

PrairieLand Talk

They Found Time to Have Fun

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

The old timers got their start in life working all the time. Now it is five days a week, they go to the job eight hours a day. Our state lawmakers have come to it with a proposal to put state employees on the 40-hour week basis. Labor unions are now moving in the direction of a 30-hour week with no pay cut. Jimmy Riggs kept us on the job turning out printed classics from seven in the morning and until 11 at night at times, and Hiendrickson worked a guy from five in the morning until 10 at night waiting on store customers, looking after two cows and a horse. But the fellows found time to have their fun and at least once a week cut a swath on roller skates at the rink—a community playhouse that has passed into history along with its builders, Ed Gallagher and



Romaine Saunders
Tom Birmingham.

I walk to where I need to go, in this swift age. That's pretty slow. I've neither saddle horse, bicycle nor car to take me places near and far. A daily walk revives the limping limb and stirs the lifeblood of man in him. But if it's a long way over there, just dig up the airplane, train or bus fare and roll along to the journey's end where the rest of your "dough" you'll probably spend.

Twenty-four traveling men were registered at Hotel Evans a night in July, 1900. That summer Miss Mamie Cullen, visiting in her former home community in New Jersey, took off for a trip to Ireland. Miss Julia Sullivan took on a clerical job at the county clerk's office. Judges Westover and Harrington were presiding at the disbarment trial of W. R. Butler, several sheriffs from adjoined counties appearing as witnesses. Sam Deitrich was up in Dawes county buying range cattle to run on his Ditch Company ranch. Miss Margaret Hurley accompanied by her nephew, Willie O'Neill, took off for a visit with friends in Omaha. Con Keys was advertising 900 sacks of flour to trade for money. County Judge Selah performed the rites uniting in marriage two young people of the Eagle creek community, Clyde Johnson and Miss Emma Ernst. James Stout acting as chairman and Clyde King secretary of a republican club.

Editor Cal paid editorial tribute to Grandma Davidson. I had known her in the long ago as a bride, not as a grandmother, when the young man of her choice was the master tinner in McCarty's tinshop where the hayburners were made, Tom MacVey, Patsy Murphy and Jim Davidson's helpers. The original Davidson family came to O'Neill in 1882, built one of the first houses in the southeast part of town, then prairie grassland. Owen Davidson, husband and father, Mrs. Davidson, sons, Jack and Jim, and daughter, Anna. They have passed away, lie under the sod in the abode of the dead. Another generation lives today; they, too, will leave footprints on the highway of life for a few years and then despond as their mother and father have to the drumbeat of eternity.

A newspaper compatriot down at Blair suggests the world's problems would vanish if everybody would go fishing. Liars enough now at large. Thursday, April 25—this day in history: Danbury, Conn., raided by the British, 1777. Round-the-world telephone, 1935. Republicans of the prairie states gathered in Omaha to shake hands, pay respect to the memory of the great of the grand old party and formulate plans for the '58 congressional elections. Public officials, business executives, professional gents, priests and preachers, white-stockinged nurses, newsmen, camera manipulators and a few hundred of "we the people" faced a cold wind, waded mud, snow and water for the civil defense demonstration put on at the outer edge of southeast Lincoln. Nurses and others trained for such things demonstrated rescue work in the case of a bombing or other disaster.

He manipulates the gadgets that move the elevator up and down on a night job down town at one of the many institutions that do not get it all done between sun and sun. His home is on a farm some miles south of the city. After three years of crop failures he took a job in the busy haunts of men, drives back and forth, turned his farm over to the "soil bank" boys down at Washington, or as much as they would take of it, and he gets \$25 an acre letting that land remain out of production. How did John Paul Sullivan, Mark Murphy, Con Shea and others out there in the "Michigan settlement" survive the famine years in the 90's—no "soil bank" checks, no factory jobs with payday every week, no old age or unemployment payoff? Oh, the pioneer had no better sense than to "root hog or die."

Walking the highway of time alone for seventy odd years, now a bent form—the heritage of life's burdens, I met her today and had in response to my greeting a cheerless good morning, as she moved on her lonely way. Maidenly hopes buried in the past and maidenly charm effaced by the marks of time never having known the fullness of life of wife and mother, she sees her solitary way. Among the men and women met today another type of person came into the picture, an attractive young business woman. She said she was buying up cattle, was leaving the city for ranch life in southwest Nebraska.

I looked out of the window this mid-April morning and there again see we have been wrapped in a blanket of white during the night, with snow still sitting out of the heavens above. First, a thunder shower; then snow, bright sun balled summer one day, the next winter. Only prairie-land puts on a full year's season in 24 hours. And that is why the death rate in Nebraska is the lowest of all the states; here the human race will be found when there are only dry bones in California and Florida. Pull up stakes at that Pennsylvania farm, Ike, and come to Nebraska.

Editorial

Let's Make Laws Every 10 Years

The Nebraska legislature returned to a heavy work schedule this week after a long Easter vacation. As of now, there are twice as many bills awaiting initial debate as for the same time during the 1955 session. But committee hearings are over. Hopes have dimmed for a short session. Despite keen attention by Lt.-Gov. Dwight Burney, the senators have dragged work on the floor by rehearsing action taken previously or with attempts to revive measures killed in committee. Observers do not recall as many attempts to override action of committees. During the hectic debate, the lawmakers have several times got themselves in parliamentary tangles that were difficult to unsnarl. Sen. Frank Nelson of O'Neill, spending the Easter recess at home, declared the legislature has been too hasty on some matters, contributing to the confusion. The lawmakers, he said, have been known to advance a measure in the forenoon and reverse the position in the afternoon or the following day. Committees are smaller this session than heretofore and, on occasion, three or four senators have functioned as a committee. Tempers were honed razor sharp by the time Easter vacation rolled around and the solons added an extra day to recuperate. A debate of top importance, meanwhile, faces the lawmakers on the "hard tack" budget of Gov. Victor Anderson. One measure, to keep the teachers' retirement levy at the present level, has cleared initial debate. That was one of the governor's key proposals in his attempts to "hold the line" on state spending. Heavy argument will center about the state institutional building levy which the governor wants cut drastically and the University of Nebraska medical college levy which he wants eliminated. The governor says he will fight attempts to increase the levies over his recommendations. But, he said he will not do battle on the senate attitude over the teacher retirement levy. About the latter property tax levy, the chief executive said the reason he will not push for his own figure is because the money taken in will not be spent, but put into the teachers' reserve fund—now standing at \$5.5 million. The governor said he still hopes to hold the line on state property taxes. The legislature, he added, can increase his budget by \$2 million without hiking the state property tax levy. If the senators go above that figure, he said, he will go to bat for his economy program. Last week Sen. Terry Carpenter was trying to speed along one of his pet amendments and had asked that the rules be suspended in order to move it quickly. Senator Nelson blew the whistle. He told his colleagues: "I may want to vote for that amendment if given sufficient time to study it and analyze it. If you press it to a vote today, I'll vote against it." Carpenter withdrew his effort to suspend the rules and the matter rested.

The rush to wind up affairs and adjourn is inevitably going to lead to faulty legislation. With no reflection against Senator Nelson and some of his conservative colleagues, we'd like to suggest that the legislature meet once in 10 years and restrict the lawmaking to about 10 measures. The Frontier feels we'd all be better off.

Mild Concessions

In 1952, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower wrote from his North Atlantic Treaty Organization headquarters in France to a friend in the United States: Excessive spending in the long run can be as dangerous to our way of life as external threats. The house of representatives has taken a few whacks at President Eisenhower's 72-billion-dollar budget. The whacks to date amount only to a few hundred million dollars, not the expected five- or six-billion-dollar. The 64-dollar-question is what the senate will do even if the house has applied the snippers. Sen. Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.) rocked the republican national headquarters and the white house palace guard a fortnight ago when he pointed an accusing finger at the president himself (whose budget the senator called a "squander-bust"). Ike's brother, Edgar Eisenhower, 68-year-old Tacoma, Wash., lawyer, gave the president a public scolding in a press conference. Edgar charged that liberal influences in the palace guard—Sherman Adams, Paul Hoffman, Milton Eisenhower—had caused Ike to "buy" such proposals as the record budget, federal aid to education and unprecedented foreign handouts. Mounting criticism accounted for Ike suggesting a nearly two-billion-dollar budget cut by last weekend. But these mild concessions won't appease Goldwater, Sen. Harry Byrd (D-Va.) and other congressional leaders who are realistic people.



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Miss Briggs . . . runnerup in "Miss Spokane Valley" beauty competition.

Granddaughter Is Finalist in Spokane Beauty Contest

Miss Jacqueline Briggs, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Briggs, El17207 Cataldo, Greenacres, Wash., and granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Ressel of O'Neill, recently was runnerup in the "Miss Spokane Valley" contest of 14 schools in Spokane and suburbs.

Miss Briggs is 18-years-old, 5-ft. 6-in. tall and weighs 123 pounds. She has blue eyes, brown hair and is interested in becoming an airline stewardess. When she was seven-years-old she won fame for escorting her brother, age five, on a flight from a West coast point to Anchorage, Alaska to join their parents.

U. S. 281 Work Is Included in Letting

The Nebraska highway department Friday announced apparent low bidders on 126 miles of highway construction and maintenance costing more than three-million-dollars. Apparent low bidders for projects in this area, with location, length of construction and cost include: U.S. 281: Holt-Boyd counties, Spencer-O'Neill, protection work, Diamond Engineering Co., Grand Island, \$53,755. U.S. 20: Dawes-Sheridan counties, 7.4 miles, Chadron-Hay Springs, asphaltic concrete surface, Inland Construction Co., Omaha, \$281,540; culverts, Nichols Construction Co., Geneva, \$58,311.

Mrs. Sladek Surprised on Birthday

CHAMBERS—Mrs. Julia Sladek was honored April 12 with a card shower, marking her birthday anniversary. She received more than 60 cards and letters. Mrs. Sladek had been confined to her home since Christmas because of illness. Last Saturday, however, she spent the day in O'Neill.

All Members Present—CHAMBERS—The 212 South Fork club held its third meeting of the season recently at the Gene Halsey home. All members were present. Naming of a country that we would like to visit was used for roll call. We received our record books.—By Karen Ermer, reporter.

Home for Weekend—Donald Schoenle was spending Easter and a week with his mother, Mrs. Francis Schoenle, and family. He is a freshman at the seminary in Elkhorn.

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niversary at a supper at his home. Guests were Mary Welsh, Miss Viola Kellar, Miss Theresa Pongrantz and Miss Geraldine Harris.

10 Years Ago
A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Crumley of Page. Miss Helen Urton was named girls' state representative of the American Legion auxiliary and Miss Janet Enright was named alternate. A double celebration in honor of the 23d wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Don O. Lyons and the birthday anniversary of Mrs. Ed Dumpert was held. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Rutck celebrated their 36th wedding anniversary. Marybelle O'Connor, Ruby Kloppenborg and Leona Serck attended a birthday party in O'Neill in honor of Doris Perry and Leona Serck. Miss Colleen Kennedy of Amelia submitted to an appendectomy in Norfolk.

One Year Ago
Deaths: David Isaacson, 85, oldest member of a pioneer family; Fred Seery, 81, of Chambers; Ivan R. Dickerson, 69, of Atkinson, Holt banker. Rolland Closson was separated from the armed services. Pvt. Duane Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ward Smith, departed for Ft. Bliss, Tex., after a two weeks' furlough.

Miss Rose Beasley of London, England and A/1c John D. Binkerd were married in London. Mrs. Agnes Gaffney of Emmet, returned from a three months' trip visiting relatives. Dr. J. W. Lambert, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lambert of Ewing, is enroute to Sweden, where he will do plant research.

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