

Prairieland Talk . . .

Inimitable Harkins at Bliss

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN — Maybe at least some of them are still on the map of Holt county. There was the postoffice known as Joy in a setting where vigilantes, horse thieves and lynchings were not unknown. Maybe the folks out that way felt joyful when those days were over. I don't know just what Opportunity may be out there on the big flats where John Addison and Hank Tomlinson and the Henrys struggled with the elements, or who was the counterpart of the Meek Moses in a community bordering on the domain of the vicious Dutchers and Two-Gun Al Heilman.



Romaine Saunders

Bliss, down in the Cache creek country, you could see why such a happy state existed in a community when you went to the postoffice and store presided over by the inimitable John Harkins wearing big boots and he might have to shift the cud of tobacco to the other cheek and go to the open door to spit while wrapping up two bits worth of sugar for you.

And there was Little, nothing small about the people down there. Ray as a postoffice was most too far away to receive a ray of light from Star.

Get into your fighting duds—Val Peterson says he is going to make this federal civil defense something that will frighten the foreign bullies. . . I see a little neighbor girl go by "hippy-hop" on her way to school, and Oh, the charm of happy childhood. . . Clubs, associations, federations, teachers, preachers and editors gather for annual powwows in Lincoln. Next month the sophisticated newspaper gentry will meet at Hotel Lincoln and take over the town. . . This March 15 as I park at the typewriter there comes an icicle laden blast out of the Northwest. Must have had another snow at O'Neill. . . Are you scheming to make a deal or have you an ideal? . . . A hotel in Cleveland operating seven bars has notices in hallways which say if any employee of the hotel is found drinking he will be fired. . . An American was looking things over on the Russian side of the iron curtain. Noticing a lone fisherman on the Russian side of the river having no luck and a number on the American side hauling 'em out he asked one of the guards why only the one fellow fishing on the one side of the river and several on the opposite side. The guard whispered, "Fish dare not open their mouths over here." . . . There they were the other day down at the ag college, a dozen of them and one extra, big hats and all from out Mullen and Alliance way, sizing up the good points of a purchased Shorthorn heifer; and probably you'll have to hunt a white among other classy breeds to find another to match the steaks under that roan hide.

In view of the Bolsheviks having adopted red for their emblem it is too bad that a great and benevolent organization such as the Red Cross did not select some other bright color out of the rainbow for their guiding star.

Judges of the district court say the Lancaster county jail is in disgrace. I had supposed that it was a disgrace in most cases to have to be sent to jail. Anyway, that's what we thought the time The Frontier was accused of criminal libel and a practical joker addressed a letter to the editor in care of the county jail. What do these "judicial notables" think makes a jail graceful? Maybe the gentry that run the law should have a drawing room in which to visit and talk over plans for the next bank robbery and the most effectual measure to make the get-away from the cops, furnished the latest in bedroom comforts and fed porterhouse and pumpkin pie at least once a day. Those convicted of crime are certainly getting the breaks, making crime popular these days.

The late democratic candidate for president and former governor of Illinois, Mr. Stevenson, is doing Korea. If one of our notables visiting that unhappy land would make a real hit with Americans he would step up to a war-weary soldier in the uniform of a United States warrior, reach for his gun, step up in the firing line and take that soldier's place by telling him he has done enough, you go back home to your dad and mother and sweetheart. No, we don't expect this to happen. Trip to Korea is pretty much of a bid for notoriety.

Editorial

Voice of Common Sense

The voice of common sense has now returned to the Voice of America. Once again it is permitted to quote communists to confute communism, red apologists to expose red propaganda.

Moreover, the new state department directive makes this purpose explicit and unmistakable. This should safeguard it against a repetition of the sort of congressional attack which drove the department, in a temporary panic, to ban the use of writings by "communists, fellow travelers, et cetera" for any purpose on the Voice. The chaos and frustration which resulted from the ban were so palpable that even Senator McCarthy, who led the attack on the earlier policy permitting quotations from communists and pro-communists, now declares that he is highly satisfied with this rewording of the original rule.

It is encouraging to see common sense emerge, in this sensitive area, through the logic of necessity. It may even be that valuable lessons are learned which outweigh the damage to departmental morale, public confidence, and international prestige caused by the more irresponsible kinds of criticism. At any rate, the Voice of America is once again free to point to Soviet inconsistencies of a far more serious sort than even the worst inconsistencies of this odd episode.

Remember the Red Cross

(Guest Editorial from the Blair Pilot-Tribune)

The American Red Cross is now seeking annual membership funds to carry on its widespread work.

And it's having the usual trouble: First, there's a segment of the population (a good share of it misunderstanding ex-servicemen) who say the Red Cross wastes or is too stingy with its money. Almost invariably, the critic of the Red Cross will recall the time the Red Cross turned down his request for an emergency furlough—forgetting that the Red Cross in the army must abide ordinarily by decisions forwarded by the military superiors.

Secondly, the Red Cross has failed to sound its trumpet as loudly as, say, the polio organization.

We mean no criticism of the polio group. Indeed, we've been chairman of both polio and Red Cross in our time, and one of our P-T men is now Red Cross chairman.

Time writes no wrinkles on the ocean's azure brow—such as creation's dawn beheld it rolith on. Wrinkles and locks of grey are the heritage of mankind; and then the ultimate destiny of one and all. Sometimes amid life's mysteries the hand of death, lays hold upon those whose brows were not yet wrinkled by the cares in the hand of time. John McManus had reached what appears to be life's safety zone, between the flush of full maturity and the venerable years. With his passing another native son is removed from the community. O'Neill had been his home throughout the years since his birth and his death tells us again of the thinning ranks of those of the community who tread the highway of time in two centuries. There has been a McManus store since the early 1890's and now with John's death it may see the end of the last of such business institutions that has been known in the community for more than 60 years.

Don't know just who did the counting but we are told American physicians issued 40 million prescriptions last year. The hospitals are still crowded.

Three thirty-five buy the horns from a dehorned steer or the end of his tail today. A day in January, 1953, Frank Ellis sold 50 head of his steers for \$3.35 a hundred. The bunch averaged 1,135 pounds each. . . Depositors of the failed Elkhorn Valley bank were pretty well agreed that the proposition of Mrs. Hagerty for a settlement was fair and should be accepted, but as usual at such a time some clamored for the scalp and McGreevy was brought home from Arizona and put in jail. I gave him a good book to read while he lay on a jail cot. "I was in prison and ye visited me." . . . The marriage of Kittie Mathews to John E. Lockhardt was celebrated on November 24, 1952, at the Mathews home at Alton, Ill. Mr. Mathews was the founder of The Frontier. . . Richard Cross of Atkinson, captain of the company of soldiers from Holt county to go to Cuba, died on a train in New York and the remains were brought to Atkinson for burial.

And now joining the chorus of school men and others is heard the voice of a bishop of a great church denouncing the efforts of congress to deal with the reds. There are still some Nebraskans who will remember the attitude of this same churchman defending a theater, performance city officials and citizens of Omaha condemned and brought to an end. Educators and churchmen should take the lead in condemning evil and upholding the efforts of officials from city authorities to congressional committees in dealing with subversive and demoralizing elements in the community or in the nation. Most educators and churchmen, it may be said to their credit, do this. But when the governing body of a church places one of their clergy in the office of bishop who raises his voice against the efforts of congress to clean out those in federal jobs who are connected with an organization the avowed purpose of which is to destroy the American way of life, suspicions are aroused.

State Sen. Frank Nelson voted with the majority that put to sleep the measure providing for doing away with the secret of how committee members vote either to kill or report out to be considered by the legislative body as a whole proposed laws. That was his privilege as it was the privilege of others. Senator Nelson felt that Nebraskans were not concerned as to how their representatives vote in such cases. Maybe they aren't and maybe they are. And as Prairieland Talker views it citizens of the state have a right as well as the desire to know how individual members of the legislature vote either in committee or in open session. But I would not deny to any senator his right and his duty to vote his convictions.

I have yet to see one of those flying saucers. Out in the depth of eternity there appear at times other strange sights. In mid-afternoon it was on a recent day. A curved stream of light extending out from the sun appearing to us earth-bound creatures no larger than your little finger hung across the southern sky. I have seen no astronomical explanation of the unusual appearance, finding it of as much interest to behold as anything is we don't see every day.

A director of one of the federal bureaus calls for government employees to keep an eye on their fellow workers and report anything suspicious. This, if applied to the thousands of federal job holders in Washington, will create a vast spy ring. A rather questionable procedure to weed out any disloyal ones.

What we'd like to do is appeal to all of you to open your checkbooks and be generous to the very worthwhile Red Cross. The Red Cross, here at home, helped mightily in last April's flood. It's conducting a far-flung drive for blood donations. It has taught life-saving and swimming here, in addition to paying for home service, first aid, home nursing and the Junior Red Cross.

Remember when you poise that pen over checkbook and think maybe about what some guy claimed the Red Cross was doing wrong, that no person or organization ever did anything without having someone on the sidelines criticize the motives or the procedure.

Just remember that the Red Cross has been here a long time, and if all the slanders you hear from the deadbeats at membership time were true, the Red Cross would now be as dead as the oldtime dodo.

It is reported that President Eisenhower will reluctantly bow to custom and receive visiting "beauty queens" at the white house. Between atom bombs and ash blondes, a president's day is never done.

We have just finished looking through the World's Almanac for 1953, but must confess that things don't seem to have improved much.



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Counties Manage Wisconsin Highways

Nebraska Has Great Deterioration

By CLIFF SANDAHL, Chairman, Nebraska Editors Highway Conference

With Nebraska being forced to channel most of its state highway revenue to maintenance of constantly deteriorating primary and secondary roads because of inability to keep up financially with the ever increasing needs for new and permanent construction, it is interesting to note what one state in the union has done about that very thing. Official reports just released disclose that the state of Wisconsin has no road maintenance in California—at least statewide. For there the problem is handled by the counties.

Details are lacking as to how Wisconsin counties perform in that respect, but the available statistics do show that from a percentage standpoint Nebraska lagged far behind all other states in estimated road construction obligations last year.

Nebraska had the dubious distinction of having a 28 percent drop in road construction from 1951 to 1952. The only state approaching that percentage nationwide—and one, which unlike Nebraska, is blanketed already with hard-surfaced, permanent type highways from California with a 25 percent drop, 3 percentage points behind the Cornhusker state.

On the other hand, Arizona reported the biggest increase in new road construction of all the states for the two years—178 percent—followed by Rhode Island with 169 percent, Illinois with 121 percent, and Oklahoma with 104 percent.

And the payoff on the whole thing is that all of these states as well as many others are in the safe category as California. All are quite extensively equipped with good roads, at the outset.

Not only does Nebraska have the greatest percentage decline in new road construction, but it also reports the least amount obligated to that phase of highway development of all states in this part of the nation.

Here is a breakdown of estimated road construction contracts in states from Ohio to the east all the way to Colorado and Wyoming to the west:

- Ohio—\$36.1 million, in 1951 \$50 million in 1952, a 38 percent increase.
- Indiana—\$27.5 million in 1951, \$27 million in 1952, a 2 percent decrease.
- Illinois—\$43 million in 1951, \$95 million in 1952, a 121 percent increase.
- Wisconsin—\$29.3 million in 1951, \$50 million in 1952, 71 percent increase.
- Michigan—\$41.5 million in 1951, \$45 million in 1952, 8 percent increase.
- Minnesota—\$30 million in 1951, \$31.5 million in 1952, 5 percent increase.
- Iowa—\$51.4 million in 1951, \$43.5 million in 1952, 15 percent decrease.
- Missouri—\$33.8 million in 1951, \$34 million in 1952, 1 percent increase.
- North Dakota—\$11.6 million in 1951, \$11.5 million in 1952, 1 percent decrease.
- South Dakota—\$13.9 million in 1951, \$12 million in 1952, 13 percent decrease.
- Nebraska—\$12.9 million in 1951, \$9.3 million in 1952, 28 percent decrease.
- Kansas—\$24.5 million in 1951, \$27 million in 1952, 10 percent increase.
- Oklahoma—\$17.7 million in 1951, \$36 million in 1952, 104 percent increase.
- Wyoming—\$9.9 million in 1951, \$9.9 million in 1952, 0 percent.
- Colorado—\$15.6 million in 1951, \$21.2 million in 1952, 36 percent increase.

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Streeter and Patricia McKenzie went to Brunswick Sunday to visit relatives.

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DELOIT NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. James Squire, Patty and Sharon visited Mr. and Mrs. Elvon Kinney and daughter in Boone, Ia., over the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reimer and Elaine spent Sunday at the Donald Starr home in West Point.

Mrs. Zoe Huffman went to Omaha on Friday. Her granddaughter, Mary J., had fallen and was in the hospital for treatment.

Ralph Tomjack drove to Omaha on Sunday. Mrs. Tomjack and Mrs. Jewell returned home with him.

Zoe Ann Huffman attended her cousin, Sue Huffman's, 6th birthday anniversary party in Ewing on Tuesday.

Clearwater Creek club met on Wednesday, March 18, at the George Jeffries home in Ewing.

Bob Nichols spent the weekend with Don Werkmeister.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Harpster and Mr. and Mrs. R. Tomjack, Mrs. Jewell and Vicky Ray were visitors at the H. Reimer home Tuesday evening, March 17.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller and family spent Sunday with relatives in Spalding.

Hutchinson Now at Southern Methodist

Former Pastor Enrolls at Dallas

CHAMBERS—Many persons in the Chambers and Amelia communities will be interested to know that Duane Hutchinson, who a few years ago served as student pastor of the Methodist churches in Amelia and Chambers, is now enrolled at Southern Methodist university at Dallas, Tex.

He expects to complete his course in theology. Mrs. Hutchinson and their small son, Kent, are with him.

Other Chambers News

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Spath and daughter, Judy, of Aurora came Saturday and spent until Sunday with his brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Charley Spath.

Charley Spath accompanied Lee Leiswald on a trucking trip to Sioux City and Oakland, Ia., Monday.

Mary Taggart came from Omaha where she attends the University of Nebraska school of nursing and spent the March 14-15 weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. W. Taggart.

Pvt. Jack McClenahan arrived Friday from Camp Stoneman, Calif., for a short furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Omar McClenahan, and other relatives. He has completed his basic training.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Covey, Mrs. Hertel and Mrs. Charlotte Honeywell were Sunday dinner guests in the John Honeywell home. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Urban of Ewing were evening callers.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Wink and family spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Huston, at Neligh.

Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Baker of Amelia visited Friday evening in the E. R. Carpenter home.

Henry Walter made a trip to Orchard Friday to see a dentist. Several from the Chambers community attended the annual meeting of the extension service and soil conservation district held in O'Neill on Wednesday, March 18.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spann drove to Stuart Friday on business.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Gesch

and daughter of Lincoln spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Steve Shavlik, and family and brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Hubbard.

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Mr. and Mrs. Wood Jarman and Mrs. Genevieve Bell left on Wednesday, March 18, for Colorado. Mr. and Mrs. Jarman visited their sons and daughters-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Jarman, and family at Loveland, and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Jarman, and family at Winsor. Mrs. Bell visited her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Grimes, and Bonnie at Eaton. They expected to be gone about a week.

Mrs. Ernest Thorin returned Sunday, March 15, from Page where she had spent 10 days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Johnson. Mr. Johnson had been ill. Mr. and Mrs. Thorin drove to Page again Sunday to visit her parents.

Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Medcalf drove to Stuart Sunday where they visited their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Don Medcalf, and family and son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Avar, and Patty.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Spann and George Porter attended a house warming at the A. H. Kaup's new home at Stuart Sunday evening. About 50 friends were present for the occasion.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Kirkland of Atkinson spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Walter.

Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Smith and family were Sunday supper guests in the A. A. Walter home.

Army Cpl. Raymond Walter returned to Ft. Bragg, N.C., recently from New York where he had been on maneuvers. Word was received by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Walter.

Jim Jarman and Burl Young, who have been employed in Omaha, returned to their homes at Chambers Saturday.

Pvt. Robert Koci, who is visiting a few days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Koci, and Miss Dorothy Koci, a nurse at St. Joseph's hospital, Omaha, spent from Wednesday, March 18, until Saturday visiting her parents and brother.

Sunday guests in the Will Lehman home were Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Mosel and family of Orchard, Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Wright and children of Ewing and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Lehman of Chambers.

To Norfolk

Henry Lofflin spent Friday and Saturday in Norfolk on business.

Notice to Taxpayers

I have been appointed local assessor for O'Neill City and will be located during the day time in the assembly room in the basement of the Court House to help you with your personal tax schedule. If you can bring your last year's copy it will be of some help.

H. W. TOMLINSON
Assistant Assessor

Fancy Ropers Begin Health Project

The 4-H Fancy Ropers met on Sunday, March 15, at the E. L. Miner home. Due to the absence of the president, Mary Jo Mahony, the meeting was called to order by the vice-president, Ellen Corkle.

Ribbons for last year's work were handed out and a program for the coming year was completed.

Members taking rope projects were asked to bring rope and members taking beef projects were asked to have their complete feeding program for the last two months available at the next meeting.

Members were weighed and measured to start the health project. After the meeting the boys played football and the girls went walking to the river until a lunch was served. Next meeting

will be at the Jim Bridge home April 19 at 2 o'clock.—By Richard Bridge, news reporter.

O'NEILL LOCALS

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kurtz observed their 51st wedding anniversary last Thursday at a dinner given in their honor in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Larson. Out of town guests that were present were Mrs. Danny Snyder and children of Atkinson.

Mrs. Raymond Revel left Friday for Lynch to spend a week visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde McKenzie, Sr. Mrs. Revel has spent the last two weeks visiting in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde McKenzie, Jr.

Mr. and Mrs. Myron Ellis of Allen spent the weekend in the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Laursen, enroute to their home from a six weeks vacation in California.

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