

Prairieland Talk

No Drouth Relief for Holt

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—The empire of Holt, 48 by 60 miles of level grasslands and lowlying hills where man has found his peaceful abiding place and ever which a Page patriot, Mr. Cronk, will continue to hold a restraining hand as chairman of county board, has been declared today as standing out, in lush green abundance, so no "drouth relief" is to be considered.



Romain Saunders

Coming up from the south through Hall, Howard, Greeley and Wheeler counties and cross into Holt down there where Pat Boyle once lived, the bloom of prairieland's velvet-coated landscape is at once apparent. It was in 1894 that Holt county was shrouded in dry sheets and fanned by burning winds.

About the year 519 B. C., after the banquet of wine had soured and he with the Persian princess were sore because the beautiful queen Vashti refused to come strutting in the nude before them, to exhibit her feminine charms, that King Ahasuerus published a decree throughout his 127 provinces that "every man should bear rule in his own house."

It was a week in January in the year 1905. Andro Marzo, a homesteader living seven miles southwest of O'Neill "proved up" on his claim before the U. S. land office. . . E. S. Kinch, a pioneer of the O'Neill community but at the time living at Oakdale, in Antelope county, was a visitor among former friends here.

Editorial

Beautiful K-12 Wants Sponsor

Exponents of the K-12 (kindergarten through 12th grade) redistricting program for Nebraska schools have indicated they are abandoning hopes of finding a sponsor in the current session of the unicameral legislature.

State Education Commissioner Freeman B. Decker indicates his office and the state board of education are having difficulty finding a state senator who will lend a name to this explosive issue—not that a number of senators wouldn't love to introduce it if they thought they could risk the ire of the voters back home.

However, the state education commissioner, according to a press handout, wants it understood the K-12 plan remains the grand solution for Nebraska's backwoods school problems; that, in effect, our children will grope and stumble along in the world and our tax load will be inequitably distributed until this beautiful K-12 plan comes to pass.

The K-12 boys, in temporary defeat, want it understood they are champions of home rule and local control. But that's not the interpretation most of us give to the contents of the master handbook, which provides K-12 for everybody, like it or not, by 1960.

Few Nebraskans question but what redistricting of some sort is needed. On the other hand few are willing to turn the problem—lock, stock and barrel—over to a great white father in the state capitol tower.

Nebraskans resent compulsory redistricting with Lincoln retaining the final authority. Principles of the Nebraska Small Schools association, organized to save small schools such as the two-grade Amelia high school in Holt county, spread across the state like an old-fashioned prairie fire.

The K-12 enthusiasts are talking of dropping the scheme now while the prairie fire is at its height. This talk will tend to check the flames that are lapping the state capitol steps. With the fire extinguished and the weary minutemen back home minding their own workday tasks, the great white father and his disciples will congregate up something else.

Our guess is it will be a referendum issue in 1958. Thinking behind this will be that the masses from Omaha, Lincoln, etc., will go along with K-12 because the proposition will sound nice, but the pitfalls in the administration of K-12 will be recognized only by the rural people who will be primarily affected.

Shucks, Quit It Gals!

Guest editorial by Reed O'Hanlon, Blair Pilot-Tribune

Mr. Dior, the Parisian fashion expert, still hasn't crawled out of his hiding place under the

A winter day, a day with a blanket of snow spread in white purity across the land, a day with clouds hanging in sullen gloom above us, Zero reading on the indicator out where frosty breath of winter blows from without the polar regions. Snow, ice and frost put pep in each step as you venture forth to meet the trivial things of life another day, and something in the smiles and frown of those you meet along the way show what the moods of men may be on a winter day.

This 10th day of another year prairieland has been favored by a blanket of snow spread across the land, accompanied by zero temperature while the sun glows in golden glory high above. Did you wake up the other morning with something sticking down there in your throat and a voice like a grizzly bear; from fingertips to toenail ends a sensation that something had gone haywire in the functioning of muscles and joints.

His name was Graham. It went out a night last week at the Colorado penitentiary to pay the penalty for having plunged 44 souls into eternity a year previous. Victims of that airplane explosion that Graham was responsible for have been avenged, but that does not blot away the stain of one of one of the worst crimes of modern times.

The president goes to congress with a word picture of the world as he sees it today with presidential advise as to what America should do about it. Governors of states and Nebraska's Anderson among them, lay before the legislative assemblies the local picture. And statesmen now are burning the midnight electric bulbs shaping up laws to wipe out the world's troubles.

If you have come to the twilight hour of your days and sit tonight within cloistered walls of your home with your life's companion by your side, away from the welter of human carnage and human sorrow that is a blighting hand in other lands, take that life's companion by the hand, look again into eyes once bright now growing dim, feel again the warmth of throbbing hearts that understand God's design for man and his mate on earth.

Editorial

Vast Difference

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (the Mormon church) owns a remarkably long and varied list of business enterprises, including a bank, an insurance company, a department store, a sugar company, a coal mine, ranches and so on.

But in this case, there is one vast difference from most business under takings which are carried on by essentially non-profit organizations such as churches. A factual article on the Mormon ventures in the Wall Street Journal states: "The church insists on paying full Federal taxes on all profits from business activities, though legally it could often claim exemptions."

Prepared as we are to love our enemies, it's difficult to do in the modern world when you can't tell, from day to day, exactly who they are.

The enthusiasm with which the cigarette industry is turning to filters indicates that filters cost less than tobacco.

A child performer needs an awful lot of talent to make up for not being a close relative.



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

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When You and I Were Young

Say Witchcraft Practiced in Boyd

Family Makes Charge Against Another

50 Years Ago A family of Boyd county requested that officials arrest another family for witchcraft. Cards are out for the wedding of Clyde Murman and Miss Adeline Wrede. . . The infant of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Cameron died. . . William Salem is the new baker. . . Two men escaped serious injury in Emmet when their bobbleigh was hit by a through train.

20 Years Ago D. H. Cronin, editor of "The Frontier", was host at a dinner for members of the Holt County Publishers association. . . E. E. Cole of Star, is the kind of subscriber to bring joy to any editor! He has paid farther ahead than any of our readers.

10 Years Ago Frank Balm, a Holt county resident for 53 years, celebrated his 88th birthday anniversary. . . Mr. and Mrs. Bryon Grenier are the parents of a boy. . . Miss Gail Widfeldt, a junior at O'Neill high school, received national recognition for students for her poem "Tis Night! . . . Deaths: Leroy T. French, 84, of Page, Edward M. Shaw, sr., 68, of Orchard. . . Francis Luben of Emmet fell from a stack of hay being pulled along the road, into the Elkhorn river.

One Year Ago Deaths: Roy Worden, 67, of Amelia. . . W. R. (Bill) Tenborg celebrated his 82d birthday anniversary. . . Lyle Fox enlisted in the navy. . . Amelia was notified by state officials that their high school will have to go. . . Dewitt Gunter of Ewing submitted to surgery. . . Mr. and Mrs. George Rector of Marysville, Wash., visited relatives and friends here. . . Billie Sammons of Amelia caught an 11 pound fish while ice fishing.

Attendance Game to Be Employed

LYNCH—The Rural Progressive extension club met with Mrs. Edmund Rohdi Thursday, January 17. Mrs. Bernard Weber was assisting hostess. . . After the lesson on "Lamp shades and lighting" was presented, the remainder of the afternoon was spent in visiting. . . The on-time and perfect attendance game is again taken up in 1957. . . Sides were chosen by the survey group members are to meet at the Elmo Barnes home on Friday afternoon, January 25.

O'NEILL LOCALS

Jerry Weaver, C. D. Hartnort and Charlie McKay left Sunday for a few days of business in Denver, Colo. Mr. Hartnort will go from Denver to Texas. . . Mr. and Mrs. Jim Hendershot and Preston Pike of Rapid City, S.D., spent Friday and Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Wray. . . Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Ray of Tilden were Sunday callers of Mr. and Mrs. Weston Whitver.

Echoes from the Valley

Lantern in Window

By MRS. MERRILL ANDERSON

It was a half-century ago. Art Anderson, his wife and six children had moved from the sandhills country. . . Living in a 10 x 12 ft. soddie they were happy and hopeful in their new location. They had plans to build a new dwelling in spring; they were hopeful of other improvements that would follow.

Mr. Anderson loaded up his 8-year-old son to accompany him by team and wagon to the nearest railroad point to get a jag of lumber. The day was fair although foggy. It was a 40-mile roundtrip. . . As the day progressed clouds gathered. By midafternoon snow was falling. . . They were homeward bound as the storm became more intense. The storm became so fierce the horses would no longer face the storm. . . Mr. Anderson and his son freed

the horses. The father wrapped the son in a horsehide coat and began inching his way toward home in the blinding storm. . . Daylight turned to darkness. Mr. Anderson's hopes of surviving began to fade as he groped for hours. . . At the soddie Mrs. Anderson kept a coil oil lantern burning in the doorway. The dismal light flickered and occasionally went out as the wind howled against the prairie home. . . Moments crept slowly by. . . Mrs. Anderson knew it would be a miracle if anyone caught in the storm managed to survive. . . Exhausted Mr. Anderson, and his son somehow made it to the soddie, having been guided by Providence and by an occasional glimpse of light from the feeble lantern hanging in the doorway. . . The horses perished and the remains were not found until the snow melted in the spring.

String Instruments Boost Party Fun

CELIA—Monday evening several families gathered at the Joe Hendricks home for a general good time. . . Several brought string musical instruments with them and the evening was spent playing and singing songs. . . Those present were Mr. and Mrs. David Rahn, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Orr, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lewis and family, Paul Focken, Kay Batterfield, Elvon Anderson, Connie Hitchcock and Jim Hendricks. Lunch was served.

Other Celia News

Fourteen members of Sand Creek township met at the Alex Forsythe home Tuesday evening, January 15, for the annual meeting. Bob Pease and Quentin Hickok were reelected road overseers for coming year. The budget is \$1,500. . . Mr. and Mrs. Hans Lauridsen and sons, Charles Johnson and Jim Lauridsen were Sunday dinner guests at the Louis Lauridsen home. Mr. Johnson stayed for a longer visit with his daughter and family. . . Rev. and Mrs. George Hollingshead of Newport conducted Bible study class at the Hans Lauridsen home Tuesday, January 15, in spite of the cold evening a good attendance was reported. . . Ray Pease visited his father, R. M. Pease, at O'Neill Saturday. . . Mrs. LeRoy Hoffman and Mrs. Margaret Chace attended the teachers' training class at Butte on Saturday. . . Glen Sorensen was a Saturday O'Neill visitor. . . Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Lange and children, who have been living at Zephyr Hills, Fla., returned Wednesday, January 16, to their farm northeast of Atkinson where Mr. and Mrs. Duane Mintle have been living. The Mintles are moving to the farm of Mrs. Fern Warren, where the Frank Disterhaupt jr., family lived before moving to Minnesota. . . Rev. and Mrs. Steinkamp were Wednesday, January 15, visitors at the Joe Hendricks and helped, can beef. . . Ellen McKathnie, who is attending Norfolk Junior college, spent Thursday to Sunday evening with her father, Milton McKathnie, and family. . . Charles Phipps spent Sunday at the Mark Hendricks home. . . Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hendricks were Tuesday dinner guests of Rev. and Mrs. Steinkamp. . . Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Focken and family were Sunday afternoon visitors at the Mark Hendricks home. . . Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hendricks and family were Sunday supper guests at the Omer Poynts home. Duane Waldrop is spending some time at the Poynts home helping them with their work. . . Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg and Alex Forsythe were din-

visitors at the William Maloun home.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schwindt and Venita also Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Naber were Friday supper guests at the Milton McKathnie home.

Visit at Page—

Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Waller, Rita and Gary of Wayne State Teacher's college visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Ray Snell of Page.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Porter visited Sunday afternoon with Mr. and Mrs. H. Hubbard and Mr. and Mrs. Ace Hubbard at Chambers.

Survey Books Are Distributed—

LYNCH—Mrs. Frank Weeder was hostess to members of the Highland extension club at her home Thursday afternoon, January 17. Mrs. William Elsas and Mrs. Art Retzlaff presented the lesson on "Lamp Shades and Lighting". . . A shower was given Larry Dean, little son of Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Meuller. . . Extension club survey envelopes were distributed and the members are to meet at the home of Mrs. Velma McDonald Saturday afternoon to fill the survey blanks.

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