

Prairieland Talk

4 Demo Presidents in 95 Years

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—When a republican is entrusted with the duties of chief executive of the nation "it is always bad news for the American farmer," says Mr. Truman.

They have had a lot of "bad news." During the past 95 years of American progress on farms, in factories, banks and stores and transportation there have been 12 republicans presiding at the white house and four democrats.

The "bad news" for America's sons of the soil included such things as free homesteads and cross country railroads to haul the cattle and grain and hay and all products of the soil to market; to increase 3-cent corn under the first of the four democratic presidents back in the 1890's to the all time high today.



Romaine Saunders

Another bit of "bad news" relating to farm life on prairieland comes from a grain elevator operator in the cornbelt of eastern Nebraska who tells of farmers in his community who spend the day in the town hall, toward evening go to the village store and buy a few bottles of milk, a pound of butter and eggs, drive home for supper, then come back in the evening to take in the picture show. Last year a couple from Missouri, man and woman, came to the community driving a small truck. They asked permission of the farmer to pick up the corn left in the fields by the mechanical combine and as they accumulated a load they went to this gent's elevator and sold the corn for \$1.75 a hundred pounds. A number of truck loads were gathered in the neighborhood, then the thrifty couple moved to another neighborhood. One way to make a livelihood thought up by a couple from Mr. Truman's home state.

The death of Mrs. Dave Stannard removes one more of a shrinking list of O'Neill pioneers, where she had lived 72 of her 88 years. Prairieland Talker recalls as a kid that a dashing young man we knew of as Dave Stannard made frequent trips south of the river to woo and win the hand and heart of a young lady. Upon their marriage in '84, they established a home in the northeast part of town, known later as "Kid Hill." Mrs. Stannard was a devoted wife and mother and homemaker. In more recent years since the death of Mr. Stannard she and her daughters have made their home on the upper floor of the store building on Fourth street and the aged pioneer lady spent her last hours in her own bed with her devoted daughters near her. Her death followed soon after Den Hunt, a near relative, passed away. She and Den were born the same day 88 years ago at Winona, Minn.

His name is Martin, a retired Burlington railroad office worker. We had parked our superannuated fleshy frames on a bench in the shade. He had visited O'Neill at times and recalled staying at the Golden hotel and being served half a cow at the M&M. He had read stories of the Barrett Scott lynching in the long ago. So I was in for recounting the Scott affair along with the Kid Wade lynching and other vigilante outlaws in northern Holt, where tragedy and romance wrote a chapter of thrilling frontier life.

Editorial

Points to Society's Weakness

A native Nebraskan and much-decorated navy flier, who for 19 months was in communist prisoner-of-war camps in Korea, has told the Omaha World-Herald he is "disturbed" by the public's attitude toward American military personnel who go to communist premises or pressures.

Ensign Duane Thorin, a former Holt countyman, has written a book, to be published in November, about "the men who broke and the men who did not."

The forthcoming book was discussed briefly in The Frontier in the August 9 issue. "I would like to dispel the myth that every man has a price or a breaking point and the idea that the communists have devised some irresistible means of breaking men," Thorin said.

Neither is true, he asserted. Ensign Thorin, at 36, is a veteran of 17 years in navy service. He was born in Clearwater, attended schools at Ewing and Neligh and was raised on farms. His parents were Swedish emigrants. He has a brother living at O'Neill; another at Chambers.

As a chief petty officer in World War II, he was a navy test pilot. He was in Korea soon after war broke out and set a record flying 130 helicopter rescue missions behind enemy lines. Three distinguished flying crosses and the silver star are among his decorations.

On a rescue mission in February, 1952, he was shot down. Captured, he was a prisoner first of the North Koreans and later of the Chinese communists until repatriated August 31, 1953.

"I know very well that I endured more hardships than some who are back here complaining that the world owes them a living," he said. "At the same time I know I didn't endure as much as some who are not complaining," he said. The ex-Nebraskan, commissioned last year, said a prisoner of war can expect "no bed of roses" and must rely on his own resources.

"Without a doubt the individual's philosophy is the greatest single factor in determining his reaction to communist pressures," he said. He attaches much importance to self-reliance, individualism, and a strong sense of responsibility. Ensign Thorin feels that American society has developed a weakness, and that it made some Americans susceptible to red threats or favors.

"The basis of the red appeal is to self-interest," he explained. He said the communists use that appeal in much the same way certain politicians, certain labor groups and others in this country do in promising various benefits to gain support.

"One hears so much these days about rights and so little about responsibilities," he said. On the subject of individuals helping themselves instead of looking for assistance elsewhere, he said:

"My high school teacher in Nebraska used to say that the word 'can't' was not American. "I sometimes think that now it has become too American."

Ensign Thorin doesn't like to see the 21 Americans who refused to be repatriated referred to as men "who chose communism."

In his opinion, he explained, they simply were trying "to save their necks, either from official action or the vengeance of fellow prisoners."

Ensign Thorin describes his book, "Ride to Panmunjom," as "fictionalized fact." He said he had no intention of writing it until he and several other former prisoners of war

His 420 pounds stretch to a height of 8 feet 5 inches, and he said he had come to hate every inch of it. Why? A freak is a spectacle that nobody loves and everybody stares at, a side-show monstrosity. His name is Ted Evans and his story of mental torture comes to us via the monthly magazine route. A native of London, England, he left home because parents and sisters shunned him, shed distilled drops of sorrow that he tried for a time to drown in the flowing bowl, came to America and has acquired a livelihood in a circus tent and has resigned himself to being a monster not accepted in human society. Holt county had a Goliath in the person of Mike Carroll, who was a homesteader on that stretch of prairieland where wind tests have been carried out six miles northeast of O'Neill. Mike was about three inches under seven feet, his bed being a hay mat on the floor. It is claimed that Father Adam towered to a height of 12 feet. There came up the street from the North Western depot with the crowd that arrived in O'Neill to register for the Rosebud land drawing, a 7-foot gent, who, we learned, was one of the winners in that drawing.

Just beyond the touch of prairieland fingertips, rise the rugged walls and fantastic forms of the South Dakota Bad Lands. Americans travel the world over to see what nature has formed and the hand of man defaced. Almost within walking distance of north Nebraska dwellers who join the cavalcade to "see things," stretch the South Dakota Bad Lands. From Prairieland Talker's friend, Will Spindler's, book I purloined this word picture of nature's marvel near our door: As you travel on, the weird towering shape of this strange land begin to rise high around you. Here in cream-colored clay, nature has fashioned walls, castles, temples, spires, towers and minarets in ragged thrones of beauty. And out of the Bad Lands you stand again where Good Lands spread in verdant miles to the faroff horizon, little inland lakes, flowing streams of fresh water, miles of prairie sod where once the buffalo roamed, shaded nooks and tree-bordered gulches, the song of birds, the call of creatures of the wild and the gracious human contacts where men have built their homes on prairieland's far flung "good lands."

As I write August draws to a close as dark clouds curtain the blue above. Rain washes away the dust and grime of hot days that have "folded their tents like the Arabs and silently stolen away." Too late to save the dry land corn, maybe because I am president, but grass and vegetation across the land are refreshed and revived, plow land given a wetting that was needful for fall planting of wheat. The shirt sleeve and bare leg brigade now are arrayed in coats and skirts. The rain is over, dark clouds, motionless and sullen, burst with a crash of thunder and again are silent. And I wonder if that couple from up in Cedar county who stopped their car yesterday to ask me how to get to a street address a mile or so away and appeared withered from dry, hot weather up there, arrived at that address and have been soaked with a capital city rainfall this morning.

Maybe it is now the "poor city property owner." A friend met with today who for some years has been building houses to sell, now finds he has a number of new residences on hand and no buyers. If he can get his money out of these city dwellings he plans to move out into the Nebraska grass country and engage in ranching.

When You and I Were Young ...

Moonlight Foot

Racing Popular

Melon Patch Setting

for Lynch Sport

50 Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cole of Lynch were over last week visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. F. Cole, and attending the race meet. Charley says he noted many new improvements in the "old burg" and that she looked better than ever to him. William A. Lewis and Myrtle Conway, both of Neligh, were married.

Taken from the Lynch Journal: "A moonlight foot race with a melon patch for the starting line and a shotgun the starting signal is quite popular with certain Lynch youths and they are hard to beat in starting with the crack of the gun and show remarkable staying qualities in a cross country run. Each knows he was the first one home and in bed."

20 Years Ago

At free day results of the foot race for boys under 12 were: Maurice Jones, Dan Freisen and George Mellor. Foot race for girls under 12: Eva Jones, Trema Hoffman and Marjorie Summers. Foot race, boys 12 to 15-years: Everett Gorgen, Floyd Jakeske and Wayne Hancock. Foot race, girls 12 to 15-years-old: Oda Postvar, Eunice Hunt and Trema Hoffman. Boy's bicycle race, under 16-years-old: John Shoemaker, Dale Kersenbrock and Dale Spry. Pie eating contest, under 12-years-old: Iris Buffalo, James Bellar and Don Freisen. Mr. and Mrs. Jim Pearson and baby, Jim, of Neligh were guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Harnish, this week.

10 Years Ago

A drenching rain, 4.43 inches in 72 hours, broke the prolonged dry spell. Rev. Fredor C. Kattner, who served the Page Methodist church, has been transferred to Seward. Rev. Eugene B. Maxcy of Inman expects to retire as soon as a replacement is assigned. An engineer from the U.S. bureau of reclamation sees 100,000 "irrigable" acres in Holt county. Coach F. E. Sandin is confronted with a thorny problem, too many backs and not enough line candidates.

One Year Ago

Kenneth L. Van Voorhis, Chadron district manager of CPPD since 1943, replaced C. A. Johnson, who went to Scottsbluff. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lowry celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary at a picnic at Ft. Randall park. C. J. Barnum, 76, an engineer from the U.S. bureau of reclamation, died of uremic poisoning. Patrolman and Mrs. Robert A. Gude are the parents of a son, Michael Robert, born August 31 at Norfolk.

Hold Picnic in North Platte Park

Mrs. Rodney Tomlinson and Larry, Mrs. H. W. Tomlinson and Mr. and Mrs. William Turner of Chambers took Mrs. Ina Turner of Oshkosh to North Platte where she was met by her daughter and her husband, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Noelte. They and Mrs. Tomlinson's daughter and husband Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brhn, and family of North Platte held a picnic dinner at the city park.

Mrs. H. L. Lindberg and Marilyn left Wednesday, September 5, for Lincoln. Marilyn will enter Wesleyan university for her second year. She will live at the Phi Mu hall.

O'Neill Firemen

Fight Grass Fires

O'Neill firemen have been kept on the jump the past seven days combating grass fires.

Six fires broke out Saturday morning between the Dora Elshire and Otto Lorenz places, between O'Neill and Emmet. The blazes were blamed on a diesel locomotive on the Chicago & North Western railroad which had passed through.

There were two Saturday afternoon calls. The first took the volunteers to the M. E. Simonson farm to extinguish a grass blaze; the second to Northern Heights Park, located five miles south of O'Neill where a fire of unknown origin was being fanned by the wind and threatened several homes.

On Sunday afternoon the O'Neill firemen were called to the Brown ranch, owned by Charles Fox, located five miles south of Emmet. Lightning late Saturday was believed to have started the blaze, which smoldered until Sunday afternoon when the alarm was sounded. Neighbors had the fire about extinguished when the O'Neill firemen reached the scene. A strip about one hundred feet long, following a fence line, was burned.

Brookhouser Clan

Meets at Norfolk

Brookhouser reunion was held at a park at Norfolk Sunday, September 2, with a picnic dinner at noon. Mr. and Mrs. Verlyn Gibbs and Mr. and Mrs. Emil Bartos were elected president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer, respectively.

The oldest person present was Mrs. Elizabeth Seebolt of Missouri Valley, Ia., and the youngest was Kenneth Ray Tusha, 8-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Marlin E. Tusha of Verdigris. There was one death during the year. William Paul Huddleston, of Laurel. There were 37 present coming from Missouri Valley, Ia.; Kansas City, Mo.; Sioux City, Ia.; Ogalalla; Holdrege; Verdigris; Orchard; O'Neill; Brunswick; Norfolk and Venus.

Plan Bazaar at Lynch on Saturday

LYNCH—The Assumption BVM Altar society met at the church rectory Thursday afternoon for their September meeting.

Twenty ladies were present. Mrs. Joe Nemic of Spencer was a visitor. In the absence of the president Mrs. Clarence Kolund presided at the meeting. Plans were completed for the church bazaar Saturday, September 15 on main street in Lynch.

The hostesses, Miss Elizabeth Peklo, Mrs. Vac Jedlicka and Mrs. Thomas Courtney, sr., served a lunch.

130 Present for Mrs. Hull's 101st

Last Thursday, "Grandma" Sarah Hull, the grand little lady of northern Holt county celebrated her 101st birthday anniversary at her home in the Meek community. There were about 130 guests present. All her children were able to be on hand.

A basket dinner was served at noon and in the afternoon ice cream and cake were served. "Grandma" Hull was hospitalized at Lynch 10 days earlier this year. One of the daughters declared the aged pioneer appeared to be stronger than a year ago.

Chambers News

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Taylor were Norfolk visitors last Thursday.

Mrs. John Wintermote returned last Thursday from a visit of several weeks with her daughters, Miss Eula Wintermote and Mrs. Baughn, in Oregon and Mrs. Howard, at Los Angeles, Calif.

Dinner guests in the H. C. Walter home Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Walter and family and Mr. and Mrs. Hilbert Hoge and children. The occasion marked the wedding anniversary of both the Lyle Walters and the Hoges as well as the birthday anniversary of Lyle Walter.

Supper guests Saturday evening in the E. R. Carpenter home were Mr. and Mrs. Dean Stevens and family of Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Medcalf and children of Sioux City and Mrs. Genevieve Bell of Chambers.

Mrs. Nellie Starr is visiting her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Starr, and boys at Grand Island.

Mr. and Mrs. Alva Bowman of Sioux Falls, S.D., visited with Mrs. Jim Grimes and other friends at Chambers Saturday. Mrs. Bowman was formerly Letha Norvell. The family lived at Chambers.

A family gathering at the E. H. Medcalf home for dinner Sunday included Mr. and Mrs. Max Medcalf and infant son, Edward, of Shreveport, La.; Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Avard and Patty of St. Paul; Mr. and Mrs. Allen Miller and family and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Medcalf and children, all of Atkinson; Mr. and Mrs. Ben Medcalf and children of Sioux City; Mr. and Mrs. Don Medcalf and family of Ainsworth; Mr. and Mrs. Bert Winchell and children and Mr. and Mrs. Tom Clark, all of O'Neill, and Mr. and Mrs. William Medcalf of Chambers. The group included all of the Medcalf children and their families except a daughter, Mrs. Hayes (Marilyn) White, and family, who live in California.

Attend Birthday Event

Miss Maud Rouse and Mrs. Bert Hayden visited during the past week in the country at the Harold Risor, Ivan Miller, Henry Walters and Howard Rouse homes. They also attended the observance of the 101st birthday anniversary of "Grandma" Sarah Hull.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Jacob Forsch, jr., of Bonesteel, S.D., and Laura Mae Karel of O'Neill, August 31. James H. Schmitz, 20, of O'Neill and Miss Rose Mary Babl, 20, of Emmet, September 1.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

WD—Nellie Barry to Ora Keeler 1-8-55 \$1- 1/2 Int in same land as above. QCD—Mary Ann Hoefler, et al., to Catherine Schueth 2-29-56 \$1- E 1/2 24-25-9. WD—Leo Vandernick to Lyle

Final Clearance

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High Quality Merchandise

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Purple Ribbon

Circus Presented

The first fall meeting of the Parent-Teachers' association was held Monday at the band room at the public school.

The Willing Workers 4-H club presented "Under the Big Top," a circus theme. The satire on the "Bungling Brothers' Circus" won the club a purple ribbon at the state fair. There is a possibility that the troupe may appear in Chicago, Ill.

Improve Lighting for Night Football

CHAMBERS—Adequate lighting for night football has recently been completed at the fairgrounds at Chambers.

All games this fall have been scheduled for evening play with Chambers opening the season at home Friday, September 14, with a game with Bartlett high. Game time is 8 o'clock.

Guests from Washington

Guests Monday of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sivesind and family were Mr. and Mrs. Stewart Schieusner of Seattle, Wash.

Paul Shierk

INSURANCE AGENCY

O'NEILL, NEBR.

Insurance of All Kinds

Guests from Omaha—

Labor day weekend guests at the R. H. Parker home were the R. G. Andersons of Omaha.

Frontier for printing!

Advertisement for Consumers Electric service featuring a car and a woman talking on a phone. Text includes: "it's all part of your CONSUMERS electric service", "and it begins HERE", "Quick response to your call about your electric service...", "sure that you enjoy the full convenience, efficiency and economy of modern, dependable electric service.", "The Consumers 4,120-mile network of electric power reaches the four corners of the state and serves 356 communities".