

THE FRONTIER . . . O'Neill, Nebr.

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O'Neill Churches

At this season of the year—the Christmas season, special attention is centered around a community's churches. The churches all hold special services to commemorate the birth of Christ and most of them celebrate the season with outstanding musical productions and entertainments of various kinds for the children of their Sunday Schools.

This is in striking contrast to the custom of observing Christmas in the early days of this country. When the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth Rock, they had a strong prejudice against any kind of Christmas observance. That was a reaction from the forms and ceremonies of the established Church of England, which they wanted to get away from, and they were very strict about it. Thanksgiving was the big day in the life of the American pioneers—that was not only a day of prayer, but also a day of feasting and festivity.

It is difficult for us of the present generation to visualize the Puritan kind of Christmas. We are accustomed to think of it as the climax of a long, busy, colorful season and to associate it with noise, gaiety, merriment, good cheer, festivity, a big turkey dinner and the exchange of gifts, and the season has also assumed a certain religious significance.

In contrast to early custom, religious services are held in various churches—especially in the ritualistic churches—and the birth of the Savior is celebrated with elaborate rituals, great musical productions like "The Messiah" and different kinds of entertainments and festivities.

All this focuses attention on the churches of a community and it is interesting to note how many churches there are in O'Neill. Our churches include St. Patrick's Catholic First Presbyterian, Christ Lutheran, Methodist, Center Union, Wesleyan Methodist, and Assembly of God. These churches are not all located in O'Neill, but most of them are and the others are located in its vicinity and there are others which are situated in or near O'Neill.

That is an unusual number of religious denominations to be functioning in and around any community and the most unusual thing about it is that most of them occupy good buildings and are active and successful. O'Neill has numerous fine churches and they are a valuable asset of which it is proud. As is evident from the list above, O'Neill churches represent several different religious faiths, ranging all the way from the extremely conservative to the extremely evangelistic, and the church goer has a wide range of choice. Interesting and inspiring services are announced and, wherever he or she goes, the church goer will find a cordial welcome.

The churches of O'Neill and vicinity are evidently in both a proper financial and active spiritual condition. They occupy good buildings, they are well supported and their services are for the most part largely attended. These things are always signs of a healthy religious life and of cooperation on the part of the community.

As we have already suggested, the churches of any town or city are one of its greatest assets. Everybody in this day and age may not attend church regularly but, nevertheless, most people prefer to live in a community where there are churches. When people are looking for a home where they can live in peace and safety and rear their children, they generally select a place with churches in it.

Then, there is another angle to this matter. Churches are a safeguard against evil in a community. Crime and wickedness do not flourish in a community where there are a number of active, aggressive, prosperous churches as they do where there are none or only a few, struggling, poorly supported religious organizations. The devil hates the church.

So our conclusion is that, among all its assets and attractions—and there are many—the town of O'Neill has reason to be proud of its churches. They have undoubtedly played an important part in making it one of the best towns in Nebraska.

If all the good will contained in the New Year's greetings materializes or even a small part of it, this will be a better world in 1943.

The churches of O'Neill are one of its most valuable assets. Attend and support them and thus show your appreciation.

The merchants of O'Neill appreciated the volume of holiday business they enjoyed this season.

A. Stroller writes The Frontier that Arizona is getting a lot of much needed moisture at present.

There isn't any shortage of print paper. The trouble is it isn't being properly distributed.

Christmas comes but once a year and most people think that is often enough.

The Frontier feels very cheerful and optimistic about the future.

Great possibilities lie ahead in the New Year.

Our students enjoyed their Christmas vacation.

Strick to that good resolution.

'Any Last Words?'



Prairieland Talk — District to Be Well-Represented in Unicameral by O'Neill's Frank Nelson

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS

LINCOLN—January 3 The 61st session of the Nebraska legislative body began to function in the ornate chamber, second floor, West wing of the state house. The district of which Holt county is a part will be ably represented this session by Frank Nelson.

A few of the Holt county citizens that I recall who had the honor of a seat in the legislature were Lew Shanner, John Carton, John Robertson, Doctor Gilligan, Frank Phillips, Joe Hunter, Frank Brady, Denny Cronin, Lloyd Gillespie and one or two during the period of the populist upheaval that I have lost track of in this mid-century period.

The legislature in session in 1945 cost in employees' pay \$34,623.30, not including pay of senators, 73 clerks, pages and other helpers being employed.

The session of 1891 had the largest number of job-holders on the pay roll, 119 in the senate at a cost of \$26,762.40, and 112 in the house at a cost of \$20,025. In 1935, the last session of the two-house legislature, there was paid to the 36 employees of the senate \$23,980.91; to the 33 employed in the house \$22,059. The longest and most costly session of the one-house set up was from January 25 to May 28, 1943, the cost of the session being \$184,692.98.

The several departments of state government are prepared to ask for a total of \$44,160,312 at this session.

Whether it was a bit of propaganda put out by the hybrid seed corn interests or a mere matter of news, the story comes of a yield of 189 bushels of corn per acre of the mongrel hybrid breed produced near Silver Creek. The hybrids have it pretty well their way now and feel they have done something to agriculture in increased yields. Nebraska corn growers are getting more corn but livestock feeders are having to more and more supplement the grain rations with other expensive feeds in order to bring the cattle and hogs to a condition for marketing. The corn growers seem to have sacrificed the quality and fattening properties of the standard varieties of corn with a lower yield output for the lower quality and big bulk of the hybrids.

With a life time of the accumulated frosts of January 1 resting upon a hoary head there are no delusions when entering the gateway of a new year to look ahead at the unknown. Emotions of gratitude that another year has brought its blessings of health, material needs and spiritual inspiration, regrets for misspent moments but an abiding faith anchored in the unseen Hand that

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fections being those of his 26-year-old wife.

The dog has had his day as man's best friend. What about the cow? From whence comes the bowl of milk set before you each morning? What is it that supplies the dish of butter, the slice of cheese, the pitcher of cream. Out of what comes that ball of iced dainty to add a touch to the cut of apple pie! From whence come the steaming roasts, the enticing platter of steak, the flavoring element of a Mulligan stew? Where do we get the leather for our shoes and the use? These are some of the countless things in every day cows contribution to economic needs. But life is not bound in the bundle of economic need.

If there are souls so dead to emotional rapture that they prefer to dwell on the barren hill of self they have missed the simple pleasures to be found in association with living things.

Of these, there is none greater than the mild-eyed cow, and if you have had the satisfaction of receiving of her bounty morning and evening as you sat on the stool and extracted from the free-flowing udder a pail of foaming milk you probably have come to regard the cow as man's best friend.

According to a Nebraska legal light, you don't have to shovel the snow from your sidewalk. That walk is a part of the street and it is the duty of the city authorities to keep the streets, including the walks, open for travel, ordinances and order to the contrary notwithstanding, and the state and national constitutions will back up you in this. When I was out there in O'Neill during that November snow blockade the householders shoveled snow and paid boys about \$2 an hour for shoveling. It may be a thrill for them to learn that under this lawyer's interpretation they can file a claim against the city and ask Mayor Coyne and his council to reimburse them for removing snow from sidewalks.

To handle the United States mails there are 42,000 postmasters, 127,000 postal clerks, 70,000 substitute clerks and 32,000 railway postal clerks. New York, Philadelphia, Chicago and Los Angeles handle more mail than the entire British empire postal system.

The night is cold. A white mantle lays deep across the land. The rush and travel of streets and highways, meager through the day, has subsided. There has come a pause in the incessant going and coming. Maybe it takes the intervention of snow and frost to keep up at home, a moment snatched from life's onward rush when families are together in the home and feel the thrill once more of the child's joy manifest in boisterous play as youngsters romp from room to room.

A gent with a bad digestion

who has the confidence in his wisdom to come before the public with a book says we have not now nor never had in the history of the world a good government. Maybe not, but the sovereign citizen makes his own government and is pretty well satisfied with the setup.

He finds fault with the railroads, schools, newspapers, banks, factories, grocery stores, and "that no business has been built, financed and managed as it should be." To illustrate he starts out to say a faucet leaks and he can't close it tight.

Any simpleton knows why a faucet leaks and knows how to fix it. Any child knows that things wear out. He is going to have the kids now educated to do the perfect job. At last one has arisen to set the befuddled race straight.

I was wrong—I'm sorry. Do you know of anything harder to say? And if said do you know of anything that will heal a wound and submerge tears in a smile any quicker? Domestic discord, domestic tragedy, embitters many lives that would have been sweetened by a word of confession flavored with a bit of tenderness.

Christmas presents probably absorbed some of that \$51,000,000 Nebraska grain farmers extracted from the United States treasury in the shape of loans on the past season's corn and wheat crop. This easy take has got three years more to go and will probably be perpetuated throughout the uncertain life of the New Dealers.

The fellow whose truck load of dressed turkeys upset and spilled fatted fowl out on the highway doubtless felt there is another slant to that fine thing called the Christmas spirit when he discovered that passing autoists helped themselves to his overturned cargo without leaving their card.

For the want of a nail the shoe was lost. You know the formula—nail, shoe, horse, rider, battle and kingdom lost, "and all for the want of a horse shoe nail." The horse shoe nail has been replaced by the spare tire, but maybe the moral of the importance of little things needs reemphasis.

City stores, having garnered a rich take in December, demand of the printers the blackest type in the plant for the line across the top of the page announcing a clearance sale of what's left after Christmas. And with all the holiday buying, there is plenty left in all the stores.

The spenders in Washington have found a new outlet. The government is to finance shooting a rocket at the moon at an undetermined date with a three-year limit. We have knocked over Hitler, Mussolini and the Jap war lords; will now try our luck at the man in the moon.

A police officer down in Oklahoma was acquitted for shooting down a Nebraskan on the grounds he shot in self defense. The officer said he fired one shot "in self defense, not aiming his pistol at anyone." If nothing to shoot at, of what was he defending himself?

Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart; and in the sight of thine eyes; but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment.—Ecclesiastes 11:9.

The cost in dollars to the U. S. of the late war is computed to have been 350 billions, enough to build a 5-room house for every family on earth and put up a million dollar hospital in every city over 5,000.

In police court—exceeding the speed limit, fined \$35 and cost; driving while intoxicated, fined \$10 and costs and driver's license suspended, for six months; causing death on highway, unavoidable accident, case dismissed.

That haughty little magazine with the "world's largest circulation" may put you wise to the goings-on of the smart ones, but it's your local community paper that keeps you informed on how your neighbors are making out.

Attending a book review is one way of killing time.

(Continued on page 6)

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