

MRS. ETTA M. COLE KEEPS SCRAPBOOK

Charles V. Cole, of Star, was the first Holt county citizen to manifest an interest in The Frontier's proposal to issue a Diamond Jubilee Edition. He brought to this office the scrapbook his mother had made containing clippings of her writings that had been published in many papers and magazines. The late Etta M. Cole was a prolific and talented writer.

The following picture of the hay country written by Mrs. Cole is taken from the collection of many beautiful things she had written and preserved in scrapbook form:

In the Hay Country

"For years past I have preached to the rising generation with pen and tongue the value of home-making and the importance of holding the land of our fathers for generations for the upbuilding of the home. In an overland trip last fall up the wonderful Elkhorn valley I was more impressed with these thoughts than ever before. We passed the night at Newport, the largest shipping point for wild hay in the world. Last year from that point 2,236 carloads of hay and nine cars of butterfat were shipped. Basset, eleven miles to the West, shipped 807 cars of hay and twenty-three cars of butterfat.

"I learned that the greater part of this hay is marketed by the renter—who, with his family, gets down into the valley in some way and rents 160 acres, for which he pays the average sum of \$500.

"In some cases he has his own teams, but if not he buys teams, mowers, rakes and a stacker. The hay is stacked, baled and delivered on the track for \$6.50 a ton. After all expenses are paid he has, perhaps, a few dollars left. These renters live as they can, in wagons, tents, or in the shade of the boxcars on the sidetrack. They seem to know only one thing, and that is hay.

"Between the towns of Newport and Basset the public road is almost one continuous grade. There are fourteen bridges on this road and many galvanized culverts between. As far as the eye can see there is nothing but hay. Occasionally there is an old timber claim with trees planted eighteen inches apart. But where is the man that planted them, or even his children? They have gone. It is not the land of homes, but it could be made so very easily.

"Fifty more years will be required to bring this strip of country into the Holland of the United States.

"Some man, more far-seeing than the others, has scattered red and white clover and timothy seed over a few acres, and how it does thrive with great thrifty, green leaves and proud headed bloom stalks. Along the roadside I saw sweet clover six feet high, fragrantly

Charley Downey Drives Niobrara Stage



Two miles South of the old Star postoffice stood this homestead abode (above) where Sumner Downey, (right), widely known O'Neill photographer, was born. Downey's father operated a stage line between Niobrara and O'Neill. Today, art work from the O'Neill Photo Co.—operated by Sumner Downey and his wife—reaches eight states.



Minneola, Star, Stoney Butte and Niobrara were linked to O'Neill at an earlier period by a stage line operated by Charley Downey, father of Sumner Downey of the O'Neill Photo Co.

Niobrara, once the gateway to all of North Nebraska, nestles in picturesque surroundings in sight of the Missouri and Niobrara rivers, 52 miles Northeast of O'Neill. Downey's stages maintained daily traffic to the points on the route.

The government land office was then located in Niobrara and thus drew many prospective settlers from the homestead areas to the South and West. This made stage business worthwhile.

Mr. Downey also operated a line to Creighton from O'Neill and took mail contracts to outlying postoffices.

After discontinuing the stage routes, Mr. Downey settled with his family in O'Neill and carried on with an insurance agency for a quarter of a century, removing from here to Missouri and until his recent death he made his home with a daughter at Blair.

One son, Lee Downey, is a prominent official of the Burlington railroad with offices in Denver, Colo. He was the Burlington agent here for a number of years, promoted to freight agent at Hastings, and from there he went to Denver.

Two miles South of the old Star postoffice stood the homestead abode shown in the picture where Sumner was born 12 days before the great blizzard of January 12, 1888. He has grown up with the developments in Holt county. Finding education something of a bore, he launched into activities after coming out of grade

school. Sumner Downey and his wife are the owners of the O'Neill Photo Co. and give it their personal supervision. It has been developed into an institution that is in the first ranks of O'Neill business enterprises reaching out into an extensive territory comprising a number of states and has a yearly photograph business of \$225,000, employing 25 helpers in the O'Neill studio, factory and shipping rooms.

A smiling little gent, right out of the beau-monde, came to the frontier town of O'Neill, opened up McCoy's photograph gallery in a little shack on lower Fourth street where a lumber yard now functions.

This was in the early years of the '80s and nobody was much interested in having their "picture took" and Mr. McCoy didn't do so well. A. H. Corbett was extracting to add to his income took over teeth with or without pain and the photographer's limited outfit and devoted his time between the camera and dental chair.

Out of this pioneer beginning has grown here in O'Neill an art work that has reached into most of Nebraska, Wyoming, Montana, the Dakotas, Iowa, Kansas and Colorado.

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M. F. HARRINGTON WINS LAW LAURELS

The night passenger train wheezed to a stop at the old Fremont, Elkhorn & Mo. Valley depot. Among the passengers to disembark and join the others on the foot path leading up to the Potter House was a young man with serious face and well-shaped head crowned with a cluster of black hair.

Another newcomer to O'Neill setting out on the uncertain trail pointing toward the rainbow of life's worthwhile achievements, if you don't trip up on the way.

How many have set out in the bloom of youth with spirits fired to reach the goal of crimson glory only to be swallowed up in the darkness of despair?

The young man deposited his one traveling bag on the floor at the hotel, registered his name in bold script: "Michael F. Harrington"—just in from Southeastern Canada points.

And so that night there rested in O'Neill a keen-minded young Irishman destined to be one of the state's ablest lawyers. And from that night in the middle '80s until his death a few years ago O'Neill was the home of Mr. Harrington, excepting for a short period in Atkinson before permanently locating in O'Neill.

His first law office was a little white building that had once housed the Banner, a short-lived publication of uncertain circulation under the guidance of G. M. Cleveland, who after abandoning the pursuit of disappointed hopes through the medium of a paper took to law and took Mr. Harrington in as an associate for a time. Harrington's ability soon marked him for leadership not only in the practice of law but in political councils and other matters.

In earlier years he joined the sizable procession of loan agents and advertised one million dollars to loan on Holt county real estate. Then in later years, his law business demanding all his time, probably about a million was "loaned" out of his own pocket that was never paid back.

As a lawyer he was in demand all over Nebraska and other states. First a democrat, then a populist, then a Teddy Roosevelt republican, what he had to say in political affairs was given heed. Mr. Harrington married and reared a family in O'Neill. Two sisters, two brothers and his father became citizens here also, one brother, J. J., still a resident of O'Neill. Mr. Harrington's mother died before the family came to O'Neill.

One of Mr. Harrington's important law suits was the action of Brown county against the railroad for taxes that had been paid to Holt county at a time when Holt county was claiming about everything west to the Wyoming line for

taxation and census purposes. Brown county having been organized out of unorganized territory didn't quite like the idea of some 15,000 dollars getting away from them that had been paid by the railroad to Holt county covering valuations in the new county of Brown.

Mr. Harrington was the legal council in many important law suits, was sought after for advice on many matters, was generous to a fault and perhaps the biggest thing he ever did for his neighbors was to turn over to a failed O'Neill bank a large sum of money he had received as his fee in a famous lawsuit that the depositors might receive another pro-rata payment.

HOLD CAMPFIRE

At the home of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Halloran, near Inman, a few members of Mr. Halloran's regiment that served in the Civil War held a campfire on October 13, 1892. Colonel Strong of Omaha, in whose regiment the men at the campfire had served, was the guest of honor, and in his address he singled out those present who were in his regiment and said they had been great soldiers. These were Mr. Halloran, James Whitehead, John Kent and Patrick Gabagan. Others at the campfire were Reverend De LaMaster, W. D. Mathews and Col. A. L. Towle.

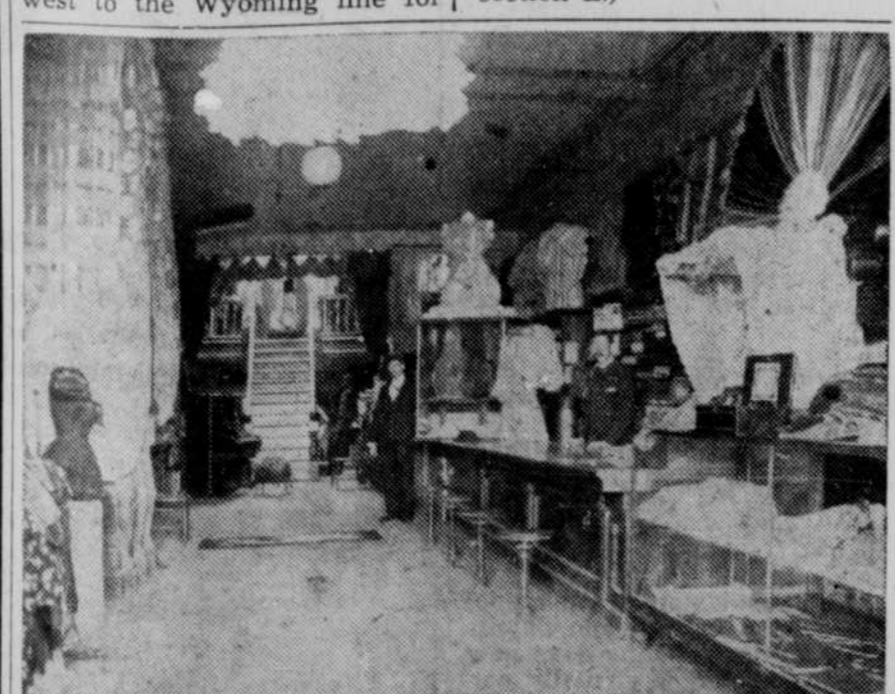
EDITORIAL COMMENT

Holt county is the Garden of Eden of Nebraska, and O'Neill is the center and countyseat of the above-named county.—O'Neill Banner.

We suppose that is why Satan makes it his headquarters, and such a crop of hell is raised to the acre.—Madison Chronicle.



SECOND IN COMMAND... First Lt. Charles E. Hall (above), of O'Neill, was second in command of Company F as it entrained for the war with Spain. (Story on page 1, section E.)



FIRST DEPARTMENT STORE... This is a view of the interior of the Mann store. It was J. P. Mann who developed the first department store in O'Neill in about 1893. (For story of Mann family turn to page 1, section F.)

A CORRECTION

It appears at the head of the story of the ministry of Rev. N. S. Lowrie, written by his son, Rev. W. J. (Will) Lowrie, that he is located in Lincoln. Will's address is Brainerd, Minn., rural Rt. 5, and he would like to hear from any O'Neill friends.—Editor.

The surface of the Everglades is less than 20 feet above sea level.

The first printed colored advertisement was for a rug.

W. F. FINLEY, M. D.
OFFICE PHONE: 28
First National Bank Bldg.
O'NEILL

Certain moths cannot fly until they have reached "flight temperature" by energetically vibrating their wings.

THE NEWEST DEVELOPMENT
IN A CENTURY OF
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DENOMA
Diamonds

WITH THE
PATENTED
NEW

NOW YOUR WEDDING BAND AND
ENGAGEMENT RING STAY LINED-
UP WITHOUT TWISTING.

The DENOMA Feature-Lock
keeps your matching rings
together... Lined-up so
they look their loveliest!
Rings may be worn separate-
ly... nothing sticks
out to tear your hose or
gloves... Yet this wonder-
ful DENOMA feature
costs you nothing extra.

\$300.00*

Feature Lock

\$300.00*

\$250.00*

\$200.00*

\$150.00*

*20% Federal Tax Included

Presenting...
THE NEW STERLING PATTERN

Gorham Melrose

This lovely new pattern, created by Gorham craftsmen, was inspired by the ever-beautiful Melrose plantation in Natchez, Mississippi. Its perfect design... its luxurious heaviness capture the romance of old Natchez in fine sterling silver you will enjoy using today and everyday. Drop in and see the new Gorham MELROSE today.

\$32.00
per place-setting
including Fed. Tax

ON DISPLAY

LEFT—
DIANA \$397.50
17 Jewels

RIGHT—
SUSAN \$593.00
17 Jewels

PRICES INCLUDE FEDERAL TAX

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BULOVA
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"Where Price and Quality Meet"

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O'NEILL!!

Put a **NEW Sparkle**
In Your Summer Clothes!

SEND THEM TO O'NEILL CLEANERS TODAY!

The O'NEILL Cleaners
Will Revitalize Your Summer

SHIRTS
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BLOUSES

And Your Every Garment Will Receive Individual Attention
and Personal Care When They Are
Cleaned and Pressed for

- New Beauty
- Extra Wear

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O'Neill Dry Cleaners
We Call For and Deliver Phone 30