

Prairieland Talk—

'57 'Worst Blizzard' a Misnomer

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

LINCOLN — A popular little publication came out with a story in its last month's issue telling of "the worst blizzard in the plains states in the memory of anyone now living."

But how many now living heard of it, experienced it, survived it, while others they knew or heard about froze to death in "the worst blizzard in the memory of those now living"—the blizzard which swept the plains states on January 12, 1888, leaving prairieland strewn with dead cattle, here-and-there a man, a woman, a country school teacher found frozen to death.



SAUNDERS

There was the grandmother of the Dustin community on her way to Stuart with her little granddaughter found frozen, the school teacher in a haystack less than 10 miles out from O'Neill, a homesteader northwest of town, two others on the open prairie of Wheeler county. From other localities came stories of those found frozen.

That was the one "plains states" weather event that is memorialized by the January Blizzard club which meets annually on January 12 in Lincoln.

What the weatherman did on the "plains states" last March was a summer afternoon compared to that day in January 69 years ago.

It is said to be an invasion from Asia. Probably the kids down at Albion are glad for the invasion that has closed up the town schools. A number of cases of flu impelled the authorities in the Boone county town to prohibit public gatherings and close the schools.

Two and a half miles east of the northeast limits of O'Neill a homesteader in the long ago wanted to sell his claim and take to the open road. So he painted on a board and put it on a stake out in front where a stray passerby might see it. This was the notice: "For Sale." With the time when winds blew and dust from the field on that homesteader's land filled the air observed that his claim was sailing. Whether the wronged sale banner was floated through ignorance or spelled that way to attract attention, the homesteader got a buyer in the person of Frank Huntley. The Huntley family lived there some years and then went to a little town in Colfax county, later moving to Stanton. Maybe Den Murphy, a mile east and a mile north of O'Neill, is one survivor of the "Michigan settlement" who may remember the "sail" notice and the Huntleys who fell for it.

An unorthodox religious group says "all persons of goodwill are welcome." Probably meaning if you will be good. I had the impression that a church was the place to teach you to be good. But here is one devotional center where you qualify either as a spectator or worshiper only if you have "goodwill".

Striped in fancy colors, with neither feet nor hands, snakes move noiselessly through the grass to nab their prey. Beware of the false teachers with a "message".

Editorial—

Bayonets Not the Answer

In a peculiarly unfortunate manner the Little Rock incident (perhaps we should call it a tragedy) has caused a degree of disintegration of national unity and has given comfort to America's foes across the sea.

Neither side in the struggle has been fairly represented. The supreme court edict of 1954, pressed for political reasons, resulted in an unprecedented use of force, i.e. escorting of colored students into a previously all-white school. On the other hand, the shouting mobs of Little Rock, which appeared only after a Northern federal judge had ordered Governor Faubus to remove state troops, did not represent the intelligent Southern people whose deep feelings in the matter date back for generations.

It would be folly for any one to say the Negro of the South has not been abused and restrained. It would be unfair to say that the black race has not been making big strides—particularly since World War II.

President Eisenhower made a horrible mistake in throwing federal troops into the arena—an abuse of the states' rights principle that might have far-reaching and unending effect. The Omaha World-Herald goes so far as to say the bayonet establishes the principle; the atom bomb for Little Rock could be next because from now on it's a matter of degree.

The New York Daily News points out that the U.S. supreme court jurists of 1954 and 1957 arrange to send their sons and daughters to all-white schools. Governor Faubus, on the other hand, sends his son to an integrated college in Arkansas—a state college—which became integrated since Faubus became governor. The Arkansas governor has appointed Negroes to boards and commissions, elevating them to highest positions the race has ever known in that state.

The Christian Science Monitor, which usually beats the drums for Ike, says: "Those who dream that federal forces are a final answer (to integration) face a sharp awakening."

Two weeks ago in these columns (the day before the Newport, R.I., conference between Ike and Faubus) we proclaimed the states' rights principle to be the most serious aspect of the Little Rock picture, and we proclaimed support of that principle. In the light of what has happened we reaffirm our position.

Little Rock was bound to happen somewhere as the South prepares for "massive resistance" to integration. It is probably better the showdown should take place there rather than in the deep, deep South.

The downtrodden Negro will be the loser; may be set back a hundred years. Ike's quest for the Negro vote will backfire because, as David Lawrence of U.S. News & World Report says, for every Negro vote that is gained the republicans will lose 10 Northern votes out of a distasteful military thinking that applies force to a social problem and kisses off the states' rights principle, which is a basic in our American form of government. One need not look too far in our own area to

Strolling the streets during my last visit to the county seat of the empire of Holt, I ventured into an office in the Golden hotel building to find Miss Florence Ponton seated at a desk. She arose from her seat and greeted me cordially. Her office is well appointed, orderly and inviting. Afflicted as Miss Ponton has been, she may well have become a charge on others, but rather has faced life with a smile of determination to become an able business woman and take a place in the affairs of the community in which fate or fortune has found her. Miss Ponton has taken on a large order of insurance, real estate, loans and bonds and puts her name and seal to documents as a qualified notary. She told me business keeps her occupied on the job and she appears happy, along with her friends, to have it so.

Fred Zimmer of Hartington, Jack Lough of Albion, Ralph Cox of Arapahoe and Bob Bogue of Oakland took a party of Nebraska newspaper editors that looked to the air to witness the North-Atlantic war games. . . . Processed, bottled and some put into fancy cartons, taken around in three-thousand-dollar trucks with a \$10 a day driver at the steering wheel—that's why you pay 24 cents for a nickel's worth of milk. . . . A threatened strike of workers at a Lincoln plant employing many workers was averted by an hourly increase of a few cents in pay. The company passes it on to those buying their product. . . . James Lawrence, for many years editor of the Lincoln Star and a member of the executive board of the Nebraska State Historical society, died September 17 at the age of 68.

Apples, peaches, pears, tomatoes in glass jars, row-upon-row on shelves, prepared by toiling hands of wives and mothers looking well to the needs of households. Another "canning season" has put in store the fruits of tree and vine and will disappear through open mouths as winter days come and go. I do not wish for many fancy things, only to be there when the dinner bell rings and reach for the pear and peach those toiling hands had prepared for each and all of the household group lining up for their dish of flavored soup.

Sunlight spreads in radiance across the landscape as morning comes again and prairieland lies in calm autumn charm under a canopy of blue spread across the heavens. Morning passes, noonday has come and gone, evening and the glow of sunset, after that the dark; and the sheer delight of the starlit night when Northern Lights go out. Summer has passed, flowers faded and down the highway comes a day when we crawl into overcoats, cap and mittens.

Julius D. Cronin is now a bank president. I had hoped some day to see J. D. dispensing justice from one of our honorable judicial thrones. The passing of time has caught him in filthy lucre's grip and exalted him to the presidency of one of the three or four banking houses, but he still stands at the top of the list of North Nebraska's legal lights.

A gentleman from Havana, Cuba, in Lincoln, I chanced to visit, having known him when he was a Nebraskan. He said the political situation on the island is tense—much the same as the situation the world around. He had come to Lincoln to see his son started in college and was traveling by automobile and by ocean-going conveyance when reaching land's end.

find racial segregation. The federal government maintains Indian reservations on a segregated basis, and, in some communities, unruly Indians are ordered out of town when the sun goes down. Shades of the South!

Gov. Frank Clement of Tennessee estimates 90 to 95 percent of the whites and blacks in his state are contented with the status quo, which sees the lot of the Negro improving slowly but steadily.

Water Is Treasure

So prodigal have we been with our abundant water supply, that water has become our most precious natural resource. More precious than gold or oil or gas or timber or even uranium.

For, like air, water is essential to life. You can go without food longer than you can go without water. You can feed on yourself but only a camel carries his own reservoir of water.

The experts who are paid to know such things tell us that industry will soon be as careful to locate plants where water supply is ample as once it sought sites along railroad rights-of-way or near markets. It is going back to the days when towns located along rivers for navigation, only now it's not navigation, but water to drink and wash and cure.

North Nebraska—particularly northeast Nebraska—is blessed with an abundance of streams. The Conoco Touraide is authority for the fact that the northeast sector of this state has more river mileage than any state in the union. Take our own locale for example. Beginning near the southern boundary of Holt and proceeding northward you encounter a host of man-sized streams—some of which are not seen from highways: Cedar, Cache, South Fork, Elkhorn, Eagle, Redbird, Eagle, Ponca, Verdigre, Missouri. Most of our so-called creeks are rivers by standards in the East or in England. The Niobrara is the swiftest plains stream in the world.

A book might be written on the phenomena of the flowing wells in southern Holt—where you almost draw water by sticking an endgate rod in the ground.

Water seems to be in abundance here.



CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

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"Can you imagine anybody crazy enough to get up this early in the morning to go fishing?"

When You & I Were Young . . . Speed On Continues to Win At Tracks

Dave Stannard's Fast Pacer Clicks

50 Years Ago Mrs. A. L. Cowperthwaite's mother, Mrs. Ida Peterson of Beaver Crossing, caught a 10-pound pickerel at South Fork. The head of the fish was exhibited at Gallagher's store. . . . Dave Stannard's fast pacer, Speed On, is still winning the money. . . . Ann Carroll O'Neill, 82, mother of Hugh O'Neill, died at her son's home 30 miles north of here. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jake Ernst, sr., returned from a three weeks' visit with relatives and friends in South Dakota, Sioux City and LeMars, Ia.

30 Years Ago Supervisor John A. Carson's auto was stolen in front of the courthouse. . . . Robert Earley and Ernest Steskal, north of Emmet, were injured in an auto accident. . . . Deaths: Joseph Boyle, 56. . . . Omaha Bee-News was sold to the World-Herald. . . . Walter De-Vall ran a rusty nail in his foot. . . . Rev. P. F. Burke, who has been assistant at St. Patrick's church, was transferred to North Omaha.

10 Years Ago Michael ("Mike") O'Sullivan of Phoenix, Ariz., formerly of O'Neill, was "snubbed" in a fashionable Boston restaurant because he did not and would not wear a coat to breakfast. He was asked to leave. He wrote a letter to the Boston Herald and was rebuked. . . . Rosetta Bradley, 4, daughter of Mrs. Alfred Bradley, returned from a Lincoln hospital after being treated for polio. . . . Ivan Pruss suffered a severe injury to his right arm near the wrist in a power saw accident.

One Year Ago Ralph Tooker, an employee of the Municipal airport, suffered a broken leg when his car overturned. . . . Deaths: Homer E. Asher, 59; Mrs. May M. Landis, 68; Mrs. Nora Henderson, 84, of Page; Joseph Niezgocki, 87, of Atkinson.

Pamphlets, Recipes Are Distributed

EWING—The Facts and Fun Home extension club met last Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Harry Van Horn.

The lesson and demonstration on "Cookies", presented by Mrs. Van Horn and Mrs. J. L. Pruden, included topics on kinds of cookies, decorating, storing and kinds and best for mailing. A general discussion brought out some interesting experiences of the homemakers present. Pamphlets and recipes were given each following the demonstration.

Guests were Mrs. Mary Malone from California, Mrs. Robert Van Horn of Page and Mrs. Frank Schmidt, who became a member. Lunch was served by the hostess.

Next meeting of the club will be held Thursday, October 8, when the lesson to be given will be "The Lady and the Law."

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DR. H. D. GILDERSLEEVE OPTOMETRIST Northeast Corner of 4th & Douglas O'NEILL, NEBR. Phone 167 Office Hours: 9-5 Eyes Examined — Glasses Fitted Monday Thru Saturday

Bake Sale Planned Saturday at Inman

INMAN—The Womens department of the RLDS church held its regular meeting Tuesday afternoon, September 19, with Mrs. William C. Kelley, Plans

were completed for the bake sale to be held at the fall festival October 5.

Mr. and Mrs. H. W. ("Pete") Herford went to Fremont Monday, September 23, to visit Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Roberts for a few days.

Dr. Donald E. David OPTOMETRIST Eyes Examined Glasses Fitted Phone 2101 Spencer

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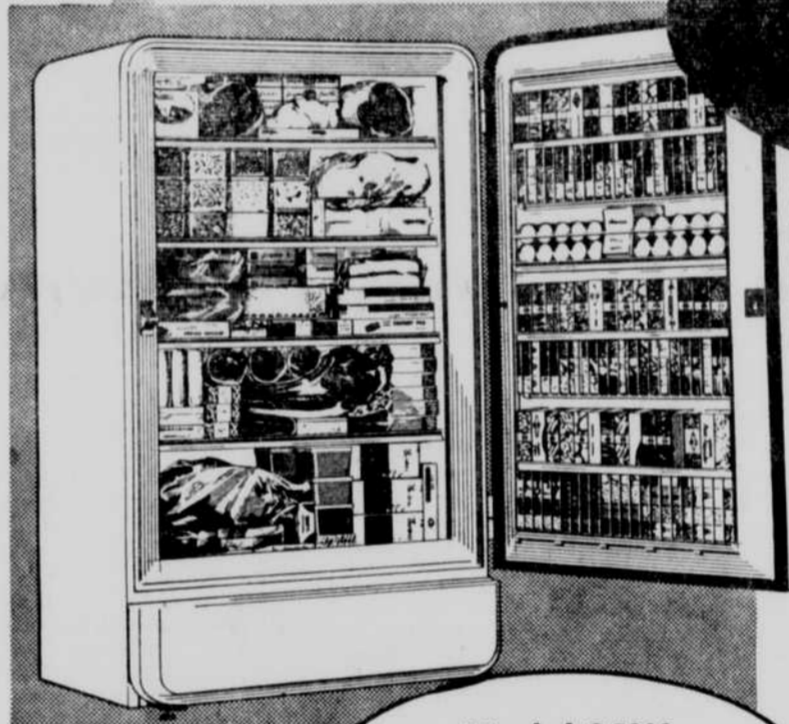
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