

March 22, 1991

SPEAKER BAACK PRESIDING

SPEAKER BAACK: Welcome to the George W. Norris Legislative Chamber. With us, as the chaplain for today, we have Dr. Clarence Higgins, who is the Conference Minister for the United Church of Christ, here in Lincoln. Dr. Higgins.

DR. HIGGINS: (Prayer offered.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Thank you, Dr. Higgins. In continuation of our recognition of National Women's History Month, this morning we have Senator Hillman, who is going to talk about a significant woman in her life. Senator Hillman.

SENATOR HILLMAN: I'd like to introduce you this morning to a lady called Anna Bleyle. I know quite a few of the women that have spoken this week have talked about their mothers. I want you to know that I do have a very wonderful mother, she's still living. And I enjoy being with her. But I'd like to share a little bit about a lady from my home town called Anna Bleyle. Anna Bleyle was childless, but was a mother of many and of love. She saw a need for low income families, and built a facility to enhance hope for them. She died a couple years ago, but still lives in the hearts and souls of many people. Anna Bleyle was born in California, but most of her adult life she lived in Scottsbluff. She and her husband, Paul, owned and operated Bleyle Jewelry Store. She lived in a nice, comfortable home in a nice part of town. When Anna wasn't working in the store, she was performing her true labor of love. On the west side of Scottsbluff, a residential area exists of families with low income in small homes and mobile homes. They call the place Hunts Acres. Anna recognized the needs of these people and, with others, built a small recreation center that gave these neighborhood families a place to meet for family reunions, wedding receptions, multicuture summer bible schools, co-op day care, Head Start and outdoor basketball courts. She acquired donations for a weight room at a time of a major employment layoff, and the men needed to do something besides waiting around the house to be called back to work, or to go to the local taverns. Young people could gather to play basketball instead of being idle. She convinced the city fathers to accept the needs of the area and accessed the area into the city boundaries. When the first annual report, from Peter Kiewit Foundation, was released, along with the multimillion dollar allocation, there was one to Hunts Acres for \$654.58 for a stage