PAGE 2.-THE FRONTIER, O'Neill, Nebr., Thurs., Jan. 27, 1955.

Prairieland Talk . . . Word 'Blizzard' Coined in O'Neill

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

MARION, IND .- A little snow felt today on the 67th anniversary of Nebraska's greatest and most tragic winter's visitation, the day that word "blizzard" was coined by an inspired pagan, O. C. Bates, when he stood at the case and hand-set the type

that told the story of O'Neill citizens and school children huddled in the Mann and Sullivan stores not daring to venture out into the whirling cloud of snow. O'Neill's four weekly papers told the story of a community overwhelmed in mountains of snow, but none of those stories touched the quick of vivid reality like that which came from the discerning mind and accurate fingers of the white-headed old gent setting type at the case in the

Romaine basement of the First National Saunders bank where the O'Neill Tribune was printed.

The snow fall in northern Indiana today as this paragraph comes from the typewriter brings with it a slice off the Arctic circle. Workers with shovels, hammers and saws have taken their tools and gone home.

. . . . A small body of land in Lake Erie is known as Rattlesnake island. A caretaker and his family live on the island. Fifteen miles out from shore is a larger island with a sizeable population known as South Bass island. Both are under the jurisdiction of the state of Ohio. There are three boys in the family on Rattlesnake who go to school on the other island, getting to and from school by airplane that carries supplies from inland points to the islands. The air "school bus" service is paid for by the state and the South Bass school district. In early days, Denny Cronin and other young fellows hoofed it in from the "Michigan settlement" and sat the day out under the tutelage of John Bland and, still earlier, D. P. O'Sullivan, in a one-room school in West O'Neill about where the Outlaw food market now operates. Harvey Bently rode a horse in from four miles east of town and Mark Murphy from three miles out to attend school in the first school of parts that stood at the present public school site.

A group of 30 young men from old Mexico composes a choir that is making a tour of our country, giving concerts and plans to go abroad. A college auditorium somewhere up in Michigan is the nearest I have been to them.

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There is a spirit of cooperation, an attitude of help the other fellow among business concerns in this Indiana city not manifest in may towns. We went to four business places yesterday before obtaining the four-bit item of merchandise wanted. The first place visited did not have the thing wanted, but the gracious young lady who waited on us suggested a store in a similar line of business where it might be obtained. This place did not have it either, but again a courteous suggestion was made of another store where the article might be found. One more fruitless stop but directed to another store just around the corner, there we got it. Each expressed regrets that they did not have the thing wanted but were glad to pass on a helpful word and maybe be the means of sending a customer to a fellow merchant of the town.

A call comes from military circles for "mule skinners" to come and help the army out of certain transportation difficulties. "Mule skinner" is a techical term that means a guy gifted with the ability to get the most service out of a mule. There was a patriot by the name of Bill Robinson, 27 miles south of O'Neill, who was an accomplished "mule skinner" when not out with his shotgun knocking prairie chickens out of the air and dodging game wardens. The army gets into places where motorized equipment cannot negotiate passage and mules are needed to pack in the equipment. I have wondered if Rich Burtwistle across the line in Wheeler county continues the mule raising industry for army service inaugurated by his father before him in World War I days. A mule is decidedly temperamental. He has a system of self defense and self preservation culminating in two hind legs oiled at the joints and equipped at the extremities with armorplate. He and the army "skinner" are made for each other.

In a letter from a friend I find this: "There is something more friendly about a weekly paper than any other. The personal items, even the ads and the news articles just seem to be homey." Doubtless reads Editor Cal's "homey" stuff.

. . .

* * *

Again we read something of the life story of another who had come down the highway of time on Holt county prairies and after her contribution in deed and word to the welfare of the O'Neill community hears the drumbeat of eternity and goes to join that innumerable caravan from whose bourne no traveler returns. Mrs. Wrede was one of the pioneer Lansworth family and became the wife of one of the pioneer Wrede family. Her husband was the first to respond to the roll call of eternity. Lonely hours followed, known only to those whose life's companion has gone the way of all the earth, and made cheerful by devoted loved ones. Out of the mists of yesterday's memories linger-and out of the glow of immortal life we meet again.

Next month one of those dinner functions comes off up at South Bend, Ind. Edward Doran, a promient Hoosier democrat, is to be "roastmaster." This title probably has no connection with the main dish on the table, but rather turning to a brown some GOP bigwigs.

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Ten guys have been selected as the best dressed of the Hoosier male population. Marion bloods feel somewhat slighted that they were not among the thusly honored gents. The best dressed guy today would be rigged out in a wambat fur coat, cap ious sightseers on both sides of Sunday evening. and mittens and hightop overshoes. But one Marion concern, a national bank, has something to glory over. The past year the bank carried the largest deposits in its history, made the most on bank



The Frontier editor, Carroll ("Cal") Stewart (second from left) is presented a replica of The General, a famous Civil war era railroad locomotive. Presentation was made by A. P. Jaszkowiak, Western Auto merchant, who conceived the miniature model as a "reward" for Stewart's boosting of Chicago & North Western passenger-mail-express trains number 13 and 14. Left-to-right: L. D. Putnam, Stewart, Jaszkowiak and C. C. Golden.-The Frontier Photo by John H. McCarville.



Best-Seller

In February, 1954, a James Dugan came up with a historic yarn ern, a monstrous ship of the midclaimed the book of the month. appeared that month in condensed form in the Readers' Digest and became a best seller.

We knew Dugan rather well while doing air force duty in England during World War II and it was at that time be began his research on the fabulous Great Eastern—which earned undying fame for breaking 14 corporations, figuring in six shipwrecks, laying the first trans-Atlantic telephone cable, attracting thousands of cur-

mantled for junk.

sand-dollar "advance" from the and sons Saturday evening.

attended a wild goose and duck | dinner party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Artus of O'Neill Saturday evening.

Merle Foreman and Mike Schaaf called at the Dean Perry home Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Meier and daughter, Megan, and Francis Tenborg were dinner guests of Mrs. Geary Enbody Sunday.

Kenneth and Randy Kendall spent from Wednesday, January 19, until Sunday evening at the Wayne Fox home.

Mrs. Frank Foreman and Mrs. Cecil McMillan visited Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bailey in O'Neill Fridav.

Mrs. Joe Ziska visited Mrs. Agnes Gaffney Tuesday afternoon, January 18.

Miss Norma Lou Foreman of Omaha came Saturday and visited until Sunday afternoon with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Foreman, and Merle and Jeanie. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ramold mov-

ed on Tuesday, January 18, from the Clarence Farr residence in Emmet to a farm near O'Neill. The WSCS met last Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Agnes Gaffney at her home. Fourteen members were present. Mrs. Leon Beckwith was in charge of the lesson and Mrs. Guy Beckwith gave the devotionals. Lunch of suet pudding and coffee was served by the hostess. The next meeting will be with Mrs. John Conard

Methodist Woman's Society of in February. Mrs. Floyd Barnes is helping Christian Service reorganized their membership and held their Mrs. James Kendall a few days first meeting Wednesday afterthis week.

Gary Buckmaster of Fremont Circle I met with Mrs. William was a dinner guest at the Frank Wefso. Officers elected were: Mrs. Foreman home Sunday.

The Methodist Bible study Fritz Dunn, chairman; Mrs. Lou class met at the home of Mrs Dickau, co-chairman; Mrs. E. Geary Enbody last Thursday evening

Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Carroll of O'Neill visited at the G. Owen Cole home Sunday afternoon. Miss Mary Lou Conard spent about four days visiting her par-

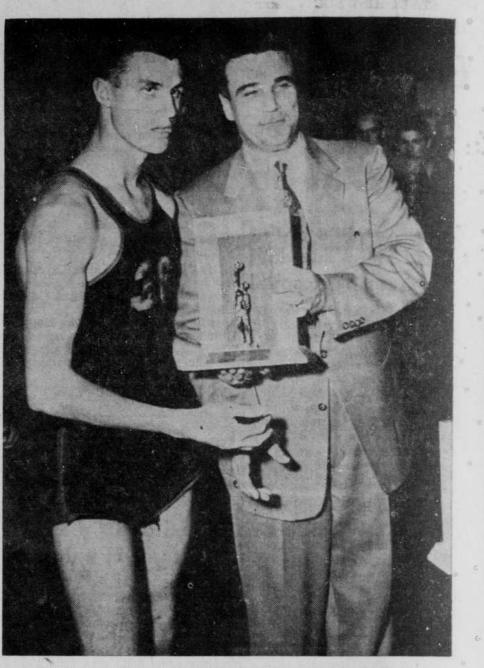
epts, Mr. and Mrs. John Conard. She returned to Wayne State college Monday.

The Bernard Pongratz family were supper guests at the Joe Grutsch home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Owen Cole Mrs. William Newton visited started to Sioux City last Thurs-Mrs. Dean Pery and daughters on day morning. They returned home after reaching Osmond as blizzard Charlie Fox of O'Neill was a conditions there made traveling supper guest of Mr. and Mrs. difficult.

Kenneth and Randall, sons of Mr. and Mrs. James Kendall, and Steven and Roy Fox, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Fox, stayed at the Gilbert Fox home Wednesday Mr. and Mrs. Charles Skopec, afternoon and evening, January sr., and Mrs. Geary Enbody vis-19.

A card party was held Sunday evening at the St. Michael hall.



Tourney Dirctor D. E. Nelson congratulates V. Rothchild of Atkinson high's runnerup basketball team at the close of the 18th annual Holt county basketball tournament. -O'Neill Photo Co.



On premises, located 21/2 miles north of Page and 41/4 miles east, or 12 miles straight north of Ewing, on-

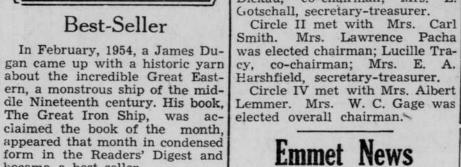
FRIDAY, JANUARY 28th

Starting 1 P.M. - Lunch by Neighbor Lady Club

7 HEAD OF CATTLE-Including 3 cows (2 fresh, 1 to freshen soon), 2 stock steers, 2 bucket calves. ALSO-team of horses, 11 spotted gilts, bred to purebred Hamp, to farrow April 1. ALSO-200 chickens.

HAY, GRAIN, ETC .- 1,000 bus. ear corn in crib, 400 bus. Nemaha oats, 350 bus. Marion oats, 300 bales alfalfa hay.

MACHINERY, ETC.-Including J-D tractor, G-P, with new 13-28 tires; 6-ft. Case combine with motor; 4-section harrow; J-D tractor plow; J-D 12-ft. disc; 6-ft. McC. mower; J-D spreader; 9-ft. disc; weeder; planter; sulky plow; lister; 2 cultivators; wagons; rack; sheller; feeders; bunks; barrels; tools; DeLaval elec, cream separator. Some household items. Terms: Cash.



Tuesday afternoon, January 18. Wayne Fox and family Tuesday evening, January 18. Derold Beckwith and baby visited Mr. and Mrs. Guy Beckwith

the Atlantic, and finally was dis-Dugan scooped up a 60-thou- ited Mr. and Mrs. George Skopec

* * *

Seventy-three years in darkness, deaf ears closed to the music and sounds of earth, now, at 75, Helen Keller prepares to take off for the Far East on one more and what she says will be her last mission in behalf of the multitudes in the Orient who, like herself, are blind. Miss Keller is one of the most remarkable persons of modern times. Overcoming what would tie the hands of many, her life has been a striking example of achievements that carry an inspiration to others. | up his toes.

profits and expanded resources beyond any previous year.

Contest and recount of election returns in one Nebraska state senatorial district cost the contestat \$250, held up things in the unicam for a few days, resulted in nothing only what was first shown when the ballots cast in the two counties of that district were counted in November. Must want a thankless job pretty badly to spend your money in the hopes that a recount of votes will give it to you.

> . *

"And Elisha died, and they buried him." A man who had raised the dead, healed the lepers, saved the life of a widow and her sons, put Assyrian armies to flight, scared the daylights out of kings and never owned as much as a donkey though he could plow a field with a yoke of oxen, rated seven words as his death and burial notice. A hobo gets at least a few lines when he turns

Editorial . . .

Some Say: 'Shouldn't Be Sold'

One of the questions before the current ses- | land miss completely the salient points: sion of the Nebraska legislature which will receive considerable publicity is the matter of whether or not to sell Nebraska's public school lands. Already | the western districts. These socalled eastern school proponents of the idea, which is not new, are busy. Likewise, educators are preparing statistics and arguments to combat the assault against the present system of handling school lands in the state.

Many people, particularly those residing in areas where the school land has long since been sold, have only a vague idea about the present system of having the state retain and lease the 1,630,000 acres of land, income from which benefits all schools in the state.

We are quite amused by some of the editorial comment, particularly that which originates in quarters in which the school land dough is spent and not earned.

The Nebraska Education News states that Nebraska school districts would lose approximately \$1,355,706 annually if the lands were to be sold and the money invested instead of the land being held and leased. The publication estimates the loss in terms of mill levies would be between twothirds of a mill and two mills, depending upon the year, the school district and the number of children in various districts.

The Nebraska State (Lincoln) Journal comments, on the subject of selling the school land: "It is like saying a farm tenant should be empowered to buy the land he rents for 12 years, the period school leases run."

The Nebraska Signal (Geneva) declares: "We concede the question of reevaluation of the leases and rentals paid under the present system should be left open and needed adjustments should be made. For the present, however, the best interest of all children of the state seems to require that we hang on to the one means of equalizing educational opportunity and costs that Nebraska has been able to devise."

And there you have the learned and profound comments of three able editors, all outside the realm of the vast majority of state-owned school land.

It might be well to point out the state acquired the school lands in 1867 by agreement with the federal government when Nebraska became a state. During the intervening years the lands have produced revenue for the schools of the state, although mismanagement during part of the period lessened the full amount that might have been

The eastern counties have had their school lands although not in proportionate quantity with lands have long since been sold and the revenue went into a permanent fund. State officials have

made investments with these funds-some of which have gone miserably sour and amount to substantial losses. Meanwhile, the school land in the western districts has carried the burden.

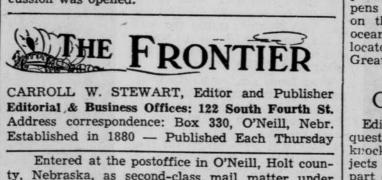
The eastern school land has long since been restored to the tax rolls and now helps build and support schools, highways and other forms of government. The Holt leaseholder is taxed twice -once for his own property and once for his proportionate share of the tax burden not carried by school land (remember, that money is "one means of equalizing educational opportunity").

Probably the most serious aspect of all is the community rows stirred up when many of these leases expire. Peaceful neighbors (outsiders, too) frequently "run up" the lease bids on a grudge basis until sometimes the lease figure is way out of proportion to what the land is worth. Such land will soon wear out-because leaseholders no longer will tend it like their own because they are confronted with economic impossibilities in many instances.

Why tax-free Holt county land should support all schools in the state is more than we can understand.

The state-owned school land idea would make sense if the money were distributed in the counties in which the income originates.

But the more populous counties always have had and always will have the most voting power in the legislature, and that's about where this discussion was opened.



ty, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter under part of a newsman's job. the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. This news-

book publishers, Harper & Brothers, and took off for research on were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Don his next effort.

This week we received a note They took their grandson, Kenneth, home. He had been staying from Dugan, son of an Altoona, with his grandparents the last Pa., iron moulder-our first contwo weeks tact with him in many months:

"So good to know you continue o populate the cruel prairie," he began. "We had an unsedentary year. ning.

nostly in France. "I was on 35,000 miles of Cou-

* * *

Giant lams

"We were in London for a

couple of weeks; the change is

remarkable- everything spruced

up, including the people.

weary, unintelligible mumble.

dinner in a couple places.

same London as wartime.

rebuilding.

"You can even get a decent

"The area around St. Paul's

cathedral has been very slow in

"GI's on leave are always in

the people who did.

Wednesday afternoon, January 19, steau's ship, the Calypso, in the at the Church of the Epiphany. Aegean, Red sea, Persian gulf Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Fox and and Indian ocean. Expect to go daughter, Barbara, were guests at back to France in February to the Robert Tomlinson home at work on my next book.

Star Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. John Kee visited "Peggy, I never did meet your family friends from Jersey who at the Wayne Bates home last

helped on The Great Iron Ship. I Thursday evening. tracked them down, looking for Mrs. Mary Lewis attended the certain documents, which they did Live and Learn extension club not have. But they gave clues to meeting at the home of Mrs. Walt Reis of Atkinson last Thursday. Mrs. Dean Perry called at the

Robert Cole home Tuesday afternoon, January 18. Mrs. Bessie Burge and daugh-

ter, June, visited at the home of Mrs. Maude Fuller at O'Neill on Friday evening. Leonard Dusatko visited Mr.

"Giant traffic jams, including and Mrs. Jerrold Dusatko Friday an exclusive Rolls-Royce jam in forenoon. the Mayfair district. The prewar Mr. and Mrs. Don Meyers and City Man has reappeared with children attended a card party his billycock hat, fancy vest and held at the Merle DeLong home rolled umbrella. He talks in a

at Page Saturday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Larry Schaffer returned from Denver, Colo., on Saturday. They had spent a week there and attended a stock show. Dean Perry, Merle Foreman and Mike Schaaf left Sunday evening for Gilbert, Wyo., on a bus-

mufti-but you can spot them a iness trip. mile away on account of gaudy The sons of Mr. and Mrs. shirts, windbreakers and zoot George Winkler visited at the suits. It's still great fun to be in home of Eddy Etherton on Sun-London, but distinctly not the day afternoon.

The Wayne Bates family visit-"The most fascinating stop of ed at the John Kee home Sunday. the cruise was the Seychelles is-Mr. and Mrs. Henry Patterson lands in the Indian ocean-a genreturned Monday, January 17, uine paradise. I met a guy there from Albion and Columbus where who has: A rented 10-room stone they had been visiting for a few house on terraces in the moundays. tainside overlooking the beautiful

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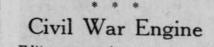
1/2 Block So. of Ford Garage

Mrs. Bessie Burge, June and bay of Mahe; all kinds of fruit, Clayton visited the Glen Burge flowers and vegetables around the family in their new home at house; five servants; handcarved Chambers Sunday. The Glen Burge family recently moved to Dewey Schaffer, son of Mr. and

Mrs. Larry Schaffer, spent last week at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. D. C. Schafsomething less than two thousand fer of O'Neill, while his parents were in Denver, Colo.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cole, Mr. and Mrs. G. Owen Cole, Mr. and Mrs. Dale French, Mr. and Mrs. with five servants and the island Dale Kersenbrock and Bill Miller paradise or Cousteau, who hap-

pens to be the leading authority on things at the bottom of the ocean (where Dugan may have located the doorknobs off the Great Iron Ship).



Editors sometimes seriously question if there is any use in knocking themselves out on projects not necessarily defined as a

These thoughts were allayed

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Brainard Pitch and pinochle were played. Lunch was served. Mrs. Henry Focken and children on Sunday. Grothe won the dor prize.

ATTEND KIN'S FUNERAL CHAMBERS-Mr. and Mrs. C. V. Robertson, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cole at-Walter and Mr. and Mrs. Al Diertended a party at the home of king attended the funeral services Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gaylor and family of Atkinson Sunday eve-

held at Valentine for their cousin, Art Orr, held Monday, January 24. The ladies' Altar society met

The Frontier for printing.



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furniture; objects d'art; phonograph with new records; a French Chambers from Inman. wine cellar; lots of new books; a new small car. He's no pinch on entertainment either. "The man's take-home pay is dollars a year .-- Cheers. JIM." Our best guess is Jim's next book will concern either the man