

Prairieland Talk

# Custer Footprints in Holt?

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

MARION, IND.—After 78 years the National Park service revives the story of the Custer battleground on the Little Big Horn where General Custer and his forces were overwhelmed by the Indian warriors.

The battlefield or scene of that disaster to an over confident army commander is now a national shrine which the park service has publicized in a recent publication, embodied in which is the modern version of what took place there in 1876. The publication comes from the government printing plant in Washington, D.C., and is liberally adorned with pictures of the general, other military figures and scenes of the park area.



Romaine Saunders

About the time of the settlement of the McEvony-Thompson group down the river from the present city of O'Neill, a trail was made across Holt county approximately four miles north of the Elkhorn river reputed to be footprints of the army of Gen. George Custer. Another military trail crosses Holt county from southwest to northeast which in early times connected Ft. Randall on the Missouri with a fort below Burwell.

Nothing has ever been proposed to enshrine these trails as of historical importance to this generation of Holt county citizens.

Once more the door is bolted and another Nebraska citizen in the bloom of young manhood is there for life in the state penitentiary. What is it that starts youth on the highway to penal institutions? Wherein are parents and society responsible for the wave of crime in which the young are involved? The young man from Hastings convicted of a revolting murder should go to the electric chair, the judge said. He is right. The murderer has forfeited his right to live.

Indiana traffic laws require that vehicles taking to the road drawn by horses must have license plates the same as motorized conveyances. Therefore the door to the jail is opened for religious persecution. A woman spent 27 days in jail because of her religious convictions—maybe the law looks on such as religious notions. She had been arrested for driving a horse hitched to a buggy without license plates. Paying the fine imposed would be a violation of her religious convictions, so she went to jail. A friend belonging to the same group of worshippers in Pennsylvania sent the Indiana court the money that released the woman so she spent Christmas with her family at home. . . . The radio station at Bowling Green, O., went on the air a day recently with news delivered by carrier pigeons, a last resort after floating in celestial realms for a month during yuletide season, it is something of a jolt landing back on earth. . . . One of those national pollsters reports that "most Americans believe in God." An ancient report has it that "the devils also believe and tremble."

The Salvation Army of the city gathered \$1,605 from their "march of dimes" marathon. There is something for this and similar uplift organizations to do and we can but wonder what effect they are having on the moral standards of the nation. The FBI reports that during the first six months of 1954 there was a major crime committed every 13.8 seconds in the United States. And more-and-more teenage boys and girls are becoming involved in crimes.

Friends of Senator McCarthy who have felt he was doing what needed to be done regret that he has cut open a wound between himself and the president, though it is understandable that a guy being dragged through what he has could lose his temper and speak inadvisably. While Mr. Eisenhower has remained calm, it would be interesting to have heard Harry S. Truman blow up had he been the president.

An Indiana patriot by the name of Bottomles did not think his name was sufficient for one of his calibre, so he went to court and asked the circuit court judge to authorize a change to Aearly-godlet Wileyelectronsprit Leegravity. His honor declined to interfere in family affairs in this instance.

Editorial

## Our Growing Population

The U.S. census bureau recently reported the population now totaled over 160,000,000. This represents an amazing increase since 1950, when the last population census was completed. The total then three years ago, was about 8,000,000 less than it is today.

If the present trend continues, which seems quite likely, the United States will be a country of 180,000,000 people in another short seven years and, by 1970, will be a country of well over 200,000,000 people.

The significance of this growth, when compared to the population of Russia, is highly important. There are only three countries in the world with a population in excess of the U.S. population today—China (with an estimated 450,000,000 people), India (with an estimated 365,000,000) and the USSR, with a population of 200,000,000.

Since the U.S. population is growing at a faster rate than the Russian population, it seems likely that, in the near future, the United States will contain as many citizens as does the USSR. This would give the armed services of this country a call on as much manpower as soviet military leaders now enjoy, and wipe out the Russian numerical superiority. The soviets, however, maintain a ponderous numerical advantage when all their subjugated people are counted. Oppressed people frequently are to be found in the liability column rather than as an asset in a show of strength.

It is obvious that if the United States can maintain its industrial superiority, while increasing its population faster than any other country in the world, the future will hold only improving comparisons for the land of the original thirteen colonies.

Frightening aspects of atomic and hydrogen warfare tend to neutralize the relative numerical strength of modern powers. God forbid World War III ever breaks out.

**Farmers, Ranchers Doing Alright**  
Secretary Benson in a recent speech said that the farmer or rancher never has had a greater opportunity than he has today, and that his greatest

The 5-foot illuminated plastic star that adorned the top of the huge Christmas tree that stood on the white house lawn in Washington was made by the General Plastics Corp. of this city and presented to the nation's chief executive. . . . Indianapolis has a committee of "vigilanters" that has set itself the job of rounding up the thieves. Probably over there in the Niobrara river gulches you can still hear stories of Holt county's vigilanters or regulators who caught some horse thieves with the lasso rope and harbored others as members of the organization. . . . What does a candidate for public office reap as a reward for campaigning for votes? The high man on the republican ticket in Wisconsin lay in a hospital cot all through the late political campaign. . . . Safe driving day has been tried, now how would a reckless driving day do to kill off the reckless ones? . . . Here, as elsewhere, the average motorist heeds not those street and highway signs, "Speed Limit 30 Miles" per hour. . . . One way to unload an official job you don't approve of is to "resign on account of health."

What the layout man considered of no importance so sandwiched the item in with other inconsequential, tells of James A. Donohoe, arrayed in the judicial robes of a federal judge, pronouncing 32 cases of nuts unfit for human use and directed that the nuts be turned over to the nutcrackers in the Omaha zoo. Just a worthwhile item to an old O'Neillite in the Lincoln paper that came today.

The community awoke this morning to a white world. During the night snow had fallen to a depth of nearly a foot. It lies motionless and white across the city and far away landscape. Little traffic is in action this morning. Are families at home getting acquainted? The dark outline of forest trees raise their leafless boughs above the earth robed in white and stand out against the gray of a clouded sky. Decorations and lighted Christmas trees in the windows of householders are a reminder of another holiday season. Out of the air radio's slim fingers have plucked a song, "Silent Night." But what has become of the music of the long ago of sleighbells tinkling out in the frosty air when cutters and sleighs drawn by horses went gliding by our door? Sleighbells have been stilled, the romance of a bobbed load of youth and maidens are but a memory, and we climb in with a competent driver at the steering wheel and roll way on mechanical wings in an age when to get there on time is the important thing, not romance.

A few months ago he slipped a gold band on the finger of an outstretched hand, the joyous music of wedding bells rang out. Today she is in court with a petition that asks not only for a bill of divorce but that the guy who placed that ring on her finger be required to meet the installment payments on the ring.

American Federation of Labor promoters are priming their guns to go after the Indiana legislature should that body presume to consider the adoption of a "right-to-work" measure during the 1955 session. The right, the privilege, the necessity to work are fundamental, can neither be denied by union labor groups nor created by law. All laws attempt to do is to safeguard inherent rights. From a higher authority than state legislatures or AFL councils the father of the human race was told that "in the livelihood, a decree and the experience universal through the centuries, Labor unions seek to control all work. And right-to-work laws such as Nebraska's adopted mean little or nothing. A non-union applicant for a job at a unionized plant is dismissed with the word that no additional workers are needed—"no openings at present."

The remains of eight persons were laid away in cemeteries as a gruesome tribute to Indiana's weekend highway tragedies, a similar record made each weekend. Cut throats, killers, child-rented in burning homes, explosions, hidden death traps—all add to the tragic picture where death stalks the land. To the safe driving slogan may well be added a host of other precautions and the hangman's noose for the cut throats.

An educator with the title of doctor in an institution in Michigan handed in his resignation in the middle of December, not for health reasons, but because he believed that Gabriel would blow the trumpet on December 21 that announced the end of the world. "Of that day and hour knoweth no man."

## When You and I Were Young . . . Free Ice Bath at Carlons Lake

### Van Every, Maxwell Get Dunking

**50 Years Ago**  
The thermometer spent several days below zero. The coldest registered was 12 below. . . . Walter Rundry of Ord and Miss Alice C. Cantwell of Page were united in marriage at the county judge's office. . . . County Attorney Mullen has received word from Sheriff Hall that he will arrive this week with Bernard McGreevy from Phoenix, Ariz. . . . Leopold Seger was called to Omaha as a witness in a case before the grand jury.

**20 Years Ago**  
Raymond and Alvin Bausch, pupils attending the public school here, are to start for Wyoming astride a motorcycle to visit relatives in the "cow country." . . . Thelma Riley, daughter of Mrs. Ella Riley, and James H. Cronk of Page were united in marriage at St. Patrick's Catholic church. . . . O'Neill high defeated St. Joseph's hall, 38-9, and St. Mary's basketball team won over Orchard, 24-12. . . . Coyotes are heard yowling near midnight here and it is presumed they have increased or moved in from drought areas to partake of the abundant rabbit crop here. . . . Marvin Van Every and William Maxwell, while skating on Carlon's lake, ran into a thin-iced water hole used by the Lawrence family in watering livestock. Besides a free icecold bath, no serious results were suffered.

**10 Years Ago**  
According to Game Commission Secretary Paul T. Gilbert, the Nebraska game commission has inaugurated one of the longest fishing seasons in the history of the department. The season this year will be 12 months. . . . 2/Lt. Robert G. Shoemaker received his wings at graduation exercises held at Selman Field, Monroe, La. . . . The issuance of 1945 license plates for an automobile will have no effect on the gasoline ration coupons held by individual owners. . . . Miss Zelma Waldo, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Waldo of Amelia, was united in marriage to Robert Kalb of Denver, Colo.

**One Year Ago**  
Mrs. Della ("Grandma") Bowden on Christmas day celebrated her 90th birthday anniversary. A small family dinner party was held at the home of her grand-son, Gerald Wettlauffer. . . . The St. Mary's academy Cardinals defeated the SMA alumni in an unofficial holiday game exhibition, 46-37. . . . The O'Neill Saddle club and the O'Neill Square Dance club are jointly sponsoring a free benefit polo dance. . . . Lloyd Bergstrom, 60, formerly a farmer in the Page community and one-time Holt county deputy sheriff, died in Newcastle, Wyo., following a long illness.

**Thorin Member of Battle-Ready Unit—**  
CHAMBERS—Army Pfc. Charles H. Thorin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest A. Thorin of Chambers, is serving with the 10th infantry division at Ft. Riley, Kans. The 10th is a fully trained and equipped division, ready to move and fight on short notice. Private Thorin, an ammunition bearer with the 85th infantry regiment's heavy mortar company, entered the army in October, 1952.

**Completes Machinegun Training Course—**  
ANOKA—Marine Cpl. John M. Anderson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Anderson of route 1, Anoka, was graduated November 27 from the First marine division's machine gun school in Korea. The two-week course is conducted by veteran marine instructors. On completion of the course, students are returned to their parent units.

## Riverside News

Mr. and Mrs. Vet Schlotman attended the wedding of his nephew, Jack Forman, at Bellevue Sunday, December 26. Mr. Forman teaches in the Kansas university. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miller and Altha Lou entertained at a pre-Christmas dinner Wednesday, December 22, with the Leo Miller family and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Miller as guests. The H. Millers and daughter left Friday to spend Christmas in Canon City with the Gerald Hadduck family. . . . Pfc. Lowell Jensen was an overnight guest of Tom Christon Tuesday, December 21. . . . Mrs. Kittie Fry had all her children who reside in Nebraska at her home Christmas eve. They were Mr. and Mrs. Willie Shrader and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Fry and children, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Fink and sons and Mr. and Mrs. Vic Vandernick and family. . . . Christmas day dinner guests of the Grant Motts were: Frank Wondercheck, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Gallino and girls of Newport, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Combs and children and Zina Combs of Yankton, S.D., Rev. and Mrs. George Francis and Nancy and Rita Wondercheck, all of Plattsmouth, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Strode of Stuart, Mrs. Belle Mott of Page and Mr. and Mrs. Roy Headman of Winner, S.D. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Bill Fink and children of Denver, Colo., spent several days with Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fink. They and the Lee Finks spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fink. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mlinar and daughters were guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Larson, Christmas day. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Dean Bader and sons of Omaha and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Reiter and sons of Albion spent the holiday weekend with the ladies' parents, Rev. and Mrs. F. A. Hand, and family, Miss Linda Snodgrass of Almena, Kans., was also a guest of the Hands from last Thursday until Tuesday. . . . Christmas day guests at DeWitt Hoke's included Jim Gunter, Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Gunter and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Switzer, Mr. and Mrs. Rol Hord and Duane, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Nelsen and Glenn, Mr. and Mrs. DeWitt Gunter and daughter, Mrs. Hilda Graver. . . . Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Napier, John and Russell were joined on Christmas day by Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Harvester and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Napier and children and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Napier and girls. . . . Christmas day guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Bennett were: Mrs. Flora Young and Wilmer and "Uncle Jim" Bennett of Orchard; Mrs. Ruth Waples, Josephine and Judy and Mrs. Ruth Groski and David, all of Lincoln; Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Morrow and children of O'Neill; Mr. and Mrs. Clarie Utterback of Clearwater and Miss Ina Bennett of Ewing. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Wendell Switzer and children were guests of the Wayne Olmstead family in Neligh on Christmas. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Gene Streeter and children and Mrs. Mary Fotherham and Pat were guests on Christmas day at Bill Lofquest's. . . . Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dale Pollock were Mr. and Mrs. Dave Raasch of Omaha, Mr. and Mrs. Art Busshardt and girls and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pollock and girls, all of Neligh, and Mrs. Amy Jacobson and Mrs. Ernest Norwood of Ewing. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Miller had as their guests on Christmas day her mother, Mrs. Ida Calkins, and the Ernest Scholmeyer family of Crofton and Mr. and Mrs. John Miller, sr., and Joe. Calkins remained for a longer visit. . . . Mrs. Jim Pollock, Norman and Cpl. Wayne Pollock and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sturbaum were guests of the Allan Pollock family on Christmas day. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Archie Johnston and family and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Day and daughters called at the Bill Lofquest home Sunday evening. . . . Levon Gunter's birthday anniversary was observed Sunday at

the home of his parents with Mr. and Mrs. Verl Gunter and children as dinner guests. . . . Mr. and Mrs. George Montgomery were Sunday supper guests of the DeWitt Hoke family. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mlinar, Judy and Nancy were Sunday dinner guests of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Mlinar of Atkinson. . . . Ruby, Alberta and Cleo Butler of Omaha spent the holiday weekend with the Leo Miller family. Jay Butler was a dinner guest Christmas day and Sunday and the Wendell Switzers joined the family group Christmas eve and Sunday. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Rickert and daughters of Farson, Wyo., arrived Christmas eve for two-weeks' visit with the Z. H. Frys and other relatives. . . . The Stan Rickerts, Wayne Frys and Mrs. Kittie Fry spent Christmas day with Mr. and Mrs. Z. H. Fry. . . . Sunday dinner guests at the Wilbur Bennett home were Mrs. May Shrader and Wayne, Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Shrader and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Luzio and family, Mr. and Mrs. Bus Napier and children and Mr. and Mrs. Maynard Morrow and children. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Shrader joined the Wayne Lautenschlager family and other relatives for a dinner Sunday. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Carl Christon and Tom, Mist and Mrs. Jim Conway and Irvin Christon were Christmas day guests of the Clarence Thorin family in Neligh. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Fry and daughters spent Christmas eve with A. C. Gibson, Marcia and Keith. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Leo Miller and children were supper guests of the Archie Johnston family one night last week. Both couples celebrated December wedding anniversaries. . . . The members of the Z. H. Fry family were all at home Sunday. The Stan Rickerts from Farson, Wyo., the Frank Emsic family of Omaha, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Napier, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Napier and girls, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Fry and girls and Mr. and Mrs. Duane Jensen and Anna Marie were present. Janice Jensen was ill. She stayed at home with "Grandma" Jensen. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kurgge-

weir entertained the Harold Mlinar family at supper Sunday evening. . . . Mrs. Edna Lofquest and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lofquest and children spent Sunday at the Reuben Meyers home in Neligh. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Will Shraders' home was filled to capacity on Christmas day. Guests were the Willie Shraders, Archie Johnstons, Gerald Wettlauffers, Verl Gunters, May Shrader and Wayne, the Lewis Shraders, Ralph Shraders, Joe Luzios and Bus Napiers. . . . Christmas guests of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Napier were Mr. and Mrs. Dale Napier, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Fry and children and Mr. and Mrs. Lorraine Montgomery and family. . . . A Sunday Christmas dinner was enjoyed at the Carl Christon home with the following as guests: Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Larson, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reimer and Elaine, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Temple and Twila, Mr. and Mrs. Eimer Pahl and Mary, Mr. and Mrs. Don Larson and children, Mrs. Lina Smith and Mr. and Mrs. Jim Conway.

## Butte Couple Plans Golding Wedding

BUTTE—Mr. and Mrs. Nick J. Weber, longtime residents of this community, on Monday, January 16, will observe their golden wedding anniversary. . . . There will be a special mass in their honor at St. Peter and Paul Catholic church at 9:30 a.m., followed by a reception between 2 and 4:30 p.m., at the American Legion auditorium. A dance will be held in the evening at the Legion hall. . . . The Webers, who own several farms in this community, retired about seven years ago, although Mr. Weber continues to assist in looking after the farms. The Webers have 10 children.

Try The Frontier want ads!

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  - Nylon Gabardine—
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## NOTICE

During the Income Tax Season, beginning December 29th, I will be available at the Chambers State Bank, Chambers, Nebr., on Wednesday of each week, during banking hours, to assist you with your Income Tax problems and any legal matters.  
Remember that all Farmers and Ranchers must have their Tax Estimate filed on or before January 15th!

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Saturday, January 1st  
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