

Prairie Land Talk

'Footprints Washed Away'

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, 4110 South 1st St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.

Is it the ghost of Kid Wade, Doc Middleton or Belle Shields or just the memory of their operations inspiring it? Down in Holt county horse thieves have been at it, horses now few and valuable. The sheriff and his men down at Grand Island are reported to be on the lookout for horse thieves. Holt county's master horse thief, Doc Middleton, lies under the sod some where out in Wyoming. The bones of young Wade are undisturbed up on the Big Sandy, and it is now 75 years since the Kid stole his last horse, was hung from a whistling post near Bassett. The last heard of Belle Shields was when she was getting away with stolen nags down in the Swan Lake country, her horse shot from under her by a posse in pursuit; Belle mounted another horse and made her get away. Al Heilman and the Dutchers of the Niobrara river region are scarcely a memory today and the hoof prints of their stolen horses in the mud along the river bank long since washed away.

The pure white bloom on spirea bushes this mid May season are a thing of beauty, inviting the passerby to pause and look. Flowers and velvet green foliage, birds and leaf adorned trees as another summer time comes to prairie land. And above the green robed and floral tinted land the deep blue sky inspires us to look up. So we walk abroad with soul attune to the beauties of nature.



Romaine Saunders

Bartlett, the county seat of Wheeler county just south of Holt, is now without a banking institution, and nothing much else left there but the small courthouse perched up on the hill. In the days of the A-T ranch and the Kinkaid homesteaders, Bartlett was a flourishing business center. More than forty years ago, Prairie Land Talker sat on his horse and rode the cow trails down that way. Where now are the Hopes, the Stowels, the Greens, the Robinsons that we had known? The onward sweep of time has taken them one by one. But one remains that we had known, Rich Burtwistle who still grazes his vast herds on the green robed hills of our southern neighboring county of Wheeler. Two towns in that county, Ericson and Bartlett. While the latter has closed its bank doors I hear nothing of business conditions at Ericson located near the black bass inhabited waters of the Cedar river.

A lady relative of Prairie Land Talker who lives in southern Indiana is stumping the country down that way promoting a movement to establish a National Park in the picturesque region of Hoosierland to the memory of Abe Lincoln who had spent his boyhood years in southern Indiana. I have suggested to her that it be interstate instead of national, as some of our southern states would favor nothing in memory of the one who took their selves from them.

Kindness smooths the way and takes the snarl out of life. And you know that a good example along life's highway means more to Jimmie than good advice.

Editorial

A Hot Political Job

One of the hottest political jobs available seems to be that of the warden of our state penitentiary in Lincoln.

A Holt county man, Sheriff Leo Tomjack, has had his name filed as a candidate for that post. Another man, Lincoln police chief Joseph Carroll has also been mentioned as a candidate.

Now let's take a look at that warden post. To begin with, because it is an appointive position, the chances of your staying in the job with the change in any governor is slight—that is, unless another Democrat Governor is elected.

One look at the record shows this to be, in the main, true.

In addition to political pressure, if you operate your prison the way Warden Joe Bovey did, you'll have trouble with the press regardless of what party you belong to.

The warden of a state penitentiary is a powerful man, don't ever be mistaken about that. He can, if he wishes, close the prison doors to almost any outsider. He can regulate, or re-regulate that prison in the best way he sees fit.

Nebraskans eye with interest anything that goes on behind those doors. Many times the prison official, if he is chosen the way he is in Nebraska, believes that keeping those doors as tightly shut as possible is the best way to keep his job.

Bovey learned too late that doors are made to keep men in, not to keep interested citizens from looking in.

A Sandhills Spring

Written By A Soldier For The Rock County Leader

It's spring at home and a deep, burning desire to forget the cares of the world and go to the peaceful country in which I was born has crept into my soul.

It's a country that cannot be explained by the most brilliant of writers and cannot be painted in its full beauty by the most talented artists. To enjoy the splendor and beauty of the sandhills and the Niobrara valley you have to be part of it.

You must have seen the sun set on the river, with all the amber of a fire and see the cranes, geese, herons, ducks and many other kinds of water-fowl settle down on the waters on their way north.

You have a feeling of belonging as you watch the deer, pheasants, quail, rabbits and other forms of wildlife; you share with them the beauty and awareness of the newborn all around you—baby ducks on the bayous, small quail scrounging for feed in the shade of a current bush.

You must hear the sounds of the birds as they rush in front of you as you walk, the frogs croaking their song of spring, the crickets as they join to-

He was seated on a bench in the shade of a tree with a book in hand. I was walking by across the grass-robed campus of a Capital City college. I stopped and the dark skinned son of a South American country invited me to sit by him. Complying; it turned out to be a visit with a young man from a far away land here today in Lincoln to secure an education. And it is inspiring to meet a courageous young man without money and without home backing that takes life seriously and meets its struggles bent on securing an education, working with his hands to pay his way and passing sleepless nights in study. His people spring from that vast multitude of Asiatic Buddhists, but he himself has recently accepted Christianity and is planning to take up the medical course as his education progresses. He receives no financial help from his people in a South American English colony and will be in the market for a summer job soon.

A dark skinned gentleman whose name I shall not attempt to put in print, serving as chief justice of his native country, Nigeria, over in far-away Africa, together with his wife, have been in Lincoln as guests in the home of our state's chief justice, Judge Simmons, who a few years ago was a guest in their home when touring their country. I saw them today—a man and a woman like men and women the world over. One of our Capital City's seats of learning, Union College, had the Nigerians as guest speakers at a college function; Judge Simmons was also on the speaker's platform and introduced the Africans to the overflow audience, recounting some of his experiences and impressions gained during his African tour. Yes, we see some of the world's notables here in our Capital City. But there is nothing to equal the thrill of clasping the hand of one you had known from far out on prairie land.

A day in July of 1900, daughters were born to Mr. and Mrs. James Connolly, and to Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Olsen. . . Twenty-four traveling men registered at Hotel Evans a night that month. . . Martin Cronin made a trip to Boyd county. . . Miss Mamie Cullen, in company with her two brothers of Elizabethtown, N. J., was touring in Ireland and other European countries. . . John Skirving was attending the Grand Army reunion in Lincoln. . . The Short Line was being extended from O'Neill to Alliance—on paper. . . Robert R. Morrison and Miss Nellie Kilmurry were married, the marriage service at St. Patrick's church, a priest friend of the groom performing the rite.

Democrat—you have your say. The late "Democratic landslide" landed something of dictator type in our Statehouse. If you don't think as I do get out, comes from the exalted one. Some state university professors seem to be on the way out because they have the audacity to think and speak as they see it. But this one, a state senator, seems to wear a G.O.P. badge.

Fate, your destiny beckons on to hinder or control, but you will defeat it all if you have a determined soul.

Nebraska's governor is a sick man. What he has demanded of some in state jobs, Gov. Brooks should do himself—resign. The affairs of state must be directed by healthy, capable hands.

gather in a chorus and of course—the coyote baying at the newly risen moon.

You must smell the fragrance of the wild rose, the currant bush and the wild plum in bloom. All this, mixed with a fresh spring breeze gives an aroma fit for the lungs of the Lord Himself.

This is my homeland. I have had trouble finding words to describe it, but then I realize there aren't enough words in any language to phrase the wonderful works of our Creator.—K. Davis.

Not Too Cold

In a short time, 81 graduates of O'Neill's two fine high schools will be "going out into a cold world." At least that's how the cliché reads.

We hope it won't be too cold for them, nor do we hope that it will be too easy.

We also hope that the finer minds that have graduated realize the responsibility they have to their fellow man. Those who have a potential of filling the ranks of our scientists' baldrick, are needed. This means that they will need much more education than is available on the high school level.

We were talking about responsibility. It might seem strange to some of the graduates that it should be put this way, but this business of personal independence and the wish to "float along with the gang" must be subordinated for their own, and other's good.

The high school graduate can usually be singled out as one who hates sermons. This one will be short then. We only hope that the graduate realizes that his real independence will be directly proportionate to the amount of work he does for his fellow man.



JAMES CHAMPION, Co-Publisher
JERRY PETSCHKE, Editor

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Frontiers Ago

FIFTY YEARS AGO

Memorial Day in O'Neill May 30, 1909—Mayor Biglin arranged for proper observance of the day. Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Scott had charge of the musical part of the program. The exercises were held at the opera house in the afternoon beginning at 1 o'clock. An address was given appropriate to the day by Arthur F. Mullen. After the exercises the graves were decorated. Carriages were furnished for the old soldiers who wished to go to the cemeteries. . . A cement block factory was started in the vicinity of Kola. Ira Shaw, stage driver, was proprietor. . . Hugh O'Neill was in Lincoln and had been looking after matters pertaining to the prosecution in the horse stealing case. . . Miss Katherine Cain was tendered a cut glass and china shower and farewell reception at Golden's hall. One hundred ladies of the city participated in the affair. . . Art Mullen recovered sufficiently from an attack of "pinkie". He was invited by the mayor to address an audience of his fellow citizens Memorial day.

20 YEARS AGO

Sheriff Duffy returned May 22, 1939 from Redmond, Ore., where he went to bring back a person wanted in this county for cattle stealing. . . Emmet Wertz, one of the pioneer residents of the Star neighborhood testified in court that he had seen a black face cow by lightning. . . Miss Delta Gunn entertained six guests at a seven o'clock dinner at the M&M Cafe on May 24 honoring her guest Miss Peggy Cambre of Lincoln. . . An ad from the O'Neill bakery in this week's issue of The Frontier read as follows: "Quality bread is a milk bread, rich in vitamins—8c, 2 for 15c, or our Jumbo loaf, 10c". . . George Shoemaker donated gravel to the new park which was in construction at St. Mary's academy in 1939. . . Deaths: County Judge C. J. Malone on May 22; Holt county judge for 28 years; Frank Pribil, sr. on May 22 at his home south of O'Neill. Pribil settled in Holt county in 1879 and was one of the builders of the county; Charles C. Reka on May 24, a young O'Neill businessman.

10 YEARS AGO

Receipts for the 1949 Red Cross campaign totaled \$3,766.89. Mrs. Guy Cole of Emmet was chairman of the Holt county membership and fund raising drive. . . Miss Victoria Zakrzewski, St. Mary's academy senior, was queen of the annual May procession. . . The Merry Dr. Pepper Bottling Co. sponsored Monday morning roundups of baseball scores in O'Neill region and broadcasted on "The Voice of The Frontier" program. . . O'Neill high school graduated 28 students. . . Mr. and Mrs. Allen Haynes of page celebrated in Holt county wedding anniversary on June 5, 1949 with an open house. Their anniversary was actually on the following day. . . Grateful Holt countyans welcomed 2.47 inches of rain during this week in 1949. . . Mrs. Glen Tomlinson was named a full time worker for St. Anthony's hospital building fund. . . Matthew "Mat" Mick, 73 of Atkinson on May 24; Mary C. Meer of O'Neill on May 25; Mrs. Robinetta Malone, widow of the late County Judge C. J. Malone of O'Neill on May 19.

FIVE YEARS AGO

On May 26, 1954, a little fellow by the name of Daniel Joseph Laible had reached 5 pounds, 4 1/2 ounces and was able to be taken home from the Atkinson Memorial hospital where he had been born on April 26 weighing only 3 pounds 2 ounces. . . The Apparel Shop moved to the Downey building next to the Royal Theater. . . Rev. Thomas Edward DeBacker was ordained into Roman Catholic priesthood on June 6, 1954. Mr. and Mrs. Nels Colfack, Atkinson, who were married in 1904 in Denmark, were honored by more than a hundred relatives and friends at an open house in St. John's Lutheran church parlors. . . Fire Chief G. E. Miles was presented a 25 year pin. . . Open house was held May 30 between 3 and 6 o'clock at O'Neill's new 40 thousand dollar municipal swimming pool. . . Married: Kathryn Ann Golden and Capt. James Butcher on May 22. . . The Don Templemeyer family moved to O'Neill from Holbrook. . . O'Neill rockets touched off the 1954 campaign in the North Central Nebraska baseball circuit here May 23 with a 12-6 win over Orchard. . . Mrs. Mabel Krotter presented an electric organ in memory of her late husband, to the Community church in Stuart on May 23.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor: We wish to extend a sincere thank you for the publicity and pictures you took and the news coverage of our hospital, St. Anthony's during hospital week.

Mother Francis and Sisters of St. Anthony's hospital and staff members

Paul Shierk

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CAPITOL NEWS

By Melvin Paul
Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN—A group of state senators want a between-sessions study of higher education in Nebraska.

The proposed study would include facilities, faculties and enrollments of the public and private colleges and universities, their relationship to each other and the total picture of higher education in the state. Signing a resolution calling for the study were Sens. Richard Marvel of Hastings, George Syas of Omaha, Norman Otto of Kearney, Hubbard Orme of Lincoln, Joseph Vosoba of Wilber, George Gerjes of Alliance and David Tews of Norfolk.

The study, the senators said, should be conducted by the Legislative Council. This is composed of all state senators who split into study committees between sessions.

The senators want the study to include anticipated educational needs for the next 10 years and ways of financially meeting them.

In the resolution, the senators said the need for higher education is becoming increasingly important and demands for additional funds continue to grow.

No recent study has been made, the resolution said, "toward the eventual goal of the establishment of an integrated plan for considering the higher educational needs and facilities of Nebraska."

It was suggested that the council employ professional survey personnel for the study.

Salary Study

A two-year study of the problem of state salaries has been called for in a resolution in the Legislature.

The Legislative Council should make the study, said resolution introduced by Sen. K. L. Bowen of Red Cloud, Richard Marvel of Hastings and Hans Jensen of Aurora.

The resolution noted that the matter of adjusting salaries is constantly before the Legislature and that there is a maze of laws and practices involving amounts given. Some are set by the governor, others by heads of departments, state law or the budget bill itself.

Moon Removed

Charles Moon, administrative assistant to Dr. E. A. Rogers, state health director, has been dismissed. Action was taken by the State Board of Health which said it did so "regretfully." Rogers said the question of Moon's status under the Merit system was involved.

Moon could not qualify as exempt from the system under current rules and is over 65, so could not take an examination to keep his post.

Involved was possible loss of federal funds, Rogers said.

The Merit System Council raised the question. Agencies using the council are Health, Welfare and Labor. A council to supervise pay and positions of persons in those departments is a requirement of the federal government since they get federal funds.

Rogers said Moon would be given a commendation for his "long and faithful service." He had previously been State Athletic Commissioner for many years.

Mansion Floors

Sheet lead and sponge rubber will be used to help alleviate "shaky" floors in the governor's mansion, the State Capitol Building Commission decided.

The commission voted to have an architect lay sheet lead over the cement first floor of the mansion, then put a half-inch sponge rubber pad over this, covered by a carpet. Gov. Ralph G. Brooks had complained that the first and second floors of the east wing, which includes his living quarters, "tremble." Bar joist and cement construction was used.

Burney-Brooks

Gov. Dwight Burney, a Republican, and Democratic Gov. Ralph G. Brooks have had a sparring match.

Subject of the tussle was a bill passed by the Legislature hiking Burney's pay from \$1,700 to \$3,000 per year. Brooks vetoed the bill, hours after Burney had laced into Democratic claims of legislative achievement, which Burney said were actually accomplished by Republican members of the Legislature.

The members of the Legislature are elected on non-political tickets, but politics has entered into many phases of debate this session.

After the veto, the lawmakers promptly overrode the governor, and Burney got his pay boost.

Brooks said he vetoed the bill because the people had indicated they did not want to increase legislative salaries. The lieutenant governor is presiding officer of the 43-member Legislature.

Persons on Nebraska's old age assistance rolls got more than \$1 million during April, the Board of Public Welfare reported.

The money went to 15,823 recipients. As compared with April, 1958, the rolls were down 618 this year, but costs were up \$21,121.

Brand Inspection Up According to Committee

Inspection records released by

the Nebraska Brand Committee show an increase on cattle inspection in April 1959 as compared to receipts of one year ago. Direct shipments increased 12,905 head during the month of April while the sale rings showed a gain of 31,888.

The two terminal markets at Omaha and Sioux City were up 2,251 and 161 head respectively. During the month, a total of 1,775 head were held for proof of ownership. Seven estray cases were settled and proceeds paid to the rightful owners and in addition, proceeds of \$300.35 on two cases were directed to the school funds of the counties where the estrays originated.

Floyd Beezley and E. E. Bailey, investigators for the committee, had four court cases and fines totaling \$200.00 and costs were imposed by the county judges.

The Nebraska Stockgrowers' Association is now offering a \$300.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a cattle thief who steals from any of the members of their organization. It is the desire of the Nebraska Brand Committee to cooperate with all agencies and associations to help curb cattle theft.

In line with this, the committee at present is publishing a list of all no brand calves sold at the various sale rings in the brand area of Nebraska. This list is published monthly in the Nebraska Cattleman magazine, official publication of the Nebraska Stockgrowers' Association. With the cooperation of the cattle people and state associations, the Nebraska Brand Committee feels that cattle theft can thus be maintained at a minimum.

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