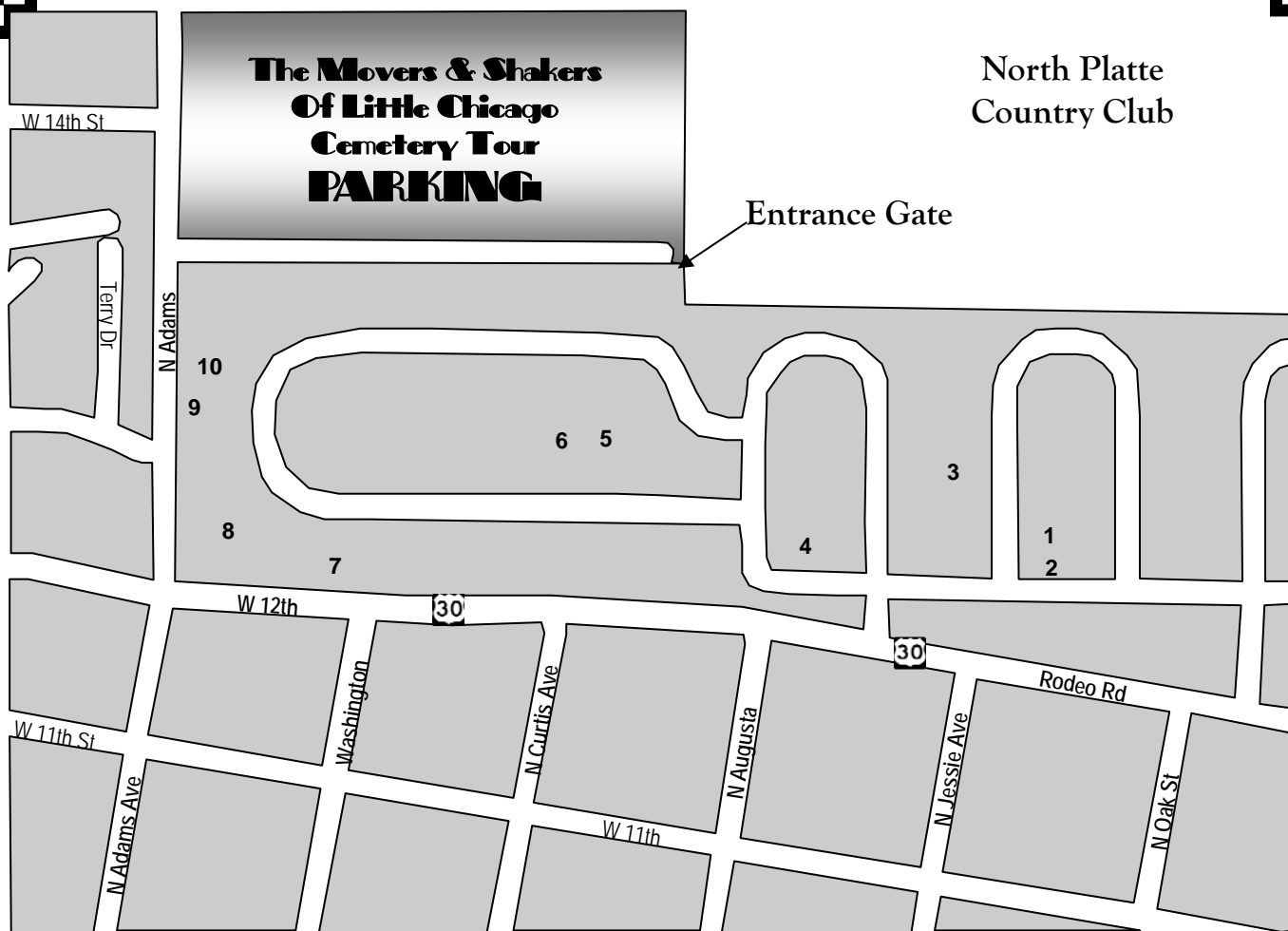
North Platte: City Between Two Rivers by Jim Beckius. Arcadia Publishing. 2002.

Evil Obsession by Nellie Snyder Yost. Tom Yost Publishing. 1991

## ALSO, THANKS TO...

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North Platte Bulletin  
North Platte Telegraph

Railfest Coordinators  
Rachel Martinez  
Sky Seery  
Heritage Images, LLC  
Bret Covington



## Cemetery Tour Map

1. Lizzie Knox
2. Mary Cauffman
3. Annie Cook
4. John Harold Sollars
5. Dr. Marie Ames
6. Myrtle McHugh
7. Josephine Johnston
8. Dorsey & Burdette Leypoldt
9. Mrs. W.R. Maloney
10. Elmer Baker

Al Hastings is not buried in the North Platte Cemetery, but he will be roaming around the cemetery during the tour, so be on the lookout!