

Prairieland Talk

Hammond's Query Answered

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—A letter received from W. J. Hammond of Los Angeles, Calif., tells of Mr. Hammond's interest in "Prairieland Talk," and refers to the recent story of the hanging of Barret Scott, saying there has been a question in his mind how the searching parties knew where Scott was going to be hung.

They didn't. Those were the days of a fading-organization known as Vigilantes or Regulators. The Dutch-er brothers, Al Heilman and one or two others such as Doc Middleton had already passed out of the frontier picture of lawlessness.



Romaine Saunders

While those who went out from O'Neill that December midnight when Mrs. Scott arrived in town and went to the Meredith home on First street and told her sad story the guess was that Scott was taken to the gulches of the Eagle or Niobrara, hung and his body consigned to the waters of either of those streams. One party searched along the Eagle, another along the Niobrara. A rope dangling from the Whiting bridge over the Niobrara river was discovered. That was the clue. The Niobrara, swift-flowing stream, had much open water though frozen solid most of its length in midwinter. It was at one of these openings in the ice below the bridge that the body of Scott was recovered. I do not recall the name of the searcher who cast the grappling hook that brought up Scotty, but Hank Tomlinson can tell you.

In early summer of the year 1903 the Elkhorn Valley Editorial association, long since defunct, met in Atkinson and the following ladies identified with newspaper interests were received into the association as members: Mesdames Mead, Mather and Geddis of Bassett; Miles of Ainsworth, later of O'Neill; Good of Newport; Eves of O'Neill; Effer of Chadron; Baker of Valentine; Church of Atkinson; the Misses Miller of Atkinson, Bowers of Ainsworth; Hudspeith of Stuart and McLaughlin of O'Neill. The next year the editorial bright lights met in O'Neill. If any survive other than this lone pilgrim who was among that group, please raise your right hand.

Val Peterson, in company with other federal officials, floated on stately wings high above prairieland enroute to water-soaked sections of the Pacific coast where 50,000 have been made homeless by flood waters washing away communities, to see what can be done to aid the stricken people. That is the first thought of an American when disaster strikes. Maybe if Val passed in sight of it he looked down upon our towering capitol dome with something of a wishful look and memories of less exciting days when he sat upon the chief executive throne at our statehouse. Or did that winged monster of the air float over the village of Elgin in Antelope county where Val had led the quiet life of a village editor and where other treasured memories cluster? From being editor of a Nebraska small town weekly paper, our former citizen flies the skies with the great of the land, plans for defense of the nation against possible attack and rushes to zones of disaster to extend a helping hand.

The swivel chair farmers announced in the morning papers that Nebraska's 1956 wheat fields will yield 16 bushels per acre. That afternoon they had it 18 bushels per acre and the newspapers the next day said it will be 19 bushels. Along about next July the real dirt farmers will give us the straight of it.

Churchmen preach world ban of atomic weapons. We would like to be for it but see difficulties. Sly enemy nations can profess to join such a move and at the same time build up an arsenal of just such destroying weapons. If preachment would do it there would be no wars. Conflicting human desires can not be poured into a caldron and come out a rosebud of brotherly love. Human ideals, human interests, human plans, human lusts conflict, will conflict until the decree is heard, "There shall be time no longer." Until then the guy with the best gun will dominate the scene.

Editorial

Russia Faced with Problems

Dr. William Starlinger, noted German physician who was held in a Russian political prison for six years, until last year, has written a most absorbing book, dealing with Russia, Russia's future and the motivations that move the Russian people. Doctor Starlinger talked with many Russians in his six years inside Russian prisons. He had the opportunity to talk with generals, high political office-holders who had been ousted, farmers, industrial workers and every type of citizen. Day makes up communist Russia. His book is an stimulating it is said to have had a tremendous influence on West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

The most intriguing conclusion drawn by Doctor Starlinger is as follows: Russia is faced with several problems which cannot be solved simultaneously.

First, the Russian people do not have enough food, and the problem of raising the living standards and improving the morale of farmers cannot be solved as long as emphasis is being placed on heavy industry, as it is today.

Second, the Russians cannot provide the aid to red China, their principal ally, that China needs to expedite progress in raising its living standard and proceeding with an all-out program of industrialization.

Doctor Starlinger believes the only way the Kremlin can prevent serious distractions inside Russia, and stresses in her economy, is to reimpose a completely terroristic reign such as that exercised by the deposed soviet police leader, L. P. Beria. If such a reign of terror is not reimposed, then Russia will have to expand her trade, perhaps use her gold reserves to do this, and lower her armaments and military preparations to help solve the economic and food problems inside Russia.

Conservative Talk

Sen. Carl T. Curtis (R-Nebr.) offered some encouraging news in a statement issued Tuesday, January 3.

"There is no possibility of passing a five-billion-dollar foreign aid bill during the coming session of the congress," the veteran Cornhusker lawmaker declares.

Curtis believes there will be strong emphasis behind efforts to balance the budget with "many senators seeking some debt retirement prior to further tax reduction."

Curtis pointed out, for example, that Sen. Richard Russell, chairman of the senate armed ser-

MEMORIES OF PRAIRIELAND

24 East Bowery Street, Newport, R.I., Apt. 2. Dear Mr. Saunders: Once again I want to express my appreciation in being privileged to read your "Prairieland Talk" in the hometown paper. In this mad, dashing world it is a joy to relax and read pleasant expressions, stories and descriptions of a state so dear to a native Nebraskan. Your word pictures of the spring, summer, fall and winter seasons on prairieland make me close my eyes so the vision of the mind sees it.

Here in Newport, R.I., working with the public, one meets people from all states in the Union, and they all have pleasant things to say of Nebraska and the West. I received what I call my Christmas gold star from the ranch the other day. My sister sends me some home churned butter each year at Christmas time. Her husband owns the JO ranch south of Atkinson. It is a treat to have real butter, and in my book it is pure Nebraska gold, yellow like the goldenrod, not like the butterfat we buy here.

I would like to obtain a copy of Homer Campbell's (she means Will H. Spindler's) "Tragedy Strikes at Wounded Knee." I have been unable to find it here.

I must get at some of my house work now. I wanted to wish you and yours a most joyous Christmas and new year's, and I look forward to reading your "Prairieland Talk" in The Frontier during 1956. Most sincerely,

FLORENCE M. FELTS (Roseler)

The writer of this letter has been advised to contact the author, Will H. Spindler, at Wounded Knee, S.D.

More than a score of citizens of Yuba City, Calif., lost their lives in the death and destruction wrought by floods that hit in Oregon and California. Could it be that a bright young woman student in the O'Neill high school who stood with her graduating class more than 60 years ago in the upper room of the old courthouse was one of those swept to death at Yuba City? Mrs. Fry, a widow living in that northern California city, was a member of that O'Neill high school graduating class answering to the name of Henrietta McAllister. Her parents lived in the Minneola community of Holt county, and Etta, as she was called by her schoolmates, made her home with Mr. and Mrs. John Smoot on First street, the present home of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Rooney. Mrs. Smoot was a sister of Henrietta, who is related to Mrs. Alfred James of Swan precinct.

Christmas weekend accounted for 581 highway deaths. As this is noted the new year highway tragedies are not yet told. Nebraska contributed three to the Christmas total, two from Grand Island.

Under the spell of vivid memory and absence of confused thought, in the presence of his questioners, a heretofore respected citizen of the community, a cultured person with a university degree, makes confession of a revolting crime, signs it as his voluntary act and deed. He is taken to court to answer for that crime. Not guilty! And so a falsehood follows a blood-stained soul. Either the confession was false or the response to a murder charge in court is a lie. Oh, yes, I killed her, but that was not first degree murder! Shades of the immortal Blackstone! A killing results from one of two causes, a murderous desire harbored or an act of self-defense. Certainly a husky guy who deals the death blow to his defenseless little life's companion cannot claim self-defense.

It is all over. Down the highway of 1956 we are headed toward the destiny of another year. The '55 holiday season, which began with Thanksgiving, was marked by an enlarged spirit of spreading good cheer, cheer in the form of gifts and baskets at food markets to feed the hungry that seem to be forever present. A troubled world makes us think and the milk of human kindness flowed in generous response to provide a few hours of happiness for destitute families here and there. The One Whose birthday is commemorated in late December, said nothing concerning the observance of the day, but He did say, "If ye love Me keep My commandments." This may imply just giving a cup of cold water to someone.

vices committee, has called for cessation of foreign economic aid. "Many senators," said Curtis, "who formerly supported foreign aid as a temporary post-war program now believe this aid should stop. Most recipient countries are far above pre-war economic levels."

"We have learned, by experience," said Curtis, "that we cannot help nations beyond their desires to help themselves."

For some inexplicable reason the administration more than doubled its estimate of foreign aid requirements between a pre-Christmas briefing and the actual amount now being sought. The five-billion represents an all-time high and is rather strange talk coming from an administration that promised less foreign aid and pledged economies all along the line.

If all states supplied conservative senators as Nebraska does the free spenders would have invincible opposition.

Adlai Stevenson is now finding out, like Ike, that the radicals on each end of the issues make life a many-splendored thing for the moderate.

The tall men now take over, as basketball becomes sport king for January, and the short brethren might as well play tidley-winks.

President Eisenhower may have been lucky, in experiencing a moderate heart attack, if it slows him down and prevents a more serious one later.

Fear is kin to both envy and a guilty conscience.

THE FRONTIER

CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

Entered at the postoffice in O'Neill, Holt county, Nebraska, as second-class matter under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. This newspaper is a member of the Nebraska Press Association, National Editorial Association and the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Terms of Subscription: In Nebraska, \$2.50 per year; elsewhere in the United States, \$3 per year; rates abroad provided on request. All subscriptions are paid in advance.

Audited (ABC) Circulation—2,530 (Sept. 30, 1955)

When You and I Were Young . . .

53 Sundays Fall During Year 1905

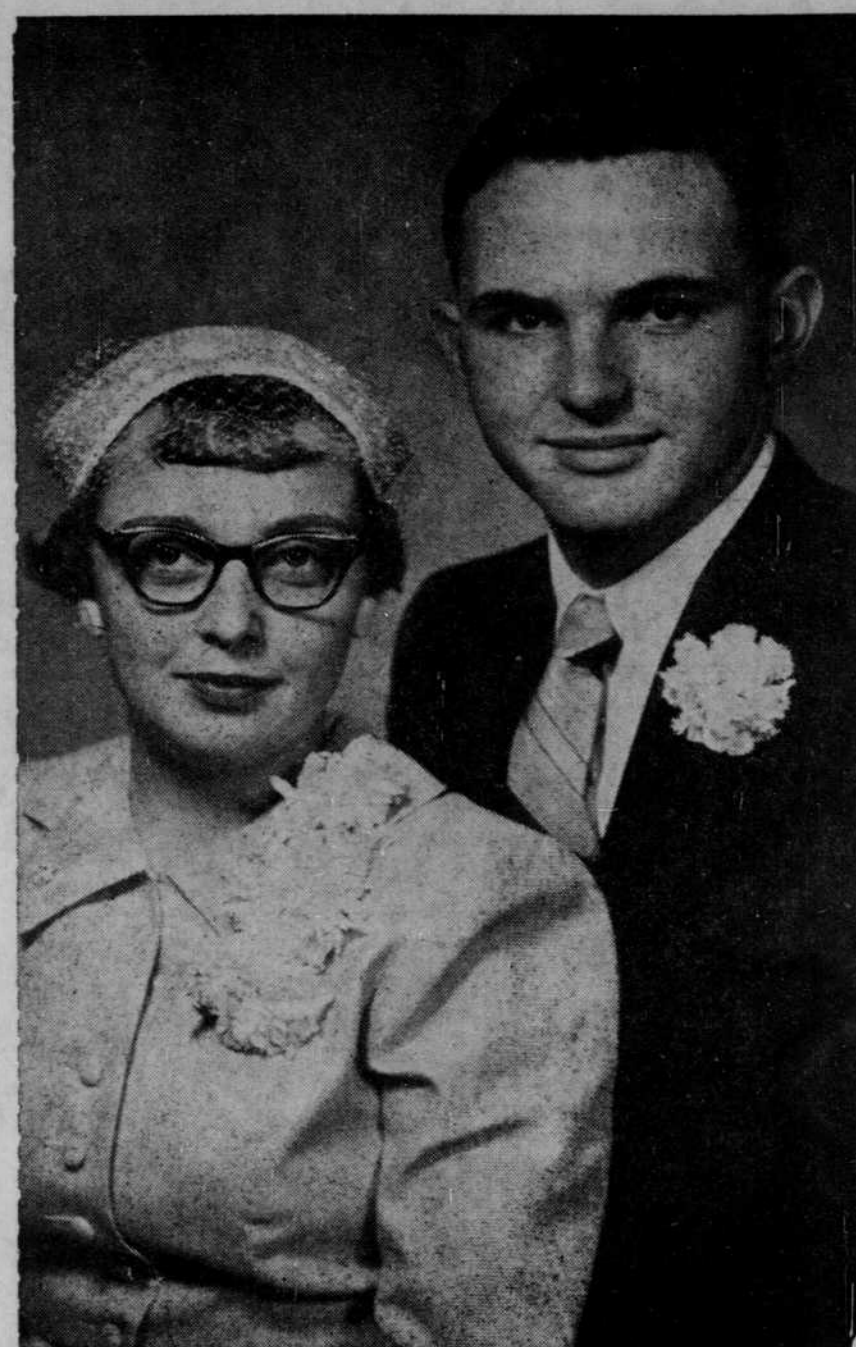
Won't Occur Again Until 2015

50 Years Ago Fire which started from a lamp in the cellar of Morrison's grocery store wrought considerable damage to the building and stock. . . The year just closed has had 53 Sundays, a circumstance that will never occur again during the lives of persons now living. One hundred and ten years will pass before this arrangement of the calendar is again observed. . . Nothing definite was done at the council meeting looking into the establishment of a lighting system. . . Miss Ida Schwaneck, an employee of The Frontier, met with a distressing accident when she caught the sleeve of her dress in a cog wheel of a job press. Her arm was drawn in and the skin and flesh torn from the elbow to the hand. . . Mrs. F. W. Phillips of Star came to O'Neill expecting to go away on a visit, but instead had to go to Omaha for medical treatment in St. Joseph's hospital.

20 Years Ago Henry D. Grady, former Holt sheriff, purchased a half-interest in the grocery store of his brother, Ben, and the firm of Grady Brothers has opened for business. . . The Good Fellowship club met at the Methodist church. Talks were given by F. M. Reece, C. J. McClurg and Rev. D. S. Jay. . . Leo Devereaux, who was seriously injured in an automobile accident a month ago, is up and around. . . J. P. Mann entertained five guests at a dinner at his home. . . The funeral of Will Sammons, held at Amelia, was largely attended. . . George T. Robertson, who has been spending the holidays at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. George C. Robertson, left Monday for Hastings college where he is a senior. . . The kids are wondering when they are to turn water on the city skating rink. . . The old county jail is a thing of the past. Workmen have completed the tearing down of the old building.

10 Years Ago William Haggerty, one of the oldtimers of this county, died at a hospital in Norfolk. . . Gambles store stock will be moved into the corner room of the Golden hotel, vacating the store room in the block west temporarily. The move is made because of extensive remodeling of their present quarters. . . The first recruiting team to tour this section of the nation, since the opening of the campaign to enlist 70,000 men in the regular army, will arrive in O'Neill. . . Gerald D. Hansen and Darlene R. Dalton, both of O'Neill, have obtained a marriage license. . . The Get-Together club met with Mrs. Ray Snell at Page with 12 members present. . . Mrs. E. G. Casey entertained 11 children at a theater party honoring her son's birthday anniversary. Tommy was nine-years-old.

One Year Ago Connie Gilman and Nancy Watson were injured in a car accident while driving away from a skating pond. The car in which they were riding struck a deep ditch. . . Five generations were represented at a dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Siders at the south edge of Inman. . . Richard Arlen Finwall, 10, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Finwall of Ft. Jones, Calif., was stricken with infantile paralysis while visiting relatives at Exire. . . Miss Melba Dobrovolyne won first in the 4-H pie baking contest. Mary Clair Gilg rated runnerup. . . Ralph Nelson, 45, Rock county rancher, was killed instantly when struck by a falling tree on the Louis Hall place in Keya Paha county. . . The Future Homemakers of America during December were busily engaged in various Christmas projects. . . The Stuart firemen were summoned to a blaze 9 1/2 miles northeast of Stuart to extinguish a tractor fire. The tractor belonged to Thilo Poessnecker, who was refueling the machine when the blaze started.



Mildred Louise Crabb Is Wed

Miss Mildred Louise Crabb, daughter of Mrs. Austa Crabb of O'Neill, and Owen Davis, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. E. Davis of O'Neill, were married Tuesday, December 27, in the First Presbyterian church here. Rev. J. Olen Kennell performed the double-ring ceremony.—O'Neill Photo Co.



Miss Orsborn to Wed

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Orsborn of O'Neill announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Bertha Ellen (above), to George H. Mumm, jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. George Mumm, sr., of Bloomfield. Miss Orsborn is a graduate of O'Neill high school. Mr. Mumm is a graduate of Bloomfield high school and is now employed with the state of Nebraska department of roads and irrigation. No date has been set for the wedding.

Drive Cows 4 Miles Thru Snow to Load onto Waiting Trucks

VENUS — Edwin Trennepohl, who lives on the Holt-Wheeler county line, was obliged to drive a herd of cows four miles through deep snow last week before the cattle could be loaded onto waiting trucks. The cows were herded by men on horseback to the four trucks which had gone to Venus to receive the loads. The cows had been kept on the Mrs. Mabel Davis farm. Nearest chute was at the Cecil Moser farm.

On Christmas eve Mr. and Mrs. Victor Halva had a half-hour visit by telephone with Mr. and Mrs. Haug from Springfield, Mass.

Christmas Birthday for Lizzie Pelcer

ATKINSON—Mrs. Lizzie Pelcer, one of the oldest Atkinson residents, Christmas day observed her 94th birthday anniversary. Mrs. Pelcer was born at Portsmouth, O., in 1861. She came to Gage county at the age of 17, where she met and married William Pelcer. They moved to Atkinson in 1909.

Mrs. Pelcer was honored Sunday by having with her Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Pelcer, her son and daughter-in-law, with whom she makes her home; a granddaughter, Mrs. C. E. Spence; three great-grandchildren, Gary and Dennis Spence and Mrs. Richard Braun, and two great-great-grandchildren, Loretta and Barbara Braun, all of whom make their homes near her in Atkinson. Mrs. Pelcer enjoys "very good health." Her spare time is spent keeping scrapbooks, tending flowers and writing letters.

Star News

The Gibson school held the Christmas program Thursday evening, December 22. Gifts were exchanged among the pupils and teacher, Miss Diane Hoffman. Treats were handed out to the children. Lunch was served after the program.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewalt Miller and Barbara were supper guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lysle Johnson and son Christmas eve. Later in the evening they all went to the home of Mrs. Hulda

Miller and daughters. Others at the home of Mrs. Miller were Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Johnson, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Miller and family, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Boelter, Mr. and Mrs. Max LeMasters and family, Mr. and Mrs. George Mott and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Frank, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller and family, Mrs. Pearl Groeling, Gary and Carolyn and Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Withalm and family. All of Mrs. Miller's children were present except Mrs. Martha Tate of Dallas, Ore. Lunch was served. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Fox and family were Christmas day guests at the Robert Tomlinson home.



EASY when you fell and buck with the new McCulloch MODEL 33 chain saw. Has top horsepower for its weight, higher chain speed too! The new Low Low maintenance saw. TRY IT TODAY!

DR. H. D. GILDERSLEEVE OPTOMETRIST. Northeast Corner of 4th & Douglas O'NEILL, NEBR. Phone 167. Eyes Examined - Glasses Fitted Office Hours: 9.5 Mon. thru Sat.

Marcellus Imp. Phone 5 WEST O'NEILL

Letters to Editor

Eugene, Ore. Dec. 26, 1955 Find enclosed check for \$3 subscription for The Frontier for the year 1956.

You will see by the enclosed clipping from the Eugene Register-Guard we are having very bad weather. Yesterday—the 25th — it rained another two inches. We do not understand it. I have lived here 32 years and have never seen anything like this. My home is on higher ground so do not suffer from the storm. O'Neill is my girlhood home and Lloyd, Floyd and Lester Ritts are my brothers. If you print this they will all know I am safe and okay.

Sincerely, MRS. OWEN F. HERRING 1158 West 10th st.

(Editor's note: The clippings described the ravages of the McKenzie and Willamette rivers, winds up to 100-miles-per-hour, and snow-melt adding to the mountain streams.)

Money to Loan

— on — AUTOMOBILES TRUCKS TRACTORS EQUIPMENT FURNITURE Central Finance Corp. C. E. Jones, Manager O'Neill Nebraska

New Listings! REAL ESTATE FOR SALE. 400-Acres in Boyd county. 440-Acres in Boyd county. 550-Acres in Keya Paha county. 920-Acres in Holt county. 2-320-Acre tracts in Holt county. 5,560-Acres in Holt-Rock counties. 6,400-Acres in Knox county. Acreages near O'Neill, Chambers and Inman. ED THORIN Licensed Real Estate Broker Auctioneer — Insurance

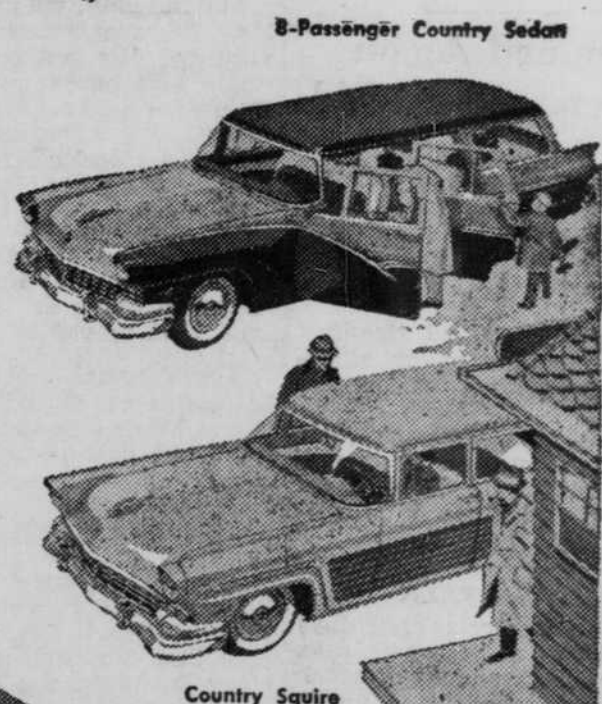
Fun and handy!

And every Ford Station Wagon offers the Thunderbird Y-8 Engine, Thunderbird Styling and Lifeguard Design!

With the introduction of the new, distinguished Parklane, America's favorite station wagons now are six! And "FUN" and "HANDY" are the words for all six of them! And all six offer you the Thunderbird's own Y-8 engine . . . at no extra charge.

And to guard you and yours against accident injuries you get Lifeguard Design. Lifeguard features such as a new deep-center steering wheel, double-grip door locks, shatter-resistant rear-view mirror, optional seat belts and padding for the control panel and sun visors . . . literally surround you and your family with added protection.

Come in for a Test Drive today. Find out all the other good reasons why Ford Station Wagons outsell them all!



The Ford Parklane Station Wagon

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

Country Squire

.. DANCE ..

AT O'NEILL

AMERICAN LEGION AUDITORIUM AND BALLROOM

Saturday, January 7th

ACES OF RHYTHM ORCHESTRA

Admission: Adults, \$1; Students, 50c