

Prairieland Talk

Winter Days Not Void of Interest

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

MARION, IND.—Winter days in regions touched 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.

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.



Romaine Saunders

Sitting there on the rear seat, cushioned for comfort, and without a worry as we rolled on into 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

A gent by the name of Morselt, 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.

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 moving them down day by day.

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 some county commissioners—all of these looking to the courthouse on the hill for a livelihood.

A woman fell out of an automobile and landed prone upon the sidewalk. Thirty days later she and the gent she had been riding with were married. 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.

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 inter-city 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 wasteful if not fully used, whether for carrying mail or for transporting freight and passengers.

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 "back-tracked" by truck to Chadron and north to the Hills area.

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 public has been quick and eager to respond during 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.

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 if 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.

The educated individual, who ceases to study, soon becomes uneducated.



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When You and I Were Young . . .

Ewing Dam Taken Out by Ice, Water

Need Ring Only Once for Central Now

50 Years Ago P. J. McManus has gone to Chicago, Ill., to do his spring buying.

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 siding while running in on a siding. The rails were torn up for several yards and considerable extra work was entailed.

20 Years Ago For the second time in history St. Patrick's parish, has been honored in having its pastor raised to the dignity of a Domestic Prelate.

The investiture ceremonies of Rt. Rev. John G. McNamara took 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.

10 Years Ago Sgt. Joe Wittz and Miss Elaine Oik of Petersburg were united in marriage at Petersburg. Mrs. Stutz was formerly employed by the O'Neill Photo Co. and Sergeant Stutz by the Brown-McDonald store. He had just returned from several years' service in the Aleutian Islands.

One hundred registered Herefords will be offered at auction in the annual spring sale sponsored by the C Bar M Hereford ranch. Gov. Robert Crosby is scheduled to speak on "Operation Honesty" 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 included grand champion 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.

One Year Ago

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Miss Lydia Halva to Wed April 7

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Halva of O'Neill have announced the approaching marriage of their daughter, Miss Lydia of Omaha, to Capt. Lloyd Frederick Haug of Ft. Worth, Tex.

Captain Haug is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. August P. Haug 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 immediate 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.

Mrs. Paul Elam of Denver, Colo., will be matron-of-honor for her sister and Victor A. Haug of Cozad will be his brother's bestman. Maj. Glen R. Dunlop of Omaha will usher.

Spends Weekend Here—

Miss Dianne DeBaker, student at Briar Cliff college, Sioux City, spent the weekend at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. DeBaker. Miss Joan Binkard of Ewing spent Sunday night at the DeBaker home. They returned to Sioux City on the bus Monday morning.

The Misses Mary and Kathryn Grady of Denver, Colo., spent several days in Atkinson visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Chace and family.

Hickey Successor to O'Donnell at NFLA

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. Miss O'Donnell retired January 31 after serving as officer of the association for 19 years.

State Capitol News

Solons Up Against Old Dilemma

LINCOLN—The legislature this week indicated it will have a hard time of swallowing the pill of an increased budget.

It chipped here and there at salary bills and discussed ways of saving money. But it was becoming increasingly evident that the legislature faces the prospect of a budget considerably higher than what was appropriated by the 1953 session. The total budget for the current two year fiscal period was around \$194.5 million.

There is reason to believe that the budget for the next two-year period, starting July 1, will soar above the \$215 million mark.

Sen. Karl Vogel of Omaha, no spendthrift, said in the course of debate, "It is going to be impossible 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 budget increases.

They are finding the demands from the taxpayer are growing enormously, even though the citizen doesn't want a higher tax bill. He wants better roads. He demands that the mental hospitals be humanely operated. He asks for higher welfare payments. He wants a superior university and the best teachers' training colleges.

And the legislature is finding that to keep or lure good men into government it is taking higher salaries. All of these things cost money.

One veteran on the budget committee said that the legislature sooner or later will have to decide its philosophy. Will it take the "save a dollar at any cost" attitude, even if necessary to sacrifice quality? Or will it make up its mind to try to keep even with the growing needs. It's the same old dilemma—demands for more services versus clamor for less taxes.

In a period when the Nebraska economy seems to be leveling off and people are watching the costs of government closer, this will be the crucial question facing the legislators and its individual members in the coming months.

Cost Cutting—

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 board of control institutions, the state teachers colleges, and armories for the national guard.

The theory here was that the taxpayers were going to get nicked this amount anyhow and it might be less painful if the \$200,000 were taken away from the \$3 million a year the special levy brings.

The legislature miscellaneous appropriations 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 supreme court judges now get \$9,100 a year and the district court judges \$7,400.

Bigger news than this though came when the legislature backed on an amendment to forbid the supreme court judges from getting "outside income" from working on 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 other hand, their being called by the federal government for such duties showed their worth, he added. So the pay raise should be granted but the amendment added forbidding extra work in the future.

While the legislature was debating the point, Sen. John Aufen-

Miss Hickey has been office manager at Tri-State Produce company for several years. She began her new duties Monday, February 14.

BETTER THAN MEDICINE

"Good food grown on good soil, properly prepared, will do more than all the medicines in the world to make life longer and happier for the average citizen." Jonathan Foreman, M.D.

LETTER TO EDITOR

Lincoln, Nebr. I enjoy the paper very much. It's next best to having an old neighbor giving you a call on the phone while they are visiting in the city here. There are only two numbers in the telephone directory with the name McDonough and we both are called Agnes. It would be just too bad if we lived on the same street! MRS. W. J. McDONOUGH

At the same hearing were those who advocate moving the institution to Crete or to Omaha. 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.

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.

Alice's Beauty Shop Phone 263 — O'Neill (In Former Apparel Shop Location)

FITZGERALD'S 7TH ANNUAL HEREFORD BULL SALE Postponed on Account of Last Friday's Storm WILL BE HELD ON Friday, February 25 1:30 O'Clock P.M., at the Atkinson Livestock Sale Pavilion ATKINSON, NEBRASKA SELLING 32 BULLS All Coming Two-Years-Old This Spring Sired by: WHR Tri Star 29th, several brothers to tops in our past sale will sell; Belle's Resolute F 45th; WHR Launelot 6th; WHR Ideal Duke F 72d. Big, rugged, growthy, light colored bulls ready for heavy service. These bulls are now in the yards for your inspection. JOE FITZGERALD, Owner MITCHELLVILLE, IOWA



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