



BIG JIM MEETS HIS MATCH . . . James E. "Big Jim" Folsom, governor of Alabama with aspirations toward the presidency, found a man his size when he entered the conference room for the closed session of the southern governors' conference. He was surpassed in physique by Capt. Reid Clifton of the Florida highway patrol, whose 305 pounds and 6 feet 6 inches overshadowed the Alabama governor's 250 pounds and 6 feet 8 inches.

Out of Old Nebraska —

Only One of State's Early Colleges Still Exists

There was no lack of opportunity for higher education in territorial Nebraska—on paper, that is.

Within two years from the time the first legal settler entered Nebraska the territorial legislature had chartered seven institutions of higher learning. Before the territorial period was over, a total of 13 such institutions had been provided for—more than half the total number of colleges universities and junior colleges in the state today.

Of all these early institutions only one exists today in any form whatever—the Peru Seminary and college, which developed into the present state teachers' college at Peru.

Most of the others never got beyond the stage of glorious planning. The few which actually had doors to open soon were forced to close them again in face of meager population and uncertain financial support. Indeed, a good many

of those early towns which once had visions of becoming great educational centers are not even indicated on present-day maps. Some of them faded quickly in the rapidly changing fortunes of the frontier. Just 10 years after the charter of Nemaha university at Archer, for example, the townsite was vacated by act of the legislature.

There were a number of reasons for this great, if abortive, interest in higher education on the part of Nebraska's territorial pioneers. Each new town, of course, felt that an institution of higher learning would help attract settlers, and thus was essential to development. Then, too, some of the colleges were established as purely speculative enterprises. It seemed that virtually everyone was speculating in one thing or another during the early territorial period and there was no reason why higher education should have been overlooked. As speculative enterprises, it need not be stated, the colleges and universities were dismal failures.

The basic reason, though, for the founding of so many colleges and universities was the deep interest in higher education abiding in the minds of many of the prominent pioneers.

A rather considerable number of those who assumed leadership in the new territory were young men just out of college — J. Sterling Morton, Thomas B. Cuming, A. J. Poppleton, Robert W. Furnas, and others — and were concerned that Nebraska should early come under the influence of institutions of higher education and that the young people of Nebraska be given every opportunity for college training here at home.

The interest of leading pioneers was shared by many humbler citizens. Many an overland wagon carried among those things it lugged so laboriously across the plains more than a goodly portion of books.

STATE FIRE LOSSES NEARLY \$4,000,000

The state fire marshal's office said recently that fire chiefs of the state reported 1,977 fires with a total loss of \$3,989,796 for 1947 as compared with 1,943 fires and \$3,833,730 loss the previous year.

Insurance companies in their reports told of 4,657 fires reported to them with losses paid amounting to \$2,685,428. The previous year they had reported 4,072 fires and \$2,116,591 loss. The insurance company reports include fires that were extinguished without aid and rural fires where cities were not notified.

Deaths as the result of fires for the year were 73 as compared with 69 the previous year and injuries were 102 compared with 115.

Rural fires reported numbered 446 with a loss of \$724,292 as compared with 438 and \$901,388 the year previous.

Ak-Sar-Ben Sponsors Arbor Tree-Planting

Thousands of 4-H club members in Nebraska will take part in a statewide tree planting "bee" on Arbor day, April

22, as a part of a new project to encourage soil conservation and to help beautify their state.

The movement is being sponsored by the Knights of

Ak-Sar-Ben, of Omaha, who have agreed to provide one large healthy specimen tree of a type adapted to the locality of each of the 2,009 achievement clubs which completes reorganization for 1948 on or before March 15.

The trees will be planted on public grounds, such as parks, fairgrounds, school or church grounds.

In selecting the site, Ak-Sar-Ben has suggested to club members and leaders that allowance be made for extension of the project through the donation of additional trees, either this spring or in future years.

Plans for the program were worked out by Ak-Sar-Ben officials in conjunction with L.

I. Frisbie, state 4-H club leader, and Earl G. Maxwell, extension forester at the University of Nebraska college of agriculture. The trees will be selected by Mr. Maxwell and shipped to each county agricultural agent for the qualified clubs in his county, with the compliments of Ak-Sar-Ben.

"This project is unusually valuable for Nebraska because it will not only encourage the general planting of trees in a state which badly needs them, but will also result in 4-H club members and leaders learning more about the planting and growing of trees," said Mr. Maxwell.

Trees to be furnished by Ak-Sar-Ben include the following types: Hackberry, Mo-line elm, American elm, Linden, Kentucky coffee, thornless honey locust, buckeye, wild black cherry, green ash, bur oak, red oak, pin oak and Dolgo crab.

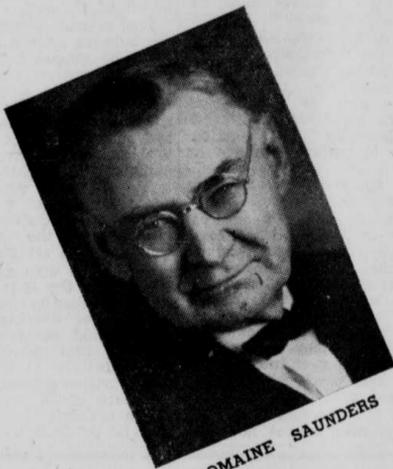
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NEWSPAPER . . . AND THE FRONTIER
LEADS THE FIELD



ROMAINE SAUNDERS

PRAIRIELAND TALK

HUNDREDS of oldtimers and lots of young readers turn first to "Prairieland Talk." Its author, Romaine Saunders (now residing in Lincoln) is a veteran Holt county newspaper man and a seasoned observer of the passing scene. He mingles sentiment with a lot of good common sense and "Prairieland Talk" emerges as one of the best personal columns in the state's press.

THE FRONTIER WOMAN

FROM THE little house out on the windswept Holt county countryside come the lines for The Frontier's newest feature, "The Frontier Woman." Each week this column is filled with homespun everyday household and human interest news and chit-chat. In 1938, Mrs. Pease was chosen as the outstanding country correspondent in the United States by her writing in national publications.



BLANCHE SPANN PEASE

THE FRONTIER PHOTOS

JOHN H. M'CARVILLE, a newcomer in O'Neill during the past 18 months, is an old-hand in the picture-taking business. He started photography as a hobby when only a lad. During World War II he made aerial photographs for the Navy. As a staff photographer, he covers everything from bubble-gum contests to floods. He's primarily responsible for The Frontier's record of publishing more "homeprint" pictures during 1947 than all other Holt county newspapers combined!

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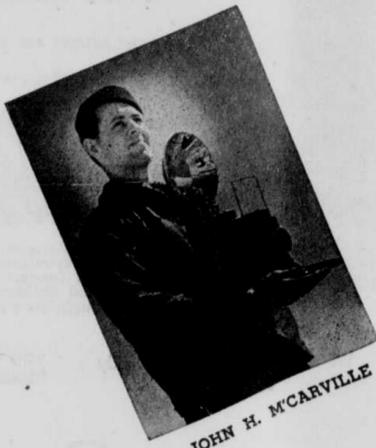
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