

Prairie Land Talk

Einstein Is Frank About It

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

MARION, IND.—Albert Einstein, the famed scientist who has toyed with the mysteries of nature and who has given to the world theories too deep for the most of us, at the age of 76 declines further public attention, saying he is now "a has-been."

Approaching a step beyond the three-quarters of a century passing down time's highway, most all sense the same condition. Few are as frank about it as Doctor Einstein.

Scientists have a place in the complexities of human activities but they, too, must lean upon the staff of life which is the fruits of the toil-worn hands of the commoner. And there goes to make up this human aggregation strutting across the scene some strange specimens with fantastic mental slants. There came a story from a southwest desert of a gathering of such individuals, one thousand of them, gathered to listen to and thrill at the stories of a few favored ones who had burst the surly bounds of earth, glided out into the depth above and beyond and reached the distant shores of Venus, Mars and other man-forbidden planets, talked with the inhabitants who are said to have a classic command of our language and are glad to hobnob with creatures of the earth.



Romaine Saunders

One emotional sister told the desert assembled group that she had a "beautiful romance" with a Venecian Lochinvar. But a cheering word came from these space explorers—there will not be atomic war!

A magazine master of imagination begins his two-page offering by putting in caps, "WE ALL ENJOY..." Yes, there is at least one thing that "we all enjoy." But this literary cloud explorer was not thinking of sitting down to a good meal when you are half starved, but rather announces that all and sundry enjoy reading about the achievements or efforts at achievements of various personages when real or fancied tales may be a bore to you. It is said that everybody loves a lover. While that universal and all-inclusive attitude toward such things predominated in the time of Romeo and Juliet there seems to be a different reaction to royal romances at this period of tumult in all lands. As I write this 17th day of March, memory unrolls the scroll of years and I see writ upon its hallowed page that all enjoyed—Irish, Yankee, Bohemian or Scotchmen alike—pinning on a green ribbon and strutting the board walks and cow paths of a village called O'Neill and in the evening gathering at McCafferty's hall where John Harmon's dramatic performers gathered off of the streets and enacted "Robert Emmet," the deep-voiced hero exclaimed, "O, Erin, mighty nation thou were once, though now the chains of thralldom bind thee fast to an unrelenting foe!"

The United Nations, through the medium of the economic and social council, toys again with a proposed calendar change that a world calendar group in this country has been spreading propaganda for years. Preston Hotchkiss, the United States representative on the council, said at the annual session of "e council that this government will support no action to change the calendar without the prior approval of congress. The proposed calendar change does away with the historic week and introduces a blank day feature as much as to say there is no sunrise and sunset at certain year-end periods. It would appear that there is trouble enough in national and world affairs without introducing such a thing to bring on more confusion.

One in every six American alcoholics is said to be a woman, and among the female population of our country the trend to alcoholism is greater than among males.

Editorial

Make Trucks Pay Way

(Guest editorial from the Valentine Republican)

Senators Anderson, Hoffmeister and Cole have introduced in the Nebraska legislature LB 362, designed to offset the advantage enjoyed by big commercial trucks over automobiles and small trucks. This bill would apply a ton-mile tax to huge commercial trucks, but would not apply to smaller commercial trucks or to any farm or local truck.

The owner of a large truck uses the highway for a business profit. Such use is many times that of the automobile when both weight and distance are considered. The trucker bases his charge upon the weight he carries and the distance he travels over the public highway. Why then should not the tax for use of the highway for profit be so measured?

The gas tax is not a fair charge for such use. It does not give enough consideration to weight. A small truck or automobile, weighing under two tons and averaging 15 miles per gallon, carries a ton of weight approximately 30 miles for six cents tax. A diesel truck, weighing 30 tons and averaging five miles per gallon, carries a ton of weight 150 miles for six cents tax. Thus the automobile owner pays five times as much tax as the diesel truck owner.

The added cost of building highways necessary for big trucks is not included in the above comparison. All highway builders will tell you that highways would cost only a part of their present cost if built only for automobiles and small trucks.

Neither is the tax advantage enjoyed by large trucks offset by the license fees they pay. The license fee paid on a heavy truck will offset the tax advantage enjoyed by the truck over an automobile until the truck travels 16,000 miles. From then on, and most trucks travel 75,000 to 100,000 miles per year, the truck enjoys the tax advantage cited above.

We heartily recommend passage of LB 362, and urge our readers to write their senators in support of it.

Best guess is the Tuesday, April 5, municipal election will be a humdinger in O'Neill with considerably more interest than normally. Regardless of how you vote, be sure to go to the polls next Tuesday.

This is the time of the year when the man who has been lazy all winter starts complaining about spring fever.

The national guard tank company in O'Neill is now a reality.

There is no place like Nebraska.

"To serve God, be a credit to my country and to make my city a better place in which to live," to this program 30,000 teenage youth of Chicago, Ill., have committed themselves during ceremonies held at the International amphitheater marking the beginning of a movement in that great throbbing center of good and bad humanity to combat juvenile delinquency. The most eloquent of all the oratory on that occasion came from a girl, a shop-lifter, when she said, "I can tell you that to be a delinquent is no fun." Had the wagg who crashed into the county treasurer's quarters here in Marion the other night and made away with \$476 been given the opportunity as a teenager to have identified himself with such a group of youth minions of the law would not be on his trail today.

All is quiet on the Potomac. Nothing noteworthy on capital hill. Congressional scenery stale, flat and uninteresting since Senator Joe has been relegated to a backseat.

Stanley Weinstein, a Marion high school senior, has perfected a telescope that carries him in vision to the moon and other heavenly bodies. His homemade telescope magnifies 96 times and brings the hills and valleys or whatever they are on the moon out clearly for the young star gazer to study. Three other young men, students of the high school, are devoting time and study to radio, explaining that it gives them experience they feel will be helpful in their chosen professional careers after school has been finished. These young men will doubtless be heard from otherwise than as "juvenile delinquents." Youth who devote themselves to worthwhile undertakings are the ones who become worthwhile citizens.

A Pennsylvania town reports 35 applications for the job of dog catcher, generally supposed to be at the bottom of the political ladder. Whether the urge to get a hand on stray dogs or the lure of the \$3,800-a-year salary is the incentive has not been officially disclosed. "I don't figure my age is any of the government's business. I don't ask them no questions and they don't need to ask me none." That's how an oldtimer up a mile high in Denver, Colo., feels about it.

The budget of a few hundred million dollars voted by the Indiana legislature includes eight and a half millions for bonuses to go to veterans of the Korean battlefields whose homes were in this state. Thirty thousand public school students have visited the legislature during the 1955 session. A poll fund of \$15,389 has been raised in Grant county through the recent march of dimes. One labor union group and the Moose lodge contributed checks totaling \$675.

"A woodpecker pecks out sawdust when building a hut; He works like a nigger to make the hole bigger—He doesn't bother with plans of cheap artisans, But there's one thing can rightly be said, The whole excavation has this explanation—He builds it by using his head!"

An Episcopal church group down in Tennessee, in deciding to pay the expenses for Mrs. Florence Greenwood to accompany her husband to a convention in Hawaii, explained: "Husband can't be allowed to go running all over the globe alone."

A couple riding in their automobile when the car went out of control, missed the bridge and plunged into the Mississinewa river. The husband got out. His wife's body was recovered three days later three-quarters of mile from the point of disaster.

The earth has 141,055,000 square miles of water and 55,885,000 square miles of land. At the end of the trail the most anyone can claim as his is a six-foot strip.

When You and I Were Young

E. P. Hicks Reports Good Times in East

James Stanton Feted by Old Soldiers

50 Years Ago

A prairie fire last Sunday night four miles southwest of here destroyed two or three hay stacks belonging to Charles Pettibohn. E. P. Hicks returned from the East Saturday last and expects to remain here this summer. He reports good times and active business in the East. At a meeting of the firemen, John Sullivan was unanimously elected an honorary member of the Athletic club. The fire alarm sounded for the first time in many months over the weekend. It proved to be not a very extensive conflagration. A barn belonging to Charles Thornton was consumed. A. W. Knapp and Samuel Beavers and their wives and Dave Moler went down to Ewing to attend an anniversary gathering of old soldiers given in honor of James Stanton's 84th birthday anniversary.

20 Years Ago

One of the worst dust storms in years struck the county one day during the week and raged unabated for about four hours. About 50 fathers and sons were present at the father-and-son banquet held at the Methodist church. John O'Donnell, financial relations manager, and V. A. Hall, associate state director of the federal housing administration, were in O'Neill preparing to set up an FHA program for O'Neill and Holt counties. Phillip Sheridan ("Sherd") Simmons died suddenly at the Western hotel.

10 Years Ago

Sgt. Merrill C. Hicks has successfully flown combat missions on an AAF Flying Fortress of the Fifteenth air force. Henry Kaczor, resident of this area since 1884, died at the home of his brother in Spencer. H. J. Birmingham and Ira H. Moss are candidates for the board of education in the coming election. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Clauson, Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Burgess and Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Walling ushered in the fishing season at Peter Greeley lake and they returned to town with an enviable catch. Attorney Thomas Nolan reports that in Rock county the water holes everywhere are floating mobs of wild ducks.

One Year Ago

Miss Patricia Brennan, formerly of O'Neill, presented a recital for the Phi Rho chapter of Mu Phi Epsilon. Mrs. Brennan is a flutist. Paul Behr was chosen to be vice-president by the National Highway 20 association at a meeting held here at the K.C. hall. Mr. and Mrs. Deemer E. Conner of Ewing were honored at a family dinner on the occasion of their 58th wedding anniversary. The annual district music contest will be held in O'Neill this week. An "army" of high school musicians, two thousand strong, is expected to converge on O'Neill to participate in the event. James Carney will go to Burwell to become resident engineer of the Burwell district for the Nebraska department of roads and irrigation.

Regional Deaths

Carl Jaschke NELIGH — Carl Jaschke, 65, died Wednesday, March 23, at a Tilden hospital. Funeral services were held Friday at the Neligh Methodist church with Rev. C. E. Copley officiating. Survivors include: Widow; sons—Paul of Wichita, Kans. and Robert, a student at the Milford trade school.

Carl Boelter VERDIGRE — Funeral services were held Sunday at Creighton for Carl Boelter, 52, of Verdigre. Mr. Boelter is survived by two daughters, one son, mother and three sisters. Death was caused by a heart attack. Mr. and Mrs. P. F. Morgan went to Omaha last week to attend the ice Capades.

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State Capitol News

Sharecrop Methods Pose Problems

LINCOLN—It usually takes strife and controversy to make news. But this week in the legislature there were signs that one of the big stories of the session would be the settling of an ancient controversy.

The indications were that the school land leaseholders and educational organizations were cautiously approaching each other to find a way to heal the bitter breach between them. Up to now the leaseholders have insisted that either the lands should be sold or something done about cutting rent. School groups have been unsympathetic toward anything that would decrease the revenues which go to all the schools of the state.

But a new approach appears to be in the wind and it may be one both sides can agree upon.

This would be the share-crop method of renting. Often used in private arrangements, it means that the renter gives a set share of his production each year to the landlord and keeps the rest. Its advantage over a fixed rent is that it takes into account both lean years and bumper crops, giving both parties a fair share no matter what the crop outcome.

Such a method would replace the present system of charging a 6 percent rental on the appraisals—and hence rent—in recent years has been one of the big reasons the leaseholders have demanded relief.

Don Kline of the Nebraska State Education association said he thought his group would approve of such a method, although he could not commit himself because the association hasn't specifically discussed the matter.

Western Nebraska senators in the legislature have declined direct comment. But the picture seems to be that they have decided that the legislature definitely isn't going to go along with LB 26, a bill to sell the school lands. And chances are thin that they'll do anything about three bills to change the appraisals. The public hearing on these bills—LB 277, 321, and 521—set for this week, was cancelled. It will be held later.

There is some talk that LB 277 and 521 will be dropped and the effort concentrated on LB 321, which would cut the rental from 6 per cent to 4 per cent.

The share-crop proposal is probably being made to salvage something out of the leaseholders' effort.

The big news may be that both sides can agree on it.

Technical Problems

Setting up a sharecrop system won't be done with a mere snap of the fingers.

It probably would require hiring a private land management firm since 1,630,000 acres are involved. This would mean the legislature would have to appropriate more tax funds to the state board of educational lands and funds. Under the constitution income from the lands themselves cannot be used for administration.

Another problem would be deciding how to share crop grazing land. It's easy to divide up corn or wheat but cattle is another matter.

It probably would require establishing a per unit per acre basis of rent. In such a formula would have to be provisions for changes in the cattle market and for dry years when grass is short.

Tax Reform

The legislature have the green light on general file (first major debate test) to LB 148, the "key-stone" bill in a tax reform program in this session.

Assessors under present law are supposed to use only one factor in assessing property—the current market value. LB 148 would allow them to use earning capacity, desirability, location, reproduction cost, and comparison with other properties in determining the value.

Although the railroads and some large industries have been fighting this bill hard, on a decisive test vote an attempt to kill the measure lost 6-30. This smashing victory for the bill promised well for other measures attempting to "doctor" the ailing property tax system in Nebraska.

Debate on this important measure took parts of four days. Sen. Otto Liebers of Lincoln, chairman of the special committee which wrote these tax reform bills after two years of study, had to answer questions after question on the measure.

"This bill will make legal what assessors have been doing illegally. Under the present market value law it was just impossible to get fair equalization," Sen. Liebers said.

So 53 counties have had scientific reappraisals in which "basic value" formulas similar to LB 148 have been used. Liebers estimated the 80 percent of the property in the state has been assessed this way already.

Liebers said that while market value sounds fine in theory it

Turnpike Bill

A bill to abolish the state turnpike authority received a favorable vote from the legislature public works committee and was sent to the legislature itself for consideration.

Proponents say the authority is too all-powerful under the present law and that Nebraska shouldn't have a turnpike because it would divide farms and trade territories.

Opponents of the measure, LB 271, and friends of the turnpike idea contend a toll road across the country is inevitable and that Nebraska should work to get it.

New Welfare Program

A favorable vote by the public health committee was given LB 108, which would establish a new type of welfare program in Nebraska. It would be assistance for the totally disabled.

It is called the "fourth category," because it would be in addition to the present programs of old age assistance, aid to the blind, and aid to dependent children.

At least 40 states have adopted this program, which brings considerable federal aid with it. But senators anxious to hold down the

budget winced at the \$3.2 million it would cost nebraska taxpayers.

The necessity for such a program was pretty clearly demonstrated. But senators were becoming resigned to a soaring budget close to the \$220 million mark. In recent weeks the legislature passed two bills which tackled at least \$21 million on the estimated \$196 budget. One was the six cent of gasoline tax (\$18 million) and the other was renewing the half-million tax levy for the state teachers' retirement fund (\$3 million).

Guest at O'Neill

Janet Lampert of Ewing spent the weekend with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ira H. Moss. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lampert, were in Omaha over the weekend. While there they attended the ice follies.

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