

Prairie Land Talk

Chagrin in Cowboy Classification

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—It need not spoil a good newspaper story. But an expert such as "Hay" McClure would feel somewhat chagrined to be classed with an outlaw like Roscoe Moore and a bar room bum like "Nigger Jim."

McClure was to the manner born with a branding iron. He should have been written down as a patriot of such knights of the saddle as Sam Elwood, Tim Bunnel, Mike Callahan and Billy O'Connors, not to mention John Longhair, Bob Ingersoll and Joe McEvony.

Whether it was the name he answered to or his way in taming wild broncs, the Hon. M. P. Kinkaid would have no other than "Longhair" as his horse wrangler. His last came as he had an unusually bad acting brown bronc on the end of aariat. The pony stepped into a hole with a hind hoof. In getting out, the pony dislocated the joint above the hoof, began to kick and kept it up until he kicked the hoof off, necessitating killing the horse. This was a heart-breaking experience for "Longhair" and he left the country soon.



Romaine Saunders

Tim Bunnel saved a girl from being gored at Third and Everett streets by roping a critter that had broken away from the herd.

Ingersoll, dressed in the latest, boots polished, buckskin gauntlets and flashy red silk scarf about his neck, was a lure for romantic maids and disappeared from the community with a dark-eyed beauty.

I don't know what could offer a more interesting life than the open range with always the newspaper game to return to. Prairie Land Talker has had some of both.

Jupiter Pluvius opened the windows of heaven last night to let out a downpour that wet the thirsty earth and brought cheer to all save those in a cyclone and hail-swept district in Kansas and southern Nebraska. Some days earlier a story came out of Albion, in Boone county, that a fund had been raised there to try out the rain-making schemes of today. If Albion was included in last night's wetting, they may save their cloud seeds for future use. It was in the nineties that O'Neill fellows tried both the itinerant rain-makers and dynamite with no results.

The passage of Senator Nelson's bill relating to passenger train crews adds another hopeful outlook for north Nebraska citizens through support of the railroad on the part of the citizens should not be diminished. The opposition to the measure passed by the legislature by the railroad brotherhood indicates that the union preferred no passenger train service to a reduction by one of the train crew.

Don't try to get ahead of everyone on the highway or you might be leading the procession, horizontally.

There are still many people around who are always trying to borrow money from somebody.

Editorial

Mentally-Retarded Children

The house of representatives appropriations committee has urged a federal program which would attack the problem of mentally-retarded children. Although many citizens do not realize it, the committee reported that there were from three to five million children in the "mentally-retarded" category.

The committee further stated that this problem—which is one of the most serious health problems in the country—has gone almost unnoticed by educational and medical leaders. The committee found further that there were only vague ideas on the causes of mental lagging among children.

A report authored by Rep. John Fogarty, Rhode Island democrat, recommended a \$750,000 appropriation as a starter to launch a research program in this field. Furthermore, the report called for the office of education to present a broad program to combat this situation in 1956.

We would much prefer to see the task undertaken by the states, rather than federal.

We feel that the expenditure of a considerable sum of money on this effort would be not only a humane but a shrewd financial investment. The nation's youth constitute its main wealth and when one realizes that from three to five million children are in the mentally-retarded state, the extent of the loss in the productive capacity of the country becomes obvious.

In addition, the cost of caring for these mentally-retarded children is added to the loss to the nation of normal productive capacity, and the total loss to the nation is a considerable one.

Lesson in Pickups

(Guest editorial from Blair Pilot-Tribune)

Out at Gordon, Editor Reva R. Evans, who writes one of the most forceful editorial columns in the Nebraska newspaper field, last week ran a picture in her editorial section.

It was a photo of two nice-looking young men. They look like they could be your sons or your neighbor's boys. Under the picture, Editor Evans ran the following editorial, which speaks for itself:

Harmless appearing lads, aren't they? Seeing them hitch-hiking along the highway, the average motorist would probably think, "College kids"—or "Kids on their first leave after basic trying to get home," and pick them up.

But looks are deceiving. These two innocent-looking sharpies are James Blood (left) and William R. Warren (right), who were sentenced recently to three to 10 years for the robbery of an O'Neill filling station and the brutal beating of the attendant, whom they left for dead.

This was near the end of their trail, however—let's see where and how it started...

It began back in Waverly, Ia., where the boys went AWOL from an air force radar station. By some means they made their way to Waterloo, Ia., where they hitched a ride with a farmer, Edward B. Heatherton.

About five miles out of Waterloo, they knocked out their benefactor, tied him with cloth from a sack and left him beside the road.

Taking his car, they drove back to Waverly, got their clothes and traveled all night, arriving in O'Neill early the next morning. They lay around all day, sleeping near the park in their car. (Their?

It was midwinter 52 years ago. O. F. Biglin, the pioneer who buried the dead and dealt in machinery, a gent of rare good sense, was chairman of the county board of supervisors that day in session when among the day's official duties bonds of the following who had been elected to serve as justice of the peace in their precincts were approved: George M. Davies of Deloit, Hugh O'Neill of Saratoga, Frank Graves of Wyoming, R. T. Ballantyne of Fairview. The bond of S. M. Aldrich, township clerk for Sand Creek, was also approved. A man at Kennesaw, who had come to America on the ship that brought Andrew Carnegie, was given that year a yearly allotment of \$500 from Mr. Carnegie. Both came from Scotland. The Knights of Columbus was organized in O'Neill. The report of the committee of supervisors that had made a check of the records of Sheriff C. E. Hall showed that the sheriff had received \$1,073.43 in fees the previous year. Mrs. A. B. Newell, with the children, left O'Neill to join her husband in Seattle, Wash., where the family was to make its home. Miss Constance Harrington gave a house party for a number of her friends. Mrs. G. C. Hazelet, a former citizen of the community, came from Omaha for a visit with her sister, Mrs. W. T. Evans, and friends. T. J. Griffin came out from cultured Boston, Mass., and opened a tailor shop to properly top up the young bloods. Mrs. Chess was "serving hot meals at all times," had groceries, candy and holiday gifts at bargain prices. George Bowen of Hampton and Miss Myrtle Michael of Page were married by Judge Morgan.

Three and one-half billion of federal funds for foreign aid. Loans for veterans made available, larger social security benefits for the old fogies. How about the fathers and mothers who have maintained the home and kept industry alive and paid the taxes?

The month of June is the one time of year that holds a lure to travel the highways and prairie trails of Nebraska. Wheat fields and corn row-upon-row across the rich black earth mile after mile to the right and to the left, seen along the highways traversing the hills and vales of Lancaster and Seward counties, up-an-down the rugged ridges of Howard county through which the two Loup rivers wind their way to the Platte, over the picturesque hills of Greeley county.

The grasslands to the north extend to the crystal waters of the Eikhorn and beyond where herds of cattle graze; where is heard the song of meadow larks and the prairie rooster struts at dawn before his harem; where the jackrabbit has its home and the sly coyote trots here and there; where the landscape robed in velvet green greets the beholder and where contented people dwell.

There, too, is seen the charm of quiet village life in small towns where the days come and go unhurriedly and neighborly spirit prevails. At O'Neill, Atkinson, Bassett, Ainsworth, the larger activities do not congeal in milk of human kindness nor spell an end to friendly ties; the spirit of prairie land, its hospitality and warm-hearted fellowship encounter no barriers because of diversity of views or family traditions.

And to know conditions, to get a glimpse of what the summer harvest may be, don't take the weather reports too seriously, take rather to the open road. To get the true picture leave the federal or state highway and roll down the prairie trails.

When you and I were young...

Handball Players Swelter and Sweat

Home Talent Concert 'Best Ever'

50 Years Ago

The handball players have had a new and improved court constructed on the site of the old one and will continue to swelter and sweat pounding the boards with the ball. Those who attended the home talent concert pronounced it the best entertainment of the kind ever given in the city. The concert was liberally patronized. Dr. Donohue, the Omaha osteopath who is spending a couple months in O'Neill, says the outlook for a good practice in O'Neill is "very flattering." L. G. Gillespie returned from a trip to Alliance. O. F. Biglin, F. J. Dishner, J. A. Donohue and A. P. Mullett were at Columbus assisting to initiate a council of Knights of Columbus. Hank Tomlinson has bought the quarter section east of his home place from Mr. Bennett.

20 Years Ago

F. N. Shaner of Ainsworth arrived in the city to start on the new well the city is having dug on the Beha lot on the corner of Fourth and Fremont streets. The Catholic Daughters gave a farewell party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. D. Mullen in honor of Mrs. Joe McNamara, who leaves soon for their new home at Valentine. Fred H. Swingley, Atkinson's hustling and energetic banker, was in the city visiting friends and looking after business matters. Students of St. Mary's academy held their annual picnic at Oak View park. Judge and Mrs. C. J. Malone and Mr. and Mrs. J. Edmond Hancock and daughter, Barbara Ann, were guests of Mrs. Mary Hancock in Inman.

10 Years Ago

Miss Chickie Iler, niece of Mrs. S. Downey of O'Neill, who is majoring in clothing construction at the Traphagen school of fashion, had the honor of winning an honorable mention in the group in which she appeared in the school's annual spring fashion show. M/Sgt. William A. Miller recently was awarded the bronze star for meritorious services in support of combat operations in North Africa and Italy. Governor Griswold was in the city a few hours while en route to his old home at Gordon. Miss Dorothy Bohn left for Camp Carson, Colo., where she will receive her training as a nurse in the army of the United States. Miss Loretta Earight had her purse taken from under her arm while in front of the P. B. Harty residence. She went into the Harty residence and they went out and looked around for the thief, but he was not found.

One Year Ago

The Herman Janzing automobile, stolen from O'Neill May 7, has been located in a used car lot at Fremont. A bluegrass festival will be held in Ewing. This event is sponsored each year by the Commercial club. Lloyd Dale Van Vleet, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Van Vleet of Clearwater, received his bachelor of science degree in agriculture at the University of Nebraska with high distinction. A huge crowd attended the Sunday performance of O'Neill's ICA-approved rodeo, which was sponsored by the O'Neill Saddle club. The city council, in session informally, received verbal and written petitions for additional paving in the city.

Kindergarten Test Dates Are Tentative

The Nebraska school laws provide for entrance into kindergarten as follows: Section 79-444, part (2)—The board in all classes of school districts shall not admit any child into the kindergarten or beginner grade of any school of such school district unless (a) such child has reached the age of five years or will reach such age on or before October 15 of the current year, or (b) such child has demonstrated through recognized testing procedures approved by the state board of education that he is capable of carrying the work of these grades.

Reference to the statutes was made this week by Miss Alice French, Holt county superintendent of public instruction.

This law provides for a program of examinations by means of which children whose fifth birthday anniversaries fall after October 15 and before January 1, may qualify for entrance into kindergarten.

Miss French stated that anyone who planned to have their child tested should contact the office of the county superintendent soon. The testing will probably be done sometime during the first two weeks of August, but the application cards may be obtained from the county superintendent now and reservations made for the test.

No tests are given to 5-year-old children to determine eligibility for entrance into the first grade, the county superintendent explained.

Nursing Diploma to Mrs. Chisholm

Mrs. Phyllis June Chisholm, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Seger of O'Neill, will receive her nursing certificate and diploma at the University of Nebraska college of medicine and school of nursing commencement exercises at 3 p.m., Saturday, June 18, at Omaha's Municipal auditorium music hall.

Mrs. Chisholm is a graduate of O'Neill high school and she attended Nebraska Wesleyan university in Lincoln prior to her matriculation at the school of nursing.

Out of Old Nebraska...

Ferry Firm Helps to Build Omaha

Emigrants Push on in 1855

By JAMES C. OLSON, Supl., State Hist. Society

The only contemporary newspaper record of life in Nebraska in June 1855 is a microfilm copy of the Council Bluffs, Ia., Bugle. From that, though, we are able to glean a good deal about the activities of those restless pioneers who were seeking to build new towns on the western side of the Missouri river.

Various town companies, particularly Wyoming in Otoe county, advertised regularly in the paper, seeking to urge emigrants to invest their futures in the new town. A number of ferry companies advertised regular service between Iowa and Nebraska. The "General Marion," owned and "General Marion," owned and Nebraska Ferry Company, was lauded to the sky in each issue of the paper. The ferry company, however, was more concerned with building up its new town of Omaha than it was in the ferry business.

Indicative of the value of farm land was an ad in the issue of June 5, 1855, offering 40 acres improved, 1 1/2 miles from Omaha at a reasonable price. The seller indicated that he would take a "good breaking plow and team with heavy wagon" in part payment.

Emigration across the plains continued during the summer of 1855 as those not wanting to stop in Nebraska continued to push farther west. Most of the emigration was destined for Utah, and consisted of Mormons making their way thither to help develop a new Zion in the Salt Lake Valley. The issue of July 3rd, under the heading, "Late News From the Plains," carried an extended story of the emigration and affairs in Utah.

"By the arrival of the Salt Lake mail on Sunday evening and of a small company of returning emigrants, with attorney General Holman, on the same day, we have correct news from Utah and the Plains."

"They reported hostility of the Indians appears a false alarm, as none of the companies just come in have been molested or met with any difficulty with Indians on the route."

"At Utah and Laramie all was right and quiet. Met first train of emigrants 20 miles this side of Laramie in good health—getting along well, and although many were traveling, two, three and four wagons in company, no difficulty had occurred with the Indians. Feed was fine, roads excellent, but water rather scarce. But little snow in the mountains. "Wheat in the valleys had suffered somewhat from the rapacity

15 Grades of Eggs Under New Law

Glenn Thacker and Bruce Lauth, poultry extension representatives from the college of agriculture and Wyatt Cannaday, state department of agriculture, will explain the egg law here. All interested egg producers, processors and retailers should attend this meeting. This meeting will be held in the assembly room of the courthouse on Tuesday, June 21, at 8 p.m.

Curtis Endorses Hoover Cutbacks

Senator Carl Curtis said Tuesday one of the most important activities of the Hoover commission, in studying government reorganization, is the commission's strong desire to remove the federal government from competition with private business.

Much of this competition exists in activities of the defense department. Recently the defense department announced it is curtailing such activities as two aluminum sweating operations; seven scrap metal boiling operations; logging and sawmill facilities; seven bakeries; nine laundries; one chlorine manufacturing plant; 10 automotive repair plants and four cement mixing plants.

Curtis said that the defense department appropriation bill for next year, however, contains a provision that would let the department of defense carry on "work traditionally performed by civilian personnel," unless congress permits transfer of such work to private concerns. Curtis is asking Sen. Carl Hayden (D-Ariz.), chairman of the senate appropriations committee, to define "work traditionally performed" by the defense department.

To Massachusetts—

Capt. and Mrs. Lloyd F. Haug of Ft. Worth, Tex., departed last Thursday for Omaha to visit with friends before leaving for their new home in Springfield, Mass., where Captain Haug will be stationed. The Haugs visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Halva.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Loflin and Jo Lee returned Friday from their vacation. They visited relatives in St. Joseph and Kansas City, Mo., and Glenwood, Colo.

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