

Prairie Land Talk

Real Patriots Frankly Testify

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Frontier Editor

LINCOLN — Not many of the common herd know what Albert Einstein means when he talks about relativity and other obscure scientific lingo and wonder if the noted Hebrew knows what it's all about himself. But there is no misunderstanding of his words when he tells a gentleman to answer questions if called before the senate committee endeavoring to root out subversive elements.



Romaine Saunders

Oh, yes, these guys who say they will stand on their rights to think and talk as they please in refusing to cooperate with patriots in efforts to hunt out the reds, probably have connections they want to cover up.

While American liberty involves freedom of thought and wagging of a glib tongue, no man has a right to think, talk or act treason. And there are too many in the exalted human strata who have a warped conception of constitutional guarantees.

Any person called before that McCarthy committee who openly and frankly helps in any way he can to clean up the national picture is held in public esteem as a loyal patriot.

It is all over. Like most good things there is a pitiful side. There are children in destitute homes, poor, forsaken, penniless, through whose childish minds come thoughts of why they were passed by as that fictitious character came along with his bag of gifts and their young hearts are thus early impressed with the injustice of other children being given beautiful things and they nothing other than perhaps a big bag of cheap candy if they got around, poorly clad and in bare feet, to where the community generosity was on display with beggary handouts. Children wonder how that jolly old soul they hear about can be everywhere at once and yet doesn't get around to everybody. Less public display might dispel the mists in childish vision, but that never will be; so poor kids have to take it until that time arrives they can do for themselves.

According to that Gallup poll, republicans constitute the political faction of the rich. Of course, the Frontier friends know that Prairie-land Talker's party affiliation is with the GOP, but this is my first discovery that I was one of the rich ones. Trust the word doesn't get to "Operation Honesty" headquarters.

The mayor of Lincoln with other officials went to Chicago, Ill., the other day where they affixed their signatures to documents that involve the city in a debt of six million dollars. This means bonds for water system extension. Of course the capital city is not the only one in the state with water supply problems, which we disposed of in early days in O'Neill by installing a pump in front of Biglin's, another in front of M. M. Sullivan's emporium, another at Frank Campbell's, as well as every householder having his own water supply. The rope and grinding windlass and pump handles have been replaced with a little gadget you flip open and out comes the water floating a six million dollar debt.

One of those rapid-fire radio commentators, who is keeping us informed on all things pertaining to this mundane sphere, says Italy is turning to communism and will soon fly the red flag. The land of the Caesars has tried about everything and this may be next.

Editorial

Couldn't Happen to Finer Fellow

A soft-spoken fellow from Denver, Colo., with a touch of Missouri and Arkansas in his speech and a chunk of gold ore in his pocket, came to town for the holidays. He was accompanied by his wife, Margaret, and their daughter, Patricia, 19-months-old.

The chap is Paul S. Elam, 48, Denver realtor. He and his little family are headquartered with Mrs. Elam's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Vic Halva.

Elam's feet are squarely on the ground and there's nothing to be discerned on the surface that would indicate Mr. Elam may be on the verge of being one of the really wealthy men in these United States.

Gold is where you find it. And Mr. Elam and his prospector-partner, Harold Easterday, have struck what may be the richest gold vein in the lusty history of a gold state. Moreover, Mr. Elam and Mr. Easterday control the stock of their newly-formed gold mining and milling organization, Gold Range, Inc., and it's possible a truly rare success story is about to unfold.

Mr. Easterday, who has a good-sized family of children, for 12 years has been doggedly digging in the Ward district of Boulder county, northwest of Denver. With his heavy pick, calloused hands and weary body, Mr. Easterday has been grubbing those rugged Rockies every day, every week. Two inches, ten feet. Dig, dig, dig.

From a real estate office in downtown Denver ("with six salesmen and a couple of office girls"), Mr. Elam has been financing Easterday's efforts with the view that if successful they would equally share the profits. If the venture went the way of so many others, Mr. Easterday would have spent all these years of arduous effort in vain, and Mr. Elam would simply be out no little amount of money.

Time went on. Mines by the dozen had long since been abandoned and the once-thriving town of Ward, formerly the gold capital of Colorado, dwindled to a mere eight persons. Easterday and Elam persisted. Other prospectors and investors had given up—even though recognized geologists and engineers over the years steadfastly have maintained that the richest gold ore in the country may be found in the Ward district.

The eternal problem, of course, is where to find it.

The pure gold content of the ore being withdrawn from the Gold Range holdings is very high—considerably better than the famous Cripple Creek and Homestake mines, which always have been highly profitable.

Gold Range already has been offered fabulous sums for their holdings—as is—but Elam and his prospector-partner are staying put. They have milling machinery on order and plan to have a million dollar refinery and 2,500 employees at work in a matter of a few months. Already the ghost town of Ward is swarming with miners, engineers and their families, schools and hotels are being reopened, and Vic Halva's son-in-law is treated like a king.

The Denver Post, having learned long ago to treat gold boom stories with discretion and conservatism, stated in a full-page picture-story little more than a week ago that Ward may be on

Among the season's messages and greetings there came one from Billy McNichols out at Hollywood, Calif. He is a son of the late Steve and Mrs. McNichols. Steve was county clerk some 40 years ago and for some years previous was in the flour and feed business in O'Neill with a store on lower Fourth street. Steve also had brothers and other family connections here, his parents being among the early settlers in the O'Neill colony. They had the first good house the town supported, located in the northwest part of town. The last one to own the property of whom I have any knowledge was the late Abe Saunto. Billy says they have been in California 28 years and he hopes to make friends here a visit next summer. Not many, Billy, of the generation you know now left in O'Neill. He and Mrs. McNichols have been through the deep waters of sorrow. Lost their daughter in a highway accident and their son in army service. If the yuletide did nothing for us but warm the heart with the fragrance of contact by reaching hands across the snow to old friends, that would be enough.

In 1931 O'Neill, Inman and Page each had a bank in the hands of the receivers. . . Much of north Nebraska suffered that year from grasshoppers, coupled with a dry season, but organized relief measures took care of the situation so no one went hungry. . . A day in October that year the dwelling on the ranch of Charles Cavanaugh, 17 miles south of O'Neill, was destroyed by fire started from an oil stove. . . For her activity in church and charitable work, Mrs. Arthur F. Mullen was honored by the reigning pontiff, Pius XII, who authorized the bestowal of the medal "Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice." She was the first American woman to be thus recognized. . . They were using syrup by the truck load down at Amelia that year, Joe Daas hauling it out with his truck from a carload brought to O'Neill. . . On October 4, 1931, V. V. Rosenkrantz of the Dorsey community was honored for his 50 years service with the Dorsey Sunday-school. . . As late as the end of October that year, fruit trees were in bloom to start a winter crop of plums and apples.

The Young Republicans of Douglas county made it clear that they favor national isolation. I am not young by a good many frost-bitten years, but I want to congratulate Douglas county republican youth for their stand. Who is it that goes abroad and spills their life blood on burning battlefields, die in prison camps? It is young America, not old guys who sit back and curl a lip of scorn at patriots they call "isolationists." It is one nation meddling in the affairs of another that has brought on the world tragedy. Let young America say, "Here we are to fight for home and country, but we will not fight the wars of other nations." Place our military might and stockpiles of deadly bombs where our borders and our possessions can be defended and no foreign bully will take the risk of trying us out.

Temperature close to zero this second morning of winter, aided by a biting blast direct from the north pole. A bit of drifted snow—a morning that brings a flush to the face and makes you quicken your pace. Not a cloud mars the cold blue above as the glittering orb of day starts the march across its appointed route. Late Christmas shoppers crowd the marts of trade and then hurry to catch a bus for home with arms loaded with gifts or maybe just the daily supply of bread. So the eventful year of 1953, the record of its joys and sorrows, its pain and toil, its smiles and the heartaches, drew to a close. Here we go for 1954.

The next year, 1872, there was a Christmas tree at the church. The whole family attended. There was also turkey for dinner. The year 1873—the last year in which Mr. Patterson kept a diary—saw Christmas eve celebrated with a tree at the Methodist church. On Christmas day, Mr. Patterson was in his store as usual, although the day was celebrated by having turkey for dinner. In the evening the local grange had a meeting. And so you can see, from this record at least Christmas was not the gala holiday in territorial Nebraska it is today. Undoubtedly there was an exchange of gifts, and there probably was more in the way of celebration than this diary would indicate. Yet, for the most part, Nebraska's territorial pioneers were too preoccupied for an elaborate celebration of Christmas.

Out of Old Nebraska . . .

Modern, Pioneer Yules Don't Compare

Settlers Busy with Making Living

By DR. JAMES C. OLSON, Supt. State Historical Soc.

Perhaps no time of year brings out more forcefully than the Christmas season the change that has come over Nebraska in the few short years that have passed since the pioneer period. Indeed, there is almost no basis for comparing Christmas today with that of the pioneers. To give you some idea of what Christmas was like in Nebraska territory, I'd like to quote from the Christmas entries of a diary kept by James M. Patterson, a prominent merchant of the new ghost town of Rock Bluff in Cass county.

December 25, 1861, "Clear forenoon and cloudy afternoon. Tom and I fixed up cow stable, and after dinner went to the store. Not much going on through the day—at night we went to the grand supper at the church. Large turnout. I also was at the dance a while."

December 25, 1862: "We were all over to Ambrose's to eat a turkey. Very dry Christmas. Nothing going on."

In 1864, Christmas was on a Sunday and does not seem to have been celebrated at all. On Christmas eve the family had a turkey dinner with Ambrose's."

Indeed, Christmas, 1864 in Rock Bluff seems to have been attended by tragedy. Mr. Pat- went to a funeral.

December 25, 1862: "We were pleasant day. Rather dull Christmas. We had a turkey. Ambrose's were over to help eat it. Dance at Dotsons that night. I was up but took no part."

On Christmas day, 1868, Mr. Patterson writes that he was busy at the store. They had turkey for dinner and a few friends in during the evening. There was a dance in town on Christmas eve and many of the settlers attended despite the fact that the thermometer showed 6 below zero.

Again in 1869 there was a dance on Christmas eve. December 25: "Clear, pleasant day. I spent my Christmas in the store all day. The Masons installed their new officers. I had to be installed by proxy. Could not leave the store."

On Christmas day, 1871, it was again 6 below. Despite the cold weather, Mr. Patterson and two associates took ten hogs to Plattsmouth. In the evening some friends were in to play pitch.

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Mixed Chorus at Ewing in Cantata

EWING—The mixed chorus of the Ewing high school presented a Christmas cantata, "The Child of Bethlehem," Tuesday evening, December 22, at the school auditorium.

Solo parts were sung by Laura Helmerick, soprano; Judy Jeffries, contralto; Walter Hand, baritone, and Jack Funk, alto-tenor, with choir personnel as follows: Sopranos — Catherine Bauer, Eupura Crawford, Irene Kaczor, Virginia McDonald, Donna Minarik, Sharon Schmidt; Tenors — David Baum, Robert Carr, Larry Larson, Paul Gunter, Marvin Hawk, Robert Miller, Russell Napier, Benny Taylor, Jerome Thoendel, Carl Sojka; Alto — Nila Cary, Sandra Dierks, Janelle Hoke, Bonnie Jo Jeffries, Jolene Kaczor, Patsy Pollock, Rowena Rotherham, Doris Ann Spahn, Florence Van Ostrand; Bass — Bob Koenig, Jerome Tuttle, Gene Libby, Dana Sisson, Neal Scheer, Milan Welke.

Numbers on the program included "Hark, What Mean Those Holy Voices?" "How Beautiful on the Mountains," "Break Forth Into Joy," "His Name Shall Be Called Emmanuel," "The Spirit of the Lord," "Star of the East," "And There Were Shepherds," "Glory to God in the Highest," "Let Us Go Even Unto Bethlehem," "Arise, Shine" and "Come and Adore Him."

Miss Dian Baum was the pianist. Paul Cooper is the director of music in the Ewing public school.

Mr. and Mrs. David Upp of Omaha arrived last Thursday to visit her mother, Mrs. John C. Gallagher, for the holidays. They returned Sunday. Arriving Monday, December 21, from Ft. Hood, Tex., was Mrs. Gallagher's son, Cpl. James E. Gallagher. He is on a 15-day leave.

Mrs. Mildred Honke left Sunday with the Harold Connors for Ord, where she joined relatives to attend the funeral of her cousin, Benec Krikac, who was buried Monday at Comstock. Mr. Krikac was a banker.

Everett Siders of Glen Rock, Wyo., came last week to visit his mother, Mrs. Margaret Siders, and his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Bartos. He expected to leave for his home Wednesday, December 30.

Monuments of lasting beauty made by skilled craftsmen of the J. F. Bloom Co. . . monuments from the factory to the consumer. — Emmet Crabbe, O'Neill, phone 139-J.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bahl and daughter spent Christmas eve at the home of her father, Guy Johnson.

Sgt. Gerald Davidson arrived home Saturday, December 26, after spending 12 months in Korea. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davidson.

Mr. and Mrs. Darel Bright of Atkinson, Eddie Bright of Orchard and Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Bright were Christmas eve dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Archie Bright.

Mrs. Ralph Emerson and daughter, Jean, of Saskatchewan, Canada, called on Mrs. Emerson's sister-in-law, Janet Derickson, Sunday afternoon enroute to Seward on business.

Bennett Gilligan and son, Tim, departed Monday for Nebraska City to spend three days with Mr. Gilligan's mother, Mrs. Maude Gilligan.

Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Waggoner and daughter, Gayle, spent Christmas day in Butte at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Story.

Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Worcester and family departed Wednesday, December 23, for White River, S.D., to spend Christmas with relatives. They returned Sunday.

O'Neill News

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Community Store Is Being Moved

DELOIT — The Park Center store is being moved to Four Corners, south of Bartlett. It has been in the Park community for 40 years.

Other Deloit News

A party was held at the Deloit school Wednesday evening, December 23. Santa Claus arrived and everyone had a good time.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Mlinar and family of Emmet spent Sunday at the Leonard Larson home.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Temple and Twila of Theford visited a week at the Henry Reimer home.

Donald Fuller arrived home on Tuesday evening, December 22, from camp at Denver, Colo.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ziska and family of Atkinson visited at the Leo Funk home on Christmas day.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reimer and Elaine and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Temple and Twila spent Christmas at the Don Starr home in West Point.

Mr. and Mrs. Kurpegewit and sons were dinner guests Christmas day at Leonard Larson's.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Huffman and daughter spent Christmas day at the home of Mr. Huffman's mother in Elgin.

Guests for Christmas and over the weekend at the Ralph Tomjack home were Mr. and Mrs. Gene Ray and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Huffman and daughter and Mr. and Mrs. Jewell Tomjack and son of Hastings.

Mrs. Myrtle Jewell spent last week at Johnny Bauer's.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Guernsey and Mr. and Mrs. J. Guernsey of Bassett spent Sunday at the S. Guernsey home.

Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Shellhase and Donna were Christmas day guests at the home of Keith Shellhase in Atkinson. Keith is the son of Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Shellhase.

Christmas dinner guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Knoell and family were Mrs. Jennie Eppenhack and Dale, Mrs. Harold Leise, C. O. Knoell and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Storch and family of Spencer.

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Seaman Wahl Reaches Port

ATKINSON—The USS Alfred A. Cunningham and Blue arrived Sunday, December 20, at Long Beach, Calif., after a six-months tour of duty in the Western Pacific area. Serving aboard the destroyer Cunningham is Eugene H. Wahl, seaman, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Wahl of Atkinson.

The Cunningham and Blue served in all phases of naval operations in the Far East operating with fast carrier task force 77, blockading and escort force, and engaged in anti-submarine warfare and gunnery exercises.

Between periods of operating at sea the ships visited the ports of Sasebo, Yokosuka and Kobe, Japan; Koahsiung, Formosa; and Hong Kong, British Crown Colony.

Among those attending the wedding Saturday in Omaha of Miss Mary Ann Foxley were Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Froelich, Mrs. H. J. Birmingham, Mr. and Mrs. J. Robert Berigan, William J. Froelich, Jr., Edward Campbell and the Misses Barbara and Marde Birmingham.

Mrs. Berigan and Miss Barbara Birmingham were in the wedding party and Miss Marde was vocal soloist.

The Misses Veronica and Kay Coyne, daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh E. Coyne, arrived from Chicago, Ill., to spend Christmas with their parents. Miss Kay left Monday for Sioux Falls, S.D., on business and then returned to Chicago. Miss Veronica plans to leave Saturday.

DR. H. D. GILDERSLEEVE OPTOMETRIST Northeast Corner of 4th & Douglas O'NEILL, NEBR. Phone 167 Eyes Examined - Glasses Fitted Office Hours: 2.5 Mon. thru Sat.

When in Omaha HOTEL CONANT 200 ROOMS \$2 to \$3

after Christmas SALE

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OUT THEY GO! A limited number of nationally-advertised ladies' and gents' WAKMANN WATCHES, a large assortment of COSTUME JEWELRY, and other miscellaneous items.

Big Reductions from 1/3 to 1/2 off

Some of the Watches in the Offering Are Discontinued Models

McINTOSH JEWELRY "WHERE PRICE AND QUALITY MEET"

Phone 166 O'Neill

Reaches Korea Before Christmas

CLEARWATER — Pvt. Ralph O. Tubbs, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Tubbs, route 2, Clearwater, arrived in Korea just before Christmas for duty with the 96th field artillery battalion, part of I corps.

The corps, one of three in Korea, coordinates the intensive post-truce training and reconditioning of UN units under its control.

Private Tubbs, a member of battery A, entered the army last June and completed basic training at Ft. Sill, Okla.

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THE AFFAIRS OF DOBIE GILLIS Starring Debbie Reynolds, Bobbie Van, Bob Fosse. Hello fans! Cheers! For the swell star team Debbie Reynolds and dancing Bobby Van! Family night \$1; adult 50c; children 12c; tax incl.

Fri.-Sat. Jan. 1-2 Van Heflin and Julia Adams in WINGS OF THE HAWK With Pancho Villa's forces growing in strength, the revolution in Mexico is in full swing when Van Heflin, wildcatting mining engineer, strikes it rich. Adult 50c; children 12c; tax incl. Matinee Sat. 2:30. Children under 12 free when accompanied by parent.

Sun.-Mon.-Tues.-Wed. Jan. 3-4-5-6 FROM HERE TO ETERNITY From the stark, bold—yet tender—best-seller! Starring Burt Lancaster, Montgomery Clift, Deborah Kerr, Frank Sinatra and Donna Reed. Admission: Adults 76c; children 25c; tax incl. Matinee Sun. 2:30. All children unless in arms must have tickets

THE FRONTIER

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