

THE FRONTIER

Editorial & Business Offices: 10 South Fourth Street
O'NEILL, NEBR.

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Entered the postoffice at 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.

Established in 1880—Published Each Thursday

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

Youth Center Is a Worthy Project

There is a 40 x 70-ft. cement block building on O'Neill's north side with characteristics that make it desirable as a youth recreational center.

This building, constructed about 3 years ago to house an auto rebuilding firm which since has gone defunct, is available for \$2,560. Two or three thousand dollars will be spent on improvements, according to the plan.

A move was touched-off Saturday to raise funds for the purchase of this building. This drive now is in full stride.

The Frontier believes this to be a very fine project. We believe the move is worthy of special consideration on the part of every parent, every citizen.

Someone has said that civic projects should be undertaken singly; that St. Anthony's hospital should have sole priority until it has been seen through to a finish. That is fine. St. Anthony's hospital will be seen through to a glorious completion, but the fact is that a youth center is important, too, and also is long overdue!

This proposed youth center is a drop-in-the-bucket compared to an ambitious hospital building program. This money-raising drive can be short and sweet.

District Judge D. R. Mounts spoke briefly at Saturday's kick-off breakfast in which 16 interested persons—men and women—were present. Almost daily Judge Mounts is confronted with juvenile delinquency problems and he, probably better than anyone else in our community, recognizes the need for a youth center.

He told the handful of enthusiasts that the O'Neill community has 5 important youth groups literally without a home. These are Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, 4-H club groups and Rural Youth groups. All of these organizations are growing and their wholesome activities are becoming more numerous.

The American Legion, churches and schools have, from time-to-time, made their facilities available to these youth organizations, but coordination and scheduling of meetings and events today is quite a problem.

Boy Scouts, for example, need a home for their meeting places, for storing their equipment, to inspire additional pride in their work and their organization. The Scouts need a home worse than lots of other organizations because their turnover is greater, and it is needless to say that a boy reared on Scout principles is a better boy.

It was frankly pointed out that our penitentiaries and corrective institutions are being expanded to cope with the ever-increasing lawlessness and waywardness.

It would, therefore, seem like a sound and reasonable gesture on our part to invest in O'Neill's youth, to buy a building that rather suddenly has become available, and to assist a handful of parents and others interested in our youth who have a plan for converting this structure into a useful, permanent part of our community.

Judge Mounts and L. D. Putnam, who helped arrange for the meeting, and Mrs. Roy Shelhamer and Mrs. Arthur Dexter, Scout mothers present at the meeting, will be pleased to furnish any further information. Checks should be made payable to O'Neill Youth Center.

O'Neill Showing Healthy Gain

O'Neill will show a healthy gain in population, according to incomplete reports, but will fall short of some of the enthusiastic estimates.

O'Neill might show a gain of 500 persons, which, percentage-wise, would be very good. This in view of the fact that most smaller communities have shown a net loss and Holt county will show a substantial loss.

What has happened in many cities and towns in the United States is happening here. Ratios have changed. There are more houses, more telephones, more electric light meters, etc., etc., but the average dwelling does not house as many people as it did 10 years ago.

Not infrequently we have heard our enthusiastic brethren declare that O'Neill's population would amount to 3,200 or even 3,500!

It is true that quite a number of people live in nearby towns and commute to and from O'Neill where they work. It is possible that if all these families were living here that O'Neill's population figure in 1950 would be substantially higher. Same, no doubt, could be said for other communities.

There is an ironic touch to the O'Neill census-taking. Our college crowd is counted in the cities and towns where these students are spending the present term; our people in the armed forces are counted where they hang their hat (if they're presently assigned within the continental limits or in a U. S. territory). Hence, O'Neill doesn't have the right to count them.

St. Mary's academy members 80 boarding students who come here from 6 states and the city is full of other students who come for prep training. But prep (or high school) students are regarded by census-takers as belonging at home and are counted there, not where they are in school.

Holt county's gross retail sales increased 277 per cent between 1939 and 1948. Meanwhile, it takes little imagination to guess that the county has been depopulated during the same interval. Result: Per capita wealth is considerably greater!

President Harry S. Truman in Lincoln the other day speculated that the rain in which he spoke was more welcome than the president of the United States. There were many who readily agreed.

Rebekahs Hosts to Inman Odd Fellows

INMAN — Arbutus Rebekah lodge, of Inman, held a regular session on Wednesday, May 10.

After the meeting the Rebekahs entertained the Odd Fellows and members of their families. Evening was spent in playing cards of different kinds, after which a covered dish lunch was served by the ladies. Committee in charge was Mrs. Floyd Keyes and Mrs. L. R. Tompkins.

REDBIRD NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Halsey Hull were here Friday, May 12. Howard Slack and family, of near Dorsey, were in Redbird Friday, May 12. Gene Hrbek, of Scottville, was here Friday, May 12. Eldon Sedivy was in Redbird Friday, May 12. Howard Graham called in Redbird Saturday, May 13.

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Our Turn to Salute



Prairieland Talk —

'I Don't Like Him—He's No Good' — Lincoln Laborer's Opinion of Truman

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN — A portion of the nation's capital came to Lincoln.

On Sunday, May 7, at a little before 4 p.m., two large busses, following the lead of a motorcycle cop, rolled up to the auditorium of Union college here.

Across the sides of these busses was emblazoned in large letters "The United States Navy Band, Washington, D. C." Out came the blue uniformed men of the band, a handsome bunch of gents that made coeds' hearts flutter.

The band put on two performances, at 4 and 8 p.m. After seeing and hearing them once my uncultured musical choice and critical eye favors the O'Neill school band, such as Superintendent George has guided through the intricate combinations of band music.

The following day there steamed up to the Burlington station a string of coaches bearing President Harry Truman and his party. That was about 5 p.m. From 3 p.m. on, patriots were streaming down to see the show. A platform stood at the end of the street just a short distance from the railroad tracks. This was the rally ground where the notables sat and some 8,000 patriots crowded around—until it began to rain. I don't know who the folks came out to see, the President, Mrs. Truman, Margaret, Governor Peterson, the state democratic big boys—they were all there—or just to be one of the crowd.

I asked an old-timer why he was there and what he thought of the honorable guest who was to address the crowd. But he was one of those old boys who like to talk about the achievements of his sons and daughters and didn't care who or what was in the White House.

I thought to take in the whole show, but when the heavens began to weep for us, I sought shelter uptown, so missed the presidential party. Understood they got a wetting because of the leaking canvas that had been spread above the speaker's platform.

As I strode up town to take a bus home, a tall gent swung along beside me. He was greeted by a friend heading west on "O" street to join the crowd down by the Burlington station.

"Hello John, come on down and see Harry," I hurried on to the bus stop and got aboard as the sprinkle became

a downpour. Found a seat with a husky workman who gave his opinion of Mr. Truman without being asked. "I don't like him—he's no good."

This gent picked up his dinner kit and swung off the bus at the next stop.

Then a lady sat down beside me. She was more charitable. "Mr. Truman does not have what it takes to fill the office of president," was her comment.

But Mr. Truman has some admirers. One of those gents, who makes a precarious livelihood peddling everything from cold tablets to baking powders, was

heard to remark that charges brought against Truman are not so, and that he is a victim of "such things" because he is "for the people."

A crowd of 8,000 was reduced to 3,000 standing in an inch of water as the president spoke. He said nothing that was of any help to Nebraskans in a fifteen minute speech. It became known that Governor Peterson saw no occasion for him to join in the handclapping demonstration.

The president has crossed the state. Nebraskans showed their cordiality, but nobody has been fooled as to the object of this invasion.

Next day there was a dog show.

The bugle on which was sounded the call for the last charge of the Union army before the surrender of Lee is now in the West Point military academy. When will the bugle sound the note for the last charge to be made before men war no more?

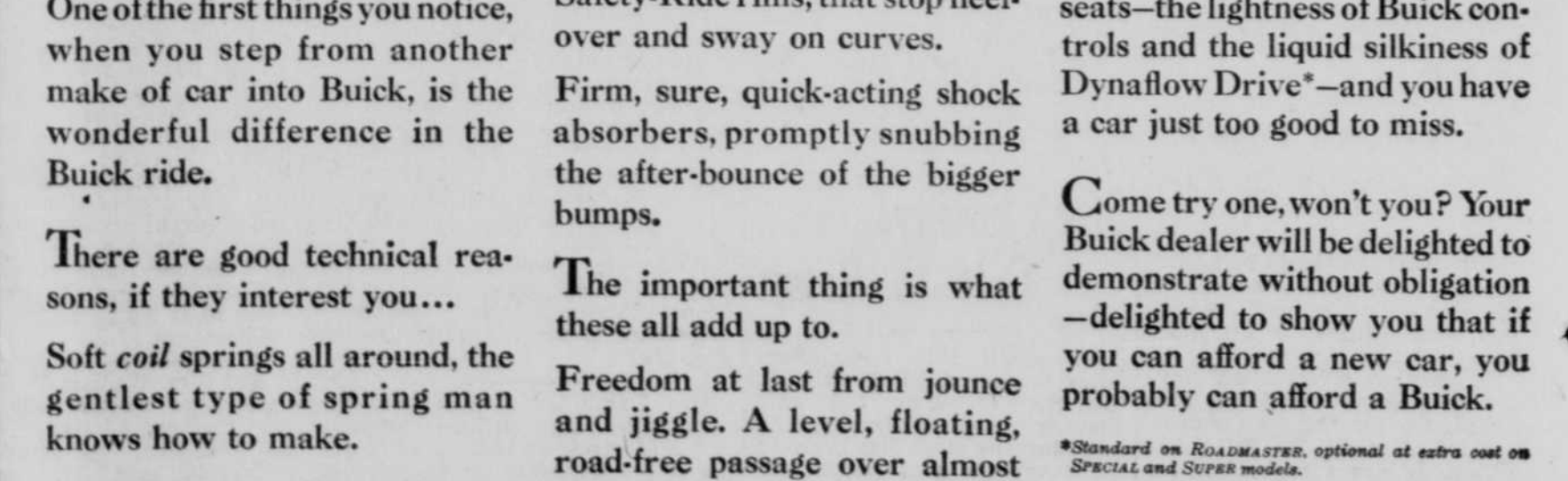
Nebraska has had a beating. Human life, livestock and other losses resulted from angry elements in sections of the state in late winter. Southeast Nebraska was overwhelmed the second week in May with devastating floods. More than a score of lives were lost and untold damage in communities in the wake of onrushing floods. The flood problem now is more than that of the Missouri and Republican rivers. Upper Elkhorn communities had floods to deal with and more than a half century ago they settled the flood problem for all time without calling for outside help.

In the May-June number of Better Health, a little sheet issued by the state department of health, back page columns one and two, we read "How To Prepare for a Happy Old Age." Should the author attain unto life's golden period of four score years he will be better qualified to write upon such a subject.

O'Neill High to Present Vespers—

Combined vocal and instrumental departments of the O'Neill public schools will present a concert of sacred music on Sunday, May 21, at 3 p.m. in the O'Neill high school auditorium. One hundred forty-two students will participate.

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Groups appearing will be the band under the direction of Ira George, superintendent, the girls' chorus, boys' chorus, mixed chorus and mixed quartet directed by Rosemary Vondra-cek.

Claude Cole, a senior and winner of a fine arts scholarship in the school of music at the University of Nebraska, will appear as soloist.

The finale of the vespers program will be 2 selections, "Children's Prayer" and the Fred Waring arrangement of "Onward Christian Soldiers."

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