

Buffalo Hunting in Nebraska in 1867

By Minnie J. Gilmore

At the close of the civil war, the territory of inviting field, for the soldier, who upon returning home, after having spent several years in active life, found his business affairs in an unsettled condition. Considered from a financial viewpoint, alone, those years of service for his country, had been lost to the average soldier. Therefore he hailed with delight the opportunities, awaiting him in the undeveloped regions beyond the "Old Muddy," where fertile valleys would provide a home for his family and great herds of buffalo, elk and deer roaming over the plains with the chance of sometimes encountering a band of the hostile "Sioux Indians" appealed to his love for sport and adventure. These "Boys in Blue" brought into Nebraska, a courage and spirit of true patriotism without which no state can become a real factor in life of the nation.

The late Colonel Vifquain had settled on a homestead in Saline county; a bright affable Frenchman was the colonel; a man who carried the honors so nobly won at Vicksburg, with the quiet dignity of a true soldier. A man of courage and strong convictions, as was demonstrated in the following incident. A democrat in politics, Colonel Vifquain was a warm friend of President Johnson and watched with interest the latter's trial for impeachment. When news of the acquittal came, he raised the United States flag over the roof of his unpretentious pioneer home. A little act apparently, to we look at it with conditions as they exist today. But as we recall the bitterness, and party strife incidental to that dark period in the life of our nation, we are led to understand that Colonel Vifquain was a man who was not afraid to let others know where he stood at times when great issues were at stake. Sometimes men of that character are called heroes and sometimes branded as traitors.

The first of November, 1867, a party of sturdy pioneers started west from Saline county on a buffalo hunt. The original party consisted of six men, three wagons and three riding horses, with Colonel Vifquain in command. Following along the valley of the "West Blue river," they arrived at the home of Ellans Gilmore, on the evening of the first day, where their party was increased by an additional number of four men, all properly equipped for killing buffalo, or fighting Indians as the situation might demand.

If the Indians had not driven the game away, they expected to find the herds in two days' time, fill their wagons with the best of meat and hides and be safely home in about ten days but whenever did a hunting party's plans materialize as anticipated? Perhaps the sport would not be so wonderfully enticing, if "times worked out" just as they were planned.

Following the "Blue," they came to the mouth of Schuyll creek, the party turned southward, expecting to find the herds on the divide before reaching the "Little Blue," but disappointment awaited them. Each day brought increasing evidence of the fact that the Indians had already been there and the buffalo was being rapidly driven away. Great care was taken for the safety of the party, although a suggestion of danger seems very unreal to those who drive across that section of Nebraska today, apprehending nothing more seriously than having yielded to an impulse to exceed the speed limitations. Those boundless prairies would have been a "Mecca" for automobiles in 1867.

Nearing the Little Blue one balmy Indian summer's day, our party discovered smoke ascending from the valley. The colonel instantly ordered the men to halt, form the wagons into a circle, with men and horses inside, while he rode forward to reconnoiter, returning in about one hour with the information that no Indians were visible, although the burning cabins gave evidence of their recent visit to that vicinity. Thus relieved the men soon drove to the river, glad for the opportunity of quenching their thirst, from the abundant supply of water after a long drive over the barren plains. A consultation was then held. To turn back meant defeat, with no buffalo that year and the onward march seemed dangerous to all. The food supply was becoming limited and at that season of the year, a great blizzard might at any time come sweeping down from the northwest. But these men had the courage incidental to pioneer life. "Go on" was the unanimous demand.

By following the old freight road until they reached Spring ranch, they hoped to be able to receive food from the ranchmen, but they found the ranch deserted, the Indians had driven the settlers from the valley. It was a lonely camping place, but the best obtainable for that night. Morning found them all astir early, winding their way south toward the Republican river as they passed on to higher lands they were made glad by the sight of a buffalo, leisurely eating his breakfast on a distant hillside. After having spent two weeks hunting for his majesty, he must not be allowed to escape. Both honor and appetite demanded his speedy death. The teams were halted at a secluded spot, and two men said to be the best shots in the party, were sent forward with instructions to get him sure. The way was rough. The men necessarily went slow, and the patience of the tired, hungry men was sorely tried. "I'll bet a dollar they'll never kill that feller and we'll starve to death," was remarked by one man in the crowd who, sometimes admitted the fact that he was homesick. Colonel Vifquain was standing nearby holding his horse. He drew a \$5 bill from his pocket, and smilingly said: "I'll bet this that the animal falls in three minutes," and then, clear and loud rang the report of the gun and the buffalo fell dead. A real feast was soon in order, although

the long desired meat had lost some of its appetizing flavor by having to be eaten without bread. In the distance great herds of buffalo could be seen and the spirit of the true sportsman, was greatly in evidence, and why not? They were now being rewarded for their patient courage.

Perhaps some who may read this can recall the pleasure and inspiration of real hunt. The mad chase, the wild bellowing of the infuriated animals, the sagacity of the horses, trained to follow closed at the herds of the buffalo in order that the rider could aim unerringly at the most vital spot.

One who has never seen a herd of these magnificent animals can hardly conceive of their beauty, as they waded over the great undulating prairies; so strong so symmetrical and so perfectly free were they. And will there not at times come a regret that with all the advantages that modern civilization has brought to us, it has driven from our state—and shall we not say our nation, these great herds of the king of the plains.

The ten days had already lengthened into three weeks and all felt the necessity of returning home as quickly as possible. Going north they reached the Platte river about twelve miles east of Fort Kearney. Here the Indians had also driven the settlers away. They found only deserted cabins until they reached the famous Martin ranch near Grand Island. Mr. Martin had quite a little fort of his own, having 100 guns so arranged as to be fired without stopping to reload. (Please to remember that we are writing of a time when the modern destructive guns were unknown.) This ranch had also been besieged by the Indians, but escaped with no loss except some cattle.

Mr. Martin and his family were used to feeding hungry men and also abounded in hospitality. That was a real factor of the pioneer days and the men who had tasted only tasted buffalo meat for some days appreciated bread and vegetables once more.

Then came the homeward trip, following the old road until they reached the valley where now stands the beautiful city of York. The across the prairies to the Blue all feeling anxious regarding the home folks.

It was a bright Sunday in the Indian summer time. The women and children had gathered at the Gilmore home, a sad, anxious crowd. Rumors of Indian depredations on the Little Blue and Platte rivers had reached them. As the days lengthened into weeks, their anxiety became almost unbearable. The bands of friendly Indians returning from the hunt had seen no pale faces, altho they told of having seen herds of Sioux. A lone horseman came swiftly across the country. Was it friend or foe? Anxiously the mothers gathered their little ones nearer to their side. Then the rider was recognized as one of the party, for whom they were so anxiously watching. Were the rest lost? As he drew near, he called cheerily, "all well, but awfully hungry."

With joyful alacrity the dinner was made ready. A real feast of Nebraska's best vegetables, tender, delicious buffalo meat, crisp biscuits and wild fruit for dessert. Colonel Vifquain, jolly as usual came into the house saying in his genial manner: "Well Mrs. Gilmore I've brought the boys all safely home again." And no doubt to his experience and care was due the success of this "Hunting for Buffalo in 1867."—State Journal.

Typewriter ribbons of all kinds—The Herald carries the largest stock in Alliance at all times. Phone 340

DRINK HOT TEA
● FOR A BAD COLD

Get a small package of Hamburg Breast Tea, or as the German folks call it, "Hamburger Brust Tee," at any pharmacy. Take a tablespoonful of the tea, put a cup of boiling water upon it, pour through a sieve and drink a teacup full at any time during the day or before retiring. It is the most effective way to break a cold and cure grip, as it opens the pores of the skin, relieving congestion. Also loosens the bowels, thus driving a cold from the system.

Try it the next time you suffer from a cold or the grip. It is inexpensive and entirely vegetable, therefore safe and harmless.

RUB BACKACHE AND LUMBAGO RIGHT OUT

Rub Pain and Stiffness away with a small bottle of old honest St. Jacobs Oil

When your back is sore and lame or lumbago, sciatica or rheumatism has you stiffened up, don't suffer! Get a 25 cent bottle of old, honest "St. Jacobs Oil" at any drug store, pour a little in your hand and rub it right into the pain or ache, and by the time you count fifty, the soreness and lameness is gone.

Don't stay crippled! This soothing, penetrating oil needs to be used only once. It takes the ache and pain right out of your back and ends the misery. It is magical, yet absolutely harmless and doesn't burn the skin.

Nothing else stops lumbago, sciatica and lame back misery so promptly!

Mr. Business Man, on your next trip take along some artistically printed business cards. The expense is light and they are business getters. The Herald's job printing department will turn them out promptly. Phone 340 and we will call.

Chadron State Normal School

Robert I. Elliott, President

A herd of Shorthorn calves owned by H. H. Sprague, Sr., was judged by the class in Animal Husbandry.

At a meeting of the Mothers' department of the Woman's Club, Miss Frazier gave a talk on "The Parent and Teacher."

The fourth and fifth grades have been having lessons on square measure. Part of the work was computing the cost of plastering and tinting their room in the new wing.

The children of the third and fourth grades celebrated Valentine's day by having a box. The exchange of valentines was much enjoyed by all.

The Y. W. C. A. girls sold "Dairy Made" chocolates during the art exhibit and realized quite a profit. These sales will be continued once a week, during the remainder of the year.

Miss Delzell had charge of the woman's department of the Farmers' Congress held in Chadron. Miss Delzell gave a talk on vegetable cookery, after which lunch was served to the visiting ladies by the domestic science department.

Mr. Clements was at Alliance to referee the game between Alliance and Kimball.

The hog, alfalfa, poultry, potato and corn programs of the mid-winter Farmers' Congress were attended by the agriculture classes and were full of interest and information.

Mrs. Rustin and Miss Harris gave a preliminary talk on the art exhibit in chapel. Mrs. Rustin spoke of the splendid opportunity we would have of studying some of the famous pictures. She pointed out the advantage we have over the people of a few years ago, and urged that advantage be taken of this unusual treat. Miss Harris, who had charge of the exhibit, explained the price of tickets and expressed hopes of a good attendance.

Miss Clark spoke in chapel on the writings of the Nebraska poet, John G. Niehardt. She gave a very interesting sketch of the life of Mr. Niehardt, and also read selections from several of his poems. This was done by way of preparing for Mr. Niehardt's coming sometime in March. Miss Clark has also emphasized his work in her English classes and in the A. F. P. Society, of which she is sponsor, and has urged that the students read more extensively his writings, copies of which are in the library.

The regular meeting of the Alice Freeman Palmer Society was held in the assembly room. The officers of the past semester were re-elected. The program consisted of studies of five artists, copies of whose pictures were in the art exhibit on Friday and Saturday. It was an excellent program and helped to prepare the members of for the enjoyment of the pictures in the exhibit. Miss Driscoll gave the girls a short talk at the close of the program.

The Normal girls basketball team defeated the Lusk High School girls' team with a score of thirty-three to eight. The two teams will compete on the Lusk floor in the near future.

The junior play cast, accompanied by Miss Delzell and Miss Peterson, went to Crawford to repeat the play, "What Happened to Jones." Though the weather was very threatening, a large crowd attended the play. The girls and most of the boys enjoyed the hospitality of Crawford homes. The cast is grateful to Mr. Leppla for attaching a special coach to the freight, which accommodation enabled the students to get home earlier.

An art exhibit was held under the auspices of the Normal which was attended by large crowds and proved itself a remarkable success. The exhibit, consisting of two hundred beautiful pictures furnished by the Lincoln Fine Arts Shop, was procured through the efforts of Miss Harris, the librarian, and its success was due largely to her enterprise and management. Great numbers of students, townspeople and children passed through the room enjoying the pictures and the short programs which were given as follows:

First Program
Music—Normal Orchestra.
Talk—How to look at a picture—Mrs. Heath.
Vocal solo—Miss Elmira Scovel.
Music—Normal Orchestra.

Second Program
Music—Normal Orchestra.
Talk—President Elliott.
Instrumental Solo—Mr. Thomas.
Reading—An order for a picture—Mrs. Elliott.
Piano Duet—Miss Swedberg and Miss Scovel.

Third Program
Instrumental trio—Francis Smith, Eleanor Wilson and Ruth Wilson.
Talk—Art and the pictures—Miss Amanda Anderson.
Violin solo—Mrs. Mann.
Violin quartet—Mr. Thomas, Miss Nell Durham, Holden and Francis Smith.

Miss Frazier was a recent Alliance visitor during the week end.

At the recent meeting of the Farmers' Congress, Mrs. Rustin gave an address before the ladies' section on the subject, "What the Community has a right to expect from their schools." She emphasized the importance of right environment and the co-operation of school and community. Mrs. Latta spoke on native grasses and methods of improving their growth, in a manner showing her personal experience as well as interest. Having cultivated a lawn in the sand hill region she was able to suggest many useful ideas to those present. Her talk was followed by a lively discussion. Social activities of the rural school by Miss Anna Hoffland was a fine account of her own personal activity in a rural

school last year. She brought out the idea of splendid results being obtained in school work because of the interest taken by parents in the school and of maintaining social activities that were sources of pleasure to the boys and girls. She told especially of a literary and debating society which met each week at the school house, which through its influence, bound together the community interests.

STOP CATARRH! OPEN NOSTRILS AND HEAD

Says Cream Applied in Nostrils Relieves Head-Colds at Once.

If your nostrils are clogged and your head is stuffed and you can't breathe freely because of a cold or catarrh, just get a small bottle of Ely's Cream Balm at any drug store. Apply a little of this fragrant, antiseptic cream into your nostrils and let it penetrate through every air passage of your head, soothing and healing the inflamed, swollen mucous membrane and you get instant relief.

Ah! how good it feels. Your nostrils are open, your head is clear, no more yawning, sniffling, blowing; no more headache, dryness or struggling for breath. Ely's Cream Balm is just what sufferers from head colds and catarrh need. It's a delight.

DAWES COUNTY CATTLE TOP SALE AT VALENTINE

Chadron Chronicle: Tuesday several men from this section went down to attend the first sale of the Cherry County Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association. The wonderful success of this first sale impelled an immediate re-organization of the promoters, so that more territory might be taken in.

Altogether there were 125 Herefords sold at an average price of \$248 per head. Clyde Buffington, of

Crawford, topped the sale with a bull which will be one year old next month. This animal brought \$1,285. Lowe Bros. & Bradcock took two coming yearling bulls which brought respectively \$680 and \$475. Dawes county, with three animals, brought \$2,440 from a \$50,000 sale.

This sale was voted such a success that others will be held annually, hereafter. The presence of the Dawes county breeders, with the classy stock they brought, showed that they might well be included in this organization. Consequently, a new body was formed, to be known as the Northwest Nebraska Hereford Cattle Breeders' Association, and hereafter they will conduct the sales. This new body includes sixteen counties. Dawes county has seven members.

RUNDIN GETS NEW CHURCH

In response to a call from the federated churches at Mitchell, Rev. Walter C. Rundin tendered his resignation at Crawford from the pastorate of the Congregational church. The new church pays a salary of \$2,000. Rev. Mr. Rundin has been secretary of the Crawford chamber of commerce, president of the associated commercial clubs of western Nebraska, secretary of the Crawford school board, secretary of the tri-state fair association, secretary of the republican Dawes county central committee and state chaplain of the volunteer firemen's association in addition to carrying on the work of the church successfully.

BIG PROFITS FOR YOUR DOLLARS

Every one wants his dollars to earn big dividends—if it can be done without risk of losing the money invested.

I have a proposition for any one with \$5.00 or more to invest that combines Big Profits and absolute safety for the money invested. Not a get rich quick scheme, but one of the very rare opportunities that occur in the investment line. Endorsed by eminent bankers, Justice of Supreme Court, business men of the highest reputation, who have not only invested their money but take part in the active management.

Full particulars sent on request. A. L. SUTTON, Drexel Bldg., Philadelphia, Pa.

AUTO GOES OVER BANK

MOTHER AND GIRL KILLED

Mrs. C. O. Hyde and 12-year-old daughter were killed just west of David City Sunday evening in an automobile accident. Mr. and Mrs. Hyde and daughter, and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Fforn were coming to church in Mr. Fforn's car. The lights were not working and a light rain on the windshield made it impossible to see the road. Mr. Fforn drove the car down an embankment of fifteen feet on the main road just west of the city limits. All occupants of the car were pinned under it and many cars passed without hearing their cries for help. It was after more than a half hour that they were discovered. Mrs. Hyde and daughter were probably instantly killed. Mr. Hyde was cut across the face and Mrs. Fforn injured to some extent, but Mr. Fforn was not injured.

When You Have a Cold

Give it attention, avoid exposure, be regular and careful of your diet, also commence taking Dr. King's New Discovery. It contains Pine-Tar, Antiseptic Oils and Balsams. Is slightly laxative. Dr. King's New Discovery eases your cough, soothes your throat and bronchial tubes, checks your cold, starts to clear your head. In a short time you know your cold is better. Its standard family cough syrup in use over 40 years. Get a bottle at once. Keep it in the house as a cold insurance. Sold at your druggist.

Adv—3

Judge and Mrs. L. A. Berry returned to Alliance Sunday following a week spent at Lusk, Wyoming visiting their son, Lyle C. Berry, who is manager of the municipal light and water plant there. The Judge was at Ardmore, S. D., for a couple of days on business and went from there to Lusk. Judge Berry, who with other local people, is interested in an oil proposition near Ardmore, says the drillers are down about 1,300 feet now and will have to go only a few hundred feet more to strike oil. Paying quantities, according to a government geologist there. Oil has already been struck, but not in quantities sufficient to pay big returns. So they are going deeper.

Old papers for sale at the Herald office. Papers are done up in bundles at five and ten cents a bundle.

JUMP FROM BED IN MORNING AND DRINK HOT WATER

Open sluices of system each morning and wash away the poisonous, stagnant matter, says authority.

A glass of hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it, drank each morning before breakfast, keeps us looking and feeling fit.

Life is not merely to live, but to live well, eat well, digest well, work well, sleep well, look well. What a glorious condition to attain, and yet how very easy it is if one will only adopt the morning inside bath.

Folks who are accustomed to feel dull and heavy when they arise, splitting headache, stuffy from a cold, foul tongue, nasty breath, acid stomach, can, instead, feel as fresh as a daisy by opening the sluices of the system each morning and flushing out the whole of the internal poisonous stagnant matter.

Everyone, whether ailing, sick or well, should, each morning, before breakfast, drink a glass of real hot water with a teaspoonful of limestone phosphate in it to wash from the stomach, liver, kidneys and bowels the previous day's indigestible waste, sour bile and poisonous toxins; thus cleansing, sweetening and puri-

fying the entire alimentary canal before putting more food into the stomach. The action of hot water and limestone phosphate on an empty stomach is wonderfully invigorating. It cleans out all the sour fermentations, gases, waste and acidity and gives one a splendid appetite for breakfast. While you are enjoying your breakfast the water and phosphate is quietly extracting a large volume of water from the blood and getting ready for a thorough flushing of all the inside organs.

The millions of people who are bothered with constipation, bilious spells, stomach trouble, rheumatism; others who have sallow skins, blood disorders and sickly complexions are urged to get a quarter pound of limestone phosphate from the drug store, which will cost but little, but is sufficient to make anyone a pronounced crank on the subject of internal sanitation.