

Relief Rolls as Large as Ever!  
Why? It's Believed Due to Drop  
In Demand for 'Muscle Labor.'

NORTH PLATTE, Neb., Nov. 2.—The outstanding public question in the minds of people, I believe, is:

"Why is it, with business good and millions of people back at work, there are still almost as many as ever on relief? Who filled all those jobs?"

A fellow gave me the answers. He didn't tell me directly, but he made a startling statement, and it provided a clue. He was Raymond Wicker, head of the U. S. Employment Service here. He said:

"There are as many unemployed people in North Platte today who are not on relief, as there are on relief!"

In other words, unemployment is twice as large as the relief rolls indicate.

All right, unemployment has been greater than we knew. But if you empty a gallon bucket, it should still hold a gallon when you fill it. Times are good again.

Yes, but he didn't think far enough. What he didn't think of seems to me the answer to the whole business. Could a hod carrier make an air-conditioning apparatus? Could a farm hand install it? They could not. And the bulk of our unemployed are, figuratively, hod carriers and farm hands.

One man started on the right track, but didn't finish. When he said, "Sure, machines have thrown a lot out of work. But they have also created work. I think they've created as many jobs as they've killed. Look at all the new things—air conditioning, for instance. That takes men, to make it and install it."

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## 'Central City' Reflects Nation's Life

No Poetry Desired' Is Descriptive of Town's Materialistic Philosophy

(This is the last article on a "typical" Midwestern small town, here fictitiously called "Central City.")

By Thomas L. Stokes  
Times Special Writer

CENTRAL CITY, U. S.

A. Nov. 2.—The masthead of "Central City's" daily newspaper says:

"No poetry is desired at any time."

This, as well as anything else tangible, symbolizes a sort of materialistic philosophy which goes hand in hand with conservatism.

The small town is too busy earning its daily bread to have much time for flights of fancy.

Sober-minded folks these are, by and large.

They have their share of literary groups who explore the worlds of art, literature and music, but the dominant overtone is prosaic.

ACCORDINGLY, national political policy is translated in terms of its material impact upon the individual. You find the industrialist, banker and a section of business complaining chiefly of the regulation of their own particular affairs from Washington.

While the less-favored individual and some of the businessmen are appreciative of benefits decreed from Washington in the way of jobs, relief or spending of various sorts which has created purchasing power.

Such an issue as the President's proposal to enlarge the Supreme Court does not stir up as much furor as more practical matters, such as the Administration's encouragement of collective bargaining for labor, the Wage-Hour Bill and the undistributed-profits tax, which brings the actual contact of the hand from Washington.

To opponents of the New Deal, the Court plan was just another example of the lengths to which Mr. Roosevelt would go. They point to it with an "I told you so," and echo the cry of "dictatorship."

The rank and file of average citizens have not seemed greatly concerned one way or the other. Any one who expects them to discuss the Court matter when two or three get together, is sadly mistaken.

THE philosophy of the conservative element which dominates the town was well put by one of its spokesmen:

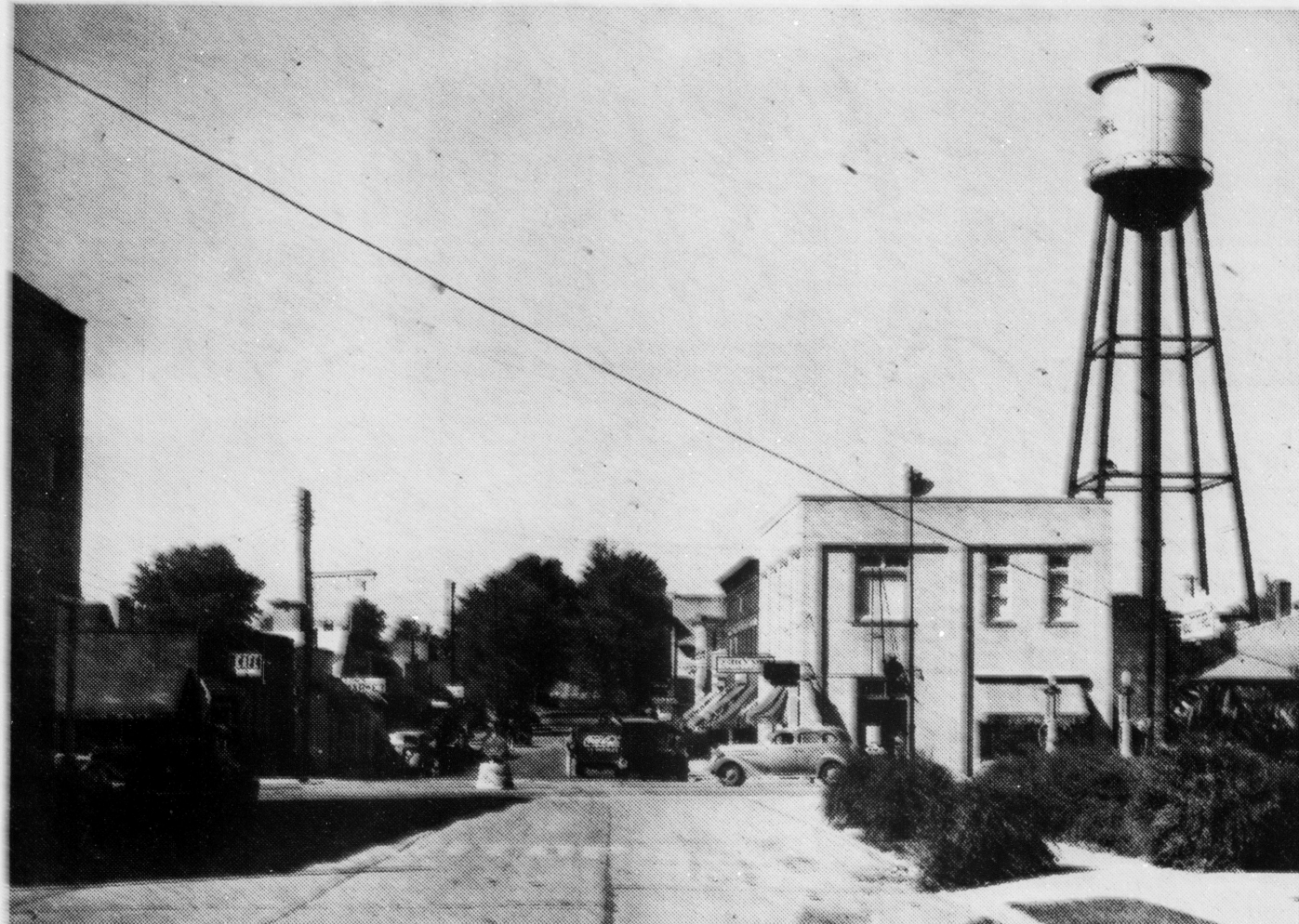
"The people in this town like the abundant life all right when they can make it abundant themselves. Mr. A. doesn't like the abundant life for Mr. B. if it is at Mr. A's expense. He was referring to relief expenditures and other subsidies."

Basic conservatism is the outstanding impression of this typical small town, despite, as has been pointed out, from the stamp of paternalism and feudalism which it still bears. The exodus of its more ambitious younger element leaves a residue of conformists who fit into the pattern without protest.

Its function in the politico-economic-social setup of today would seem to be as a restraining influence, a resistant to movements which are changing the big centers of population. Some might call it a balance wheel, others a "drag" on progress.

The small-town influence exerted itself notably in the fight last session over the Wage-Hour Bill and this will become apparent again in the fight over the same bill at the next session of Congress. By virtue of control in a small group, a control exercised by various economic strings, the small town is better able to resist outside influences.

NO longer is the small town isolated. It is on the high road, in the stream of the nation's life. But in some ways it seems to live in a quiet harbor of its own. The small town still has a character of its own, but no individuality.



This shopping center is typical of "Central City," although this photo was taken elsewhere. Stores and factories once home-owned have been superseded by chain organizations.

uality. The character is common to all small towns.

In some ways it is becoming merely a distributing center. Along "Main Street" in this town are four chain grocery stores, two chain "dime" stores, a chain department store, a chain shoe store, a chain drug store, and two moving picture theaters which are part of a small state chain. Only one locally owned grocery still does business on "Main Street."

though several others are scattered through the residential area. Three of the six large factories are branches of outside corporations, which shuttle their profits back elsewhere.

The town's reading habits are interesting.

THE biggest seller is a weekly magazine devoted to radio, which gives a complete log of programs on every radio station. Next best is a confession-story monthly. The sale of the serious type of

magazine is small. National journals of liberal thought are not represented at all on the magazine stands.

Two national weeklies in which fiction and articles are intermixed sell about 35 copies a week. Only a handful of copies of a magazine devoted to current events are sold here.

About 250 copies of a morning paper published in a nearby big city—a paper bitterly anti-New Deal—are sold daily, with about 60

copies of an afternoon paper of the same city, also anti-New Deal on most counts, and about a dozen copies of a tabloid friendly to the Roosevelt Administration.

The local daily has a circulation of 2700. Its news dispatches are brief and it seldom carries editorials of its own writing, though frequently reprinting editorials and articles from the big city paper hostile to the Administration. And the local paper warns its readers:

"No poetry is desired at any time."

## Figures Show Building Construction Still Is Declining; Administration Action to Assist Industry Expected

By Ruth Finney  
Times Special Writer

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2.—New figures showing that building construction is still on the downward slide have increased the probability that the Administration will make energetic efforts to reverse the trend.

In September the value of building permits issued was 8.5 per cent less than in August and 16 per cent less than in July. It was still one-tenth per cent higher than in September, 1936, but the upward trend in building in the early part of this year, considered one of the most encouraging indications of returning prosperity, had been reversed.

The new figures, compiled by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, show a particularly black picture so far as residential construction is concerned. The value of new residential construction was 14 per cent less than in September, 1936. (Four per cent of this was accounted for by a drop in private home building, the rest by a halt in PWA housing projects.)

Suggestions already have been made to President Roosevelt that the Administration consent to modification of the capital-gains tax for the benefit of persons building residential housing for quick turnover.

BUSINESSMEN contend that industrial building would increase if concessions were made in the undistributed-profits tax.

The depressed condition of the building industry, and particularly of the home-building industry, has been one of the sorest spots of the depression. The Administration has

worked hard to bring it back, but with little success.

During the depression years residential building amounted to only 10 or 15 per cent of the predepression level. Construction as a whole was 25 per cent of normal. Before the depression one person in 10 of the gainfully employed had been dependent on the construction industry for a livelihood. Last year building had climbed only to about 50 per cent of predepression levels, and most of the men still idle had once belonged in that industry.

Figures compiled by the Administration indicate a grave shortage in residential housing and President Roosevelt continues to reiterate that a third of the nation is poorly housed. But so far all efforts to meet these problems have failed.

LABOR costs, accounting for about a third of the expense of building a home, are still high and materials have been rising. Workmen insist that they must have the high wages paid in the building industry because they work so few months during the year. Individual builders and purchasers of homes insist they cannot afford a house if they must, in effect, support their workmen for the greater part of a year instead of only during the time consumed in working for them. Factory production of prefabricated houses, with most construction workmen engaged regularly in making parts for houses and only a few working at the site of construction, has been

suggested but the techniques are developing slowly.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics figures showed wide sectional variations in the state of residential building in September. In about half the country slight gains were recorded in the estimated cost of new homes in September, as compared with August. Gains occurred in the Middle Atlantic, East and West North Central states, West South Central and Mountain districts. Biggest drops were in the New England and Pacific Coast states.

In the first nine months of 1937, as compared with the same period in 1936, building showed an 11.2 per cent gain in number of permits, a 15.8 per cent gain in estimated cost. For new residential buildings the gains were 21.8 and 12.3 per cent.

THE following figures for representative cities compare the estimated cost of total building construction in the first nine months of 1937 with the same nine months of 1936:

Let us hope that the techniques are developing slowly.

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## Elephants Lose Shyness In South African Park

By Science Service

PRETORIA, South Africa, Nov. 2.—Elephants are losing their shyness in Kruger National Park, South Africa, according to the annual report of the National Park Board of Trustees, and are becoming the problem children that black bears are in the national parks of the United States. Quoting the park warden, Lieut. Col. J. Stevenson-Hamilton, the report states: "These animals (elephants) were seen in greater numbers by tourists in 1936 than in any previous season. They seem to be losing their

shyness, and are found more often near the roads than formerly."

The increase of the elephant, which is of course an animal free from enemies except man, is more rapid than is generally believed. The gestation period is 22 months, and in a strictly unfettered state where there is plenty of space to roam and an abundance of natural food, it is believed that the cows calve every two years or so, and that a female in her lifetime will produce some dozen or so calves. There is no doubt, however, some natural check to overpopulation, such as infant mortality.

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Akron	2,858,937	1,736,971
Birmingham	2,230,293	1,172,326
Boston	2,230,293	1,172,326
Cincinnati	4,209,736	2,735,842
Cleveland	2,230,293	1,172,326
Columbus	5,520,649	3,913,877
Denver	6,950,492	6,031,670
Indianapolis	2,230,293	1,172,326
Knoxville	6,780,133	1,534,005
Los Angeles	6,780,133	1,534,005
Memphis	1,335,850	774,145
New York	6,950,492	6,031,670
Oakland	6,950,492	6,031,670
Pittsburgh	6,141,942	9,942,119
San Diego	1,335,850	774,145
San Francisco	12,528,321	15,