

Prairie Talk . . .

Days of 'Consenting' to Run Over

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Frontier Editor

LINCOLN—Too bad there are not public offices sufficient to supply all who were hit this year with the itch for office. The day is past when candidates had to be drafted and then reluctantly consented to "make the race."

This thing we call the primary, where the dear people are supposed to have the say about naming candidates, though less than 25 percent of the voters show up at the polls at primary elections, is responsible for the army of candidates and attendant confusion.

Only one can get the nomination for any one office. Under the party convention system candidates were selected with care to be voted for at the November election. Any expense attached to these party conventions was met by its delegates, whereas the primary means the cost of an election passed on the public.



Romaine Saunders

Charley Hall did it for \$50 a month, what an ornament at the bank corner now costs the town \$250. Besides, Charley kept the water pumps going down at the "power house" so that those who didn't visit Bill LaViolette's corner could have fresh water to drink. . . Patriotism, community pride or egotistical bombast inspired the editor of the Plain Dealer in an issue in July, 1901, to say that Dr. P. J. Flynn of O'Neill was located in "Atkinson, the only town in the Elkhorn valley." . . . The Stuart paper that same week said Harvey Stocking of O'Neill, in the butter shipping business, had bought 1,500 pounds of butter at grocery stores in Stuart. Those were the days when there was a butter maker from real cream on about every quarter section in Stuart precinct.

The annual bellyache over weather conditions is in full tune. Newspapers go at it with 60-point headlines. July has been hot on prairie and elsewhere. Most always is. Grass is green, harvest is over with an average yield, corn is coming on, cows are giving milk, food markets are loaded with grub, everybody has money in their pockets or in the bank, the lords of creation are off on fishing trips and prairie women are stocking the cellars with provisions for the coming winter.

Den Hunt, now living in retirement with his wife, the former Nellie Cronin, on East O street in Lincoln, in July, 1901, was appointed district deputy of the Royal Highlanders for all of Nebraska north of the Platte river. Mr. and Mrs. Hunt are both of pioneer families of the O'Neill community. . . At a gathering in O'Neill that year of the Holt County Sunday-School association, C. A. Moss of Amelia was elected president, Charles Phelps of Page, vice-president; Blanche Adams of O'Neill, secretary; E. H. Benedict of O'Neill, treasurer; Lena Peck of Atkinson, superintendent of primary department, and J. T. Carson of Ewing, superintendent of home department.

A group of scientists and educators gathered at a medical institution in southern California to ponder the problem of alcoholics and how to deal with it. Believe Montana Jack Sullivan would join this humble pilgrim in suggesting the surest way to avoid alcoholics is to stay on the water wagon.

There are 13,500,000 American patriots over 65 years of age. So if your auburn locks have turned to gray you are in big company. Childhood and youth, then full age, and down the western slope to life's sunset and after that the dark. And may there be a cherished memory of the one who then embarks.

Go west, young man! A bit of advice to an earlier generation offered by Horace Greeley. Something the great editor once said is less frequently quoted. "Fame is a vapor, popularity is an accident, riches take wings and those who cheer today will curse tomorrow. Only one thing endures — character." That's something available to all.

Lincoln has a federal "air base" ostensibly to train flight crews to perfection. Now something like a half million dollars of public money is to be blown on a swimming pool, a gymnasium and an officers' club. Nice layout for the gents on Uncle Sam's payroll, but what does it add to the security and general welfare of the country?

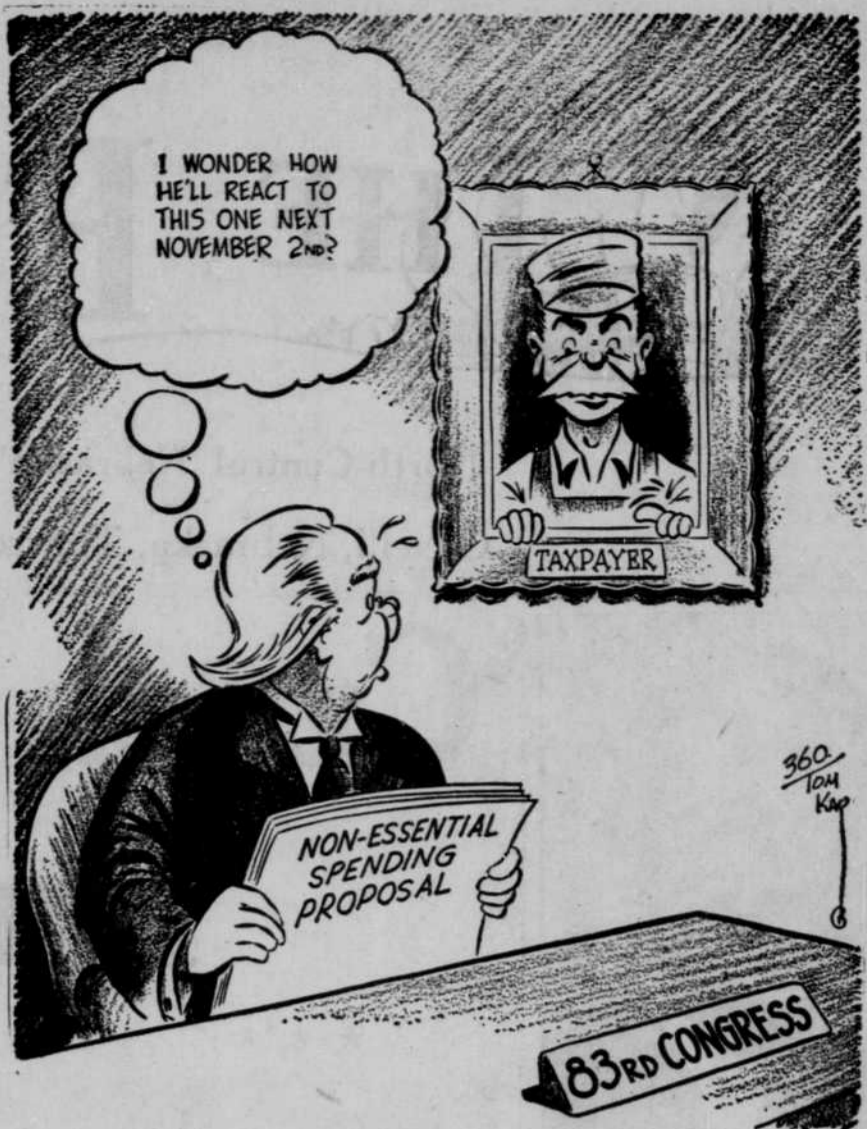
Idle combine men looking for work harvesting a wheat crop that just isn't are reported from some western Nebraska communities. Had the region been left as nature made it and as Holt county still is, there might have been a thrifty crop of calves out there to brand at roundup time instead of nothing.

There are now in the United States 7,500,000 widows, ages from 40 to 65 and over. The number is reported to be growing at the rate of 100,000 annually.

A Missouri patriot, via lawsuit, seeks to recover \$250,000 in damages from several tobacco firms on the basis of lung cancer he alleges is the result of using the products of the firms involved, they having claimed their particular brand of smokes were harmless.

After 24 hot rainless days, accompanied by the artillery and earth shaking thunderbolts of the sky, a two-inch rain wet the city last night. Lightning found one Lincoln home, two inmates of which were taken to a hospital for treatment for electric shock.

O'Neill reports 4.88 inches of rain for the month of June. F. B. Cole, long numbered among the dead, measured the community rainfall for a forgotten generation and one year reported 27 inches of rain for the month of June.



Watch Your Step, Congress!

News, Views and Gossip

BY THE EDITOR

'Titanic' Calls

The telephone rang at the house and the voice said in rather broken English: "This is 'Titanic' a speakin'. Can you come down? Why not bring your camera?"

"Okay, Vic," I responded. "I'll be there." Vic Halva dubbed himself "Titanic" for kicks because he knew I would readily recognize who was calling. Back in 1912 Vic fled from one of the tiny Central European countries that now comprises Czechoslovakia. He assaulted a military guard in his flight and survived the tragedy of the Titanic to reach the United States. Today, he ranks as a genius in the electric motor and generator repair field.

Vic and his wife, who is of pure Bohemian extraction, have raised their family and live comfortably in their home on East Fremont street.

When the "Czech Freedom Tank" made its dramatic puncture of the iron curtain about a year ago and the eight refugees worked their way to the United States, O'Neill's Vic Halva was impressed. One of the escapees was a Czechoslovakian girl, the wife of a U.S. army soldier who had been unable to get away

from the reds and rejoin her husband, a Sioux City meat cutter. Vaclav Uhlik, the originator of the "freedom tank" idea and the builder of the bogus machine, included the U.S. soldier's wife in the group of eight in their courageous strike for freedom. Sioux City went all-out to welcome Mrs. Cloud when she and her husband were reunited.

Mrs. Cloud Contacted

Vic contacted Mrs. Cloud with a personal visit. Furthermore, he urged Mrs. Cloud to prevail upon Uhlik to come to the Midwest . . . to O'Neill. Vic had the idea he'd like to be able to induce Uhlik, the master mechanic-turned-hero, to work with him in the business of rewinding motors and generators.

That's what brought Uhlik to O'Neill last Thursday, accompanied by his wife, Marta, and their two children — a boy, 6, and a girl, 4.

When I reached the Halva household the Uhliks and Halvas were finishing their meal. The strange European gibberish was being spoken freely and I understood not a word. Neither did I know whom I was about to meet or why.

Uhlik had a thatch of dark hair, somewhat unruly. He was smoking Pall Mall cigarettes and I studied his features. Not a large man. Piercing dark eyes. Rather high cheek bones.

Mrs. Uhlik began to help Mrs. Halva clear the table. Several conversations in the foreign tongue were now in progress. The two Uhlik children bounded in and more linguistic confusion resulted.

Finally, in an impetuous way, I knifed in with the suggestion we get on with the picture. But first I'd like to know a little about the subject.

Who, what, when, etc. . . ?

Surprise

Imagine the surprise when I realized the kind of a story that had been dumped at the doorstep.

With the picture-taking and interviewing over, it was a great pleasure to shake the hand of the little Czech mechanic who so hated the Russian tyranny he successfully schemed a way to do something about it.

Uhlik explained, through the Halvas, who acted as interpret-

ers, that he and his family were in this country on temporary visitor's permits.

Vaclav's suit and hat were somewhat bedraggled, having ridden a bus from Springfield, Mass., to O'Neill, via Sioux City. They traveled frugally because it was necessary to save every dime.

There were certain questions Vaclav preferred not to discuss, especially those concerning relatives and any references that might jeopardize any of his friends left behind.

—CAL STEWART

Visitors Here— Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Okerlund of Crosby, Minn., were Wednesday overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Appleby.

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O'Neill

Editorial . . .

Higher Death Rate for Smokers

The American Cancer society recently cleared up most of the confusion about health and cigarette smoking, when it reported that deaths among cigarette smokers from 50 to 70-years-of-age are as much as 75 percent higher than those among non-smokers. The report was no tentative, or qualified report.

On the contrary, it resulted from a study by the society in nine states which covered the last 2½ years and which included tests of 187,766 men between the ages of 50 and 70.

The report contained amazing news which is sure to have a stunning impact on the smoking habits in this country. Originally, the American Cancer society intended to wait another year before reporting on the study, but officials of the society report that cigarette smokers were found to have so much higher death rates they didn't think they could withhold the information another year. They also said they were releasing the information because "we are thinking of saving lives."

Part of the eye-opening findings of the 2½-year study are:

Lung cancer deaths were found to be at least three times, and possibly nine times, as common among cigarette smokers as among non-smokers.

Excepting lung cancer from statistics, the death rate from other forms of cancer was also higher among cigarette smokers. The death rate among heavy smokers, between the ages of 50 and 64, was twice as high as that among non-smokers in the same age brackets.

It was found that there was a definite statistical relationship between death rates and the amount of cigarette smoking. It was found that the lung cancer death rate was at least five times, possibly even 16 times, as high among heavy smokers as among those who never had smoked regularly!

The death rate for cigar smokers was slightly higher than for non-smokers, but the rate for pipe-smokers was not appreciably different from that for non-smokers.

This is stunning news of great significance to the civilized world, and it cannot be ignored or contradicted by medical authorities anywhere. The American Cancer society certainly has no axe to grind. It has been conducting this study for years and will continue it for another 2½ years. It was originally begun as a five-year comprehensive study to finally resolve the controversial question whether cigarette smoking is harmful to the body.

In our opinion, the American Cancer society's report removes the last vestige of doubt as to the harm being caused by cigarette smoking, and although filtered cigarettes and other devices may reduce the damage to an unknown extent, we believe the society's report will have a tremendous impact on the smoking habits in this country. Until a sure-fire cure is found for lung cancer, at least, many Americans will think twice before becoming chain-smokers, or heavy smokers, and many others will probably curtail their smoking or switch to pipes or cigars.

Tuesday morning's shower demonstrated the fact the sky still is capable of yielding moisture—although one entertains certain misgivings when the mercury lingers around the century mark day-after-day.

Let's Keep Uhlik in Mind

The "Crusade for Freedom" probably will never find a better subject than Vaclav Uhlik.

The "Crusade" sponsors the Radio Free Europe broadcasts, which are beamed to captive countries in several languages. People of the subjugated countries trust Radio Free Europe.

If you could ask Uhlik you would find unmistakable evidence of the power of the truth broadcasts.

Now is our chance for we Americans to do something more than talk about freedom. Let's keep Vaclav Uhlik in mind. The armored car, in which he escaped, demonstrated graphically what captive people can accomplish so long as their will to freedom is sustained.

Through "Crusade for Freedom," which backs up Radio Free Europe, we Americans can act. And if all of us act, history may well record success.

Checks may be addressed to either "Crusade for Freedom" or "Radio Free Europe" and sent in care of your postmaster.

College on Confederate Money

Leonard W. Stark says he believes he can send two daughters through college with Confederate money. Contrary to what most people believe, he says, Confederate States of America currency is sometimes worth more than its face value.

His collection of old bills, including Confederate money, Government of Texas currency and Republic of Texas money is now valued at several thousand dollars and, by the time his two young daughters go to college, he estimates it will be worth at least \$15,000.

Stark says Confederate bills of value include a \$5-note, called the "Indian Princess bill," which is worth \$20. The bill is dated September 2, 1861.

The July 25, 1861, \$5-bill is valued at \$10 and the September 2, 1861, \$5-bill is worth \$5, according to Mr. Stark.

Unfortunately, however, most Confederate bills of other dates are not worth similar amounts, or even their face value.

If you think things have been hot the past few days, keep a weather eye on the final stretch in the primary election campaign.

THE FRONTIER

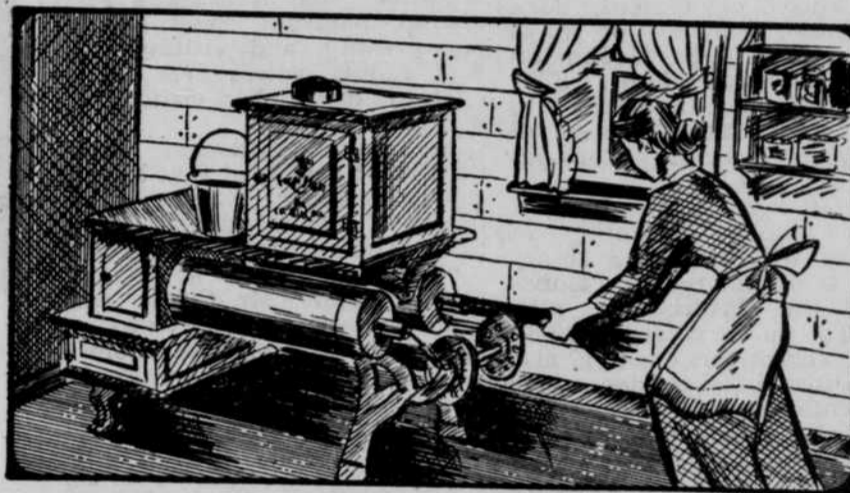
CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher
Editorial & Business Offices: 122 South Fourth St.
Address correspondence: Box 330, O'Neill, Nebr.
Established in 1880—Published Each Thursday

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—2,335 (Mar. 31, 1954)

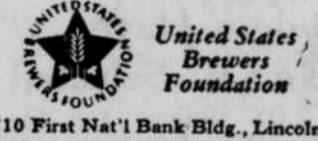
It Happened In NEBRASKA---



Here on the Nebraska plains where wood was always scarce, pioneer inventiveness developed the "hay burning stove." Though a dangerous fire hazard in the home, this type stove was widely used for some years. See how the hay was twisted into "sticks" and then fed into a cylindrical fire box.

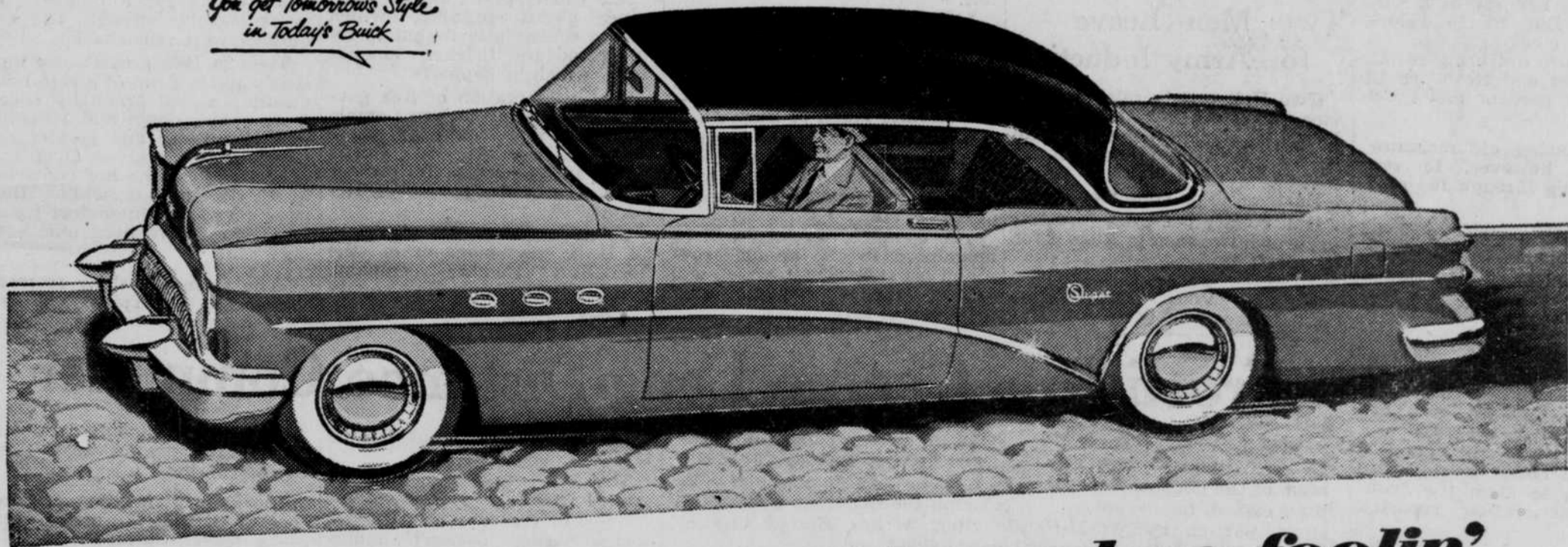
It has taken foresight, too, to develop the Nebraska tavern industry into a well-run, highly respected business. But today the public esteem held for the tavern industry is greater than ever before.

NEBRASKA DIVISION



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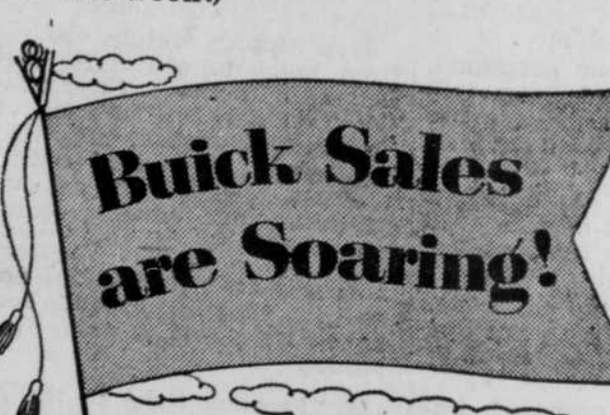
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