

Prairieland Talk

# Low Berry's Days Are Over

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, 4110 South 51st St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.

LINCOLN—More than 1900 years ago a Roman military commander took a great Jew by the hand, that was the hand of the Apostle Paul. For centuries the hand clasp has been the token of human friendship.

Prairieland Talker returned recently from a memorial day visit to O'Neill and Atkinson. even in the handshake, the smile, the greetings from friends of other years and some more recent; a happy, contented people, some as Henry Grady, Lloyd Gillespie, Hugh Coyne, R. H. Parker, P. C. Donohoe, Hugh Birmingham, Ira Moss, Walt O'Friends out there extended the hand of human fellowship and glad greeting. The charm, the beauty of the green robed landscape reaching to the distant horizons is reflected Malley, Guy Cole and some others of the O'Neill community who knew something of life's struggles and privations in the years now gone are now "sitting pretty."



Romaine Saunders

Through the courtesy of friends, I was privileged to visit Atkinson on two occasions and saw an aged neighbor of a few years ago layed to rest in the Atkinson cemetery. Low Berry, a pioneer of Swan precinct, reached the age of 97 years and now for him the sufferings and heartache of life's last days are over. And there in that Atkinson abode of the dead I met with friends who had come to the funeral of an old citizen of their community, the charming southwest grass lands of Holt county. And prairieland, robed in summer green, is beautiful. And the men and women of prairieland are the "salt of the earth," their kids the sugar.

I returned to Lincoln with Sen. Farnk Nelson at the steering wheel. Frank had been home for the memorial day adjournment of the senate and was over to Naper to give an address on the day set apart in memory of the dead.

Frank informed me that Grandma Hull, out in the Blackbird section of Holt county, is still living on the homestead acquired many years ago and is now 101 years of age, still active and would make the most enjoyable use of a box of candy Frank gave her.

Politicians out of a job can tell you all about it, with solutions of world problems.

Alaska statehood is on the way, the 49th to lay aside the territorial calico and don the silken robes of state. Cheeve Hazlett and Jack Meals did not live to see it but Jack's son, George, up by Atkinson is still here, as is Lloyd Gillespie, both of whom were Alaska fortune seekers but gave it up to return to Holt county, since enjoying the pleasures of the simple life as heads of families and taxpayers in the land where they cut capers as care-free kids.

Twenty odd miles northeast of O'Neill during the 1880's a pioneer village known as Minneola was a community of enough importance for A. J. Watson to get out there and start a newspaper, The Sun. As that decade drew to a close the Sun went down behind a dead Minneola, came up one morning to shine in O'Neill under the guidance of Mr. Watson and C. C. McHugh, the last named soon becoming the sole owner and Mr. Watson went to Coleridge where in 1891 he started another paper, taking a printer from O'Neill, Guy Green. Besides the Watson family, O'Neill inherited from the defunct village of Minneola some of its former citizens, among these being Charley Hall and family, Hall later becoming sheriff of the county and empire of Holt. Dr. Love, the Shehardt family and Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Bright were among others to come to the county seat.

And Minneola became the cow camp of the Lamont & Richard outfit, their riders trailing 1,500 head of cattle from Arizona to the layout that had taken over the Minneola country.

The O'Neill Sun went out in darkness, but Watson's Coleridge Blade still cuts a swath, now wielded by Vance D. Vierglutz. Coleridge is about as far to the northeast as you can go in Nebraska.

A 32-year-old Lincoln father told the story of killing his 3-year-old son, then goes into court and brazenly pleads "innocent." The story was that his wife divorced him, the wife being awarded custody of the child. Out of the regions of human cussedness that father took the life of the son rather than see the mother have her child. Is our state's capital punishment adequate for such as he? Lincoln, once sneered at as the "Holy City," has had in the past 10 years 16 violent human killings.

Looking back 56 years, a week in July, 1901: Jake Hershiser, an early day drug clerk in O'Neill but at the time in Norfolk, spent a few days with friends here. Mrs. J. C. Hayes of Park City, Utah, was spending some time with friends in O'Neill. Miss Flora Lowrie of the Rev. N. S. Lowrie family, formerly of O'Neill but at the time residents of Lincoln, visited friends here. Miss Maude Gillespie assumed the duties of a clerk in the Mann store. William Pohart of Page and Edith Larsen of Stafford were issued license to wed. James McNichols of Butte, Mont., was visiting here in the S. F. McNichols home. Tom Morris went to Meadow Grove to assume duties in a drug store there. John Daly of the Star community sustained the loss of five of his herd, struck by lightning. J. P. Mann, in the mercantile business the past 10 years in O'Neill, left for Chicago where he assumes larger business operations. John Carr was up from Stafford for a day or two. Miss Sadie Skirving was spending a few days in our capital city. Dr. Gilligan was a Sioux City business visitor.

Grand Island, the metropolis of central Nebraska, just north of where the crystal waters of the Platte flow, has been on the map for a total of 100 years. The late Sam Barnard, many years in O'Neill, was born down there about the time the Island City got started as a trading post for the caravans crossing the plains.

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### When You & I Were Young . . .

## 2 O'Neillites Are on Ditched Train

### Juanita Wry, Bride-Elect, Feted

50 Years Ago Mrs. A. F. Rouse celebrated her 73rd birthday anniversary at a party. All the children and grandchildren were present. Mrs. P. C. Gatz and daughter, Mrs. F. G. Cliff, were on the Union Pacific train that ditched three miles from Fremont. They were returning from Columbus. Miss Juanita Wry of Chambers was feted at a linen shower. She and S. Wood Jarman of Omaha were granted a marriage license. Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Simonsen gave what we farmers call a "dinner" to the following: O. B. Hatch and family, Mr. and Mrs. William Roberts, John Berger, Mr. and Mrs. Calmer Simonsen, Frank Hatch, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Berger and others. It was a meal that only farm women are capable of getting up. After 20 people had gratified their hunger, the table still groaned from being overloaded with good things to eat.

20 Years Ago Arrowhead, a racing horse raised and trained by Sheriff Peter Duffy, was burned to death in a fire at the Ak-Sar-Ben stables in Omaha, that caused the death of two men and about 75 horses. Deaths: Jerome Marnig of Yankton, S. D., formerly of Emmett; Mrs. May Simpson of O'Neill. Miss Eileen Enright was married to Thomas Smealak of Norfolk. Cob Olson and Arthur King have charge of decorating the Country club for the annual golf tournament. Miss Muriel Brittell and Miss Luella Hartford are attending summer school at Chadron Normal school.

10 Years Ago The Page area was hard hit by a combination wind, rain and hail storm. The Fred Allen place, 3 1/2 miles southeast of Page, was hardest hit. Ralph Grey and four occupants, who were driving, stopped their car because of the heavy downpour and wind. When the ignition was off, the car was lifted 25 yards in the air. None was hurt. Jesse L. Scofield was struck by a heart attack while fishing. Joseph A. Weibel was buried in Deloit. Paul Moseman and John Berigan were representatives to Boys' State in Lincoln.

### One Year Ago

Deaths: Mrs. Harry Snyder of Inman; Mrs. Mary Donlin; Mrs. G. F. Timmerman; Rudolph Wetzer of Herrick, S. D.; Walter W. Wyant, who died at a rest home in Genoa; Brian Ray Samms, 10 month child of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Samms of Wichita, Kans. The twins of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Funk of Deloit were feted at a shower. The Funkns have five other children.

BASSETT—Former services for Ira Luck, 81, funeral Long Pine postmaster, were held here Tuesday, June 4.

### Mrs. A. O. Webber Oldest Mother at Afternoon Tea

EWING—A pastel shade of green with many bouquets of lovely irises and roses were used in the table decorations for the mother-daughter tea held Thursday afternoon at the annex of the United Presbyterian church. The affair was sponsored by the Woman's Missionary Society. Approximately one hundred persons attended.

Mrs. Pearl Tuttle gave the welcome. Numbers on the program included: Reading, "Just Like My Mother," by Joane Miller. "Pantomime play, 'Just Hats'." Miss Sherry Tuttle was the narrator, Miss Sandra Shradler, vocalist, and Mrs. Wilbur Spangler, pianist. Other participants were Joan and Judy Spangler, Kay Bergstrom, Sandra Teltender.

"A Telephone Conversation on a Party Line", by Miss Linda Tuttle; a solo, "My Mom", by Miss Shradler. Mrs. Wilbur Bennett, president of the society, presented gifts, to Mrs. Robert Montgomery, the youngest mother in attendance; Mrs. A. O. Weber of Page, the oldest mother; Mrs. Wilson Spangler, mother with the most daughters present; and Mrs. May Shradler, grandmother with the most grandchildren present. She had nine grandchildren and one great-grandchild present.

Mrs. Roland Horde was chairman of the program committee and was assisted by Mrs. Leo Miller and Mrs. Lionel Gunter. Decorating committee included Mrs. Verl Tuttle, chairman, Alice Shradler, Ina Bennett, Mrs. William M. Ross, Mrs. Webb Napier and Mrs. Kittie Fry.

Mrs. Willie Shradler was chairman of the menu and kitchen committee and was assisted by other members of the society. Girls of the Junior Missionary society were waitresses.

### Trucker Encounters 52 Curves While on 5-Mile Stretch

PAGE—Jerome Allen, Page trucker, has just returned from Charles Town, W. Va., having taken a load of cattle to the Polka Dot Farms there. The cattle were from the Melcher ranch, south of town, and the J. J. Jelinek and sons ranch at Verdigris.

Mr. Allen reported "nice sightseeing", but complained of 52 curves on a five-mile stretch in the Cumberland mountains. Polka Dot Farms lived up to its tradition, Mr. Allen said, having been impressed by the large pillared colonial style mansion, elaborate tenant houses, show barns and yards.

### Ewing News

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Olson were guests memorial day at the home of her brother, Merwin Stroppe, and family at Venus. They also attended the memorial services held at the Venus church.

Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ludwig Koenig on decoration day were Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Koenig and son, Jerry, Mr. and Mrs. James Koenig and Cheryl Rae, all of Ewing, Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Roth of Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schiffbauer of Norfolk were guests of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. William Hobbs and family, on memorial day.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Tomjack were honored guests at a 1 o'clock dinner Sunday, June 2, at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hawk. The occasion was to celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Lee and Mr. and Mrs. William Cannon of Omaha.

Mrs. Eva Schroeder of Bonesteel, S. D., was a guest Sunday, June 2, at the home of her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Schroeder, and family. Other guests the same day were Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Schroeder and children of Ewing.

Miss Geraldine Bauer was a June 1-2 guest at the home of her mother, Mrs. Rose Bauer.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Eacker accompanied by Mrs. Thomas Eacker and three daughters went to Cedar Rapids and Grand Island memorial day. Mrs. Catherine Indra, Holt extension agent, gave a demonstration on outdoor cookery Monday at the Ewing park. Present were

Mrs. J. L. Pruden, Mrs. Andrew Olson, Mrs. Harold VanVleck, Mrs. Ralph Tomjack, Mrs. Workmeister, Mrs. Ralph Eacker.

spent memorial day with her mother, Mrs. Grace Briggs. She returned Saturday, accompanied by her mother who will spend several days with her.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Woepffel returned to Omaha Sunday after visiting with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Woepffel, during the June 1-2 weekend. Karen Woepffel accompanied them home from a week's visit.

Guests at the Albert Larson home on decoration day were their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Starr, and daughter of West Point, Mrs. Linda Smith and Mrs. Elmer Groene, both of Oakland.

Mrs. Dorothy Vaughn of Omaha

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Editorial

## Dairy Industry Is Important

June is dairy month and the American Dairy association is going all out in publicity to remind folks of the importance of dairy products and foods.

The finest foods in the world come from dairy products: ice cream, milk, butter, cheese, to name a few.

Dairying means much to Holt county. Thousands and thousands of dollars in income find their way into the bank accounts of dairy farmers in this area. Actually, it's a surprising amount in view of the fact that this is the eastern edge of the sandhills, noted principally for its beef cattle.

Holt county farmers alone produce more than 1 1/4 million pounds of butterfat annually and the industry easily ranks as a million dollar proposition.

O'Neill is the home of Harding's butter, which is shipped in carload lots to the eastern seaboard and, of course, is distributed in the area for retail sale.

Beatrice Foods, Inc., a rapidly-growing national concern, has a branch plant here and its Meadow Gold products are distributed many miles in all directions. Robert Dairy of Omaha and Gillette's Dairy of Norfolk also maintain distribution staffs here.

All told the dairy industry—from the purchase of butterfat through the phases of manufacturing, processing, wholesale and retail distribution—easily ranks as one of O'Neill's biggest industries.

Thousands of dollars are spent in salaries, rentals, leases, operation and maintenance of fleets of vehicles, and these organizations respond to community betterment projects.

Dairy month is a good time to take cognizance of the importance of this industry to the economy of our area and of our city.

As announced in The Frontier last week, the American Dairy association is searching for a Nebraska dairy queen, and several aspiring Holt county lassies will be entered in the district competition to be held Friday in Norfolk. The candidates must be 17-years-old, or over, must have a farm or dairy background and must never have been a professional model.

Last year's Nebraska and American dairy queen was Sheri Lewis of Daykin, and she will help pick the 1937 queen.

### Belated Support for Joe

David Lawrence's U. S. News & World Report, a dandy book usually noted for its objective and comprehensive reporting, in the June 7 issue reviewed the record of the late Sen. Joseph McCarthy (R-Wisc.).

Mr. Lawrence, editorially, came to these conclusions: Most of Joe's utterances and statements for which he was "condemned" in the senate were issued voluntarily outside of senate immunity and in non-legal circumstances, and nobody ever stuck him with libel. Some of Joe's controversial remarks were provoked by his political adversaries, Lawrence wrote.

Many senators employed harsher and more vindictive words in attacking Joe both in and outside the senate, USN&WR says and quotes the senate records.

Even President Harry S. Truman had discomfiting words to say about Joe. Yet nobody else was "condemned."

Mr. Lawrence's piece was excellently written and does much to clear the atmosphere for a great champion for freedom of speech and a great American hero.

But after reading Mr. Lawrence's scholarly editorial, one question rises: Why does Mr. Lawrence wait until after Joe's demise to come to the rescue when all of the essential facts set out in his editorial were the same two years ago as they are now?

### Safety Pin Gets New Twist

Trouble with most of us is that we take everything for granted, we can't see beyond our noses, we have no imagination.

Yet, most of us will sit around and moan and wish that we "could be lucky and invent something."

If wishes were horses, beggars would ride, so goes the old saying, and if wishes were dollars we'd all be millionaires.

Countless millions have looked in exasperation at safety pins, after getting a pricked finger. Everybody knew that the safety pin was not perfect in itself but nobody did anything about it.

Now, they have come out with what is described as the "first new development in the safety pin field in 4,000 years."

It's in the testing stage at Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing—a pin made of wire and plastic, assembled with a twist so the point is always shielded from fingers, or baby, by a plastic head.

The fact that we have something new in 4,000 years is not important in itself as much as the fact that some genius took a new look at established procedure.

It illustrates the need for more and more research on the everyday business of living.

There is always the golden opportunity for the individual with vision, a quality so sadly lacking in most of us.

Perhaps these twisties, as we call them, are the worst of all storms because they form so suddenly and strike with little warning, causing utter destruction.



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