

Prairie Land Talk

Printers Relish Bank Basements

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Frontier Editor

LINCOLN — From the time it was built in 1884 until the 1950's printers were in the basement of the First National bank building. Their reign of literary conquest, scorching editorials, combined with plain and fancy printing began with the Tribune, John McDonough's name at the masthead.

Recalling a few printers, there was that red head, Frank Brainerd, O. C. Bates, "Paddy" Sanders, Homer Campbell and a soft-spoken guy we knew as Joe. The Alliance-Tribune was the next, then the Beacon Light and finally the Independent. Now a barber takes over the spot once consecrated to the "art preservative."



Romaine Saunders

O'Neill's first three brick buildings were occupied by banks and the basements of these taken over by printers. The building on the corner of Fourth and Douglas streets, now owned by Elmer Hagen, sick, was first the Holt County bank with Dave Adams at its head, then the Elkhorn Valley bank, under the guidance of Pat Hagerty, finally a state bank with James F. O'Donnell managing its affairs. In the basement of this building in an early day was published the Free Press by W. D. Mathews, who earlier had founded The Frontier. A wheezing printer we knew as Harry was brought up from Omaha and with Clyde King and Red Brainerd performed the mechanical functions of that short-lived sheet.

The basement of the O'Neill National bank at one time smelled of printer's ink. Charley McHugh's Sun shining there for a time, with Rosa Meals doing the typographical honors, and a dressy gent wearing a high collar functioning as shop "foreman." The printers hobnobbed together about town but the editors wouldn't speak.

A group of 18 soldiers perishes by drowning in what their officer explains was "routine daily drill." And 63 human beings plunge to their death in a "routine" flight. Routine—better confine your routine to the security of the simple life.

A committee of the nation's congress will investigate the kids. Some ornery young devils known as juvenile delinquents are to face the music before a senate committee. All periods of our national life have had more or less of youthful devilry but the present era has brought something of a flood of juvenile crimes, as well as an overwhelming crime wave among adults. Can't lay it to the prohibition amendment as was done in the '30's. Television and movies throw on the screen all too much criminal stuff that affects young minds. The FBI was never so busy hunting down the big shots in crime and now a senate committee will work in the juvenile realm of lawlessness. Perhaps coupled with the other factors contributing to wayward children is the struggle for a livelihood that confronts many homes because of the excessive cost of life's necessities, which makes it necessary for both father and mother to work and earn, thus leaving the children in the care of others or to shift for themselves.

A noted woman physician, Dr. Lauretta Kress, is said to have performed the professional duties at the birth of 4,588 babies. But perhaps the greatest thrill came as her husband, who is also a physician, acted as the delivery agent when Doctor Lauretta herself became a mother. White heads and venerable, she 90 and he 91, the Doctors Kress live in retirement in Orlando, Fla.

Editorial

Enough of Joe Wert

We ordinarily do not indulge in campaigns generally directed at an individual. But The Frontier feels that we've had enough of Policeman Joe Wert and that he should be turned out to pasture.

We were tempted to launch this self-styled city improvement campaign in the days following the slaying of Police Chief Chet Calkins when Big Joe hoisted the "police chief" insignia without authority. Subsequently, the insignia came down and Joe reverted to the status he always had—a policeman.

A considerable amount of effort is expended by a good many people to make O'Neill an attractive shopping city and to make pleasant the visits of persons traveling through our city and others coming here to shop. We find it very distressing to hear complaints and we find it especially ironic to have people, especially strangers, become indignant all because of Big Joe — the man who never should have been equipped with a badge, a stick and a gun.

Appointment of police and police officers is the sole responsibility of the mayor. Big Joe was put on the force about six years ago and J. E. Davis, the present mayor, simply inherited Wert as a member of the force. Mayor Davis has, however, reappointed Wert two or three times when that season of the year rolls around. Wert occasionally functions as a deputy Holt county sheriff but has been without bond in that capacity.

A few months ago Mayor Davis seriously considered the appointment of an experienced, well-trained, and well-qualified police officer from out-of-town—a man who, the mayor felt, would strengthen the force considerably. The appointment of this out-of-towner entailed considerably more salary than the \$200 monthly being paid Wert and Mayor Davis was discouraged in his plan.

Granted there are problems in hiring personnel for the police department, just as there are problems in hiring personnel in other types of work.

But The Frontier feels it wouldn't be too difficult to improve on the appointment in the job now being held by Joe.

It's possible that Big Joe means well and is doing the job to the best of his ability. But that isn't enough . . . and we've had enough of Joe Wert.

Let's Start Catching Boat

(From Nebraska Signal, Geneva)
Jack H. Lowe, chairman of the Nebraska game commission, in a recent issue of Outdoor Nebraska, writes an interesting editorial that should be given careful consideration by those interested in making Nebraska a better state.

Mr. Lowe claims Nebraska is missing the boat as far as interesting tourists in seeing our state. He writes "The average tourist driving into Nebraska has just one thing in mind—putting miles behind him as fast as possible, to reach a destination where he is anticipating recreational and scenic wonderlands."

"Nebraska," Mr. Lowe continues, "accepting its role as an ugly duckling state, does nothing to change this unfortunate situation. The tourist is provided miles of straight-away highway, piercing the sprawling treeless plains, and is whisked through the Cornhusker state at break-

Sunset and evening star, and after that the dark—to borrow from Tennyson. The gathering shadows of evening lay across the city. The capitol dome reaches its architectural grandeur heavenward. The gold and purple of departing day linger for a moment in the west. A couple in the bloom of young manhood and early womanhood, enjoying life to the full, passed as I moved leisurely along the street musing upon life's ultimate destiny and enjoying the calm of evening while hurrying feet were tramping hither and yon. Two little girls in the happy period of carefree childhood came up behind to greet me and smiled, joined hands and scampered on ahead. Others were on the go that quiet evening, the happy and unworried, childhood and youth, men and women weighted with the burdens of life, maybe a sorrow-laden soul, and here comes an oldtimer with a smile lighting a wrinkled face as he greets me. Joy and pain, heartache and rejoicing, care encumbered and the light-hearted—all mingle on the highway of life day-by-day.

T. V. Golden, builder and owner of the hotel in O'Neill that bears his name, in company with his son, Parnell, were doing some trout fishing in the neighborhood of Port Angeles, Wash. in 1901 when they made the acquaintance of Captain Perry of the battleship Iowa. This resulted in a party given for them aboard the battleship where they were entertained as royally as if T. V. and Parnell had been governor and son from Nebraska.

Colorado — the hangout of California Joe, Laramie Pete, gun-toting punchers, roughneck Western Federation of Miners, Arapahoe Indians, and the free-silver statesmen of the '90's, has gone the way of drab civilization elsewhere. They are asking us, calling to us, "Can Colorado peaches!" Where is the Colorado of Cripple Creek days, the Colorado of adventure with mountain men and plainsmen, of coming up face-to-face with a grizzly bear and keeping an eye open for the stealthy cougar? Peach orchards—what a comedown! What next where the silvery Colorado wends its way and buffalo and longhorns grazed? Will Pike's peak and the continental divide be spared the ignominy of a peach tree planted among the rocks?

No clergy, no pontiff and but scant liturgy, after 13 centuries at it the Mohammedan religion has 370 million adherents. And they outdo all other religious groups at it. Prayers are said five times a day and as a Mohammedan must wash himself three times before prayers he gets 15 cleanups every day. St. Paul prescribed "praying always" for Christians, doubtless meaning not to abandon the privilege of prayer. A gent I knew took it literally and as it is the part of reverence to remove your hat he went bareheaded summer and winter, thinking he was thus meeting Paul's suggestion. He died in the asylum.

Nebraskans have a hand in running things in Washington. The latest to get a post of importance by appointment of President Eisenhower is a newspaper man of Hastings, Fred A. Seaton, who took over the late Senator Wherry's seat in congress until Senator Griswold was installed. Seaton is taking over as assistant secretary of defense.

"Reds warned U.S. will fight to guard security." So reads the headline this morning. There is not a chip on the shoulder, but don't let your lust for world dominion lead you to step on Uncle Sam's toes.

Mantle of Hoary Frost Covers Region

Rugged Corn Okay, Editor Declares

50 Years Ago
Five days of cold tumultuous weather came to a climax with a heavy mantle of hoar frost spread over the earth and a thin sheet of ice over vessels of water that were exposed to the night air. Much of the more tender plants were pretty thoroughly "cooked" while the rugged vegetation like corn was not materially damaged only in instances of late fields. Ed Alberts arrived in town from Regina, N.W.T., Can., after an eventful summer playing ball. . . . Probably the most important event of the past few days was the receipt of the first shipment of cattle from Iowa over the new line of the Chicago and Great Western, which has just secured entrance to South Omaha. The arrival of this stock is the inauguration of what is believed to be a most important change in conditions for the livestock raiser. . . . Trainmen of the North Western related that there was 10 inches of snow in the Black Hills country and snow fell as far east as Long Pine, and then there was a general butting of overcoats.

20 Years Ago
Estimates showed most Nebraska crops were short. Corn and potatoes were a near failure in some parts of the state. . . . Temperatures ranged from 95 to 100 all week. . . . The Holt county fair closed with no accidents or thefts reported. . . . The total enrollment of the O'Neill public school was 469 with 192 in the high school and 277 pupil in the grades. St. Mary's academy had an enrollment of 213 with 140 in the grades and 73 in high school. . . . The South Fork fair was held in Chambers. . . . Louis Brennan, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Brennan, returned to Omaha where he is a senior in the Creighton medical school.

10 Years Ago
Funeral services were held for John Bradford McClellan, 10, son of Mr. and Mrs. John McClellan of the Meek neighborhood. . . . Pfc Louis Reimer, jr., of Camp Joseph T. Robinson, Ark., arrived to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis F. Reimer. . . . "War nerves" is taking a tragic toll of accident victims. . . . The first inman man to receive the purple heart in service overseas is Pfc Herman Reimers, who suffered a hip wound while serving in the South Pacific area. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Reimers of Inman.

One Year Ago
O'Neill figured prominently in the weekend news, when a kidnaper decided to while away a few hours. Sherwood Franklin Strauser, 38, was captured in Sidney climaxing a widespread manhunt. Strauser had picked up Ruby Pond, 13, and Joan Pond, 11, while the girls were driving cows to water. While in O'Neill Strauser had passed several bad checks. Strauser of Custer county, S.D., released Joan before he made the flight

across three states with the 13-year-old girl as hostage. . . . A car driven by 14-year-old Norma Brady of Atkinson smashed into the front porch of the Byron Grenier residence. Damage to the residence was estimated at about \$250. . . . Final plans were being made for the dedication and formal opening of O'Neill's new half million dollar St. Anthony's hospital.

Golden Keys Club Reorganizes —
School started at the Emmet school district 20 on September 7. On September 11 we reorganized our club. Our motto is "Have a friend and be a friend." Our colors are red, white and blue. Our club bird is a pheasant and the club flower is a rose. Officers are: Jerry Schaaf, president; Donald Schaaf, vice president; Art Willis, secretary; Kathleen Grothe, news reporter. The Golden Keys club joined the American Red Cross. The Emmet school got \$4.65 for exhibits last year.—By Kathleen Grothe, news reporter.

Frontier for printing!

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Family Picnic —
Those present at a family picnic in the park at Norfolk on Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Appleby and family of Norfolk, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Asher and Ronnie of Page, Mr. and Mrs. Don Nissen and family of Page, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Appleby and Richard of Inman, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Appleby and family and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Asher and family of O'Neill.

O'Neill News

Mrs. John H. McCarville and children have been visiting for 10 days with her relatives at Ellsworth, Minn. They went to Ellsworth on labor day, accompanying her sister, Mrs. Frank Lopez, and Mr. Lopez of Long Beach, Calif., who were enroute to Minnesota via O'Neill.
Mr. and Mrs. Darrel Adamson were weekend guest at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gene Adamson of Hutchinson, Minn.
Mr. and Mrs. Wes Riffey returned home Saturday from Moberly, S.D., where Mr. Riffey had been employed for the past several months.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Crabb attended the 50th anniversary celebration of the Methodist church in Wagner, S.D., on Sunday.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS
WD—Charles E. Rutherford to John Obermire & wf 9-10-53 \$1- Lots 1-2-3 & 4 Blk 15- Hallock's 2nd Add.—Stuart
QCD—Joseph G. Ballon to Barbara Ballon 8-7-53 \$1- Lot 5 & 6 Blk "E"—Neely's Add- Atkinson
WD—Lois B. Adams to Bernice A. Grimes & Kenneth M. Adams 9-5-53 \$1- NE 1/4 11-26-13
QCD—Rolla O. Newton to Anna Clara Spence 2-3-53 \$1- Lot 2 & North 5 ft lot 3 Blk 19- Ewing
WD—Martin Hurley to Daniel Hurley 6-23-52 \$1200- Outlots 8 to 12, inc and part of Outlot 7 Ballons Outlots- Atkinson
WD—Wilmer L. West to Eli

McConnell & wf 9-8-53 \$1- East half and East half of West half of the Northwest Quarter Sec 26-30-14
WD—J. W. Walter to Charlie W. Brown 9-9-53 \$275- Lots 17 & 18 Blk G Adams Homesite Add-Chambers

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THE FRONTIER
CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher
Editorial & Business Offices: 122 South Fourth St.
Address correspondence: Box 330, O'Neill, Nebr.
Established in 1880—Published Each Thursday

Entered at the postoffice in O'Neill, Holt county, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. This newspaper is a member of the Nebraska Press Association, National Editorial Association and the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Terms of Subscription: In Nebraska, \$2.50 per year; elsewhere in the United States, \$3 per year; rates abroad, provided on request. All subscriptions are paid-in-advance.

Audited (ABC) Circulation—2,200 (Mar. 31, 1953).

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