

Prairieland Talk—

What Was Left Undone?

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, 4110 South 51st St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.

LINCOLN—A 14-year-old Lincoln girl, brought up in a city of churches, colleges, universities and other cultural centers, with her 19-year-old "boy friend" on a three-day killing spree left a trail of their dead outnumbering life killings of either Nebraska's Wild Bill Hickok, Missouri's Jesse James or New Mexico's Billy the Kid.

What have the parents of these two youthful murders done or left undone? What has the community held out to them? What has our human society contributed to inspire youth to a life of lawlessness leading to the worst of all—murder?

Maybe it began at the cradle. Had those two youthful murders been taught right in the home, taken to church and centers of culture their young lives would not today be stained with sin.

Lincoln's Wild Man of Borneo, a 19-year-old youth by the name of Charley Starkweather, shot to death nine people in Lancaster county while officers elected to maintain the peace and dignity of our fair state sat it out in safety in "consultation." The young killer made his get away but ran into guys up in Wyoming who handled shooting irons as well as he.

Safely jailed at Douglas, our brave officers went out to bring him here for trial. Why a trial? Toss a rope over his head and have a hanging. Had there been one or two deputies in Lancaster county like the late Eli Hershiser of O'Neill the young outlaw would not have escaped to Wyoming.

The 1950 census-takers reported sizeable groups of church goers in Yankeeland. They tell us that there were something over 30 million going to Roman and Greek Catholic churches with 86 million in the various Protestant groups. How many really paid weedy visits and tossed in their two-bits might be a different story. Since the last census was taken, Evangelist Billy Graham has been heard from and the 1960 roundup should disclose another million or two weekly worshippers. Here in the Capital City a clergyman reports running onto a smoking party in his church; so maybe that's it—go into a church to sit down and have a smoke, not kneel down to worship.

I can not reach a hand to you distant star nor travel the endless reaches of the vast unknown out to the depths of which the distant star glows. But I can walk the paths of earth, extend a hand to a fellow traveler and greet all with a smile, a cheering word and take him to dinner if he needs it.

Preparations are now under way for the annual spring meeting of the Nebraska State Historical Society. They meet this year in Fairbury on May 4.

Editorial—

Commission Rules for C&NW

The Nebraska state railway commission Tuesday lowered a boom on the Save-the-Trains association in regard to the last two remaining passenger-mail-express trains serving most of North-Nebraska. After 3½ years of conferences and a week-long hearing at Valentine last summer, the commission has granted Chicago & North Western Railway company permission to take off trains 13 and 14 that ply each way daily between Omaha and Chadron.

Officials of the Save-the-Trains group had no immediate comment on Tuesday's announcement. And no comment will be forthcoming until after the commission's opinion has been studied. But it is generally conceded in S-T-A circles the running semi-legal and legal battle will go to the Nebraska supreme court.

S-T-A has held all along that the Omaha-Chadron line is profitable on the overall by virtue of 150-car freight trains and that passenger-mail-express service should be kept because there is no other adequate substitute service.

The Frontier believes the railroad is entitled to substantial tax relief in the state and permission to discontinue certain services on branch lines where patronage has dropped off below the income.

But Omaha-Chadron is a mainline situation and trains 13 and 14 are the last two remaining passenger-mail-express trains serving a tremendous area.

The commission, apparently, is chiefly interested in the welfare of the railroads and is no longer functioning in the interests of the people.

Soil Scheme Flops

Two-hundred fifty-eight Holt county farmers who had entered "bids" for participation in the department of agriculture's soil retirement proposal met with a degree of disappointment with Friday's announcement the scheme would be abandoned in three of four "pilot" states.

Ag officials in Washington gave as the reason the bidding was generally too high. The plan to turn tilled soil in Nebraska, Tennessee and North Dakota back to grass was scuttled. The "pilot" plan, along similar lines, is still under consideration in Maine.

The Frontier feels the plan fizzled by its own inherent weaknesses. It is economically absurd to pay bonuses for idled acres while science and specialists are working at break-neck speed to increase agricultural production. The land "bid in" first, of course, was the poorer land.

The adverse economic effect on small cities and towns in pure agricultural areas would have been

Deloit News

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bohn visited the Jim Bartak home in Omaha over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Bartak and Mrs. Alice Ladge made a trip to California. Mrs. Ladge will visit her sons and other relatives in California for a time.

Mr. and Mrs. Rex Chapman celebrated their 11th wedding anniversary on Thursday.

Guests for supper Thursday evening at the Ewald Spahn home were Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller, Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Tom-

jack and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reimer.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Harpster visited at the Wilbur Napier home on Thursday.

Robert Miller, who attends business school in Omaha, and Mary, who is employed there, spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller and James. They came home with some students from Bartlett.

Work has begun on the new telephone system in this community. It will take six months or more to complete the work was the report. It will be a dial system.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Tomjack and Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Morrow

It was in February, 1904—E. H. Whalen reported the arrival of a baby boy at their home . . . E. P. Hicks was back from a trip to Waterloo, Ia. . . P. J. McManus was in Chicago, Ill., on his annual visit to the marts of trade. . . D. A. Doyle was in the flour and feed business, a 50-pound sack of flour \$1. . . Doctor Gilligan was called to Ewing to attend a sick man. . . Mrs. Wes Evans was visiting in Omaha. . . Maylon Price spent a day with relatives in Atkinson. . . R. R. Dickson arrived home from a business trip to San Francisco, Calif. . . Mrs. Fitzsimmons was in Chicago selecting her spring stock of ladies head gear. . . Mrs. J. H. Meredith entertained a group of lady friends at her home. . . Judge B. S. Gillespie had business in Omaha for a day or two.

Out there above earth's western rim, far beyond the reach of human hand, this calm morning hour before the dawn of another day the full moon looks down upon early prairieland risers. For 12 hours the full orb of night has moved with celestial step across the sky soon to sink to our view, and we turn our gaze to the east to greet rising sun, another night gone, another day ushered in. And so the march of time writes another wrinkle across the record of human history. And now the ambition of man would write upon the record of human history the story of trips to the moon. The Hand that hung the sun, the moon, the stars out there in the heavens will stay the hand of man from reaching other planets.

An interesting letter comes from Claude Hancock, son of pioneer Holt county parents and now holed up with his wife in Los Angeles, Calif. Claude is the father of our longtime county treasurer, J. Ed Hancock, and belongs in O'Neill rather than in distant L. A. He cherishes memories of life as a boy on the prairies of Holt county and writes, too, of experiences as a banker here, but says they were "broke" upon landing on the West coast many years ago. Now retired, I take it Claude gathered up some of California's gold that escaped the clutches of the 49'ers as he and Mrs. Hancock are now taking life easy near where the waters of the vast Pacific wash the shores of our continent. The Hancocks keep informed on prairieland affairs by reading The Frontier and promise to see me the next trip this way.

March 16 to 22 is being promoted as library week to encourage Americans to read. Books, magazines, newspapers and religious publications flood the country, and now a week set apart with the slogan, "Wake Up and Read." Why not a slogan, "Stop and Think!" Libraries are needed, newspapers are indispensable and friends tell me "Prairieland Talk" is most important. (Har-u-m-p-f!)

Nebraska has no such creature as "groundhog", but if a prairie dog came out of winter hiding to shake a leg the morning of February 2 he not only made a shadow on the snow but got nipped by a bitter blast fresh from the North Pole.

The plan was another form of subsidy and died prematurely of its own weakness. Now the ag experts will be turning to some better and more sound form of subsidy that will square with the five million who are at present unemployed.

We do not condemn those farmers who attempted to "hid n" or "rent" idle land to Uncle Sam. Any number of those who entered bids volunteered to us they were against the idea in principle, but couldn't resist.

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Hruska Will Stay Put

U. S. Sen. Roman Hruska (R-Nebr.) has announced his candidacy for reelection and has adopted a position of being against federal aid to education.

The junior senator from Nebraska quite frequently calls a spade a spade and generally is in the conservative corner on most issues. This stripe squares very well with his constituency. Also on the conservative side is the senior senator from Huskerland, Carl T. Curtis.

Mr. Hruska will be the target for professional educators from thither and yon who are hepped up for federal aid to one degree or another. Federal aid, of course, would be attended by federal controls.

We admire Mr. Hruska for his stand and we have observed him closely enough to believe he'll stay put.

Too often politicians talk one route and vote the opposite.

THE FRONTIER

CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

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When You & I Were Young . . .

Snyder Endorsed for Convention

Will Entrain Soon for Chicago

50 Years Ago The infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Griffin, living one mile north of town, died Sunday. Miss Clara Shoemaker returned from Omaha where she had been for three weeks in a hospital after an appendectomy. The candidacy of O. O. Snyder was endorsed unanimously by the county committee as a delegate from the Sixth district to the national convention in Chicago. . . . Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Meredith entertained a group of lady friends at her home. . . . Judge B. S. Gillespie had business in Omaha for a day or two.

20 Years Ago Mr. and Mrs. Daniel J. Cronin observed their golden wedding anniversary. They were married February 13, 1888, at St. Patrick's church by Rev. Cassidy. . . . Deaths: William Conklin, 82, a county treasurer for 12 years; Mrs. Ellen Gallagher, 83, died at her home southeast of Omaha. . . . Mrs. Maggie Gray was down from Atkinson to visit friends. She broke her hip fourteen months ago and is just about ready to discard her crutches. She is 84 years old. . . . Mr. and Mrs. John Babl and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pongratz and son, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Beck and family and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Ries were visitors at the Ed Heeb home. Miss Edna Heeb is "very ill". . . . Vern, the oldest son of the Clarence Wredes, received a broken nose at school while playing shinny. At first it was thought his eyesight was affected.

40 Years Ago Edward Panowicz was named manager of the Midwest Furniture company. A navy veteran of four years, he served two years in the southwest Pacific. . . . The remains of Pfc. Bernard E. Bolin of Page were interred in the Page cemetery. Pfc. Bolin's body was the second Holt countyman to be returned to the United States for burial under the government's plan. Only 19 years of age, he was wounded a week after the initial landing at Normandy. He died two days later. The first of the county's dead in World War II to be returned to the states was the body of T-Sgt. Laddie Cary of Inman. . . . Atkinson's incubator baby, the three month premature baby of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Damero of Phoenix, has reached the two pound mark. The tiny infant weighed 1 pound and 12 ounces at birth. . . . Joseph Milnar and his wife celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary in Atkinson.

Law, Insurance Topics of Meeting LYNCH—The Boyd county home extension club leaders' training meeting was held at the Lutheran church basement Friday, January 31, for an all day session. The training lesson on "The Law and the Law" and "Property & Casualty Insurance" was presented by state extension specialist, Miss Clara Leopold. Leaders present were Mrs. Fred King and Mrs. James Price for the Excello club; Mrs. Frank Weeder and Mrs. Robert Conklin for Highland club; Mrs. Clarence Kolland and Mrs. Elmo Barnes for Rural Progressive club; Mrs. Myron Hodges and Mrs. Harlan Holtz for Sunshine club and for the YWGO club Mrs. Earl Pritchett and Mrs. Ronald Stewart. A pot luck lunch was served at noon.

Pre-Lenten DANCE Butte Legion Ballroom Tuesday, Feb. 18 Music By: Eddie Stan and the Style Band Admission—\$1.00

FREE WEDDING DANCE

Butte Legion Ballroom Saturday, Feb. 15 MUSIC BY: Mullen Family and Their Orchestra Ann Abberhaus & William Ledemann, jr.



Completes Administration Course

Army Pvt. Marvin L. Young, 18, (above), son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter C. Young of O'Neill, is scheduled to complete the basic army administration course February 14 at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo. The course includes training in typing, record keeping and Army clerical procedures. Young is a 1957 graduate of O'Neill high school.—U. S. Army Photo.

O'Neill News

Mr. and Mrs. Rob R. Prouty and son were Sunday guests at the home of Mrs. Harry S. Prouty of Spencer. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Prouty of Yankton, S.D., and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Prouty and family of Spencer. Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Philbrick

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CY LANGDALE

CUSTOM HATTER

Box 869

Norfolk, Nebr.

and family Sunday visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ebby Stout of Rose. Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Yusten were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Henning of Atkinson and Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Cone. Robert McNichols of Omaha visited his wife over the weekend.

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