

Prairieland Talk

Last of Drummerboys

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—When Albert Woolson was laid in his grave up there on the shore of Lake Superior amid military rites of burial, the last of the drummerboys who beat the roll call in the Union army of the 1860's responded to the drumbeat of eternity, and the last of the Grand Army of the Republic passed into history, at the age of 109 years.



Romaine Saunders

Every state north of the Mason-Dixon line had their men in blue wearing the GAR badge, over two million of them. Comrades Mack, Skirving, Slattery, Towle and many others in Holt county wore the blue and the badge. None left who marched through the streets of O'Neill, stepping in unison to the drumming of martial music.

Can there be any good thing come out of Nazareth? . . . Come and see! We Tom, Dick and Harry are so set in our ways we can not come and see; tied to our way of life, hidebound, roving along in our little groove heedless of the good things along the way that call out, "Come and see!"

Miss Mamie Cullen, formerly of O'Neill, whose address now is 324 Livingston street, Elizabeth, N.J., and who continues a Frontier reader, writes of her interest and treasured memories of places and friends in prairieland.

Twenty miles south of Atkinson on highway 11 you come to a prairieland trail leading west. A mile or so along that trail and you see a gleaming white seven-room house in a setting of stately trees, floral bloom and green verdure—the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Baker and the site of Holt county's first purebred cattle ranch.

There have come forward one or two of the military figureheads with avowed approval of marching recruits to their death as a feature of training. Fathers and mothers of America give their sons to defend the flag but not to march to death in snake and crocodile infested swamps.

A group of clergymen went before anyone interested via TV to expound and display their wisdom, understanding, whys and wherefores of this thing we call a cold war.

Today a 15-year-old lad is paid \$8 for a day's work, 8 hours of the 24 being counted a working day. Six dollars a day for a youthful roustabout, master of no trade or profession.

New moon rose over prairieland August 6. Stepping then out of a summer furnace that had been heated "seven times more than it was wont to be heated" into the deepfreeze of north winds and cooling showers.

The mind has a lot to do with body ailments.

When You and I Were Young . . .

Hail Measuring 11-In. at Ewing

Jack Taggart Says Crops Ruined

Born Friday, July 27, to Mr. and Mrs. Lester Lamson of Page, a baby boy. . . Doctor Caldwell sold 1,760 acres of his ranch to C. M. Hunt of South Omaha for \$25 an acre for the balance.

50 Years Ago

Three feminine figures occupied the rear seat of a public conveyance. The one in the center struck a match which flared into a blaze and was applied to the little white fag held between seasoned lips.

20 Years Ago

Miss Helen Peterson, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. August Peterson, was crowned Atkinson high queen. . . New business buildings completed: Marcellus Implement, Asmus Bros., Hunt's Recapping.

10 Years Ago

Dr. H. L. Bennett, active in city, school and civic affairs, died. . . Roylin L. Boshult of . . . died from injuries received when he and his horse were struck by a car on the crest of a hill.

One Year Ago

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Deloit Clubbers Feted at Norfolk

DELOIT—Members of the Deloit Pinocchio club were guests of Mrs. Louis Pofahl on Thursday, August 2, at Norfolk.

O'Neill News

Bert Shoemaker left over the weekend to visit his sons, Lester and Donald, in Denver, Colo., for a week. . . Bob Matthews went to Fullerton Sunday to bring back his mother, Mrs. Alice Matthews, who will visit here for a week.

Burned Crops Seen at Elgin, Albion

Deloit Area 'Looks Much Better'

DELOIT—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reimer on a trip to Hastings last week, observed the burned crops south of Elgin and in the Albion, Greeley and St. Paul communities as well as south of Hastings.

Other Deloit News

Mr. and Mrs. Web Napier were Sunday dinner guests at the Glenn Harpster home in honor of Mrs. Napier's birthday anniversary. . . Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Beaudin and two children and Vicky Ray of Omaha arrived at the Ralph Tomjack home on Monday, August 6.

Friday for Arkansas to attend the wedding of their daughter, Geraldine, which is to take place on August 25.

Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Bartak moved to their new home across from the Deloit schoolhouse last week. . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Miller went to Grand Island on Friday.

Ash Grove Auxiliary Plans Square Dance

STAR—The Ash Grove auxiliary met at the hall Tuesday afternoon, August 7, with Mrs. Lysle Johnson in charge. Plans were made to have a square dance this month.

Other Star News

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Miller entertained about 50 guests at an outdoor picnic supper at their home Friday evening. Present for the occasion were: Mr. and Mrs. Dick Keilholz, Miss Sherry Stewart, the Nels Linquist, Soren Sorenson, jr., Lysle Johnson, Albert Derickson, Irven Miller, Roland Miller and Fred Timmerman families.

August Birthdays Are Noted at Meet

STAR—Mrs. Ewalt Miller was hostess to the Star Get-Together club at her home Wednesday afternoon, August 9, with 10 members and four visitors present.

Sept. 1 thru 7 at Lincoln

The luncheon table was centered with a calendar cake and two vases of garden flowers to honor the birthday and wedding anniversaries of six of the club members who celebrated these dates in August.

family vacation time the 1956 Nebraska STATE FAIR 7 full days and nights

Editorial

Nuts to Interstate Highway

Two important moves in the realm of transportation affecting Nebraskans leave us cold: 1. The Chicago & North Western railway company declares it is going to take formal action to discontinue the last two passenger-mail-express trains serving much of north-Nebraska.

The interstate super highway scheme as it affects Nebraska and costing several hundred million dollars.

The renewal of the railroad's plan to curtail service comes nearly two years following an earlier, informal effort. Train-saving enthusiasts in the area served—and they are legion—are going to oppose the C&NW's efforts before the Nebraska railway commission, if and when a hearing is set.

About the interstate: We don't give a good hoot if an interstate highway is ever built across the state; at least not until unprecedented improvements have been made on present federal and state highways and most of our farmers and ranchers have decent access to their mail boxes and trading points.

It is utterly ridiculous for any Nebraskan to get all steamed up about the interstate. This general statement includes the governor, senators and congressmen (who already have jumped on the interstate bandwagon with both feet).

We envision as the interstate a 200-ft. wide corridor across the state, lined on either side with a steel fence. Motorists will have access every 10 miles or so. All service stations will be staffed and operated on a lease basis by one petroleum firm; all eating houses by one restaurant chain; everybody else will help pay for the highway under the administration's super highway program.

The interstate across Nebraska will be east-west and farmers and ranchers whose places are sliced in two will have the opportunity to clear the snow daily at the underpasses.

The interstate, primarily, will benefit continental traffic and the volume of that type of traffic will, without doubt, alarmingly diminish on the present across-state routes—highways 20, 2, 30 and 6.

If the federals have oodles of dough to blow on highways, why not widen, straighten and rebuild portions of highways 20, 30 and 6 and be of a whole of a lot more benefit for everyone?

Hints on the 1957 Models A few hints about the 1957 model automobiles are out. Some of the features are expected to include smaller wheels, wider tires, lower pressure, fuel injection systems, and different head lamps.

The new head lamps on some models are expected to feature two lights in each front fender, so that drivers on long trips will be able to use all four lights on the highway.

THE FRONTIER CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher ARTHUR J. NOECKER and ESTHER M. ASHER, Associate Publishers

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