

Page Women Prove It Can!

By MRS. N. D. ICKES, SR.
The Frontier Feature Writer

PAGE—There was a time when Page was a prosperous small town with much promise. Folks hereabouts were content in being rather self-sufficient, living in the midst of a thriving community within easy driving distance of the county seat (O'Neill), where people went to pay taxes, get legal advice, occasionally to serve on the jury.

During Page's heyday, the town boasted two banks, five stores, two livery barns, two elevators, two lumber yards, a newspaper, three barber shops, three restaurants, one cafe, one hotel, a sale barn, a variety store and dress shop combined, a doctor, dentist, beauty operator, drug store, silent movie and a daily passenger and bus service. A transcontinental highway went through the town.

Sidewalks increased, houses sprang up on town lots, windmills disappeared, a livery barn became the sale barn and the other livery stable became a garage. The Methodists built a new parsonage.

Competition was keen and there was an air of prosperity about the town. The surrounding community reflected both hard work and thrift.

Then came the dust bowl-drought-depression days of the thirties. The town lost, in succession, the doctor, drug store, dentist, bank, elevator, lumberyard, hotel, restaurant, butcher shop, dress shop and beauty shop.

One after another, they preceded or followed the sale barn out of town.

Business came to almost a standstill. Those who could went into defense work. Some left for a time; others left for good.

Weeds grew, rubbish collected and junk piles increased in size. When prosperity flew out the window, pride ran a close second. Buildings lacked paint, fences went unattended and houses, which went begging for tenants, soon became unfit for occupancy. Neglect was the order of the day.

There were many for whom the place was home. Some of these could neither sell out nor move out. Those for whom the die was cast, those who had no choice except to ride out the depression, stayed on.

On May 31, 1946, the first meeting of the Page Improvement club was held. Mrs. O. B. Stuart acted as chairman. The membership was a cross-section of the population, nearly all church, lodge and social groups represented.

The depression already had left its mark. Reversals among people occasionally left ill-feeling; the bad times encouraged laziness and bred contempt; children were denied happy childhood and educations.

Those were days when people who had shared with those who had not. Sometimes a cow would be loaned to a family; there was bartering and trading.

Residents were invited to join the cleanup and people were encouraged to do what they could to improve the looks of the town.

In the earlier days of the club's operation, the intent was taken lightly—just another place for women to go! But soon critics were forced to admit the improvement clubbers meant business. Husbands, especially, developed a cooperative frame of mind and backed up their new attitude with actual labor and money. Presently the town reflected polish in physical appearance and many of the citizens acquired a more cheerful outlook.

The club sponsored the first achievement day that later came to be known as Page's free day. Prizes were offered for the best in many lines of gardening, flower growing and homemaking and the affair is now a traditional labor day event.

The park and the theater were the club's responsibility from the beginning. Recently the Commercial club became interested and took over the management of the theater.

After several years of effort, a light was set in the park for the convenience of after dark visitors. Fireplaces were built and tables placed for the picnicers' convenience. The old water fountain was repaired and placed there; a new one was installed at the bank corner.

The theater has proved to be an expensive and worrisome undertaking, requiring all the money that could be coaxed out of a community and constant and vigilant supervision. In time the theater became a paying proposition; even became a money maker with a sizeable bank balance to prove it.

The repair and redecoration of the theater was a yearly housecleaning project—one of the things that could have failed and passed out of being had not the improvement group doggedly stuck to the task of keeping a movie in town for the kids.

While members regret the loss of the many things, they are proud to have established from the burning brands the enduring qualities that establish and maintain happy and comfortable homes.

Down the years, since 1946, the improvement club has demonstrated what an overworked imagination plus ingenuity and a meager amount of hard-earned money can do for a community.

A casual inquiry would never disclose all the things the club deserves credit for nor the criticism members have let themselves in for.

Currently, the Page Improvement clubbers have their sight set on another "impossible" project. This time they hope to develop a roller skating rink from which children will derive a great deal of pleasure and from which oldsters might salvage some skating or dancing enjoyment.

Say it can't be done and these eager improvement clubbers will prove they can do it!

Mrs. Hunt Hostess—Mrs. Earl Hunt entertained at a desert bridge at her home Tuesday, March 15. Mrs. Virgil Laursen was a guest. Mrs. Laursen had the high score and Mrs. Winnie Bargar had the low bridge score.

Marks 81st Anniversary—Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Gatz entertained Wednesday at dinner at their home honoring her mother, Mrs. Mary MacLeod, on the occasion of her 81st birthday anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Barnhart and Joe of Wagner, S.D., visited Monday night, March 14, with Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Yusten of O'Neill.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Yusten visited Clayton and Eleta Mesner Sunday evening, March 13.

John R. Gallagher
Attorney-at-Law
First Nat'l Bank Bldg.
O'NEILL -- PHONE 11

Under Three Flags
Reviewed at Mission Meeting in Ewing

EWING—Mrs. Leo Miller reviewed several chapters of the book, "Under Three Flags," at the meeting of the Missionary Society of the United Presbyterian church Thursday afternoon. The group met at the home of Mrs. Webb Napier.

Topics included meditations on Abraham, led by Mrs. Napier; "Three Generations or Four," by Mrs. Ralph Schrader; "The Christians' Gift," by Mrs. Carl Christon; "After a Century—Churches in Pakistan," by Mrs. Luella Bennett.

At the business session it was voted to take a free will offering at the next two meetings. The offering will be sent to the Church of the Valley at Twin Bridges, Mont., a town of about 500 without a church.

The world day of prayer collection will be sent to the National Association of Evangelicals.

After some discussion, it was also voted for members to send letters of protest to Vice-President Nixon on his appointment of Robert L. King as his administrative assistant.

Mrs. Carl Christon was appointed as delegate to attend the Presbyterian meeting which will be held April 12 and 13 at Murray.

The prayer cycle was led by Mrs. Ralph Schrader and prayers were said for the missions and missionaries of Pakistan and Punjab.

Mrs. Leo Miller was appointed as news reporter. The hostess served refreshments.

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Lynch News

Mr. and Mrs. John Hurd spent Sunday, March 13, at the Faye Plunkerman home.

Mr. and Mrs. George Svatos, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Svatos and Connie Rae and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Svatos and Dan of Lake Ardes, S.D., were Sunday, March 13, visitors at the Albert Kalkowski home.

Anton Drobný of Verdigré and Mrs. Lydia Reagon of Montey Park, Calif., are visiting with Alfred Stanek.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Hewitson of Gary, Ind., spent a week recently visiting at the Francis Shunk home.

Mrs. Edmund Rohde returned home from a two-weeks' visit with relatives in Lincoln.

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Serves in Honor Guard
Pfc. Richard D. Hytrek, 20, son of John P. Hytrek of Stuart, is a member of the honor guard of the Fourth infantry division in Germany. He was selected for special unit, which serves as division headquarters security platoon, on the basis of his outstanding appearance and soldierly qualities. Hytrek is a 1952 graduate of Stuart high school.

Pioneer Noted for Tree-Planting Dies
Gustave L. Hoppe, 88, Rancher 40 Years

Gustave L. Hoppe, 88, who resided on a ranch south of O'Neill for 40 years, died at his home in Gordon on Wednesday, March 2. He had suffered a series of paralytic strokes during the past 10 years, including severe attacks on February 4 and February 12 this year.

The late Mr. Hoppe was born July 4, 1896, at Warsaw, Ill., a son of Charles C. and Sophia Hoppe. He came west from Illinois when he was 17-years-old with his brother, Hugo.

He was united in marriage with Hanna Schneider at Chambers on December 1, 1898. To this union two children were born—Emma and Forrest.

Gustave and Hugo homesteaded in Wheeler county, 28 miles south of O'Neill, where as partners they operated a large ranch and raised purebred cattle for two generations. For years there for miles around, so Gustave planted five large plots of pine trees on his place. For years it was regarded as the largest private tree plantation in the state.

Mr. Hoppe moved to the Gordon region in 1923. He purchased land near Gordon and on the Pine Ridge reservation in its early development. He moved into Gordon in 1943.

Survivors include: Widow; daughter—Mrs. Ralph L. (Emma) Swick of Gordon; son—Maj. Forrest H. Hoppe of the U.S. air force; brother—Albert Hoppe of Hamilton, Ill.; grandchildren—Loren Swick, Larry Swick and Deborah Hoppe.

Among those who came from a distance to attend the funeral of Mr. Hoppe were: Maj. Forrest H. Hoppe of Mobile, Ala.; Loren Swick of Evanston, Ill.; Larry Swick of Vermillion, S.D.; Mrs. J. E. Greppin and Mrs. Octavia Brown, both of Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Albert Clouse of Custer, S.D.; Mrs. Robert Carter, Mrs. Gerret Dyke and Charles Hoppe all of Platte, S. D., and Lewis Hoppe of Omaha.

Monuments of lasting beauty made by skilled craftsmen of the J. F. Bloom Co., monuments from the factory to the consumer. — Emmet Crabb, O'Neill, phone 139-J. 371t

The Frank Weeder family visited at the Emanuel Soukup home north of Spencer Sunday, March 13.

Mrs. Jack Samuelson and children of Hartington visited at the William Havranek home several days recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Junior Wilson and Chad visited at the Ray Wilson home in Holt county.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmo Barnes called at the Herman Schochenmaier home in Bonesteel, S.D., on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. James Maly, sr., and son, Robert, visited relatives

Real Estate Transfers

QCD — Fred Smith to Lorraine Smith 4-25-52 \$1- Lot 9 Blk 1-Bakers 2nd Add- Chambers

QCD—Ward Smith to Lorraine Smith 4-25-52 \$1- Lot 9 Blk 1-Bakers 2nd Add-

QCD—Edw Smith to Lorraine Smith 4-25-52 \$1- Lot 9 Blk 1-Bakers 2nd Add-

QCD—Cora Marquis to Lorraine Smith 4-25-52 \$1- Lot 9 Blk 1-Bakers 2nd Add-

QCD—Wilson Smith to Lorraine Smith 4-25-52 \$1- Lot 9 Blk 1-Bakers 2nd Add-

QCD—Vernon Smith to Lorraine Smith 4-25-52 \$1- Lot 9 Blk 1-Bakers 2nd Add-

QCD—Nellie Smith to Lorraine Smith 4-25-52 \$1- Lot 9 Blk 1-Bakers 2nd Add-

WD—Rudie Juracek to Clarence L Sisson 3-1-55 \$15,800- S½SE¼ 32 E½SW¼- N¼SE¼ 32 SW¼ SW¼ 32-27-9 N½NW¼ 5- NE¼ NE¼ 5- N½NW¼ 4- NE¼NE¼ 4-26-9

WD—Edward Menish to Joseph Menish & Mary Elizabeth Hansen 8-18-51 \$1- Lot 16 Blk 20 except North 65 ft- O'Neill

WD—Edward Menish to Joseph Edward Menish & wf 8-18-51 \$1- No 65 ft 16 Blk 20- O'Neill

WD — Clarence Faulhaber to Richard Faulhaber 3-10-55 \$1- E½SW¼ 12- W½NW¼ 13-29-9

WD — Maggie Smith to Nellie Smith 10-5-46 \$1- Part of SW¼ 20-26-12

Sheriffs Deed—Leo S Tomjack to James Van Every 2-7-55 \$31.25- Lots 7 & 8 Blk 19- Page

WD—Bennie Hill to Ben Gilligan & wf 1-24-55 \$12,000- So 83 ft lots 1 and 2 Blk E- Fahy's 2nd Add- O'Neill

WD — Clair J Schroth to Wm Hinze & wf- no date \$7250- S½ NW¼- W½SW¼ Sec 12-29-9

WD — Harry E Pelcer to Clarence E Spence 3-3-55 \$1- Part of SE¼SE¼ 32-30-14

WD—Walter Brown to T E Alderson & wf 1-6-55 \$1300- Lots 4-5 & 6 Blk 1- Cooke's Add-Chambers

SHERIFFS DEED—Leo S Tomjack, Sheriff to James O'Connor 2-7-55 \$10- Lot 1 Blk 3- Emmet

SD—Leo S Tomjack, Sheriff to James O'Connor 2-7-55 \$5- No 20 ft lots 5-6 & 7 Blk 3- Emmet

SD—Leo S Tomjack, Sheriff to James O'Connor 2-7-55 \$5- No 20 ft of No 40 ft of Lots 5-6-7 Blk 3- Emmet

WD—Ross E Taylor to Gailard Albright & wf 11-10-54 \$950- South 67 ft lots 1-2-3-4-5 Blk 5- Page

SD—Leo S Tomjack- Sheriff to R D Cole and G O Cole 2-7-55 \$25- Lots 1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9 & 10 Blk F- Lyons Add- Emmet

Lukemia Blamed for Child's Death

ATKINSON—Little Judy Skrdla, 3, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Skrdla, who reside southwest of Atkinson, died at 1:45 p.m., Thursday, March 17, in Atkinson Memorial hospital. She had suffered incurable leukemia for the past five months. Her third birthday anniversary was February 28.

Funeral services were conducted Saturday, March 19, from St. Joseph's Catholic church when the angel's mass was said by Rev. R. J. Parr. Burial was in St. Joseph's cemetery.

Survivors include: Parents; brothers—Larry, 8½; Donnie and Ronnie (twins), 7½; Jerome, 8½-months; sister—Mary Ann, 6; grandparents—Mr. and Mrs. Edward Jansen of Stuart.

Mrs. Skrdla's maiden name was Evelyn Jansen of Stuart.

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