

PrairieLand Talk—

1888 Blizzard Club Reunites

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

LINCOLN—Last week the annual gathering of members and friends of the January 12, 1888 Blizzard club was held at the Lincoln hotel in the Capitol City.

The club was organized 20 years ago to keep alive the memory of the great winter storm that swept prairieLand that date. The gathering last week was the largest so far held, taxing the capacity of the largest of Lincoln's hotels to spread enough tables to feed the crowd. A feature of the program was a somewhat lengthy talk by Alfred Gilpin, chief of the Omaha Indian tribe. Music and talks by a few speakers made up a pleasant afternoon.



Romaine Saunders

All officers of the club were re-elected by a show of hands. Holt county and thus O'Neill were in the path of the most severe blow of that storm. The prairies were covered with dead cattle and a number of humans were found frozen.

A patriot from Valentine came up to shake my hand, but I did not see anybody from Holt.

Anyone now in Holt county who had lived in a sod house? Raise your hand, I see a hand raised down there south of Amelia. It is the hand of that sturdy pioneer, Harry White. Down at Omaha there was organized in 1956 a Sod House society, Miss Marguerite Burke of 539 South 26th street (Omaha) now serving as the society's secretary. Mr. White can tell you of the sheltering embrace of a soddy on a cold winter day and the cooling comfort to be found in one on a hot summer day.

Man can not escape from himself, some thoughtful gent has said. There are times when he would like to. But here he is in this human frame given him, out of which he can not step into another bodily form. It then becomes a duty, a joy, to nourish and take care of this two-legged structure of bone and flesh coming in the beginning from that form of clay into which was breathed the breath of life and man rose up to face his Creator. If the trail this body has left behind has been marred by evil thought or word or act he may step aside and down the untrod way of life ahead mark out a trail reflecting the new way of life, a life which may lead if not to the exalted station of chief justice but at least lay upon you the mantle of justice of the peace or if a lady a second Carry Nation.

To get it straight as it should have been in the issue of January 8, let us use words in place of figures. Functionaries in the busy circles from which emanates The Frontier from week-to-week had it that the four coming yearlings disposed of at that sale a day in December in 1894 were purchased for \$1.25 each. The four sold for one dollar, or twenty-five cents a head. And those twenty-five-cent yearlings long ago passed across the meat block, maybe at 25 cents a pound.

Editorial—

It Can Happen Here

We note that the unions fibbed a little bit about how much money they spent in California to defeat the "right-to-work" law. Instead of the one-million-dollars supposed to have been spent, the unions spent nearly four-million-dollars. The so-called "plutocrats" of "big business" spent about 900-thousand-dollars.

It simply goes to show you who has the money nowadays in politics. It isn't business, big or little; it's the unions.

And the proposed unionization of policemen would be the most unspeakable merger of racketeers and criminals with the law since the beginning of time. Unthinkable—to anybody but Jimmy Hoffa.

It was a top official of the justice department who summed it up: "The policemen are deserving of a better fate."

And Frontier Land farmers and ranchers who think this is something far over the distant hill and doesn't concern them may soon see the day when their eggs and beef may not be accepted in the raw because they do not come with a union label. The same will apply to their cream and their milk — it won't be marketed if the farmer doesn't belong to the AFL-CIO or the Teamsters.

The work is now underway in New Jersey and whether they like it or not poultry farmers have had to kneel under. The same thing will happen here unless the racketeers, hoodlums and bums personified by Hoffa are stopped in their tracks.

We Need Safeguards

Gov. Ralph Brooks recently declared he intends to "enforce the tax laws at any level and at any time with dispatch and with impartiality." He also said "If enforcement fails because of nonfeasance of local officials, it is the duty of the governor to remove the officials."

The statements clearly show an intention to get at the bottom of much of Nebraska's tax difficulties, ineffective administration and enforcement at the local level. At the same time, the statements, taken baldly at their face value, imply drastic action by the governor in a way that might not be considered democratic.

Several questions need to be answered and the policy to be followed needs clarification, which we believe the governor will make in due time. Here are some of the questions that might arise: How far can a state official go in removing a local official who has been elected by a local unit of government and who, theoretically, is responsible to that local unit? Who is to determine when a local official is laggard, the governor or a judicial or administrative body with local and state authority?

We think the questions are important because it seems apparent that honest men might disagree as to the relative fairness or honesty of certain taxpayers as to the assessed valuation of certain types of property. In other words a county assessor might accept a taxpayer's report as reasonable under present laws and yet a capricious governor might feel the assessor is laggard in not raising the valuation. Governor Brooks might feel he is not referring to such instances and that they do not come under the heading of laggard enforcement, but since we are talking about principles we raise the question as to just how far one man is to be permitted to go in removing a county-elected official from office.

We suggest the governor's approach is sound but that safeguards should be provided and used, and we believe Governor Brooks will be the first to agree that we don't wish to set up a system that will make it possible for future Huey Longs to build

The sun shines in golden glory out of the clear blue above prairieLand this calm January day. Midwinter, neither a biting cold nor a shirtsleeve day. We walk out, a bit of snow underfoot, greet a friend here and there along the way. This bright day, cheering and embracing. How unlike that day 71 years ago, the day when prairieLand's worst winter storm enveloped all in a cloud of snow, the day that white haired old O'Neill printer, O. C. Bates, a master of the beautiful in the use of words, the day he stood at a case of type and out of his treasured store of words saw none fitting the storm so he coined a new one and since then we have the word blizzard. If you experienced that one 71 years ago you can say Old Bates hit it right.

Anyway, State Senator Carpenter from the west end of the state will let us know he is down at the statehouse this winter. Of the 40 bills dropped into the legislative hopper on the first day, Mr. Carpenter fathered 20 of them. I trust Sen. Frank Nelson from Holt county still can vote "no".

Talking you into voting for him he may do the economy stuff, appealing to the heavily burdened taxpayer. Seated in the exalted executive chamber at the statehouse or stepping about along the gilded corridors that vision of economy fades. Our recently installed school teacher-turned-governor turns his vision from the corn and wheat fields and herds on prairieLand to the classic halls of our state university. He pleads with the budget makers to add a few more million to the university cash pile to build more stately buildings with their classic halls of learning. We thought this was the cowboys' cattle state, but maybe we are going to have it become the land of the highbrows under our new governor.

A group of over-zealous citizens out at San Francisco greeted a Russian notable who flew in to visit us with rotten eggs and stones. That visitor's first impression of the American way of life was not the best, but later cordial greetings and courteous attention softened that earlier resentment. Maybe that bunch of egg and stone throwers were inspired by the memory of what their beloved native son, Vice-President Nixon, ran into a community of communists in South America.

If a bill introduced in the state legislative session becomes law vendors of firewater will be taxed to pay for the treatment or rehabilitation of their victims of their business the alcoholics.

Maybe the mail from some West coast points is on the way by pony express. But what a friend of PrairieLand Talker out at Los Angeles was to send as a Christmas gift had not arrived when this was written in mid-January. Friends of PrairieLand Talker in O'Neill send me another fine collection of postcards with scenes of familiar places in O'Neill, a hay baling scene down by Inman and a sodhouse near Ewing. While it is pitifully inadequate, all I can do is to express my thanks in one short line.

Money and Higher Education

One of the weaknesses of higher education today, as seen by one of its leading spokesmen, springs from the fact that college and university officials are so involved in promoting money for their schools that they tend to become mere public agents who often lack sufficient time and energy to devote to purely educational matters.

Too often these days, he adds, the successful college president is the one who can get the most money from the legislature and/or private sources. More and more business and benevolent institutions are being called upon to rescue higher education from financial trouble. This drive for finances is reflected in courses of study which are tailored to meet the needs of these businesses and to suit the tastes of individuals who make big donations.

Our college courses, he concludes, are designed to adapt the student to his environment rather than to teach him how to improve the environment in which he lives.

If you think it isn't a changing world, how many years has it been since you have read: "The fire is believed to have been started by a mouse chewing on matches?"

Seventy families joined The Frontier's ever-growing family of readers in December. 21 new families have joined up thus far in January!

Statistics show that the average American receives 112 letters a year. He wouldn't if he paid his promptly.

Life is not salvage to be saved out of the world, but an investment to be used in the world.



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When You and I Were Young . . .

Spindler-Ladely Nuptials Read

Dobney, Wrede, Joyce Among Jurors

50 Years Ago Miss Iretta Spindler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Justus Spindler, was married to Henry Ladely of Kennebec, S.D. . . . The following have been drawn for jury duty: C. W. Dobney, John Vequist, Charles Wrede, sr., Merle Richards, Z. Prothero, Charles Berger, Sam Becker, Ray Coburn, W. Joyce, David Baker, Fred Seibert, J. M. Jackman, James Carney, Joseph Horiskey, Frank Campbell, F. H. Molz, Charles Crandall, A. C. Purnell, W. H. Sloan, Elmer Merriman, A. D. Haves, Byron Gray, John Fundus and Samuel G. Coover. . . . C. S. Evans, a former citizen of this county and the founder of the Alliance-Tribune at O'Neill died at his home in Norfolk, Mo. He was an inventor of a paper folder, a force pump and was waiting for the results of his new press for which he had hoped big things. . . . S. H. Trussell of Little, who has been a reader of The Frontier since its establishment 29 years ago, came in to renew his subscription to "the old reliable".

20 Years Ago The first installment of a history of the county, under the names of Tom Hannaberry and Dean Selah, appeared in The Frontier. The research was carried on under the WPA. Among those quoted were J. T. Prouty, M. D. Long and R. Rev. M. F. Cassidy. . . . Deaths: R. P. Wagers, 81, a pioneer, at his home in Page; Baby Barnes, the month-old-son of Mr and Mrs. Oscar Barnes, of pneumonia; Judith Anne Conard, month-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Conard of Emmet, died of pneumonia. . . . Charles Cole, 81, of The Star country to say he's sure spring is here. He spotted a bunch of 25 meadowlarks near his home. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Gillespie left for Galveston, Tex., to visit Mr. and Mrs. Oral Witchen. . . . Charles Hancock went to Omaha to attend a meeting of the district managers of Central Finance. . . . Garrett Janzing was in Omaha on business.

Club Conducts First Card Party of Year

VENUS—The Help U club held the first card party of the year at the Page Improvement club building Tuesday, January 13. Fourteen members and husbands were present. Pitch was played. Receiving high score were Irvin Held and Mary Jeffrey. Low scores went to William Buxton and Mrs. Mischall. The traveling prize was won by Leona Finch. Hostesses were Mrs. Irvin Held, Mrs. Vincent Jackson, Mrs. Clarence Finch, and Mrs. William Buxton. Mrs. Max LeMasters entertained the Help U club at her home Wednesday, January 14. All 14 members were present, also visitors were, Mrs. Darrell Grass and Mrs. Lloyd Butterfield. Walnut meats were picked, croquet, embroidery and mending were done for the hostess. Miss Vlosta Pospeshil will have the February meeting. Mrs. Le Masters served refreshments at the close of the afternoon.

Other Venus News

Mrs. Darrell Grass arrived at the home of her parents Tuesday, January 6, from Rapid City, S. D. Her husband was transferred the previous day to an Illinois air force base where he will attend school until March. Mrs. Grass will stay with her folks, Mr. and Mrs. George Heggemeyer, during that interval. Mr. and Mrs. H. J. LeMasters spent Tuesday, January 13, evening with their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Merle Mitties and family. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brookhouser and Ray were Sunday, January 11, dinner and supper guests at the home of Mrs. Fred Haneman of Brunswick. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Hugh L. Brookhouser and sons, and Mr. and Mrs. Emil Bartos and family of Verdigré. Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Davey

ROYAL THEATER O'NEILL

THURS. JAN. 21 FAMILY NIGHT A CERTAIN SMILE Color by DeLuxe, Cinemascope. Starring Rossano Brazzi, Joan Fontaine, Bradford Dillman, Christine Carere, Johnny Mathis. Johnny Mathis sets the mood for romance in Paris, city of love! A girl looks at a man with a certain smile and something happens. Adm. Adults 50c, children 15c

FRI.-SAT. JAN. 23-24 Gary Cooper as MAN OF THE WEST Co-starring Julie London, Lee J. Cobb, Arthur O'Connell, Jack Lord. Color by DeLuxe, Cinemascope. Man of the lean jaw and hard fist . . . man of the notched gun and fast draw . . . Hear Julie London sing "Man of the West". Adm. Adults 50c, children 15c. Children under 12 free if accompanied by parent.

SUN.-MON.TUE. JAN. 25-26-27 Doris Day, Richard Widmark in THE TUNNEL OF LOVE Co-starring Gig Young, Gita Secala, with Elisabeth Fraser, Elizabeth Wilson. Hear Doris Day sing "Have Lips, Will Kiss in the Tunnel of Love", "Skidaddle Skidoo". Tired of tearjerker? This one's funny! MGM's made a spiky movie comedy from the hilarious Broadway play! In Cinemascope. Adm. Adults 50c, children 15c. All children unless in arms must have ticket.

Marjorie Mulhair Is Noble Grand

LYNCH—Rose Brunson, as deputy president of the local Rebekah lodge, assisted by Fern King, Beulah Mulhair, Nelle Nelson and Merle Moody, installed the following officers Tuesday, January 13: Marjorie Mulhair, noble grand; Lavina Kersch, vice grand; Betty Christensen, secretary; Rose Brunson, treasurer; Fern King, warden; Lila Pritchett, conductor; Beulah Mulhair, chaplain; Lavina Compton, guardian; Marie Wilson, outside guardian; Jennie Serk, right support of noble grand; Merle Moody, left support of noble grand; Bernice Row, right support of vice grand; Thzia Crawford, left support of vice grand, and Nelle Nelson, pianist.

Suffers Fractured Pelvis in Accident

BURWELL—Gale Kirby of Taylor is still hospitalized here following a Sunday, January 11, one-car accident which took place west of Burwell. Kirby and Miss Karen Hoppes of Burwell were passengers in a car being driven by Ted Moon of Taylor. The accident occurred about 3 a.m. about half-way between the west bridge and the first corner west. The car, a 1956 Ford owned by Kirby, was enroute to Burwell. After making the sharp turn west of the bridge, the car struck loose gravel. Apparently the left front wheel locked, Wheeler Sheriff Walter Conard said, and the machine overturned end-over-end. Kirby will be hospitalized for sometime, hospital attendants said this week. Miss Hoppes suffered a fractured collarbone but was dismissed three days later. Moon, the driver, received only scratches. Kirby is suffering a fractured pelvis.

BRIDGE TO GO

CLEARWATER—The hexed bridge on U. S. highway 275 east of here is to be replaced with a new structure. The bridge has been the setting for a series of fatal accidents.

Health Insurance Meeting Topic — LYNCH—The Excello extension club met at the home of Mrs. G. L. Mulhair Monday afternoon, January 12. Eleven members were present. Mrs. Frank Kalal presided at the meeting. Mrs. Joseph David presented the lesson on the ABC's of health insurance. The club year books were filled out by the members present. The next meeting will be at the Leland Moody home February 9.

Advertisement for the 1959 Rambler station wagon. Text includes: "Before you start feeding a too-big '59 car... See the Compact '59 Rambler. Save more than ever on first cost, gas, upkeep." Features an image of the car and a smaller inset image of the interior. Text also mentions "OSCAR'S RAMBLER SALES 125 WEST DOUGLAS - O'NEILL".

Large advertisement for "FARM CLOSE-OUT". Text includes: "AS WE HAVE decided to quit farming, we will sell the following described personal property on the premises, located 1 1/2 miles north of West O'Neill corner on U. S. Highway 281, OR 1/4 mile north of O'Neill Drive-In theater, on — Wednesday, Jan 28th Sale Starts at 1 P.M." Lists items for sale: 8-Head of Cattle - 8, 6-MILK COWS, 2-Small BUCKET CALVES, 12-Hampshire GILTS, 30-Hampshire FEEDER PIGS, 3-Dozen White Rock LAYING HENS, 1-Stack of PRAIRIE HAY, 25-Bales of RYE STRAW. Also lists Machinery & Equipment: Hay Rack on rubber Farmall F-20 Tractor, J-D B Tractor, 12-Ft. M-M Combine, Mounted Cultivator, G-I 10-In. Hammermill, 15-Ft. A-C Disc, Two-Row G-I Cornpicker, F-20 Tractor for salvage, 16-In. Sulky Plow, IHC Two-Row Eli. Some Household Goods: Oil Space Heater, Skelgas Cook Stove, Dining Room Table, Cream Separator, etc. Signed: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Fleming, Owners. Col. Wallace O'Connell, O'Neill, Auctioneer. Ed Murphy, O'Neill, Clerk.