

Prairieland Talk

Carlson's Lake Attracted Skaters

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Redred, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—A snow, a January thaw that reduced the snowbanks to wet puddles. Now another morning dawns on Prairieland grey and gloomy, a bit of white dust fallen from the overcast heavens above, drifting across street and lawn and open field as wind moans out of the north.



Romaine Saunders

Midwinter, from forests of the north to southern sands, the country knows the time of snow and frost and ice that gives Mother Earth a rest from shooting forth the bud and bloom that will be here again when spring days come around.

Today old guys sit in glowing warmth and the sisters take down the receiver to listen to and chat with friends across town or at the distant ranch house.

It was midwinter days, midwinter evenings, a forgotten generation of maids and youthful gallants put on their skates at Carlson's lake in walking distance from O'Neill homes, cut circles on the ice, a mittened hand in the grasp of a manly hand. Where today is Minnie Selkirk, Mazie Darr and the others that had glided around the circle with me hand in hand?

Midwinter, I no longer skate, but winter has an end, and we will walk again where the morning glories bloom.

A chat with Sen. Frank Nelson down at the state house recently gave Prairieland Talker a look-in on the honored group of Nebraska patriots that forge and fashion our laws on the anvil of constitutional authority. Also it afforded us another chance for a friendly visit with a friend from Holt county. Senator Nelson has been a resident of northern Holt for 50 years and among-to-time onto a 40-acre tract that once was counted as Prairieland Talker's property—and that served their day of usefulness.

Senator Nelson is alert to legislative trends and feels that more and more community life out in the state has to yield to centralized authority at the state capital. He opposes the proposed sales tax and plans to fight to retain the state aid for bridge work, a measure having been introduced to repeal the law that the late D. H. Cronin was the author of and which is of special benefit to Holt county.

The day I saw Senator Nelson he was going that evening as one of a senatorial delegation to Norfolk to look into some matters.

The published story tells us that there has been erected at the church yard in Amelia an electric sign that shines forth at night to guide villagers on their way. It may be symbolic of a spiritual light the church down there stands for or hopes to attain. Rural communities throughout prairieland and elsewhere have their sanctuaries, it may be a schoolhouse or a humble home where sacred memories linger and worshippers gather from time to time.

Editorial

There's Virtue in Restraint

An interesting contrast in sportsmanship was exhibited here on Friday evening, January 18.

The O'Neill high Eagles rang in a field goal with a mere fraction of a second remaining in the basketball game against the Bloomfield high Bees.

Bloomfield's scorekeepers strongly protested the final basket, claiming the game was over before the clincher was made. There were O'Neillites who let their post-game enthusiasm carry them away, too. To complicate matters, an O'Neill cheerleader was hurt in the moments immediately following the final buzzer. Just how she was hurt is not clearly established, but she was hospitalized and a Bloomfield player was said to have figured in the incident.

Bloomfield enthusiasts caused the metropolitan press to report a Bloomfield victory, 59-58. Working all season with a green team, O'Neill Coach Bill Edwards had been witness thus far in his first season at the helm of the Eagles' cage fortunes. With his first victory at stake, he might have taken on the role of an ulcer-ridden coach, who shouts and rants and puts on a spectacle like they do in the movies.

The game's outcome at that climactic point seemed to be questionable. A few people from both O'Neill and Bloomfield were exercising their sensibilities with reference to that last basket. Most of the controversy centered on a technicality in timekeeping.

But Mr. Edwards casually rounded up his boys and quietly ushered them to the showers—deliberately leaving the jawing to the "professionals".

Just how the Bloomfield coach behaved at the time, we do not know. He might have reacted like Mr. Edwards.

But for Bill it was a question of whether or not he had won his first game of the season—and winning games, it seems, has become the absolute factor in coaching—sportsmanship, physical education, etc., becoming secondary considerations in many schools and colleges.

Win or not, Mr. Edwards' exemplary conduct in the height of confusion certainly reflects high credit and good sportsmanship.

The secretary of the Nebraska High School Activities association subsequently ruled it an O'Neill win, 60-59.

Flivvers Were Loved

Thrills and hazards of the model T Ford are recalled by Robert Strother in a nostalgic article, "A Flivver for the Family," in the February Reader's Digest.

Until he pilots a space ship around the moon, Mr. Strother says he will not have the equal of the thrill he experienced as a boy in Winfield, Kans., when he first drove a new model T for which his father paid \$440 on Christmas eve in 1917.

"Fords were notoriously allergic to cold," recalls the writer. "Model Ts were started, when they consented to start at all, by hand cranking. . . . The crank frequently kicked. . . . Right arms in casts were as familiar a feature of the American winter scene of 40 years ago as are legs in casts at ski lodges and sport resorts today."

"Another recurrent hazard of model T motoring was running out of gas. There was no gasoline gauge, and to find out how much fuel was left, the operator first had to evict any front-seat passenger, and remove the seat cushion. A slatted cover was then raised, the gas-tank cap re-

A patriot up the street pays \$600 a year taxes on his dwelling place. Others along the street the same, a little less or a little more. What does citizen get for his \$600 if he has no occasion to call for police protection or for a fire truck to come roaring up. If the walk by his lot is snowed under, he clears away the snow. But what becomes of his \$600—that's a part of the pile that finances "public service", meaning a bunch at the city hall; another bunch at the county courthouse, still more at the statehouse, schools, colleges, highway patrolmen, street sweepers and all the others sitting in swivel chairs with hands folded and a leg up across the desk. What does he get out of all this? Six hundred a year penalty for owning a dwelling house and keep a top-heavy city, county and state government functioning!

Sidney, southwestern Nebraska's biggest town sent its band to Washington, D. C., where they became a unit in the inaugural parade. Shades of Laramie Pete, Doc Middleton and Bill Reed! Sidney has gone to the tenderfoot stage, once the two-gun town on the way to the mountains. Billy Reed, who shot and killed Sheriff Kearns where the K. C. hall now stands in O'Neill, and Doc Middleton who stole most of the good horses run across in Holt county, were both products of Ft. Sidney philosophy of life in frontier days. Now this southwestern Nebraska city has become a center of musical charm and sends their band to the nation's capital to represent our prairieland state when the president is the central figure.

Three basketball games tonight in different parts of the city. Schools and colleges, where once we learned from books and teachers the story of mankind and how to solve the mathematical problems of life, now train Young American to toss a ball at a basket. One dollar demanded at the door. High cost of living— who says that!

The Platts down at Chambers have traveled the highway of life together for a half century, 40 years as citizens of Chambers and Ted must feel somewhat flattered that Mrs. P. put up with him for 50 years without a break. He was born down here in Lancaster county, started life as husband and father on the prairies of Wheeler county riding the cowtrails. Opened a shoe shop in Chambers many years ago and now takes it undisturbed by doing nothing and hangs on to their section of Wheeler county grassland.

The chief executive and family remained a day and a night in the governor's mansion down in Missouri, moved back to their own home at Jefferson City, explaining that the "mansion" is a rat-infested rattle-trap, not fit for a Missourian to live in. Some Nebraska governors did not occupy the "mansion" set aside south of the capitol building for a home for those exalted by the sovereign citizens of the state to the governor's job. Why an executive mansion? A grand new one is going up now in Lincoln. If the state furnishes a dwelling for the governor, why not dwellings for all elected state officers.

moved and a graduated stick inserted in the tank. "To measure the oil supply was even more of a nuisance. You crawled under the car and opened a petcock. If oil ran out, you had oil."

Despite hardships like these, for nearly two decades, between 1908 and 1927, reports Mr. Strother, "flivvers swarmed in their millions from the assembly lines in Detroit and became known and loved throughout the world."

Where Is the Rain?

Pat Harney of the Air Force-Cambridge (Mass.) Research Center has forwarded to us an article entitled, "Where Is the Rain?" The piece was written by Bicknell Eubanks of the Christian Science Monitor staff.

During Harney's sojourns at O'Neill during 1953 and 1956 wind tests, we had inquiring conversations with him and his compatriots regarding wet and dry weather cycles, artificial rainmaking, atom and hydrogen bomb effects on rain (or lack of it).

Mr. Harney, who formerly was in the office of the chief of the U. S. weather bureau in Washington, suggests that Mr. Eubanks has grasped the great plains plight in a few easy-to-understand paragraphs:

"The great plains comprise (geographically) one-fifth of the nation. This is the land of semi-arid environments that, when approached by men from humid environments, bitterly defeats their efforts to survive. Precisely this and nothing more is the trouble. . . ."

"Basically, the great plains has always had a water problem, either too much or too little. The very nature of its topography and its geographic location is not conducive to year-round rainfall in substantial amounts.

"General areawide rains are mainly dependent on atmospheric and climatic conditions. The ideal conditions occur at places far removed from the great plains. A hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico, or a cold front against the warm, moist air coming up from the south will cause heavy, general rains. If these conditions do not prevail over a time, a drought occurs. It's as tragically simple as that."

We know an O'Neill professional man who reserves the loudest neckties for the coldest days, thus the ties usually are quite well concealed.

**THE FRONTIER**  
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When You and I Were Young . . .

Baby Unharmed After Given Up by Mother

Figure Takes Infant to Mountains

50 Years Ago  
 From the inside "ready print" pages of The Frontier comes this story: A young farm wife had agreed that her husband should meet her at the fence near the woods and take the child to a neighbor's. The woman reached the fence and saw a figure dimly outlined on the other side. Believing it to be her husband, she handed the child over. To her amazement the figure disappeared without a word, taking the baby. Frantically she called to her husband, whom she met coming towards the fence. The tracks of an immense bear led to the home. Baby was later found unharmed. . . . Sons were born to Mr. and Mrs. R. Morrison and Dr. and Mrs. Flynn. A fashionable feminine headpiece in zero weather is a gauzy veil resembling a sheet of tissue paper.

20 Years Ago  
 Deaths: John Hayne, 69, at Norfolk; Marion Pritchett, 75, at his farm home; William Spangler of Clearwater. O'Neill citizens donated \$166.80 to the Ohio flood relief. Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Wills of Emmet came to O'Neill by car but were unable to return because of drifting snow. They returned by train the next day. . . . Henry Losher, 83, submitted to surgery. . . . Miss Ardith Smith of Inman, who has been seriously ill with pneumonia is improving. . . . Harry Fox has been doing chores at Will Kaczor's since the men have been sick. Maurice Graham also has been helping.

10 Years Ago  
 The winter's worst snow storm arrived. Mr. and Mrs. William Medcalf of Chambers celebrated their 56th wedding anniversary. . . . Ed Markey of San Pedro, Cal., died. His sister Mrs. Margaret McMillan was unable to attend because of the travel difficulty created by the storm. . . . Cpl. Max Farrier of Chambers arrived home from Korea. . . . Betty Lyons and Ralph Reitor were married. . . . Miss Elizabeth Kamphaus and Frank Nickolte were married. . . . Mrs. C. H. Sutzler departed for California to visit her son.

Ewing News

The Past Matrons club and the Star Kennelers were entertained Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Waldo Davis. Seven members were present. Mrs. Wilbur Bennett presided at the business session. The annual banquet was discussed and committees were appointed. The afternoon was spent informally. Luncheon was served.

Frontier for printing!

**DR. H. D. GILDERSLEEVE**  
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Echoes from the Valley

We Like Trees

By MRS. MERRILL ANDERSON

For many years Nebraska has been noted as the tree planters' state. Millions of seedlings are planted annually. In early years most of the state was barren of trees. A few were native along streams and valleys.

New interest developed when the government offered additional land to homesteaders to encourage tree plantings.

We are indebted to the division of forestry for their relentless efforts by extensive survey to determine species most adaptable to sandy soil. Up to the present time, the cedar and ponderosa pine have been found to be the most suitable because of their capability to withstand drought. However, many leafed

varieties do well here, such as the elm, which is used extensively for windbreaks. The government is setting up a program for furthering the tree planting project. It would seem advisable to follow some such practice to prevent further destruction in pasture areas, where control of blowouts is becoming a problem.

Our shelterbelts have proved great value in helping to prevent damage from wind erosion, also in holding the moisture. Most of us are nature lovers, and our tree plantations rank high in this writer's estimation.

The initial cost of tree planting is small but the reward for such efforts makes it very worthwhile.

O'Neill News

Mr. and Mrs. John Planz of Fremont; Mrs. Dallas Behrens, also of Fremont, who is at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Esty Nelson.

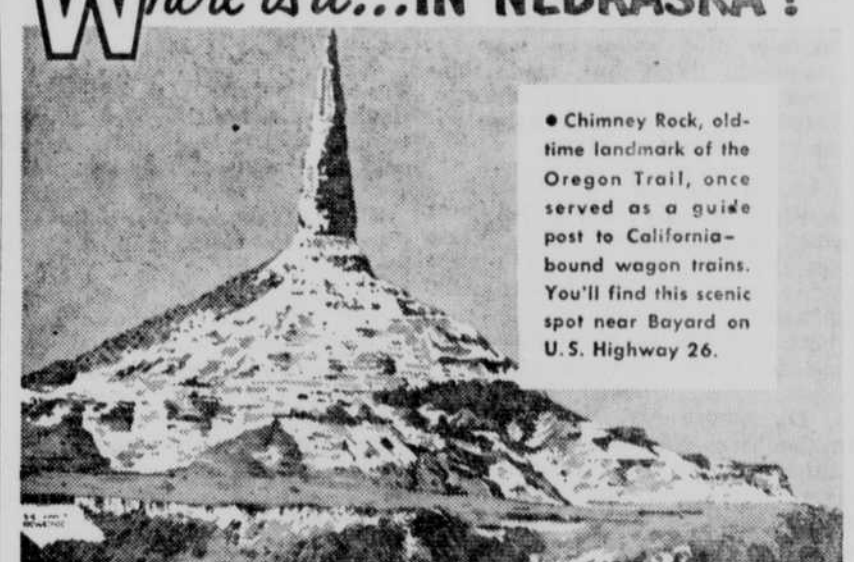
Mr. and Mrs. Harry McKay and Vicki of Chambers were Sunday supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Duane McKay.

Edward McCarthy left Monday to register at Creighton university, Omaha. He had completed two years before serving four years in the navy. Second semester starts next Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Caskey and Suellyn were Sunday dinner guests of her mother, Mrs. Mabel Bennett in Winnetoon, and supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Butterfield and daughter of Ne-High.

Jack Carney, a student at Creighton university, Omaha, was home between semesters. He arrived Sunday and left Tuesday. Jack had completed two years before he left for the service. He is now a junior.

Where is it... IN NEBRASKA?



Chimney Rock, old-time landmark of the Oregon Trail, once served as a guide post to California-bound wagon trains. You'll find this scenic spot near Bayard on U.S. Highway 26.

Beer Belongs... to the good times we enjoy in modern Nebraska. Serve it, enjoy it, as the beverage that is right—in any company, for every occasion!

NEBRASKA DIVISION  
 United States Brewers Foundation  
 710 First Nat'l Bank Bldg., Lincoln

LOOK! NEW FORD TRUCKS for '57



LOOK again! They're modern through and through

The boldly modern styling you see just hints at how deep-down modern the '57 Fords really are!

New Ranchero rides, handles and looks like a modern car. It's a rugged truck that carries over half a ton—more than many standard pickups. Ford's all-new Tilt Cab Series brings modern design to the big-truck field. It's America's lowest-priced\* Tilt Cab line.

New Ford pickups back up their modern styling with higher power, completely new cabs, a new kind of ride. Styleside bodies are biggest of any pickup.

The trucks shown here just touch the sweeping changes in the new Ford line for '57. See your Ford Dealer for complete details on the truck to fit your job.

\*Based on a comparison of factory-suggested list prices

- NEW cabs—completely new—stronger, roomier, smarter! New wider windshield. New inboard step, new Hi-Dri ventilation.
- NEW hydraulic clutch standard in all models from pickups to tandems. Easier to operate—works like hydraulic brake. Clutch and brake pedals are suspended type!
- NEW Styleside pickup bodies standard at no extra cost. America's biggest pickup bodies! Side loading's far easier with full-width body.
- NEW riding comfort! Big new roomy cabs, completely new chassis suspension and increased visibility improve handling ease.
- NEW chassis strength! New frames, up to 195% stronger. New sturdier front and rear axles! New higher capacity springs!
- NEW power advances! Higher horsepower, freer breathing, higher compression ratios, new Super-Filter air cleaner, Short Stroke engine design—V-8 or Six, in every model!

For '57 and the years ahead—  
**FORD TRUCKS COST LESS**  
 LESS TO OWN... LESS TO RUN... LAST LONGER TOO!

**LOHAUS MOTOR CO.** O'Neill, Nebr. Phone 33

Conard, Entertain—

Mrs. T. L. Liddy won high score for ladies and Laurence Haynes won high for the men at a bridge party held Sunday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Conard in Emmet. Guests were the Hayneses, the Liddys and the Marvin Johnsons.

Mrs. Soukup Hostess—

Mrs. Stanley Soukup entertained the birthday club at a 1 o'clock luncheon Saturday. The ladies spent the afternoon socially at the home of Mrs. George C. Robertson.

CRACK DOWN

ATKINSON—Mayor Willard Linville has announced the city will crack down on use of air rifles and firearms of any type within the city of Atkinson. Mayor Linville said an ordinance forbids the discharge of arms within the city.

NEAR FATHER

ATKINSON—Delbert Scott of Rapid City, S.D., came Friday to be near his father, D. F. Scott, who died Saturday night.

**Dr. J. L. Sherbahn**  
 CHIROPRACTOR  
 1/2 Block So. of Ford Garage  
 Complete X-Ray Equipment  
 O'Neill, Nebraska

Notes Birthday—

Helping Mrs. Burton Kendall celebrate her birthday anniversary in Osmond Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Graham and Mr. and Mrs. David Maughan of Tilden.

Englers Move—

Bob Engler is moving this weekend into the house vacated by the Edwin L. Krugman family.

Butte Livestock Market

The auction at BUTTE LIVESTOCK MARKET on January 23 was a cold four hours of selling. Buyers were very active and quality of livestock better than average, making a snappy auction with prices higher on all grades of stock.

The hog orders were the best—several car loads of number 1 butchers shipped to the coast by two buyers.

We hope to see you on Wednesdays. Bring or send your livestock to the Butte Livestock Market for highest returns, thanks.

**Sale**  
**MORRIS PAINT WALLPAPER**  
 Your Choice of FINE PAPERS

We have just received the new 1957 wall-paper sample books. Stop in now and see the New Morris line of wallpaper at prices to fit every budget. The most beautiful wallpapers ever.

Headquarters for Morris Paints Matching Colors

in flat, semi-gloss, house paint, quick drying enamel, floor and porch paint. Completely odorless—washable, easy to apply.

SCOVIE'S WESTERN AUTO O'Neill