

# THE FRONTIER

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## Prairieland Talk—

### Holt Minds Have Contributed to Airplanes, 'Horseless Carriages,' Adding Machines

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN—Necessity is said to be the mother of invention. Holt county has had fertile minds that brought out inventions, practical or maybe at best the beginning of an idea.

The first "horseless carriage" hereabouts was the product of an O'Neill man, B. F. Cole, whose mechanical contrivance consisted of a sail attached to a platform on wheels. The "willing station" was anywhere. Prairieland winds supplied the motor power.

In some respects this generation does not measure up to the brilliant fellows the county has known. The adding machine comes out of Atkinson. A pioneer, from which the Slave-maker family sprung was the inventor.

Homer Campbell, living out at Seattle, Wash., recalls seeing the crude model and thus tells about it in a personal letter to the engineer of this department: "It was rigged on a panel of wood about 4 feet long, held in the hand; the free hand operated a set of figures actuated by pulling a heavy string."

This was back in the 1880s and the inventor, Homer recalls, was in the gray period of life.

"It occurred to me," writes Mr. Campbell, "that you might care to claim for Holt county the distinction of having had an early inventor of the mechanical adder."

The Savidge brothers in Deloit precinct spent much time in bringing out new things, their greatest contribution being in the field of aviation. Guy Green contributed to printing plant equipment a simple invention that was taken over by a manufacturing company producing printing house furniture.

Other Holt county citizens made worthwhile contributions with various sorts of gadgets. And everyone out on the land has to revamp the machines that fac-



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ories turn out before they can be made to work.

Legislative halls echo with the rumble of hectic committee sessions. One of the latest in our own statehouse came off when the unicameral statesmen drew a Lincoln editor through a knot-hole. The editor had made disparaging remarks about the committee. Isn't that what editors are for? Down at Washington a senate committee comes up with this classic they hooked onto a former district attorney and later mayor of New York, now American ambassador to Mexico: "Contributed to the growth of organized crime, racketeering and gangsterism."

Mr. Truman has been unfortunate in extracting that class of patriots for some of his appointments out of such places as K.C., St. L., the Windy City by Lake Michigan and the imposing metropolis where Europeans salute the Statue of Liberty.

The governors of 2 states also have the shadows cast over them. Evidence is in. What's going to be done about it?

One thing can be done: Recall the ambassador from Mexico, strip the Costellos and the Adonises of citizenship, deport them without delay. And there are rumors of "police protection," at least indifference, in many cities, including some in Nebraska, even under the shadow of our great cultural and educational framework. Yet back of it all there is within the shadows the enlightened public sentiment and moral forces that sweep out like a surging tide when the agents of hell become insultingly bold.

A colored gent was caught at it. Taken before the court he informed the judge he would make his own defense. He stated his case with such moving Negro eloquence that the judge let him off with 60 days. Two others charged with a similar offense engaged lawyers to defend them, and got 2 years each. Why employ a lawyer?

Prairieland is bathed in warmth and sunlight this noonday in May. Velvet foliage has adorned the nude arms of elm and willow with green banners, buds unfold to the sunbeams and floral bloom contributes to the spring landscape fragrance and color. Earth has been rain-soaked to give life to the growing things and high above it all is spread the blue robe of eternity.

The federal payroll in Albuquerque, N.M., amounts to \$40,000,000 annually, according to what one bank of that city reports. There are more than 12,000 persons in the city alone employed by the government.

Lincoln citizens have voted themselves into another indebtedness of 6-million-dollars for school expansion if 12,868 votes can be said to represent 100,000 people. In the past 30 years they have paid more than 3½-million-dollars interest on bonds. In addition to the 6-million just voted, there are something like 2-million-dollars of the old bonds. Who cares for debts, seems to be the attitude so long as they can float in the stellar realms. May be there will be a drop to earth with that dull sickening thud. It is not so much worthwhile education that we are in pursuit of as it is the frills—imposing buildings, gyms, swimming pools, dance floors and social centers. Fine—if it made for better kids, better men and women. We know it doesn't. Juvenile delinquents, vandals, street loafers, narcotic addicts in high schools still have to be dealt with. Kids of the sod house period were no angels but they had some sense of responsibility, learned to work as well as learning lessons to recite in school. From what is disclosed through military sources of the mental and physical qualities of American youth there is little room for pride in our magnificent display in schools.

Senator Nelson has been voting "no" pretty consistently, probably on the conviction that the fewer new laws set up the less damage all around.

That Connecticut lady who heads a factory or so and has defied federal agents, won a jury verdict against the government and says she is not taking any "withholding tax" from any of her factory force of workers, has been to Nebraska, the guest of the cowboys out at North Platte. Nebraska cow men love a scrapper. That's why they invited Vivien Kellems to come out and give them a talk at the Stock Growers' association gathering in the capital of Lincoln county. I trust the plucky New Englander took back with her a 10-gallon hat as one of the tokens of a visit to the Nebraska prairieland.

Motorists from the country finding they were being soaked a dollar pretty regularly for parking cars overtime took it upon themselves to remedy the situation. A boycott was started with the word from some 200 families or more that there were towns beside Lincoln where they would do their trading. So the threatened loss of farm patronage got the interested ones busy and clod-hoppers have been invited back to town with the assurance that no more fines will be assessed to them on account of over-staying the limit at the parking post.

Dr. W. J. Douglas, of Atkinson, is one of a group given attention by the state medical association for a half-century's medical work. The doctor has had the 50 years' experience mostly in ministering to the afflicted in and around Atkinson and western Holt county. He has been active also in public affairs and political party successes.

The gent out on the land in overalls who does the sowing and reaping is known as a farmer. The gent in white collar and pressed pants who holds a job at ag college is known as an agronomist.

#### O'NEILL LOCALS

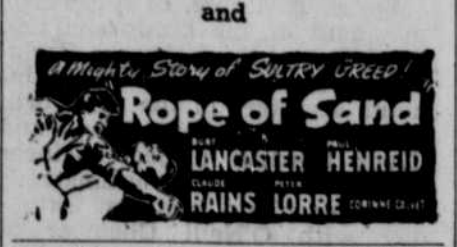
Mr. and Mrs. Leo Tomjack visited in Elgin Sunday with Mrs. A. E. Ponton and George Ponton. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Karr and Mrs. Ella Karr, of Spencer, spent Sunday at the C. E. Worth home. Western Auto is again your fishing supply headquarters. 1-3c Mrs. Vada Weier, of Dakon, visited this week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Weier. Mr. and Mrs. William White visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Tom White, of Dorsey.

The freshman class of St. Mary's academy had its annual class picnic Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Winchell, and Bill Miller accompanied them to Long Pine.

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## Navy Officer Holds Admiration for Japan

(Editor's note: The author of the following letter, Joel C. Smith, is a grandson of Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Carter, of O'Neill. Smith is the son of Mrs. Carl Grabo, the former Eunice Smith, of Albuquerque, N. M. A former student at the U. S. Naval academy at Annapolis, Md., Smith spent a considerable portion of his boyhood in O'Neill. He served with the navy in World War II, and was recalled to active duty last year. He has made interesting and keen observations of the Japanese people which will be of interest to The Frontier readers.)

USS Bairoko  
Fleet Postoffice  
San Francisco, Calif.

Dear Grandma and Grandpa: Back in port again—and happy to be here. We've been riding out one storm after another and I don't mind admitting that I'm very relieved to see spring come, and with it the end of the typhoon season.

Each storm causes a certain amount of weather deck damage. My particular headache is the anchor engine, located on the bow. Every time we've hit a storm that poor engine gets stripped of its insulation and usually has several pipes twisted or broken.

I finally got tired of repairing that thing so I hired a bunch of Japs to cover the engine and all its piping and parts with a sheet metal sheath. The chief engineer nearly tore his hair out in order to get at the engine or piping now it will take a cutting torch and a can opener.

Every time we get into a port I try to see as much of the surrounding country as I can. I've been learning Japanese while at sea in anticipation of using it in port. However, the Japs are by this time so Americanized that trying to talk Jap just wastes time since they talk English better than I do Japanese.

The Japanese language is grammatically difficult in practice although in theory it is about par with German. The sentence structure is nearly the same as German. Their practice and theory are quite different, however.

We Americans commit murder with our vocabulary but our grammar is pretty consistent. The Japs, however, perform mayhem on their sentence structure so that I cannot even approximate the meaning of their spoken sentences.

It's really humorous. They can understand me when I speak in Jap but the only way I can understand their reply is when they make it in English. The method by which this country has become Americanized is novel and certainly effective. It has been done through movies, radio, magazines, newspapers and Ameri-

can products such as drugs, cosmetics, machinery, cigarettes, drinks, etc. The country is flooded with American movies which (as is everything else, practically) are highly superior to the Jap productions.

In addition to this, all high school kids must study English for 2 years and another year in college. This situation having existed for 5 years, it is no wonder that the country has become so Americanized.

There still remains enough of old Japan, however, for me to get a pretty good understanding of their culture.

Actually I believe that another war with Japan would be extremely difficult to precipitate—or rather let's say that the propaganda which proved useful during the last war would prove entirely ineffective now in view of the understanding which thousands of service men have acquired of things Nipponese.

I myself have become quite fond of the Japs, their way of life, their culture—so much so that I shall always remember this country with considerable nostalgia. Innumerable ways they are so much more civilized than we that I frequently find myself embarrassed by my selfishness, crudity and clumsiness. Their generosity and good manners have made a great impression on all of us, and their many fine customs are conducive to more pleasant living and closer family ties. In short, I am very jealous of them.

There are, of course, many undesirable features of life here in Japan but these features for the most part are not a matter

of choice but rather of wealth shortage, such as poor roads, streets, sewage systems, water supply, lack of refrigeration, modern medical facilities, and to me the most important—lack of fuel.

Some of the things I like best are the removal of shoes in homes, simplicity of furnishings, no chairs, big tables or beds, tiny kitchens, thick soft woven straw mats wall to wall in all rooms, sliding doors, extensive window space, flower arrangements everywhere, special alcove in the sitting room for display of art objects, miniature gardens, beautiful kimonos and other gorgeous accessories of the women. Also absence of paint—everything has a natural finish, and courtesy and respect they extend one another.

The more I learn about this country the more unbelievable it becomes. Fabulous! Or perhaps I should say that American society, customs, etc., appear lopsided!

Sailors that have spent time over here are referred to as "Asiatic" in other words a little unusual. I sure wish Harriette and the kids could be here to see some of the country. I'm afraid though that we'd never have enough money to buy the things she would want—beautiful kimonos, laquer ware, etc. I want to get back to the States in the worst way to see the kids. I guess they have a fine time down at the beach. They live only a block from a good beach.

The war over here seems to be rapidly heading for a climax. The Red Chinese are develop-

ing a terrific build-up of men and material just north of the 38th parallel. I assume we are doing likewise south. My confidence may be unfounded but I expect the show down fight will find us in command of all Korea.

This Korean war seems suspiciously like a classroom classical campaign.

Last night we had the movie "Harvey" aboard—the story of the invisible rabbit 6 feet tall. Needless to say, "Harvey" is very much present aboard this ship today. Everybody is seeing and talking to "Harvey."

Love, J. C.



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