

Prairie Land Talk

Prairie Brings Visions of Past

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—With two of my daughters I stood on hallowed ground, each plucking a twig from a tree planted by the hand of my father, that had long years motionless in death, one of six others under the sod where O'Neill buries its dead.

Daughters—Mrs. L. M. Rohrer and her husband of Los Alamos, N.M., and Mrs. H. E. Eno and her husband of Lincoln— and I had come to O'Neill to place a floral tribute to the memory of our dead and stand in silent meditation where their remains now repose. One other was in our group, Mrs. Alma Jobst of Lincoln, a guest and friend, who for the first time had gotten away from the concrete environment to look out across the green robed vista of open prairie land.



Romaine Saunders

The six of us loading aboard a late model car with New Mexico license plates and Mr. Rohrer at the steering wheel, the floral tributes laid as a token of respect in memory of the loved and lost, we rolled east four miles and one mile north.

Seventy-odd years ago Prairieland Talker went through the experience out there that none but a pioneer homestead lad has ever known. Standing out there looking over the vast open prairie came visions of the past.

On the east section line lay the homestead of my father, John George Saunders, a Civil War veteran and member of the Grand Army of the Republic. Just across the section line to the west was the homestead of W. D. ("Doc") Mathews, who founded The Frontier in 1880. Where today are the pioneers?

That open country lies today unoccupied as it did a hundred years ago save for grazing herds where buffalo and deer roamed in the long ago. While daughters gathered each a prairie rose, the lad of other years stood in silent awe and looked out across the landscape robed in silken green as memories of joy and pain, of privation and loneliness, of adventure and tragedy, of youthful fun and budding romance flashed again in visions out of memory's treasured store.

And daughters have memories. On the highway again we rolled into Chambers, where Mrs. Ted Platt graciously showed Mrs. Rohrer and Mrs. Eno through the house that had been their home 40 years ago on our ranch 17 miles further on, while Ted entertained Prairieland Talker.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bly of Swan precinct, neighbors when I lived out there, were in Chambers that day and in greeting them it was noted with pleasure that Raymond has survived some 13 years assessing the taxpayers without a scratch.

On the highway once more, mile-after-mile was left behind and then another stop and Harold Eno had his first experience opening a gate such as the cow country fences have and we drove in where herds now have taken over. Daughters got out, set foot and walked about on hallowed ground where their childhood had been spent and where treasured memories still linger. Now again we are back in the crowded haunts of men.

Since John McBride was elected O'Neill's first mayor there has been about everything from marketing lumpjaw beef to coining lead dollars for city officials to deal with and now a sidown strike of city employees rates as a tame affair. The city council voted that the demands of the "sit down" group could not be granted and the strikers were dismissed as city employees. Seven local patriots had been on the pay roll functioning as appointed officials at a few hundred each a month doing what Charley Hall once did as street commissioner, water and light and pump house roustabout and town marshal for \$50 a month. Meeting Mayor Schaffer on the street when in O'Neill recently all was calm and serene as we visited, the mayor condemning no one but expressed regrets that the demands of the discharged group were such that the city was unable to comply with.

The mournful call of the mourning dove floats from tree-to-tree when daylight breaks through the gloom of night. As if to arouse sleepy heads the winged creature's notes float out on the morning air until sunrise, and as the orb of day shines again upon the land the doves cease to serenade, conscious of a duty performed or giving it up as hopeless to route out the sleepers.

Editorial

Object of Education

Hon. Clarence A. Davis, Lincoln lawyer who has been acting secretary of the interior and currently is undersecretary, this week addressed the Nebraska university alumni assembled at Lincoln.

His talk appealed to us. Incidentally, Undersecretary Davis and O'Neill's Rev. J. LaVerne Jay, Methodist leader, were conferred doctor of divinity degrees by that university on the same platform.

Back to the Davis talk: "If there is a purpose to higher education, it is to enable people to live more satisfactorily, more happily and more completely," he declared. The purpose of education is to give people wisdom, he added. Although many search for this wisdom, few find it.

The speaker declared that rapid technological advances, the expansion of law and a striving toward universal education have not decreased crime, divorce nor economic strife.

Mere accumulation of knowledge is no guarantee of a satisfactory life. The missing element is the instinct of religious worship, according to Davis.

"The church colleges do not face the requirement of being free from religious influences which tax-supported institutions must meet," he said. Church colleges can clearly establish a curriculum for Christian education.

"This is in marked contrast to many institutions which have little, if any control of the influences to which students are subjected or the philosophy which they are taught.

"To me, the infiltration of alien economic and political philosophy and anti-religious teaching nullifies the benefits which mere knowledge may bestow. One of the manifestations of this difficulty grows out of that vague and undefinable term called 'academic freedom.'

"My question is, whose freedom? The freedom of a teacher to study as he pleases, to think as he pleases and to speak as he pleases? Yes.

"But his freedom to teach doctrines contrary to the policy of his institution? Contrary to accepted community standards? Contrary to and inimical to the government of the United States? No."

The capital city is to have a 12-story structure combining the city administration and county courthouse. Another city problem is where to dump garbage. . . Terry Carpenter, the free lance in Scotts Bluff county, is a target for a ministerial association whose members are out after the terrible Terry's scalp for alleged violation of state liquor laws. . . One primary election candidate spent over \$2,000 and failed to win a place on the November ballot. . . In the lion country of East Africa over 40 natives have been killed and eaten by lions, and the government calls for a prototype of Teddy Roosevelt to come in and kill off the maneaters. . . Over 500 cases of measles reported in Lincoln the last week in May. . . A boy on the Iowa side of the Missouri fell in the river, grabbed a floating log and exclaimed, "Glad to see you!" when rescuers from the Nebraska side rowed out in a boat to bring him to shore.

In the death of Bard Hanna another of the pioneers of the Chambers community travels the last mile. In the days of political struggles in Holt county when partisan leaders were pawing the air promoting their party interests, we always depended on Bard to deliver the republican vote in his precinct. Mr. Hanna's business besides his activity in politics was moving buildings, one engineering fete recalled being moving a building on Fourth street in O'Neill to Chambers. The building in O'Neill had been occupied by a saloon but was put to use in Chambers where no saloon has ever been in operation as a hardware store. Bard took an interest in collecting bits of relics of historical interest, one such being a sliver from the whistling post near Bassett where Kid Wade was hung a night in February, 1884.

Five prairie land patriots down at Omaha stand on their rights as American citizens and will go the limit to demand the right to hold jobs without joining a labor union. Employed by the Union Pacific railway, the railroad workers' union has sought by means of a U.S. supreme court decree to have the men fired or force them to join the union. The attorney for the five men seeks a rehearing before the high court which has held that state right-to-work laws do not apply to railroad. The men say they have nothing against unions but resent having union membership crammed down their throats. The citizens of Nebraska adopted the right-to-work amendment by an overwhelming vote. Shall judicial decree annul the voice of the people?

The group that has been active for years promoting plans to revamp our Gregorian calendar and thus change or bring to an end the historic weekly cycle has reorganized under a new name, now to be known as the International World Calendar association. Its main office has been moved from New York to Ottawa, Canada, Arthur J. Hills, a Canadian, being the president of the reorganized association, the former president, Miss Elizabeth Achelis, maybe giving it up as hopeless, retiring to put up with the calendar week as it is.

Seated at a bus loading point on 48th street with a friend settling world problems, when a lady from O'Neill came up and greeted me and we had a visit. Mrs. Fred Holsclaw was in the city, bringing Mr. Holsclaw to Lincoln for medical care. He was in a hospital and she was staying with her daughter, Mrs. Murdy, who makes her home in Lincoln. At the time of our street corner visit her husband was undergoing a medical checkup and might have to remain for a time in the hospital.

Topheavy government—national, state and local. Law makers piling up stacks of legal requirements, public officials issuing directives, taxation becoming a burden. Now here comes a group to add to the topheavy load, proposing an amendment to double the membership of our state legislature, pay its members \$25 a day and \$1,200 expense allowance. If the group promoting the movement secures the required number of names to its petition the amendment will appear on the November ballot.

Somewhere in the hills down in Howard county a tusk of a prehistoric beast believed to have been an elephant has been dug from the earth. The specimen is placed with like relics of the past at the state university museum.

On Roads

(From Dakota County Star) Senator Carl Curtis of Nebraska made a wise statement, we believe, when he said he does not want a super interstate highway program which will deemphasize the needs for primary and secondary roads in Nebraska vital to our local economy. "Our normal business activities and good local communication must be preserved," said Curtis. "At the same time we must protect the future welfare of thousands of small businesses in Nebraska, so that large national networks cannot pre-empt business opportunities along an interstate highway system."

The very same thinking was behind the move to maintain highway 35 through the small towns in West Dakota county.

Senator Curtis is working for the good of Nebraskans if he follows that trend.

The Omaha World-Herald says the small high schools are somewhat to blame for the fact that many of the students entering the universities and colleges need refresher courses on the three "R's". The need for refresher studies wasn't as pronounced a few years ago before the do-gooders began eliminating the small high schools.

THE FRONTIER

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Bride in Lynch Church Rite

In a 6 o'clock ceremony performed in the Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic church at Lynch Saturday, May 26, Miss Geraldine Courtney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Courtney of Lynch, became the bride of Sidney Frahm, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Frahm of Page.—O'Neill Photo Co.

When You and I Were Young . . .

'Lumber Magnates' O'Neill Visitors

Saberson, Gallagher Circulate

50 Years Ago Ray Saberson and R. E. Gallagher, the page lumber magnates, were circulating among friends and admirers at the Hub Saturday.

20 Years Ago Mrs. F. J. Dishner is head of the ladies' activities for the annual gold tournament at the Country club. . . During the month of May 63 new cars and trucks were registered in Holt county.

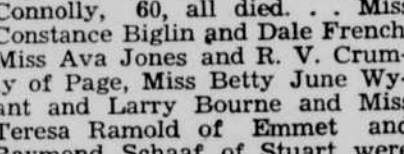
10 Years Ago Robert Ott, formerly of the army air force, has accepted a radio operator's post with American Airlines. . . Mrs. George L. Fink, 44, of Page, W. R. ("Rafe") Shaw, 64, of Bassett, Anton Soukup, 87, of Page and Thomas Connolly, 60, all died. . . Miss Constance Biglin and Dale French, Miss Ava Jones and R. Y. Crumly of Page, Miss Betty June Wyant and Larry Bourne and Miss Teresa Ramold of Emmet and Raymond Schaaf of Stuart were united in marriage. . . Jack Harty submitted to an emergency appendectomy in Sioux City.

One Year Ago Rev. Glenn Kennicott of Cairo has been assigned to the O'Neill-Emmet Methodist churches. . . Miss Isa Brundage, 81, who was reared in northern Holt county, died. . . The Jaycees accepted their charter from Hugh McKenna, national president and a native O'Neillite. . . Miss Dorothy Donohoe was graduated from St. Catherine's school of nursing in Omaha. . . Dale Garwood and Miss Marvalene Cuatt, both Americans, were married. Carolyn McKenzie celebrated her eighth birthday anniversary.

To Lincoln—Mrs. Harden Anspach went to Lincoln last Thursday. Mrs. Keith Anspach and boys returned home with her. Keith Anspach will arrive today (Thursday).

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Forsch of Butte visited Mr. and Mrs. Harden Anspach Friday evening.

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Willing Workers Have Club Band—

The Willing Workers 4-H club of O'Neill had its fifth meeting Tuesday, May 22, at the court house. Members answered roll call with a Nebraska flower. Mrs. A. Neil Dawes, general club leader, said the club had done good work in making \$17 at the International Harvester fair. Hene Nelson, health chairman, gave a tip on health. Mrs. Dawes announced that boys' and girls' singing would start soon in preparation for achievement day.

The Willing Workers 4-H band has had two practices and accomplished a great deal. Twelve members are in the band. The Peacocks furnished recreation Mrs. Dawes served lunch.—By Gary Gillespie, news reporter.

O'Neill News

Mr. and Mrs. Earl J. Rodman and family met her brother and family, Dr. and Mrs. E. J. Bild and children of Wausa, in Page for memorial day. They visited at the Charles Cronk home and with other relatives and friends.

William J. Froelich, jr., and his fiancée, Miss Kathleen Seymour, left Tuesday to Georgetown university, Washington, D.C., for the summer session, and Miss Seymour for Grosse Pointe, Mich., her home.

Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Worcester were Mr. and Mrs. Albert Suing and family of Beresford, S.D., and Mr. and Mrs. John Janousek and family of Gregory, S.D.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Mathews of Lincoln spent Sunday evening at Mr. and Mrs. Dean Streeter's.

Royal Theater - O'NEILL, NEBR. -

Thurs. Family Night June 7 George Simonson's searing novel THE BOTTOM OF THE BOTTLE Color by DeLuxe, Cinemascope. Van Johnson, Ruth Roman, Joseph Cotton, Jack Carson with Margaret Hayes, Bruce Bennett. Family admitted for 2 adult tickets; adults 50c; children 12c

Fri.-Sat. Big Double Bill June 8-9 The target of a gunman's vengeance THE SILVER STAR Starring Edgar Buchanan, Marie Windsor, Lon Chaney, Earle Lyon, Richard Bartlett, Barton MacLane.

Weds German Girl in Clearwater Church Rites

EWING—Miss Elizabeth Verhune, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Johann Verhune of Essen Germany, and Donald E. Spahn, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ewald Spahn of Ewing, were wed in a quiet twilight ceremony at the Christ Lutheran church of Clearwater, Friday, June 1, at 7 o'clock. Reverend Martens, pastor of the church, read the wedding vows. Attendants were Doris Ann Spahn, sister of the bridegroom, and Henry Lange, jr., his cousin. The bride wore a simple white afternoon dress with a long fitted bodice trimmed with rhinestones and a full gathered skirt. She wore a small white hat and a corsage of white roses. Her attendant was dressed in a pale pink afternoon dress and hat and wore a deep pink carnation corsage.

After the ceremony, around 80 relatives and friends honored the young couple at a reception in the church basement. Many relatives from O'Neill and Norfolk were present. During the reception cablegrams of congratulations and well wishes were received by the bride from her family and friends in her home town in Germany.

The newlyweds became acquainted while Mr. Spahn was visiting relatives in Essen while on furlough during his 17 months service with the 66th ordnance company in Salzburg, Austria. After his discharge and return home in April, 1955, the young Mrs. Spahn immigrated to America. She arrived here in April, 1956. After a short honeymoon the bride and bridegroom will reside on the Ewald Spahn farm south of Ewing. Mr. and Mrs. Ewald Spahn and Doris Ann will soon move to a new home being built on the Spahn brothers' ranch.

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