

THE FRONTIER . . . O'Neill, Nebr.

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O'Neill Faces a Big Problem

The growing city of O'Neill is facing a big, important and difficult problem. In fact, it might be no exaggeration to say that it is facing a crisis. It is a critical situation resulting from the rapid growth of its population in recent years and the inadequacy of certain utilities to meet the needs of this additional population.

O'Neill voters will go to the polls on Thursday, September 16, to vote "for" or "against" a 48 thousand dollar bond issue for further expansion of the municipal water system.

This is not an unusual problem by any means. It has to be faced sooner or later by every growing community, big or little. The community starts out with certain facilities, such as light, water and sewerage, which are adequate for a time. Then, the city begins to grow and develop, more people come in, the population increases and before long its citizenry awakens one morning to find its facilities are inadequate to meet the demand.

These growing pains, normal in every respect, are faced by every healthy individual or municipality and a perplexing problem inevitably results. It is nothing to be discouraged or alarmed about. On the contrary, it is something to be encouraged and glad about. But it is a serious problem just the same.

Fortunately, in September, 1948, our city has only one phase of one utility inadequacy to worry about. While we do not yet have an abundance of light and power, we will have when present expansion plans are completed by the Consumers Public Power District. Our sewerage facilities have become adequate in recent weeks—only after extensive improvements have been made. Our municipal water supply is now adequate, thanks to a persevering city council that endured 2 hectic years of postwar engineering and construction difficulties to alleviate the inadequacies of an outgrown water pumping arrangement.

Unfortunately, the water and sewerage improvements since the close of World War II have depleted the city's resources. To carry the improvement program to its logical and necessary conclusion, while O'Neill is a city of the 3,000 class, will require still more expenditure.

Thus, when the voters go to the polls to decide whether dwellers in outlying built-up areas will or will not have municipal water privileges and the fire protection that accompanies this utility they will also be making a decision in regard to bonded indebtedness.

There are certain basic needs in the history of the human race and among these are light, water and sewerage. Mankind has had to provide itself with these facilities in some form or another from the dawn of civilization, and, as civilization has progressed, these demands have increased. The faster the growth and development, the greater the demands, and that is exactly the situation in O'Neill today.

Sewerage is a relatively modern convenience. It came later than the municipal water utility. The pioneers had rather unsightly and unsanitary methods of disposing of refuse and there are some families today who throw their slops in the streets; but a special effort has been made by civilized man to provide himself with an adequate water supply. The need of water is vital and two-fold. It is needed for drinking and various domestic purposes and it is also vitally needed for protection against fire.

But, in this growing community, a rather unusual situation exists. Its sewerage facilities now are adequate—for the present and for the immediate future, at least—but its water distribution facilities are not adequate to meet even the present demand—to say nothing about the future.

Obviously, this is a serious problem and it is so serious that the city council has voted to call a special election on the question of expanding the municipal water distribution system to the tune of 48 thousand dollars which the city "ain't got" in ready cash.

Details concerning the expansion of the distribution system are not yet worked out. Most residents are aware, however, of the inadequacies. Yet as long as we are contented and comfortable it is oftentimes easy to lose sight of the other fellow's plight. Certainly the city council can work out the details of the expansion once given the green light.

The Frontier feels that if O'Neill is going to continue to grow, if we wish to continue to welcome more home building and construction, then there is no alternative to giving the plan our unqualified support.

The Frontier knows of only one town in these United States where such a problem has never been experienced. That is a town of 1,300 population to which has been bequeathed a million or more dollars for municipal improvements. The only problem there is how to spend the money.

Babe Ruth was not only a great baseball player, but also an upstanding type of man who was admired and respected by those who knew him. His funeral was attended by thousands of people and his memory will be cherished by the American nation.

Water and sewerage are two important modern facilities which we don't fully appreciate until, for some reason, they are cut off.

Some people say that they are not greatly interested in television. They like to have something left to the imagination.

"Fabulous" used to be quite a big word, but it is heard so often on the radio these days that it is losing its significance.

As this is written, the prospect of a big corn crop in Nebraska is bright despite the prolonged heat.

Society Hears Report on Mission Conference

EWING—The Women's Missionary society, of the United Presbyterian church, met at the home of Mrs. Herman Zeims on Thursday afternoon, August 26. Mrs. Richard Napier, vice-president, presided at the business meeting.

The president, Mrs. W. L. Shrader, is recovering from polio. She has been ill since August 12. Devotions were led by Mrs. Ralph Shrader on the topic, "The Fruitful Life."

Mrs. Carl Christon gave a temperance talk and conducted a quiz on "What Do You Know About Alcohol?" Mrs. C. Donald Vogel told of the New Wilmington Missionary conference, which she attended in Pennsylvania, and showed

ed pictures of the main speakers. Refreshments were served by Mrs. Lionel Gunter and Mrs. Herman Zeims.

Visitors included Mrs. C. C. Hahlback, Mrs. W. H. Briggs, Mrs. W. F. Connor, Mrs. Benjamin Larsen, Mrs. A. H. Marquardt, Mrs. Rose Fridley, Mrs. Eben Grafft and Mrs. Wilbur Spangler.

Entertains Friends —

Guests at a Sunday evening dinner party at the Tom Tom cafe, given by J. D. Cronin included: Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Stout, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Campbell, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Froelich, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Birmingham.

Mrs. Bartley Brennan returned Saturday from a week's visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Porterfield, of Wayne, and also Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Remy, of West Point.



CRAWLING AFTER FLEETING FAME . . . It wouldn't be quite correct to say that things like this can't happen anywhere except in the United States. They can; it's just that they don't. Anyway, this is the climatic finish of the 10th annual baby crawling race at Palisades

Park, N. J., as recorded by a battery of movie and still cameras. The kid who made the best time for the course, which was something less than a furlong, was Donald Samuel, 14-months-old, of Bloomfield, N. J.

Prairieland Talk —

Romaine Traverses Untrod Highways of Space with Lecturing Astronomer

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN — From where the falling snow dusts the pines at the summit of Mt. Wilson in southern California and off in the distance is heard the sighing of the seabird and the ocean's roar comes a descendant of militant old John Knox, of Scotland. Dr. Phillip Knox, astronomer, platform orator and, like his illustrious ancestor, a militant crusader in the realm of science.

He has thrown on the screen views of the celestial worlds, mystifying his hearers with strings of figures that makes the most extravagant New Dealer look like a piker.

Throngs have listened, too, as his simple eloquence has stirred their emotions and for the hour lifted them out of the shadows of earth to traverse the untrod highways of space among the starry worlds. And out there in the center of it all, where the flaming celestial sword points to the belt of Orion astronomers feel they are about to look down an avenue of light that leads to the throne room of the One who has charge of suns and worlds and milky ways.

Lincoln citizens had a week of it and the large auditorium could hold no more.

Parked in front of a public eating spot on South 48th street, my attention was arrested by a Holt county license plate of a Lincoln Zephyr. I waited a few minutes to see who might be driving the car. Presently 2 ladies came out of the lunch room. Introductions disclosed the 2 were from O'Neill. Mrs. A. Washechek and her daughter, Mrs. R. G. Shelhamer. Their visit to Lincoln was occasioned by a son of Mrs. Washechek being a patient at Bryan Memorial hospital.

A Wisconsin woman, 48, has just contributed to the population of the Badger state her 21st child, and dad is 72. But the Russian Reds come in again as record-breakers. Moscow claims to have authentic record of one muscovite mother who had 64 to her credit, 16 sets of twins, 7 sets of triplets and 4 sets of quadruplets.

Neither a good Yankee name like "Evans" nor a rich Irish one like "Murphy" stands out in the list of bolshevik waving the red flag in America. A gentleman with a tongue-twister name common now in the news from Europe heads the movement in Nebraska to make us into a socialistic state.

Norman Thomas, a platform showman in his own right and at present the socialist candidate for president, was in town Sunday, August 22. He had hoped for at least 750 wishful thinkers at his meeting out on the fair grounds, but less than 200 showed up. The 750 were needed to sign the document to get Mr. Thomas on the November ballot in Nebraska but the gentleman left prairieland for New York "disappointed."

Odd statistics: The eggs produced in a year by American hens, if placed end-to-end, would stretch for a distance of one million miles. The British empire is the home of one-quarter of the world population. One billion cigarettes are smoked daily by citizens of the United States. The 1948 budget of New York City is \$970 million dollars. The one-millionth automobile came out of a United States factory in August. Methodists gave out 9 million dollars to missions last year. The average American opens 500 tin cans a year. The Presbyterian board of foreign missions has recently authorized the sending broad of 61 new missionaries. One religious group in Nebraska with less than 4,000 members in the state pay \$250 thousand dollars in tithes annually. There are 256 religious denominations in the United States.

Lincoln is going to have what the city executive proclaims as safety week. Just what may be accomplished in one week to improve the wild eyed traffic situation is anybody's guess. On a busy street there are signs to notify traffic that the limit is 15 miles, but they roar along at 50.

Whether agreeing or disagreeing, approving or disapproving, the offerings of Westbrook Pegler have a journalistic punch that stand out among a mass of commonplace editorial productions of the daily press. In an age of literary decadence as mass productions grows there remains a few with a trenchant pen who entertain as well as inform.

Another Nebraska ranchman was thrown into the dive of death from an airplane. Stick to the saddle pony for safety first.

The experts tell us the dollar has shrunk to 57 cents within a period of 10 years. A cheering word: we thought it was worth only 7 cents.

Sight of Woodpile Recalls Old Times

By A. STROLLER

There's another thing about that little house across the alley which challenges the writer's interest every time he goes over there. It is a wood pile. You don't see wood piles very often in these days of furnaces and different kinds of heaters. They are as scarce as saws and axes, but you do see them once in a while. And there is one—a sizable wood pile in the yard across the alley.

On the mind of the writer, the sight of an old fashioned wood pile has a nostalgic effect. It carries him back over the years to his boyhood home in Northern Michigan. Wood was plentiful in those days and every fall the family laid in several cords of hard wood.

The wood was bought during the summer, was sawed and split into stove lengths and as much of it as possible was stored in the basement for use during the winter. Most of it was cut up fine for the kitchen stove and the knotty chunks were kept to burn in the heating stove.

Sawing and splitting wood are strenuous, but we enjoyed fruits of our industry when the cold north winds were howling around the house during the winter.

That hard wood from the Michigan forests was quite different from the soft wood piled up in the back yard of our neighbor. The latter had been cut out of fallen trees, old railroad ties etc., but the two wood piles were alike in one respect—they both represented thrift.

A lot of timber had been accumulated during the summer gardening season and, when that was over, our neighbor sawed, split and piled up the wood to use during the long cold season ahead.

Cal Thompson from up at the White Horse has been to town and got a double-column newspaper spread when he filed articles of incorporation with the statehouse officials, incorporating the ranch with himself and wife, his brother, H. B. Thompson and wife, all of Boyd county, and Mrs. Doris Oakleaf, of Sioux City, as incorporators. Mr. Thompson is adding to the glittering array of white animated life among the green hills that shadow the Niobrara a "girls' town." The Thompsons have been interested years and have brought into ed in homeless children for some the lives of a lot of urchins the glow of sunshine. The ranch is far removed from maddening crowds and offers an environment in touch with the things of nature. Mrs. Thompson, a former teacher is the one to train a group of lassies while Cal can act as lay preacher and horse jockey.

Cowboy - Banker Abbott, at Hyannis, reputed to be the richest man in Nebraska, had 88 grass fat steers on the Omaha market the other day that sold for \$32.50 per hundred. This dropped into the purse of Mr. Abbott a little less than \$34,000. That is about \$10,000 more than the wheat farmer gets from a body of land comparable in size to that which brings 88 steers to market condition.

It is the considerate conclusion of a gentleman from overseas that American kids are the worst behaved of any he had encountered throughout the world. Can American parents take it and institute at once a course of training? Or are we going to look at it this way: Here has come to our door with a hand held out a our abundance we supply the starving and ragged world; of need, and we have the abundance because our go-getter men and women were once go-getter kids?

After 16 years of New Deal "government for the people" American patriots are in a mood to turn again to "government by the people."

A Denver, Colo., man has invented a machine that mines coal and is said to be the answer to shutdowns of coal mines because of strikes. If government officials can't hoggie John Lewis maybe invention can.

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It must have given him a it seemed, when he sat by his fine feeling of independence, fire and read about coal strikes and coal shortages throughout the country.

GIRL SCOUT NEWS

TROOP I

Girl Scout Troop I had its meeting last Thursday. We started the meeting with the Girl Scout promise and laws. The Gamble store will have on display our handicraft that we did this Summer. At our meeting Mrs. Jig showed us how to use our spatter paint set. We are working on our wood-burning articles.

Our next meeting will be a cookout Tuesday in Mrs. Hickley's backyard. We had a card shower for Joan Langan, when she was in the Norfolk hospital.—By Jean Marie Bosn, acting scribe.

For a Good Time

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Ralph N. Leidy

— O'Neill —