

Prairie Talk

Last of the Horiskeyes

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—The telegram sent me announcing the death of M. H. Horiskey and telling when he was to be buried came like a bolt out of the clear sky, although I had seen where he was in the hospital in O'Neill. Death lays a cold hand to claim all of us in the end.

Now another friend, another worthy citizen, another of a pioneer family has responded to the drumbeat of eternity. We will miss you, Mike, but the memory of your friendship, of your generous nature, your sterling worth as a man and upright life lives on in the hearts of those who knew you best.

Mike was the last of four Horiskey boys. He lived all his life from young boyhood in Holt county. The family first lived in the Minneola neighborhood. The blizzard of January 12, 1888, swept away their herds and the following summer John Horiskey moved his family into O'Neill.



Romain Saunders

One of the sons, Joe, became a leading grocery dealer in O'Neill some 50 years ago. Mike became a railway postal clerk and one or both of his sisters taught in the public schools here.

I take off to attend Mike's funeral, to look into his face now cold in death, as other friends will do. After the rites of burial the living turn away. Mike rests in the tomb. Goodbye, old pal!

A half-million dollars blown away and a week or two child's play in the U.S. senate over an imaginary attempt to bribe a South Dakota senator. All the honorable gentleman needed to do was to keep an unsullied hand off of that twenty-five hundred, which he did, and let it go at that. But the whole farcical performance carries with it a hunch not to contribute to political campaign funds.

This mid-February afternoon the glowing orb of day looks down upon prairie land transformed quickly from Arctic winter to spring-like days. Soon the bars of gold on the prairie's rim will spread upon the scene of transcending beauty, a prairie sunset. Winter came to us with gripping cold ere autumn days were done and may have about run its course. Along the pathway of life the days come and go, days leaving behind gain and loss, smiles and tears, the record of what we may have laid upon the altar of achievement, of a helpful word or act or a frown. Whether the day has been well spent or loafed away, if we have had eyes to see and hearts to respond, nature has brought to us again a picture of lights and shadows no hand of man can portray.

Evangelist Billy Graham is greeted by throngs on his world tours. When he is gone, what then? Pioneer clergy in Holt county ministered to their flocks in simple devotion to duty, unheralded by fame and certainly no fortune. Father Smith and Monsignor Cassidy of St. Patrick's Catholic church, Rev. N. S. Lowrie of the Presbyterian faith and Rev. D. C. Winstead of the Methodists, the one other church in pioneer days, not only ministered at the altars but traveled the prairies to bring spiritual solace to the scattered members of their flocks, received little pay but carried on for what good they could do.

Only one ninety-nine ninety-five — you save fifty dollars, shouts the speller. How's that again?

Three community boys, just at the early "teen age," from good homes, and two of them sons of a capable clergyman, have been dealt with judicially. They had been discovered trying their luck at shoplifting. The modern merchandise mart invites just that. Trinkets useful and playful, items of daily need, things alluring and beautiful, all spread out before you as if to extend an invitation to help yourself. Kids and adults do this and walk out. I recall being in a great food market in a California city when I asked one of the concern's members if they did not have considerable loss by theft. He said they did but made it up on those who paid. That a young lad gets involved in "delinquency" is not always fatal. I knew such a lad who was sent to the reform school. He is now a physician and a respected citizen. A kid of a vanished generation who never stole a watermelon would be hard to find.

The Hon Val Peterson of civil defense thinks a more appropriate title for that federal setup can be discovered and invites suggestions. Here's one—national home defense. What's yours?

In the good old days you read about editors were given annual railroad passes and traveled by train with an air of superiority. If a circus came to town the entire force was handed free passes. Likewise at public functions and entertainments, ball games and horse races, editors and printers had bestowed upon them the gracious gesture of "freedom of the grounds." That was a way to get publicity and curry favors with the press. The brewery boys now step up at district and state press association gatherings to act as host at the luncheons. U.S. Brewers Foundation Nebraska division are after you, esteemed editors. Do you fall for it?

Rumors to the effect that Val Peterson may be appointed to head the civil aeronautics board may mean the civil defense setup is on the way out.

Not being cognated to the agriculture worries of the hour, the city fathers of Lincoln, along with the county board of supervisors, are thumbing over the problem of a new combination city hall and courthouse. To most visitors going to these separate seats of government, city hall on O street and county house a half mile below on 10th street, they feel they could make out alright if placed on the payroll at either headquarters, but when those who spend most of their lives in these official circles conclude the building "is about to fall down," agitation begins for a building program.

A North Dakota town comes up with a story of the biggest coyote, a 61-pound common creature of the wild on prairie land. That Dakota big one may have a Canada timber wolf dad or granddad. Out of the west Texas weather bureau comes the news that the Lone Star state has the biggest thing in one more line to add to its championship list—a blizzard that outclassed ours of '86. I have paid my dues to the Nebraska Blizzard club for another year.

Secretary of Agriculture Benson gets it plenty. He is neither responsible for crop failures, surpluses nor market conditions. Supply and demand have determined the size of mediums of exchange since the world began. Departure from that to venture on a program of federal price supports brought on the present situation. Agriculture and the flocks and herds have stood on their own legs through the centuries and will continue to do so.

When You and I Were Young . . .

3 Prs. Cotton Hose

39c at Cash Store

J. L. Fisher Captures Large Wolf

50 Years Ago
Ladies' black cotton hose, four pairs for 39 cents, at the Cash Store; also men's corduroy mackinaw-lined coats at \$3.50. . . Charles H. Milnes of Orchard and Gertrude M. Scott of Page were granted a marriage license. . . E. W. Wilcox has sold his meat market to F. W. Sparks of Ewing. . . Rocking chairs given away at Horiskey's store. . . J. L. Fisher procured the hide of a large wolf captured this week. He has sent the hide to be tanned with the head and four legs attached. Hide will be used as a rug.

20 Years Ago
The weather has been bitter here all week. Thirty-two degrees below zero Saturday—the coldest temperature in this city for the past 36 days, according to Harry Bowen has been 14 1/2 degrees below zero. . . Charles Wrede, jr., died after an illness of several months. . . The fire department was called to a fire at the D. H. Cronin residence. . . Phil Dempsey, Richard Bowen, Ernie Harris, Roy Johnson, Charles Sterner, Lou Wyant, Norm Devall, "Red" Young and a Mr. Peterson were snowbound at a farm home. . . James Hartly, father of Ben and Pat Hartly, died in Galena, Ill.

10 Years Ago
Funeral services for Mrs. C. D. Keyes of Inman, a pioneer, were held at the Methodist church in Inman. . . St. Mary's trimmed Holy Trinity (Hartington), 38-36. . . Miss Herberta Russ and Thomas G. Hutton were married at O'Neill. . . Mrs. Mame Melvin and Mrs. Bea Gallagher attended the funeral of a brother of J. A. Freinking in Omaha. . . Tax valuations on purebred cattle are \$55 and stock cattle \$45 from 18- to 30-months-old.

One Year Ago
Kenneth Wettlauffer, Harold Freemyer and Keneth Asher figure the wolf they bagged is the mountain lion reported to have been seen hereabouts. . . Melvin and Marvin Meals married Della and Viola Van Fleet at Atkinson. . . The D. W. Baab farm home at Atkinson was destroyed by fire. Blizzard conditions contributed to the destruction. . . Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fox, jr., newlyweds, attended the mardi gras in New Orleans, La.

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WD — Jack Barr to Adolph L. Latzel & wt 1-26-56 \$8500—Lots 15 & 16 Blk H—O'Neill & Hager's Add—O'N



Engagement Told

Mr. and Mrs. James L. Pruden of Ewing are announcing the engagement and approaching marriage of their daughter, Fern A. (above), to Samuel M. Burtwistle, son of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Burtwistle of Ewing. They will be married on May 20.

Rites Saturday for Former Holt Woman

STUART — Funeral rites for Mrs. Frank Atkinson, 76, were held Saturday, February 18, at 2 p.m., in the Community church. Rev. D. D. Su, church pastor, officiated.

Music was furnished by Mrs. Norris Coats as soloist and a quartet composed of Mr. and Mrs. Norris Coats, Mrs. Harry Cowles and J. G. Brewster, accompanied by Mrs. Mark Nelson at the organ.

Burial was in the Stuart cemetery under the direction of the Coats funeral service.

Mrs. Atkinson died suddenly Saturday evening, February 11, at the home of her son in Drain, Ore.

Edith Martha Papke was born September 23, 1879, at Plate Center. She was married October 15, 1898, to Frank T. Atkinson at Kirkwood and they made north-west Holt county their home until Mr. Atkinson's death in 1943.

HEO Club Will Entertain Husbands

DELOIT—The HEO club will meet Thursday, March 8, at the Ewald Spann home.

A covered dish dinner will be served at noon. The husbands of club members will be guests at dinner.

Other Deloit News

Mrs. Scott Clow of Denver, Colo., is visiting at the home of her mother, Mrs. Reimer, in Ewing.

Pat Squire and Don Werkmeister were home from Lincoln over the weekend. Pat is taking nurse's training and Don is attending the university college of agriculture.

Mr. and Mrs. Pat McLain of Grand Island spent the weekend at the Adolph Bartak home. The following attended the homecoming basketball game and crowning of the queen at Bartlett Friday evening: Mr. and Mrs. Jim Squire and daughters, Mrs. H. Werkmeister and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bud Bartak and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tagel and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Royvan Day and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bowen and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Kruntorad and family, Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Bartak, Mr. and Mrs. Foster Felker and family and Mr. and Mrs. H. Reimer and Elaine.

The pupils and teacher at the Deloit school enjoyed a dinner and valentine party at the school Tuesday, February 14.

Sunday dinner guests at the Don Larson home were Jessie Angus, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Larson and Mr. and Mrs. H. Reimer and daughter of Ewing, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Pahl and Mary and Mrs. Lina Smith, all of Oakland.

Mrs. Lynn Briggs of near Ord attended the basketball game in Bartlett Friday evening. Nancy Paul of Elgin also attended.

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Marv Werkmeister, who is in service in California, is visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. Werkmeister, and family.

The weather and roads are somewhat improved. Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Harpster and sons were Sunday dinner guests at the Alfred Napier home. Sunday guests at the Reimer home in Ewing were Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harpster, Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Harpster and sons, Mr. and Mrs. H. Reimer and daughter, County Judge and Mrs. Louis W. Reimer of O'Neill and Mrs. Scott Clow of Denver, Colo.

Guests of Johnsons—Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Anderson and their daughter, Debra, were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. J. Victor Johnson on Sunday, February 19.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS
GUARDIAN'S DEED—Cathryn Adler, Grd to Joseph S Dvorak 2-2-56 \$6000— 1/2 Int in Lot 1 Blk 1—Morningside Add—Atk
WD—Helen Young to Lloyd A Rouse 2-11-56 \$275— Undivided interest in SW 1/4 10-31-11
QCD—Joseph D Daas to Victoria Abdo, Trustee 1-21-56 \$1-NE 1/4 13-26-14

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Editorial

Caucus Time At Hand

Each year The Frontier reminds the O'Neill citizenry that its municipal officers are selected here via the petition method; that formal caucuses have not been held for a score or more years.

In a gathering of persons the other day, some of them city officials, a question was asked: What is a caucus and how does it work?

Sad commentary. The caucus method supports the two-party system of government, which is the traditional American way. Slates of candidates are drawn up in meetings that have been formally and legally called and publicized. Makes no matter what the parties are called, but with two slates the election takes on true meaning.

The petition method is a last-minute, makeshift, haphazard method of picking candidates. The petition method, unfortunately, is the manner in which municipal candidates traditionally are selected here.

Having two slates formalized by regularly constituted caucuses does not mean the write-in technique cannot be used. The caucus system, however, tends to broaden the interest of municipal affairs. Norfolk, Ord, Atkinson, Wayne, to mention only a few cities and towns, usually employ the caucus method, which is the best and accepted American form of choosing officials.

Caucuses must be held 35 days prior to a municipal election. Next election will be April 3.

Heart Disease Major Death Cause

(Guest editorial by Dr. O. A. Kostal of Hastings, president Nebraska Heart association)

We of Nebraska face a challenge in the heart and blood vessel diseases—a challenge which can be met by you through the current heart fund drive. These cardiovascular diseases — primarily hardening of arteries, high blood pressure, and rheumatic fever, afflict more than 80,000 Nebraskans. They account for 54 percent of all our deaths, according to the latest available data (1954). Even the one-third of these deaths which occur below age 65 is greater than the next leading cause of death. And it is even more striking to realize that rheumatic fever caused seven times as many deaths as polio among our young people (141 vs. 20—1954).

The Nebraska Heart association is your only voluntary agency devoted exclusively to the problems of the heart and blood vessel diseases. You can share in the fight against "heart disease" through the heart fund and its house-to-house appeal Sunday, February 26, 2-4 p.m. Your support is urgently needed. Your contribution will further the research, public and professional education, and community service programs of the Nebraska and American Heart association. Your contribution will be an investment in your own heart as well as in the lives of others.

The Nebraska heart fund drive will be a success and eventual conquest of heart disease brought a bit closer with your observance of the campaign slogans:

"Welcome your heart Sunday volunteer, February 26," and "Help the heart fund — help your heart."

(Editor's note: Heart fund chairmen in O'Neill are Dr. Robert Langdon and Mrs. Elgin Ray.)

Commandments for Parents

We so often hear parents say, it is just too bad the way children are destroying property of others, but of course, our young people around here do not do these things. Wish this statement were true, but it seems that it is true in this county as well as in others.

In discussions parents come in for a part of the blame for not properly teaching their children. We believe many do try, but some do not exert the efforts they might. The teaching of the youth of today is the job of parents and also every one of the community.

Recently we clipped these 10 commandments for parents. We think they are along the right line:

1. Thou shalt make good Americans of thy children.
2. Thou shalt take interest in the activities and schooling of thy children.
3. Thou shalt share thy hobbies and pleasures with thy children.
4. Thou shalt conduct thyself to gain the love and respect of thy children.
5. Thou shalt guide thy children in choosing friends and make them welcome.
6. Thou shalt guide the destinies of thy children and respect their wishes.
7. Thou shalt weigh thy children's needs with patience and understanding.
8. Thou shalt commend the efforts and achievements of thy children.
9. Thou shalt teach thy children the wisdom of truth.
10. Thou shalt teach thy children the word of God.

One good thing about having measles in the household: It's an opportunity to send the kids' clothing to the dry cleaners.

After a woman reaches 25, it's a smart guy who is dumb enough to guess her age incorrectly.

Capt. Peter Townsend is said to be on the bridge path at last. He has taken to horse training.

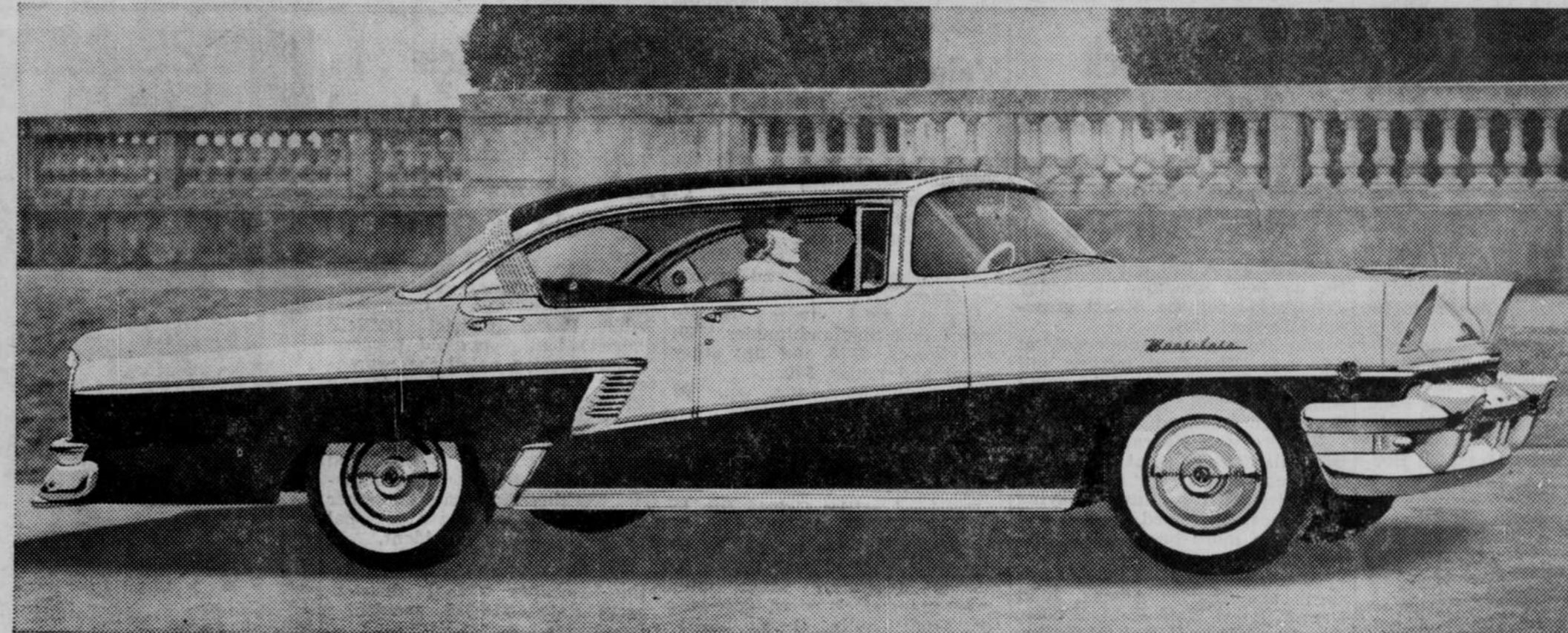
The Frontier's circulation grows and grows!

THE FRONTIER
CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

Entered at the postoffice in O'Neill, Holt county, Nebraska, as second-class mail 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)



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