PAGE 2.-THE FRONTIER, O'Neill, Nebr., Thurs., Feb. 24, 1955.

#### Prairieland Talk . . .

## Winter Days Not Void of Interest

#### By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

MARION, IND .- Winter days in regions touch- [ ed with a suggestion of Arctic cheerless wastes may not be the choice season to venture forth upon the highways, but it is not wholly void of attractive interest. Today the sunlight falls from the fair blue sky. Yesterday was grey gloom with fog enveloping the landscape.

The countryside lies lifeless under a blanket

of snow, a clump of weeds, a bush, a rod or so of black earth, the trees, accent the dark shadows but lend prominence to the white blanket February clouds had laid across the land. Neither beast nor bird nor creeping thing was abroad today; only man, creation's restless being, is out, but on wheels rushing down the highway.

Sitting there on the rear seat, cushioned for comfort, and with-

Romaine out a worry as we rolled on into Saunders the fog-shrouded distance came a vision out of the bygone years when the fathers and mothers of this smug generation made their necessary journeys along prairie trails perched on a wagon seat in the cold and moving slowly mile after mile, getting down from time to time to walk beside a slow-turning wagon wheel to keep feet from freezing. Highways kept clean for traffic, today take over where once prairie trails were blocked with snow and you roll on to your destination a hundred miles away in less time than required in the long ago to go a few miles.

The remnants of last year's corn crop, row upon row across the fields raise bare stalks above the snow and here and there is seen a wheat field green looming out of the surrounding white. And here and there by white farm houses stand the evergreen cedars of Lebanon. No suggestion of life about these farms this fog-shrouded morning. It is Sunday and the family may have gone to church, a steeple of one now coming into view in the village just around the bend. We reach our destinatioh, spend a few pleasant hours with Glenn and Florence, who once lived in O'Neill, and then are traveling down the highway again on the return trip. Fog turned to rain. Rolling on, we leave the rain and melted snow belt and again are surrounded by snow on all sides. And before the shadows of coming night gather we pull up at the house which Romaine II and Bobbie built.

One of these days Prairieland Talker will be on his way back to Nebraska. \* \*

Authorities at state prisons somewhere are faced with mutinies most of the time. Too many killers sent up for life that ought to go to the electric chair.

Federal scouts are now after a new brand of crook-those fraudulently drawing unemployment checks. . . The president of Haiti and his wife spent a few days in Washington, D.C., the guests of President and Mrs. Eisenhower. . . The supreme court of Ohio rules that one county in the state that has refused all along to accept federal funds must now do so, these funds to be used in aiding certain needy cases. . . A group of 12 young men, including two Negroes, left Marion recently for induction into military service. . . He had been doing it in a grand way-a trucker convicted of 50 traffic violations.

Up at St. Paul, Minn., they don't take off for southern bathing beaches, but have winter affairs of their own. January is the time for the annual winter carnival. A tenderfoot would consider an approach to zero weather no time to strut in a street parade, but not so those hardy Swedes and Danes up around St. Paul. The Sunday, January 20, edition of the Pioneer Press contained 100 pages printed in black, blue and red, devoted to the winter carnival. A friend sent me a copy of this carnival number from which I gather the citizens of the Twin Cities turn out in throngs to witness the spectacular display of nude limbs and gay headgear on a cold January day. It is also an occasion when the community newspapers show off modern journalism.

A gent by the name of Morset, native of Illinois, is one of the 10 most-wanted by the FBI. They will eventually get him. He is said to have started a life of crime in Nebraska stealing horses. Prairieland turned out top-notchers in that line of traffic.

. .

Forget Yalta. Remember the wedding anniversary. . . Redskins can get their firewater legally in Nebraska "if." . . Eight citizens met death on the Indiana highways the past weekend. Fires, highways, human killers, cyclone, train and airplanes are mowing them down day by day. . . Civil Defense Director Val Peterson has it that within two years we will be safe from bomb attacks by holing up undergroundwise. . . A young fellow 19-years-old of Gary, Ind., saved the lives of four companions trapped in their wrecked car that burst into flames. Young Cole pulled the others out of the wreck. . . Canned hummingbird tongues will compete with diamondback rattlesnake meat as a table delicacy if a Chicago, Ill., guy can catch a flock of the fleet-winged hummers.

O'Neill has two newspapers and four lawyers. When it was a town of less than 1,000 population there were four newspapers, 14 lawyers, 20 functionaries in the county offices and a group of 'n some county commissioners-all of these looking to the courthouse on the hill for a livelihood. The town storekeepers were not up on the value of advertising and the newspaper publishers cared little about it as a steady stream of "legal notices" kept the printers" fingers nimble. Lawyers were kept busy defending or prosecuting horse thieves and twogun roughnecks. Courthouse records were copied in longhand and should any moderns be interested they can find in old records in both the treasurer's and clerk's offices beautiful specimens of penmanship, the handiwork of Jim Harnish. On the other hahd, among district court records may be found specimens of the writing of Moses P. Kinkaid, district judge, that nobody can read.

. . .

A woman fell out of an automobile and landed prone upon the sidewalk. Thirty days later she by the C Bar M Hereford ranch. . . and the gent she had been riding with were mar- Gov. Robert Crosby is scheduled ried. Three months wedded bliss and then the wife brought court action for damages because of injuries alleged to have been the result of the fall out of the car, claiming it was the fault of her husbandto-be because he neglected to close the car door. The appellate judge in court down at Indianapolis, Ind., was up against a knotty problem. He denied the wife's claim for damages on the grounds that Indiana law authorizes a married woman to bring suit against her husband for damages to her property or character but makes no provision in case of injury to person. The remedy, the judge said, is with the legislature and not with the courts. So another "highway problem" faces the country.

When You and I Were Young ... Hickey Successor to **Ewing Dam Taken** O'Donnell at NFLA Out by Ice, Water Miss Claire Hickey has been named secretary of the Elkhorn Valley National Farm Loan association at O'Neill, succeeding Miss Anna O'Donnell, who retired. Need Ring Only Once Miss O'Donnell retired January 31

for Central Now

**50 Years Ago** P. J. McManus has gone to Chi-

cago, Ill., to do his spring buying. State Capitol News . . . The Elkhorn river has thawed with these spring like days and floats a tremendous current of ice and water. The dam at Ewing was taken out by flood waters early in the week. A North Western freight train was delayed this week about an hour when the engine got off the track while running in on a siding. The rails were torn up for several yards and considerable extra work was entailed. ... A new swich board is being saving money. put in at the telephone office. Under the new system one needs only

ring once for central and the operator does the rest of the work.

20 Years Ago

St. Patrick's parish, has been \$194.5 million. honored in having its pastor raised Rt. Rev. John G. McNamara took above the \$215 million mark. place at the catholic church here with his excellency, Bishop Joseph F. Rummel, presiding. . . The farm home of William Beha which is farmed by Lavern Thorson was destroyed by fire. . . The O'Neill Dramatic club presented "Whos Scared." It was attended by a large crowd both nights and gave universal satisfaction to the watchers. . . Ed Burge's car was stolen from the streets of O'Neill during the night. It was found the next morning by his brother, Art. budget increases. All of the carpenter's tools in it were gone but were later recovered by the authorities.

#### 10 Years Ago

Sgt. Joe Stutz and Miss Elaine He wants better roads. He demarriage at Petersburg. Mrs. be humanly operated. He asks Stutz was formerly employed by higher welfare payments. He the O'Neill Photo Co., and Sergeant Stutz by the Brown-McDonald store. He had just returned leges. from several years' service in the Aleutian Islands. . . The O'Neill Lion's club took in 26 new members. They were honored at the ladies night dinner party at the Golden hotel. . . Eleven Holt county men were inducted into the armed services during January. . . The sum of \$2,006.97 was realized in the Holt county infantile paralysis drive.

#### One Year Ago

One hundred registered Herefords will be offered at auction in the annual spring sale sponsored vices versus clamor for less taxes, In a period when the Nebraska

LINCOLN-The legislature this | kamp of Julian said it should be | blind children made an eloquent week indicated it will have a hard made clear that the judges had plea at a Public Health Committee time of swallowing the pill of an done nothing wrong. It had been hearing that the school should be increased budget.

February 14.

It chipped here and there at for them to be chosen. salary bills and discussed ways of In another cost-saving move the that the teachers college there But it was becoming increasing- would have allowed state depart- blind. ly evident that the legislature ments to set up payroll withholdfaces the prospect of a budget con- ing plans so employees could buy siderably higher than what was government savings bonds. On appropriated by the 1953 session. grounds that this might cost a lit-The total budget for the current tle extra money in some depart-For the second time in history two year fiscal period was around ments, the legislature killed this measure.

after serving as officer of the as-

sociation for 19 years.

At the same time it voted to There is reason to believe that to the dignity of a Domestic Pre- the budget for the next two-year bunch the bills calling for salary increases for state increases for state officials and act on them all at once.

The budget committee continued to whack off a few hundred or a few thousand dollars here and there from budgets submitted by state agencies. But one member said sarcastic-

ally, "We are going to a lot of work to save maybe \$100,000 altogether when we know the budget will increase by millions on things we can't help.'

more mare more more more more

#### Soft Approach-

Gov. Victor Anderson gave from the taxpayer are growing enormously, even though the citievery indication that the state zen doesn't want a higher tax bill. isn't going to push hard on tax assessments this year. This will be Olk of Petersburg were united in mands that the mental hospitals left pretty much up to the counties. He has the hard lesson of Gov. Robert Crosby who lost his politiwants a superior university and | cal shirt in an attempt to equalize the best teachers' training colassessments across the state. Anderson said he planned to leave it And the legislature is finding pretty much up to the counties that to keep or lure good men into this year. That indicates that the government it is taking higher "let alone" policy by which the salaries. All of these things cost state slid into such a confused state of tax inequality over the years may prevail again.

One veteran on the budget com-The governor apparently is mittee said that the legislature banking on the fact that assesssooner or later will have to decide its philosophy. Will it take the ments are fairly well on an even "save a dollar at any cost" at- keel county by county. Whether titude, even if necessary to sacri- this line will hold under the presfice quality? Or will it make up its sure to lower assessments in many mind to try to keep even with the areas remains to be seen. growing needs. It's the same old

dilemma-demands for more ser- School Lands-

At last week's end it looked as though the legislature education committee would hold the bill

calling for sale of school lands

Miss Hickey has been office manager at Tri-State Produce company for several years. She began her new duties Monday,

phone while they are visiting in the city here. There are only two BETTER THAN MEDICINE "Good food grown on good soil, numbers in the telephone directproperly prepared, will do more ory with the name McDonough than all the medicines in the and we both are called Agnes. It world to make life longer and would be just too bad if we lived happier for the average citizen .- on the same street!

Solons Up Against Old Dilemma

MRS. W. J. McDONOUGH Jonathan Foreman, M.D.

LETTER TO EDITOR Lincoln, Nebr. who advocate moving the insti-I enjoy the paper very much. tution to Crete or to Omaha It's next best to having an old neighbor giving you a call on the

Because of this pulling in several different directions there was a prediction that the school would stay where it is. However, attention has been focussed on the institution and the construction of new buildings there may be the next

call.

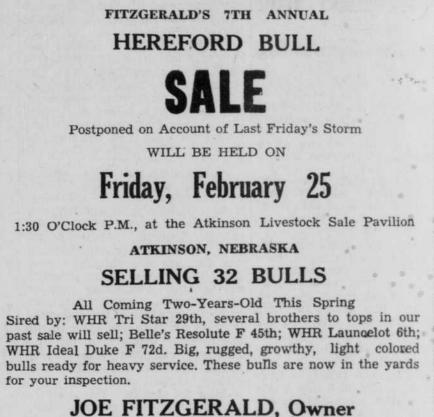
At the same hearing were those

Mrs. Sue Deaver and Miss Anna O'Donnell left by train, over the weekend for Dallas, Tex., where they will visit their brother, Frank O'Donnell.

Mr. and Mrs. George Hammond left Monday for Omaha.

the custom and it was an honor moved to Kearney. They said it was more centrally located and legislature voted down a bill which could help with the training of the

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MITCHELLVILLE, IOWA

late. The investiture ceremonies of period, starting July 1, will soar Sen. Karl Vogel of Omaha, no spendthrift, said in the course of debate, "It is going to be impos-

sible to hold the budget down. It is not only going to be much more than two years ago but it is going to be bigger than what Gov. Victor Anderson proposed."

All this was bitter medicine for some senators who had campaigned on a platform of voting against They are finding the demands

. . .

Mashed potatoes now come in packages like breakfast foods and maybe the next is to be a friend egg poured out of a cornflake package. Let's have the cooks do it.

Editorial . . .

# The Rails and the Mails

Postal rates, postal costs, and postal service, all three, are very much in the public eye today. The Association of American Railroads has just done a timely and a telling job of informative public relations work on the railways' part in the entire picture.

What the association says may give but a part of the picture, to be sure. But until and unless the figures are refuted much has to be said for the railroads. Here are a few of the salient bits of information they offer:

The railroads now carry 85 percent of intercity mail, handling it between 35,000 points, at an average cost of one-eighth of one-cent for the average letter, compared to 2.62 cents for those sent by air

This is made possible by using employees paid by the railroads and a billion dollars' worth of mail-handling equipment provided by the roads for carrying, sorting, and transferring mail.

On surface-carried first-class mail postal revenues in 1953 exceeded postal expenses by \$39,-000,000; on air-carried first-class mail postal expenditures exceeded revenue by \$29,000,000.

This, of course, is the railroads' case, putting their best foot forward. But the roads do have a case on many grounds which the public interest dares not ignore. They have a vast investment which is economically waseful if not fully used, whether for carrying mail or for transporting freight and passengers. They have been targets for all kinds of state and local taxation for years. Rights-of-way and terminals cannot be removed or detoured as can trucks on public-owned roads.

For speed between distant points rails cannot compete with air. And the roads would admit this. But for a great many things-including even much first-class mail-superspeed isn't everything.

Rail enthusiasts along the Omaha-to-Chadron line of the Chicago & North Western will confer at 9 a.m., Friday in Omaha with the general superintendent of the mail transportation service. Purpose of the meeting is to seek to have the postal people restore to the C&NW trains number 13 and 14 some of the mail that has been rerouted and diverted.

Time was when a greater volume of Chadron Rosebud mail came into O'Neill from where it was trucked north. Now much of that mail is trucked west out of Sioux City.

Tim was when a greater volume of Chadron and Black Hills mail was carried by the North Western on this line; now vast quantities are hauled by the Burlington to Crawford and "backtracked" by truck to Chadron and north to the Hills агеа.

This shrinkage of mail haul is in part responsible for the present crisis with regard to the last two remaining passenger-mail-express trains. The lic has been quick and eager to respond during

### The Plan Could Fail

(From the Nebraska Signal, Geneva) The Geneva Chamber of Commerce is well

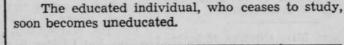
along on a plan to welcome newcomers to Geneva. It is planned to have a hostess call upon new families, answer questions they may have about the community and give them a booklet about the community. The booklet will contain coupons redeemable at local stores.

Several communities have tried the plan and others may watch it in operation in Geneva, so the plan presents a challenge to the community. Since this plan of welcoming new citizens is new, as far as we can learn, in cities the size of Geneva, it will take considerable cooperation to make it work.

Although every possible source will be used to learn about newcomers, it is possible several will be missed unless everyone in Geneva is alert. People who know about new arrivals should notify the hostess or officers of the Geneva Chamber of Commerce.

While the idea sounds like a good one, it is possible for it to fail. The main threat to its success would be for the people in the community to feel since there is an official hostess and a system for welcoming newcomers they need to do nothing to make strangers welcome. It would be unfortunate of the plan were to make us lose one of the finest things in small communities, the friendliness and helpfulness which characterizes them. If we lose that, the plan will fail in its main purpose.

Many parents will learn much by helping Junior with his school homework.





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in the American Legion auditorium. He is coming to O'Neill at the invitation of the Chamber of Commerce. . . Myrtle Mae Coon, 70, died unexpectedly at her home in Page. Burial was made at the Page cemetery. . . Henry Wood of Ewing grabbed the laurels in the annual spring Hereford show sponsored by the Holt county Hereford Breeders' association. Wood's honors includeed grand champio bull, reserve champion bull, best pair, best pen of three, and one female rated best in her class. Wood had eight bulls and two females entered.

Miss Lydia Halva

to Wed April 7

Captain Haug is the son of the brings.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Halva of

O'Neill have announced the ap-

to Capt. Lloyd Frederick Haug

late Mr. and Mrs. August P. Haug

economy seems to be levelling off to speak on "Operation Honesty and people are watching the costs of government closer, this will be the crucial question facing the legislature and its individual members in the coming months. Cost Cutting-

money

The legislature took a few stabs at budget items.

For instance, it turned down a bill to add a \$200,000 item 'to the general fund budget for building a new governor's mansion. Instead it appears that this amount will be carved from the special 1.1 mill levy on property. Income from this special levy has been used for construction of buildings at the University of Nebraska, the

The legislature miscellaneous

appropiations committee cut the

proposed salary increases for

supreme court and district court

judges from a proposed \$15,000

back to \$12,000 and from 12,000

back to 10,000. The surpreme

court judges now get \$9,100 a

year and the district court jud-

Bigger news than this though

ges \$7,400.

last week at which leaseholders This was given a public hearing urged the sale and school groups opposed it. It seemed there wern't enough

people on the committee who wanted to send it to the legislature. In other words several senators were undecided.

But among these undecided senators were some who felt that while sale of the lands might not be the final answer there should be something done about the present system. They felt that the leaseholder has not had completely just treatment in the past. Moreover, the system had placed a penalty on the conservation-mindboard of control institutions, the ed leaseholder and led to "mining" of the land by poor practices. state teachers colleges, and armories for the national guard.

#### The theory here was that the Blind Schooltaxpayers were going to get nick-

There was also a good possibilproaching marriage of their ed this amount anyhow and it ity that the state school for the daughter, Miss Lydia of Omaha, might be less painful if the \$200,blind would stay at Nebraska City. 000 were taken away from the \$3 An association of parents of million a year the special levy

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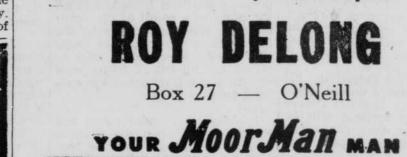
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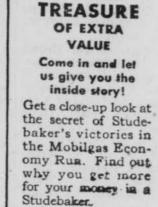
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federal labor mediation boards. Sen. William Metzger of Cedar Creek proposed the amendment. It developed that in the past five years six of the supreme court judges had earned a total of \$100,-000 from these "extra jobs. Metzger said that if the judges were earning this much they shouldn't get a pay raise. On the DeBacker home. They returned to other hand, their being called by Sioux City on the bus Monday the federal government for such duties showed their worth, he add-

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THE

HIDDEN



ed. So the pay raise should be granted but the amendment added The Misses Mary and Kathryn Grady of Denver, Colo., spent forbidding extra work in the fuseveral days in Atkinson visiting ture. While the legislature was debat at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. ing the point, Sen. John Aufen-Chace and family

of Cozad. The couple will be married in an informal ceremony April 7 in Memorial chapel of the First Presbyterian church, Omaha, in the presence of the members of the

of Ft. Worth, Tex.

mmediate families. Dr. Thomas R. Niven will officiate at 4 p.m. A reception following the ceremony will be held at the Omaha Field club for friends and relatives

Spends Weekend Here-

morning.

came when the legislature tacked Mrs. Paul Elam of Denver, Colo., will be matron-of-honor on an amendment to forbid the supreme court judges from getting for her sister and Victor A. Haug 'outside income'' from working on of Cozad will be his brother's bestman. Maj. Glen R. Dunlop of Omaha will usher.

Miss Dianne DeBacker, student

at Briar Cliffe college, Sioux City,

spent the weekend at the home of

her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C.

DeBacker, Miss Joan Binkard of

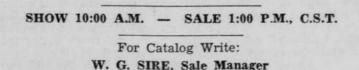
Ewing spent Sunday night at the

an experimental period with increased passenger and express business, but the mail haul continues to decline.

The Frontier extends every good wish to the Save-the-Trains association in its conference tomorrow in Omaha.

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