

PrairieLand Talk

Should McLain Have 2d Chance

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Frontier Editor

LINCOLN—Prison walls have taken to their solid embrace another Nebraskan to stay within that harsh community for the rest of the natural life for a 20-year-old youth, if the recommendations of the jury that found Duane McLain guilty of first degree murder and the sentence are Judge Meyer are carried to completion.

Tears stained the cheeks of that young man as he sat beside his lawyer in the Dawes county courtroom when the verdict of the jury was announced. Was that a tear of repentance for what he had done or for what he now faced? From whose eyes were wrung scalding tears over a young girl never more to cross the threshold of the parental home in Sheridan county?

The judicial proceedings in the McLain trial were not to determine guilt, but to decide whether it should be life imprisonment or the death penalty. If I were a lawyer I could not defend a known murderer. To save his client from the electric chair the defense attorney shook in the faces of the jury a precept of the Ten Commandments, "Thou shalt not kill." The Author of that precept knew there would be human hands stained with the blood of their fellows, so this treatment was provided for such: "... at the hand of every man's brother will I require the life of man. Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: For in the image of God made He man."—Gen. 9:5-6.

One of the tricks of the trade in courtrooms is to keep certain facts from getting to the jury while emphasizing others. The laws of God differ with some of our human arrangements, and if you want to clinch an argument by quoting a bit of Divine precepts better be on your guard lest you are talking to one who is pretty well informed on the truth set forth in Scripture.

But who shall say that young man from Rushville should not have another chance?

They may have to go hungry the rest of the year, but the holiday season goodwill workers left hundreds of baskets of grub at the abodes of those in and about the capital city whom the late Colonel Doyle would have described as "wretchedly poor." Of course, as the Lord said, "the poor ye have always with you," flush times or tough times, an essential element of society to keep the milk of human kindness flowing.

The oleo is to have a competitor. A Nebraska dairy concern is going to see if it can't have a hand in spreading the hot cakes. The real butter is something many never see these days and as for the good old country butter—that is only a precious memory. The dairy people promise to soon have a product they call Vadall made wholly of dairy products that is a substitute for butter and will sell for less. One of the ambitious farm women of a passing generation living a mile or so southeast of town on the Wynn homestead made butter which she formed into decorated rounded prints and brought to us for 25 cents the pound. It was worth it even in those days of cheap living costs. All the grocery stores had tubs of country-made butter they sold for 15 cents, with now and then a choice roll commanding 25 cents. Probably the milk and cream of Holt county cows now goes down the necks of the calves.

The 66th anniversary of the overwhelming blizzard of January 12, 1888, will be observed next week in the annual gathering of the Blizzard club at the YWCA in Lincoln. Why keep alive the memory of a blizzard? You would have had to have been in it to know why.

When you agree with everything the editor writes, then it is time to quit reading him and read someone else a while.



Romaine Saunders

Mr. and Mrs. Val Peterson have been to town, glad to get away during the holiday season from the dizzy scenes of official life in Washington and relax among friends under the sun-beam glow of Nebraska skies. Judge Donohoe maybe would rather have spent a day with friends in O'Neill than to perform the judicial duty of sending that draft evader to prison. It is probably not cowardice that impells a young man to refuse to join the army. It takes courage to stand for a principle—right or wrong. One who accepts the consequences rather than join the war mad is no coward. If Congressman Curtis of Nebraska succeeds in securing the passage in the congress of his social security measures we will have the "Doc" Townsend plan going in a modified form. One defect of the social security setup: It makes no provision for the one branch of industry that contributes an equal share with labor to maintain the social security fund. Maybe Townsend had the better plan. The late Jesse James of Amelia and Atkinson, who didn't need any handouts, thought so.

If you heard the "Voice of the Frontier" December 28 you probably thought Editor Cal was somewhat befuddled. As he was interviewing a gold miner, it was all understandable. The gentleman from Denver, Colo., whom Mr. Stewart was interviewing, we were told, has made a gold strike that outclasses any of the '49ers and may make him a billionaire. The hidden riches now being exploited were discovered in the Rockies just west of Boulder. I had wondered when visiting that deserted region if there were not something there worth a lot. From what the "Voice" brought out—and subsequently described in detail in the last issue of The Frontier—this is a more hopeful hole in the earth than the one O'Neill patriots were interested in up in Washington when Sam Eves and Jack Harrington were peddling mining stocks and telling us that there was a difference "between a shining mark and a mining shark." Gold is a great lure and if any prairie land friends are interested in this Colorado strike, we trust they will realize something more substantial than the "shining mark" of long ago was able to dish out.

Holt county along with other Nebraska communities will be represented at the National Cattlemen's association gathering in Colorado Springs which opens January 12 for a three-day meeting. Dewey C. Schaffer of the O'Neill community, president of the Nebraska Stock Growers' association, will be one of the prominent figures at the Colorado gathering. Among the group of Nebraskans to attend, former governor Sam McKelvie and T. F. Arnold, both of Cherry county, are mentioned in connection with the functions of the state association at this national gathering.

The truth is the ultimate goal of all mankind, and is worth the effort to obtain it.

THE FRONTIER

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When You & I Were Young...

Calvert, Gunn Share Shoot Honors

O'Neill Boys Meet in Italy

50 Years Ago
James Hughes and Anna Rodenwald were married December 24. A. A. Stanton returned from Bonesteel, S. D. Ralph Evans was up from Ullysess to spend Christmas with his parents. Prof. J. V. Owens and R. E. Slaymaker, county superintendent, went to Lincoln to attend a meet-

20 Years Ago
Ray Calvert won permanent possession of the cup he and Bert Gunn had held for two years each in blue rock shooting. Miss Vera O'Neill, teacher in the public school, died of injuries suffered in an automobile accident near Dunbar. Lowell Johnson of Atkinson and Miss Leta Johnson were married December 24. Bernard Edwards escaped near tragedy when he accidentally pulled the trigger of his new air rifle. The pellet struck the edge of the eyebrow bone on the right side, only one-half inch from the eyeball, and penetrated almost half an inch. Amaniel Boshart, brother of Ed and Aaron Boshart, died December 23, at the U. S. Soldier's hospital in Los Angeles, Calif.

10 Years Ago
Sgt. Louis L. Peter, Cpl. Leonard Winkler and S/Sgt. Bill Miller recently met in Italy. It was a welcome reunion for the boys to meet some one they knew so far from home. Fred Johring, longtime resident, died.

Germany Pictures Shown to Group

CELIA — Wednesday evening, December 30, a birthday party was held at the Mark Hendricks home for those whose birthday anniversaries were in December. Birthday anniversaries honored were those of Paul Nelson of O'Neill, Bill Focken, Emil Colfack, Leon and Markita Hendricks, Omer Poynts, Mrs. Robert Hendricks and Mrs. Lawrence Smith, who was unable to be present on account of sickness in the family. Families of honored guests were also present, also Mr. and Mrs. Lee Terwilliger, who showed movies and gave talks about their recent trip to Germany, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hendricks and family and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Chaffin and family.

Other Celia News
Raymond and Byron Obermire and Raymond Tunik went with Bobby Knudson and visited his school Thursday, December 31. Mr. and Mrs. Emil Colfack and Shirley were O'Neill visitors on Monday, December 28. Linford Sweet did some wiring for Frank Kilmurry Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Connie Frickel and family visited the Ray Pease family Sunday evening, December 27. Members of Sandcreek township held a business meeting at the O. A. Hammerberg home on Monday evening, December 28. Those present were James Deming, treasurer; David Keidel, justice of the peace; O. A. Hammerberg, clerk; Emil Colfack and

George Hitchcock, road overseers. Others present were Denton Colfack, Robert Deming, Mrs. Lottie Keidel and Mrs. James Deming. Mrs. Robert Hendricks and Becky Lynn and Millie Ernst attended the new year's day Ernest family reunion at the Austin Searies home at O'Neill. Gerhard Tunik and son, Raymond, of Butte were Tuesday evening, December 29, visitors at the Hans Lauridsen home. Raymond stayed for several days and visited Bobby Knudson. Mr. and Mrs. Nels Colfack were new year's dinner and supper guests at the Emil Colfack home. Other afternoon visitors were the Clarence Focken children.

Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Johnson, Mrs. Alpha McKathnie and Ellen and Mrs. Emma McKathnie were Monday, December 28, visitors at the Stanley Johnson home. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Fullerton were Friday afternoon, January 1, visitors at the Stanley Johnson home. The Hendricks families held a new year's reunion at the Paul Nelson home north of O'Neill on Saturday, January 2. Others present were Mr. and Mrs. Mary Hendricks and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hendricks and family, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hendricks and daughter, Millie Ernst and Mr. and Mrs. Connie Frickel and family. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Nelson were also present. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hendricks and family were Sunday dinner guests at the home of his sister, Mrs. Bob Reiser, and family of

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Butte. Mr. and Mrs. August Troshynski and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Rome and son of Omaha were new year's dinner guests at the Frank Kilmurry home. Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Jensen of Midway were new year's day dinner guests at the Pay Puckett home north of O'Neill. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hendricks and daughter, Leon and Arlin Hendricks and Millie Ernst were new year's eve overnight guests at the Omer Poynts home. Sunday, January 3, luncheon guests at the Earl Schlotfeld home were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson, Gretta, Barbara and Jim of Lyons. Jim was a Saturday overnight visitor at the Schlotfeld home. Mrs. Leonard Chaffin and children were new year's day visitors at the Lawrence Smith home. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hendricks and family were last Thursday dinner guests at the Jesse Hupp home. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kilmurry and daughter were visitors at the Gene Livingston home on Friday evening. Alex Forsythe was a Wednesday afternoon, December 30, visitor at the O. A. Hammerberg home. Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg were O'Neill visitors Tuesday afternoon, December 29. Mr. and Mrs. Omer Poynts were Sunday, January 3, guests at the Mark Hendricks home. Albert Johnson of Lyons and Red Kruse of Omaha were new

year's eve visitors at the Earl Schlotfeld and Ray Pease homes. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson and family of Lyons were Saturday overnight visitors at the Stanley Johnson home. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Johnson spent new year's day at the Ed Bausch home. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Schlotfeld and family were Friday evening visitors at the Stanley Johnson home. Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Kilmurry accompanied Frank Kilmurry and daughter to O'Neill Thursday, December 31. Emil Colfack and son, Denton, were Sunday evening visitors at

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