

Prairieland Talk . . .

Meets Up with Pioneer Preacher

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Frontier Editor

LINCOLN—Seated out in the open today under the June sky, taking in the scene as automobiles hurried hither and yon, when an aged patriarch found his way across the street through the traffic and was invited to sit down beside me. I learned that more than 50 years ago he was a Methodist preacher, serving charges in Holt county where he preached at Blackbird, Minneola and Eden Valley and later at Chambers. It was the Reverend Koontz, who may be remembered by some still living in the communities mentioned.



Romaine Saunders

Christmas night in 1899 he left his home in Indiana with his wife and two young daughters for O'Neill and from there was taken to Blackbird where they made their home and Reverend Koontz took up the work of a pioneer pastor of three church groups, the purpose for which he had left Indiana where they were overstocked with preachers.

He now at the age of 84 is living in retirement and has one daughter still living whose home is in Lincoln.

You hear of the "good old days." Days have come down the highway of time since the dawn of creation. "The evening and the morning were the first day." Since light dispelled the darkness of that first day the sun has come forth at dawn in a blaze of glory, rode its flaming orbit across the heavens and lighted other regions when the Milky Way spread a band above and stars glowed out of the depth of space. As days come and go the "good old days" were no different than today. But the days that have gone into the record of time were not all good. We blundering, short-sighted mortals messed things up then as we do today—yet out of memory's full-laden store arise visions of the days of yore, with their struggles, defeats, victories, happiness and heartaches, prosperity and adversity, boiled potato dinners and sumptuous feasts, days of toil and hours of loafing, social contact and lonely periods. Our days are what we make them and the white heads of each succeeding generation have the fun of telling young sprouts about the "good old days."

The Pharisees and Sadducees may be tearing themselves to shreds in Washington but the functions of our United States government go on as usual.

O'Neill's notable cowboy, Dewey Schaffer, and president of the Nebraska Stock Growers' association, got a number of prominent men of the country to give the cattlemen their views of things agriculturally and the live stock outlook at a meeting of the association up at Chadron the last three days of the week ending June 12. Wheeler McMillen of the Farm Journal, W. W. Cenerazzo of Summerville, Mass., and James C. Keogh of Time magazine were among the guest speakers from out of the state at the gathering. Are they looking to Nebraska back there in old New England for their beef supply?

Editorial . . .

He Didn't Make General

(From Chicago Tribune)

Col. Otis K. Sadtler, chief of the military branch of the army signal corps at the time of Pearl Harbor, died in retirement the other day. He was a colonel at the end of the war in 1945, and he was still a colonel when he died. Thousands of officers were promoted during the war from the rank they held at the start of hostilities, but not Col. Sadtler. Hundreds, if not thousands of colonels became generals; not Col. Sadtler.

And when the failure of this officer to advance is examined, the reason seems peculiar. For Col. Sadtler, in the events leading up to the Japanese surprise attack upon Pearl Harbor, distinguished himself by his devotion and energy. He tried to prevent a surprise, but his warnings and advice went unheeded.

The army Pearl Harbor board, which investigated the disaster and reported its conclusions in 1944, complimented Col. Sadtler for his "interest and aggressiveness in attempting to have something done" on the basis of Japanese cryptographic messages, which were intercepted and decoded after the United States broke the Japanese secret code. He was, the board stated, deeply impressed with the significance of the information thus obtained, unbeknownst to the enemy, "which pointed only to war, and to war almost immediately."

Col. Sadtler testified to the receipt of the Japanese "East wind rain" message, inserted in a radio broadcast from Tokyo, which had been arranged as a signal to Japanese diplomats overseas that war was coming. He went to the chief of the army war plans, Gen. L. T. Gerow, with a suggestion that American overseas commands be alerted, but was informed that they had been adequately warned. He went next to Col. Walter Bedell Smith, then secretary to the general staff, but Smith said he "did not want to discuss the matter further."

The report of the army board placed a part of the responsibility for Japanese success on Gerow. It was highly critical of Smith. The report of the minority in a congressional investigation of Pearl Harbor in 1946 listed Gerow among those guilty of "failure to perform the responsibilities indispensably essential to the defense of Pearl Harbor." Testimony in the investigations disclosed that the night before the Japanese attack, when there was still time to warn Pearl Harbor, the first 13 of the 14 part final Japanese message breaking off relations with the United States was delivered to Smith, with word that it should go to Gen. Marshall, the chief-of-staff, at once. The army board called Smith's failure to act "unfortunate."

Gerow, during the course of the war, was promoted from brigadier general to lieutenant general and placed in command of an army in Europe. Smith was promoted to the rank of lieutenant general, became chief-of-staff to Gen. Eisenhower in Europe, later was made ambassador to Moscow, still later chief of the central intelligence agency, and now is under-secretary of state. Gen. Marshall, who muffed the last minute message needed to alert Pearl Harbor, rose to the secretaryships of state and defense.

The contrast to Col. Sadtler, who tried to carry out his duties, is striking. The fumblems all

He was no hobo. Clean, not badly dressed, young and going some place as he headed out of town, maybe to see an aging father and mother far away, far in terms of walking. With the hope of getting a lift he had signaled passing cars but all sped on unmindful of the wishes of a footman. And so he walked on. Those of an earlier generation out there on prairieland had the time and the disposition to drive a mile or two out of their way to ask a settler if he would like to go to town or wanted something brought out. Substituting the steering wheel for a pair of lines makes the difference.

At a horse auction in a Kansas town that drew buyers from Nebraska, Iowa and Missouri 70 head of animals were offered for sale and brought up to \$150 for one nag. Is the horse on the way back?

A Fillmore county farmer assures me we will have our oatmeal-oat crops that have been pretty much of a failure in recent years, hold a promise today of a forthcoming heavy yield. . . Fred Seaton's name appears among the brigade of patriots for the republican nomination for U. S. senator. Mr. Seaton is capable but he belongs to Kansas rather than to Nebraska. I favor the home folks. . . Senator McCarthy will probably yet emerge the winner. . . The State Historical society will continue archaeological salvage work this summer at Ft. Randall reservoir.

Congressman Miller has filed again for the Republican nomination. He has represented the Fourth Nebraska district in congress since 1943. Carlton Laird of Scottsbluff asks for the democratic nomination.

The Hon. Mr. Wilson, secretary of defense, says truth, not bullets, must stop the Reds. I wonder. A bullet is the only thing that penetrates the mental processes of the pagan world. What is truth? asked the Roman governor. And Truth in a personality was nailed to a cross. "Truth forever on the scaffold, wrong forever on the throne; yet beyond the dim unknown standeth God within the shadows keeping watch above His own."

Favors, attention, awards are bestowed upon students in schools to those who need such the least. The backward, the timid, the less forward ones who need special encouragement do not get it. Not only so, but the innocent sometimes suffer instead of the guilty even though the preceptor of a school room does not will it so, but the guilty young devil can lie better than the innocent one can tell the truth.

Mr. Vaughn, register of deeds for Lancaster county since 1933, is again a candidate for the republican nomination and will get it. An efficient public official in a post that nobody wants, simplifies matters as to one county office.

Present price of hats tells the story of why men are joining the hatless brigade.

News, Views and Gossip BY THE EDITOR

WE ENJOYED the few hours we devoted to judging the entries in the Alabama newspaper contest. Our assignment from Jack Beisner, manager of the Alabama Press association, instructed us to pick the best editorials appearing during a 12-month period in newspapers published in cities and towns up to 3,500 population. No easy chore—because there were some good ones.

We favored for top honors a tabloid's expose of a county highway commission which, apparently, helped push through the state legislature a bill extending by four years the terms of office for the commission members; took a trip to Washington, D. C., at taxpayers' expense, including an engineer and one of the board's three attorneys; and generally was inefficient. The editorial at the same time commended at least one commissioner who was doing a good job and produced outstanding results in his district.

Second place honors went to a paper which had been crusading without success for improved municipal park facilities until about five years ago. Finally, a trust fund from a wealthy family set up an elaborate and adequate recreational park outside the city limits, but the trustees reserved the right to fix the salaries of the park personnel, etc. In recent months, the city council in the Alabama town finally decided a park was needed inside the town. The newspaper exploded and insisted the park money be used for something else or at least be made available to the trustees for use in the existing new park, which was described as second-to-none in Alabama for cities of that class. Subsequent issues revealed the newspaper was on the right track because civic groups quickly got into the park idea and the second park idea was scuttled.

We noted that only one of the editorials (there were 50 entered) touched on the racial segregation issue (which inevitably is a hot topic, particularly in view of the recent U. S. supreme court decision. One editorial lampooned a U. S. senator — Sparkman — for singing one tune to the negroes in Harlem and another tune altogether to the whites in Coffee county, Alabama. Other editorials flayed or applauded cotton price supports. There was one outstanding piece on the Alabama educational outlook. The article pointed out that education in Alabama is next to the lowest in per pupil cost among the states. The traditional eloquence in the South was evident in most of the editorials. But we found only two newspapers comparing in overall excellence with some of the fine Nebraska weeklies that cross our desk—i.e., The Nebraska Signal (Geneva), Aurora News-Register, Blair Pilot-Tribune, Stanton Register, Wayne Herald, Oakland Independent, Ord Quik, Albion News, Burt County Plaindealer (Tekamah), Dakota County Star (South Sioux City), Neligh News, and a dozen others.

MISCELLANY: The circus was a jolly good. We wonder, though, if those animal trainers weren't a bit on the cruel side, compared to their counterparts in "The Greatest Show on Earth" (Ringing Bros., Barnum & Bailey). . . In case you've wondered, the water depth is 10 1/2 feet in the diving area under the 10 foot board at the munc. pool. . . A nearby South Fourth street neighbor who dislikes Joe McCarthy

came in Tuesday and breathlessly announced Joe soon would be conducting a congressional investigation in heaven. We nibbled. "Joe has learned there are several left-wing angels," quipped the funny-man.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT that Joe West was being elevated from patrolman to chief of police startled a good many, some of whom have asked our reaction to the promotion. It is really not necessary for us to comment, because most people know our regard for West as a public official working at a job which is 99 percent public relations and 1 percent enforcement.

When You and I Were Young . . . 40 Cottonbelt Actors Coming

'Uncle Tom's Cabin' to Be Staged

50 Years Ago Graduates from St. Mary's academy were: Etha M. Adams, Anna L. Dwyer, Margaret C. Green, Dorothy K. Testman, Nellie C. Brennan, Margaret A. Grady, Agnes A. Hagerly, Agnes Kelly and Constance H. Harrington. . . Sadie Agnes Cain and Harry Higley were united in marriage at the bridegroom's home in Blair. Mrs. J. B. Fitzsimmons of Creston, Ia., is visiting the Golden family. . . "Uncle Tom's Cabin" tent show will play a one-day stand in O'Neill. Forty actors, musicians, singers, dancers, and real negroes from the cotton belt are the feature attractions advertised.

20 Years Ago Mrs. Calmer T. Simonson died at her home northeast of the city and Mrs. John Kennedy died at her home here. . . Wind destroyed two barns in the southern part of the county. . . Over 11,000 Nebraska men were placed in gainful employment in Nebraska by the national reemployment service. . . An unknown man driving a car with an Iowa license plate entered upon the new wet concrete pavement in the east end of town and drove nearly a half-mile right down the center. It is said he thought we'd had one big flood in O'Neill.

10 Years Ago A surprise party was given for Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cook honoring their 31st wedding anniversary. . . First Lieutenants Dercy and Gail Abart, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Abart, met for the first time in three years in Italy. . . Bill Froelich, Ed Campbell, Joe Biglin and Jim Barley are in Winnebago, Minn., working for the Milwaukee railroad. . . Holt county 4-H club camp will be held at Long Pine in July.

One Year Ago Mrs. Elizabeth Kallhoff, pioneer homesteader, died in Elgin. Her death was marked by coincidence with her arrival in the United States from Germany 70 years ago. . . A petition with 16 signers was filed. It opposed eight blocks of paving and street improvement in the four square blocks adjoining O'Neill's center. . . The Misses Mary M. Troshynski and Jeanne Head graduated from St. Francis school of nursing at St. Joseph's hospital in Minot, N. D. . . A band of old-fashioned gypsies with modern trailers and shining new cars spent several days camped in Atkinson's city park. The modern nomads intrigued some of Atkinson's children.

DRS. BROWN & FRENCH Eyes Tested—Glasses Fitted Broken Lens Replaced in 24 Hours Other Repairs While You Wait Complete X-Ray

Miller Files for Reelection in Fourth

Rep. A. L. Miller of Nebraska's Fourth congressional district, announced this week that he had completed filing for the republican nomination for reelection to the house of representatives.

Doctor Miller, chairman of one of the 19 regular committees of the house (interior and insular affairs), is seeking reelection to his seventh consecutive term. His committee, among other things, handles all irrigation and reclamation legislation, introduced in the house.

In his filing statement, Representative Miller, said "I will continue to do my utmost to promote the best interests of the people of the Fourth congressional district of Nebraska in the same forceful manner I have in the past." Doctor Miller is from Kimball.

New Pastor, Family Feted at Church

EWING—The Upper Room club sponsored a fellowship dinner following the morning worship hour Sunday at the Methodist church, honoring the pastor and family, Rev. and Mrs. Lee Bridson and son. The afternoon was spent informally, departing for their homes about 3 o'clock. Forty members and friends were in attendance.

The Bridson family comes to the Ewing church from Meadow Grove.

Joyce Miller Signs at Creighton

CREIGHTON—Miss Joyce Miller of O'Neill will teach the third and fourth grades in the Creighton public school next term, having signed a contract with the board of education last week. Miss Miller has four years experience as a grade teacher. The faculty for the grades is now complete.

Letters to Editor

Congress of the United States House of Representatives Washington, D. C. June 10, 1954

Dear Mr. Stewart: One of your leading citizens, Mr. Julius Cronin, has been kind enough to send me a copy of your editorial of Thursday, June 3. I thank you so much for your regarding to what I had to say referring to the Indochina situation.

I am glad to see your comment and I wholeheartedly agree with it. I am hoping to get up your way soon and I shall look forward to meeting you.

With personal greetings, I am Sincerely yours, CARL T. CURTIS

(Editor's note: Veteran Representative Curtis of Minden has declined to run again for the First district congressional seat. He is a republican candidate for the U. S. senate nomination.)

Entertain Norfolks

Thursday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Elden Butterfield were Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge Maynard and family of Norfolk. Lois Maynard remained and will visit for several weeks at the Butterfield home.

Frontier for printing!

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

VICTOR E. ANDERSON REPUBLICAN FOR GOVERNOR

NOTICE Monday nights, commencing June 21st and continuing through the summer, have been designated as "Adult Night Only" at the O'Neill Swimming Pool. Only those out of high school or over 18-years-old will be allowed in the pool on Monday nights. The Park Board

MILLER THEATER Atkinson Fri.-Sat. June 18-19 Rousing Leatherneck Action! MARYO and LANCASTER South Sea Woman ALSO Red Skelton funnier than ever! The Great DIAMOND ROBBERY Sun.-Mon.-Tue.-Wed. 20-21-22-23 4 Days STEWART and ALLYSON The GLENN MILLER STORY Thurs.-Fri.-Sat. June 24-25-26 THE GREATEST AMERICAN DRAMA SINCE "ONE WITH THE WIND" JUBILEE TRAIL

Newspaper Growing

Despite the advent of television, pocket-size books, drive-in theaters and other modern forms of entertainment, circulation of newspapers continues to increase. Editor & Publisher, weekly magazine of the journalistic trade, reported recently that 1953 circulation set a new record, moving up about one percent from the 1952 figures. The Frontier, incidentally, is enjoying far and away the greatest circulation in its long and colorful history—entering more homes each week than any other newspaper in a wide area. Moreover, The Frontier is one of only seven weeklies in Nebraska with an audited circulation. Our circulation records are examined and double-checked by the only recognized circulation auditing agency in the world—the same agency and personnel who audit the principal newspapers and magazines in the United States.

We are humble and deeply gratified by our circulation record, all of which has been made possible by a loyal, responsive and growing family of readers.

We like to take the view, too, that the different news media do not necessarily compete with a weekly newspaper that delivers all the local and regional news—mostly about folks you know. Of course, this must be balanced with feature material, pictures and comment on pertinent issues.

Nothing can or will take the place of a good local newspaper in American life and we're flattered in being a part of that fraternity that constitutes the rural American press.

The man who borrows his neighbor's copy of The Frontier knows a good thing when he can get it.

Being courteous may require a little extra time but, in the long run, it often saves time.

THE FRONTIER

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"It's a fact!" Just one demonstration and we're sure you'll be convinced. The way the Massey-Harris 33 goes through heavy work is a sight to see. It's tops in tractor value . . . in pulling power at the drawbar, in fuel economy, in driver comfort, in ease of handling. See us soon . . . make it the next time you're in town — get the tractor value that sets the pace in the 3-plow class. You can't get a bigger 3-plow value than the MASSEY-HARRIS 33. OUTLAW IMPLEMENT CO. Tony Asimus — West O'Neill

HEAP BIG SAVINGS Early Summer Installation SAVE YOU PLENTY . . . Kansas-Nebraska will reward you with a liberal discount if you place your order for a Bryant Natural Gas Furnace now, because you help us avoid a fall rush. Ask your Kansas-Nebraska manager how you can buy now and pay with your gas bill. bryant Gas-Fired WARM AIR FURNACE COME IN AND ASK US HOW . . . KANSAS-NEBRASKA Natural Gas Company Inc. For Dependable GAS Service