

Prairieland Talk

Harbor Concern for Future

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Frontier Editor

LINCOLN—Old Virginia is one of 13 states that have been listed for federal aid because of a near nationwide drought. Nevada, New Mexico and some of our neighboring states make up the 13.

The sun rose this morning on prairieland shaded for a moment by clouds that have since taken flight and the shining orb of day takes over the march across the blue above. Most everyone harbors a look of concern for the future while at the same time reveling in the delights of bright autumn days. Maybe we should face the possibility of a rainless, hot wind season coming down the highway of time when fall and winter have folded their tents like the Arabs and silently stolen away.



Romaine Saunders

I stopped yesterday for a talk with a patriarch who still rides a bicycle and speculates some in real estate. Maybe such perceive things hidden from other eyes. He said it was time we were getting a jolt through the medium of a famine year to bring us back to sanity. But we have since heard the rumble of thunder and been refreshed by a shower.

A drizzle all day October 15 and the rain for the week amounted to 1.45. But it was the weather report for O'Neill in 1931. . . It was that year a part of northern Holt county was included with five counties as "relief territory" because of a tough summer. Gov. Charles Bryan didn't ask Washington for a handout but called upon the favored sections of the state to come forward with supplies and funds; and the response was generous. . . A couple of guys went to a friend's home in southeast Holt one evening and after a drinking party thought the evening was not quite complete, so found their way to a pasture, caught, killed and dressed a calf, took the result back to their friend's home and topped off the night's hilarity with a feed of roast veal. Next they were in the clutches of the law at the county seat. . . In that year there were three newspaper pages taken up with the delinquent tax list.

While we pass as a people of law and order, there are too many loopholes through which desperate criminals crawl. After a young villain has admitted his guilt, why talk of court procedure, change from one court to another to assure a "fair trial," get a jury together. Some time ago I read of an individual in another land being convicted of a crime at 4 p.m., and at 6 p.m. he was hung.

A successful Thayer county farmer tells me his corn will probably yield not more than 15 bushels to the acre. The usual yield is 60 bushels. His wheat fields are looking well so far but some fields in his community are showing yellow spots. This he attributes to putting in the crop without adequate soil preparation. The farmers, who after plowing the fields went over them but once with the harrow, now have a poor showing for a crop, while those who thoroughly worked the soil to conserve moisture see the result in what promises a fair crop if conditions are at all favorable. These are the sort of farmers that need not the preachments of the conservation busybodies.

For printing his name Dixon the late Judge Dickson would have held The Frontier in contempt of court. Most people are a little fussy about the family name though of course can do nothing about it if they are taken advantage of after they are six feet underground.

Another generation is on the screen in the peaceful village of Lynch since that night 53 years ago when a young woman asleep in a room at the Walters hotel was awakened to find a ruy known as Fred Brailey in bed with her. Brailey had pulled the screen from the bedroom window, opened it and crawled in. The lady screamed for help and the false impersonator of Lochinvar threatened her with a knife. The frightened girl redoubled her cries 'til help came when the hotel people were aroused. Brailey made his escape but was caught and the community just missed another necktie party along the Niobrara.

"We are not a law enforcement agency," said the superintendent of city schools in extenuation of failure to report a criminal act on the part of a teacher to the law enforcement agencies of the community. That may not be the standard of thinking in all educational circles but there is something remarkable about such a statement that leads one to wonder if that school man has a warped conception of his duty not only as a school official but as a citizen. It got to the authorities through the channel of the parents of a little girl who was the victim of a depraved supply teacher from the university.

An old boy informed me today that a Townsend club still functions in the capital city, holding weekly meetings. The original Townsend plan proposed a pension for all of \$200 a month with the provision that it be put in circulation by spending it all each month. We understand club functions now involve getting together each Wednesday evening to enjoy a bowl of soup and perpetuate the program of wishful thinking.

A soldier appeared on television the day this was written and told the story of life's strange buffetings. Thirty-one years ago when he was a 9-months-old baby he was left by an unknown individual on the steps of an orphanage in an eastern state. His childhood was spent being shifted from one foster home to another until he had known 10 of them. "I have spent 10 years in army service. Have I any relatives in this world?" he concluded. If he doesn't, he should have a lot of friends.

With about a newspaper column each week listing the names of sick and injured, oldtimers wonder if this generation is a bunch of weaklings or just want to loaf for a few days in one or more of the hospitals that have sprung up at about every crossroad. An earlier generation took it on the chin and went about their affairs just the same.

The experts conclude it is not speed that reaps a harvest of death on streets and highways. Somehow a car parked at the curb is harmless.

Sound, fury, says Ike of the rumblings and mutterings coming from that democratic conclave in Chicago, Ill. It was the expected assault of the outs upon the ins. The soft flutter of greenbacks at \$100 a plate could be distinguished above the noise and the partisan bigwigs probably will say they got their money's worth.

The critics of the agriculture department program gloat over the victory at the polls of the democrat in a Wisconsin congressional district election. Where I was a kid in Wisconsin a republican stood about as much chance of being elected to office as he does down there in Platte county.

Calves Suffer from Pneumonia

16 Ill on Smith Farm Near Celia

CELIA—Sixteen calves on the Merrill Smith farm and at least one calf on the Alex Forsythe place have been ill this week with pneumonia.

Dust on grass and general dry conditions are blamed. These are baby calves just being weaned from their mothers.

Other Celia News

Nineteen members of the Celia Independent Telephone company held a regular annual meeting at the Alex Forsythe home Monday evening, October 13. Three directors were elected. They are Ed Bausch, Jim Lauridsen and Alex Forsythe. Other directors are Ray Pease, Stanley Johnson, O. A. Hammerberg and Milton McKathnie.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Lauridsen and sons attended the reception for Mr. and Mrs. Harold Goldfuss at the Chet Anderson home at 2 p.m. Sunday, October 11. Mrs. Goldfuss is the former Betty Anderson. The couple was married September 28.

Mrs. Emil Colfack and pupils attended a reading demonstration at the Pioneer school, Gene Clauson, teacher, from 2:30 to 4 p.m., last Thursday afternoon.

Reverend Phipps worked with wood at the Joe Hendricks farm, the past week.

Mrs. Charles Dobias and sons, Roger and Rodney, were Sunday dinner guests at the D. F. Scott home.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Schlotfeld and family were Sunday afternoon visitors at the Hans Lauridsen home.

Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg were Friday evening visitors at the P. W. Kilmurry home.

Saturday, October 10, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Lauridsen and sons took for a ride to another visit of the Hans and Louie Lauridsen families, to O'Neill to go by bus to Columbus.

Sunday dinner guests at the Joe Hendricks home were Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Hupp and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Reiser and children of Butte.

Buddy and Billie Focken spent Sunday afternoon at the Reverend-Phipps home in Atkinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Smith and family were O'Neill visitors last Thursday. Mrs. Smith also visited Mrs. George Beck, who was a patient in the O'Neill hospital.

Mrs. D. F. Scott was a Saturday afternoon visitor at the Frank Kilmurry and O. A. Hammerberg homes.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Lauridsen and family and Carl Damero were dinner guests Friday at the Hans Lauridsen home.

Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Kilmurry helped their granddaughter, Mary Catherine, celebrate her ninth birthday anniversary at the Frank Kilmurry home Sunday.

Mrs. Ray Pease's aunt, Mrs. Rufus Sneyd of Lebanon, Ind., Mr. and Mrs. Bergman of Gary, Ind., Miss Fern Spann and Mr. and Mrs. William Spann spent last Thursday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Pease.

Mr. and Mrs. D. F. Scott were Saturday morning visitors at the H. O. Stevens home.

Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg were Tuesday, October 13, O'Neill visitors. Mrs. Hammerberg also visited Mrs. George Beck, who was a patient in St. Anthony's hospital, O'Neill.

Mrs. D. F. Scott returned home from Worthington, Minn., Tuesday morning, October 13, where she had gone to attend the funeral of her sister, Mrs. J. P. Ludlow of Mitchell, S.D.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Lauridsen were Wednesday evening, October 14, visitors at the Milton McKathnie home.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Schlotfeld and family were Friday evening visitors at the Emil Colfack home.

Paul Payas spent from October 9 to 13 at the Clarence Focken home while his parents were visiting in Iowa.

Emil Colfack was a Monday

dinner guest at the Frank Kilmurry home.

Alex Forsythe, Hans and Jim Lauridsen and Clarence Focken attended the Presbyterian men's council meeting in the Presbyterian church in Atkinson Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Skrdia visited the Hans Lauridsen family Sunday evening, October 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Sewell Johnson and daughter were Sunday guests at the Connie Frickel home. Mr. and Mrs. Frickel and Mr. and Mrs. Johnson visited the Ray Pease family in the afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Omer Poynts were Friday evening supper guests at the Mark Hendricks home.

Emil Colfack, Duane Beck and Frank Kilmurry attended the Bassett livestock sale Wednesday, October 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Beck and Mr. and Mrs. Emil Colfack visited Mrs. George Beck in the O'Neill hospital Wednesday evening, October 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Colfack and son, Dennis, were O'Neill visitors Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg were Sunday evening visitors at the Milton McKathnie home.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hendricks and family, Mr. and Mrs. Omer Poynts and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hendricks and daughter went to Pickstown and Randall dam, S.D., Sunday.

David Phipps spent Sunday with Robert Hendricks and family.

Several of the young people of the community attended the Atkinson Wesleyan young people's society party at the Mark Hendricks home Tuesday evening, October 13. Twenty young people were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Colfack and family were Sunday evening visitors at the Frank Kilmurry home.

Deloit News

The Clearwater Creek club met Wednesday, October 1, at the Ted Twiss home. A lesson on "Suds" was given by the leaders.

Donna Day attended a teachers' meeting at the Redtop school last Thursday evening.

A number of friends and relatives from Norfolk and Omaha attended the Thramer funeral on Saturday. The Christian Mothers served dinner for the relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reimer and Elaine were supper guests Saturday evening at the Ralph Tomjack home.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Sehi and Mr.

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"Bigger pies, not smaller slices"

We ran across a new word the other day... "demographer." That's a research man who studies statistics on births, deaths, populations.

Well, it seems the United States will have 20 million more people aboard by 1960, or thereabouts. Logical enough. We gained 20 million people in the forties.

Bigger pies are the order of the day. In the electrical industry, for instance, men with sharp pencils have figured that demand for electric power will have doubled during the decade ending in 1960. More power equipment is therefore needed. More electrical machinery for industry.

And better pies. Americans insist on better products, year by year. Somebody has to pioneer things. Looking ahead for five, ten, fifteen years—creating new and better products and improving old ones—that is the business of General Electric. For seventy-five years progress has been our most important product.

The babies who come into the world today won't want smaller slices of the world's goods and opportunities. Or even the same slice. They'll want more. Wait and see. Nothing less is worth planning for by the people who must organize for the future. It's no job for pessimists.



You can put your confidence in GENERAL ELECTRIC

Editorial

Best Guess: Benson Will Stay

Granted that Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson has been on the hot seat for some time, our best guess is he will stay in the Eisenhower cabinet.

Benson is absorbing a lot of blame for conditions not necessarily belonging to him. As a matter of fact, in the few short months he has been agriculture secretary, the policies are pretty much the same as those that date back to the Roosevelt era. Stop and analyze the situation and, we think, you will agree.

Benson is a substantial fellow with considerable good background and success, and we question if the administration will sell him down the river because of certain turns in the economic picture.

There has been lots of recent speculation that he was being asked to resign. Even last week, Nebraska's Fourth District Congressman A. L. Miller sounded off with a suggestion that Benson should quit. It has been widely rumored that dissatisfaction with the department of agriculture policies is creeping into high circles in the republican administration.

The president recently quashed the rumor that Mr. Benson was resigning with a statement that Benson retained the confidence of the administration. Mr. Benson acted to soothe the farmers and ranchers by announcing that his department would not let them suffer undue hardship.

Secretary Benson is squarely on the spot now and he knows that if his proposed policies are adopted by congress next year, and fail to bring some relief to farmers and ranchers, his position will be untenable. Not only is he faced with the financial plight of agriculture, he is in line for a major battle in congress in his efforts to reorganize the government's farm program.

A congressional agriculture subcommittee took a whirl through the midlands last week and is returning to Washington with the unanimous word that "props" should stay on farm commodities. This is a good vote-getting approach, anyway. But how often around these parts we hear that government "props" and controls should go! Unfortunately, the fall of 1953 finds Mr. Benson in the middle of a long-in-the-making conflict that will have to be worked out.

It might also be said that Mr. Benson is caught in an economic trap sprung several years late. After all, besides killing 30 thousand of our finest young men, the dismal and empty Korean war buoyed the economy for several years, and it's possible the day of economic reckoning finally has arrived.

Mr. Eisenhower wasn't our GOP choice for the presidency and therefore Mr. Benson doesn't have to be defended in these quarters. But we'll string along with him. We believe Mr. Benson to be an intelligent, honest, conscientious fellow trying to do a job.

Ammo Fire Has Repercussions

Nebraska's weekly press picked up the hue and cry against motor ammunition carriers following the Boys Town accident, fire and explosion in which three persons died.

The Wahoo newspaper promptly reported that the Saunders county board of supervisors ordered Watson Bros. Transportation Co., and the

Buckingham Transportation Co., to stop parking loaded ammo trailers in areas near schools.

The Dakota County Star (South Sioux City) carried a story on the top half of its front page relating that State Sen. Hal Bridenbaugh of Dakota City warned the legislature that just such a disaster would occur.

"What if the holocaust had occurred on South Sioux's narrow Dakota avenue?" the Star asked in an editorial. "It almost certainly would have destroyed two city blocks of business buildings and endangered many lives."

The Blair Pilot-Tribune said Blair's Mayor Raymond C. Hanson stated he "saw nothing wrong with lots of ammunition trucks passing right through town (Blair) without police escort."

"There are reports, however, that many Blair citizens disagree with this viewpoint and think such trucks should be banned from going through Blair," the Pilot-Tribune added.

New High Living Cost

The bureau of labor statistics reported in the last days of September that living costs had risen three-tenths of one percent since mid-August and now were at a new high. The index figure for July was 114.7 and for August 115.

The base figure is 100 a.d. represents the average of prices in the period of 1947-49. The rise represents the third straight monthly increase in living costs.

As a result of the higher price index, 1,300,000 railroad workers will get wage increases of three cents an hour. This follows a rise for another million workers granted about six weeks ago. Both employee groups have contracts which tie their wages to living costs allowing periodical adjustments depending on whether living costs are going up or down.

Two good things happened in Lincoln Saturday. It rained, snapping a six weeks drought, and those Nebraska Cornhuskers earned a hard won football victory over Miami U., giving Husker partisans a new outlook.



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Advertisement for Dr. H. D. Gildersleeve, Optometrist, located at Northeast Corner of 4th & Douglas, O'Neill, Nebr. Phone 167. Eyes Examined - Glasses Fitted. Office Hours: 9.5 Mon. thru Sat.

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