

Prairieland Talk . . .

'Ma' Summers Brought a Goose

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN—Let brotherly love continue, be not forgetful to entertain strangers. Advice that comes to us from one who enjoyed the fellowship, the brotherly love of devoted followers until he was led to a Roman execution and his head fell from the blood-stained block.

Brotherly love compels us, not at the point of a gun, to open the hand to a needy fellow being, minister to the unfortunate, maybe to deprive yourself of a comfort in order to help a less fortunate person.

An oldtimer known as Tige, once a familiar figure around O'Neill, deplored the lack of the spirit of brotherly love, saying, "Everybody for himself and the devil take the hindmost." Tige was a bit cynical, born of a hard experience in his day.

Organized charity has done much to lessen the feeling of responsibility on the part of individuals in this respect.

People chip in their two bits to the Red Cross, the chest fund and other charitable and worthy undertakings. I wonder if that meets all that is involved in the command respecting brotherly love. There is a sort of group brotherly feeling—he or she belongs to our crowd. It's alright to have special friends.

Out and beyond the circle of close friends and associates brotherly love inspires a handshake, a smile and a word of cheer for those bowed under life's burdens, give a lift to a fallen fellow being and stop a moment to dry the tears of a little child.

Editor Cal seems to have had better luck with the products of what he graciously refers to as Tech institutions than has been my lot through many years dealing with competent and incompetents who assayed to become craftsmen in the "art preservative of all arts." Interesting to learn that the trades school at Milford has turned out at least two experts, and that O'Neill has one of them. No doubt he had what it takes and would have made a mark in the business world anyway. Students at the state medical school have real sick people and lots of them to experiment on, and you get neither money and without out price. If economy in government is to be realized, a start must be made on something. It is presumption, if not shameful, to contend with the boss, but that is a Yankee privilege. One may see only the beauty of the rose, another is torn by its thorns.

Mrs. M. A. Summers — we used to call her "Ma"—one of prairieland's grand old ladies, has withstood the storms, enjoyed the pleasures and shed smiles and sunshine along life's highway for 93 years. It was in those days of struggle for a livelihood during the early 1930's that Mrs. Summers brought in a fat goose for a Thanksgiving treat for The Frontier force, consisting of my son, Glenn, and dad. We closed shop, drove home down by Amelia and roast goose with all the trimmings were features for that Thanksgiving day. Mrs. Summers' happy outlook on life, together with the hardihood of a Scotch Conventer background, accounts for her survival these many years and we trust she will yet see the year that marks for her a full century.



Romaine Saunders

School district 266 in Swan precinct has a school house because Frank Kellogg employed Attorney R. R. Dickson in 1906 and went to court, the judge granted the preemptory mandamus that made the school board get busy and put up the school house which had been authorized by the voters of the district and the money being available. And I think that is the same school house where the patriots in Swan go to vote. . . . A day that year word came from Chicago, Ill., that H. O. Jackson, who had been in the insurance business in O'Neill, said to have punched the nose of M. P. Kinkaid and married an O'Neill girl, had bought the American Clook company for a consideration of \$100,000. . . . Miller & Paine, a swank department store still functioning in Lincoln, took a spot in The Frontier of November 15, 1906, to announce that they were sending a representative to O'Neill to interest the ladies in fur coats, the representative to be contacted at Hotel Evans.

The word of the 11 apostles was to go to all the world and make over the pagans and through the 11 to succeeding generations. After nearly 2,000 years at the job less than 35 percent of the earth's multitudes are counted as Christian.

THE PRAIRIE

From the Missouri river's muddy tide Westward toward the Continental divide, From Dakota's rugged Badlands Southward, here lies the wonderous prairie-lands—

Its loveliness our admiration demands. Cities, towns and country, homes And open spaces where the wilding roams. Rivers, lakes and sparkling brooks, Waving fields of grain and sheltered nooks, Grass lands feeding countless herds, Nesting places for prairie birds.

From dawn to sunset the landscape charms the eye, A thousand dots of light adorn the evening sky. This is prairieland where contented people dwell And think this land of promise is "just swell."

Genius is often envied, talent admired, virtue esteemed brilliant minds respected; but the envy is cruel, the admiration distant, the esteem cold. The towering highbrow inspires a bit of awe. His talents are useful in a pinch. He reads the rock strata and assumes the attributes of omnipotence but without the ability to create the smallest living thing or make enduring friendships. Quite different is the cheerful guy. There is a mellow radiance in his smile and heart-warming spirit in his presence that the blaze of intellect does not impart. The cheerful soul sheds an atmosphere of happiness without hilarious outbursts, without the vulgar and vain and profane boastings of the four-flusher. Cheerfulness endears one to the heart; we admire the intellectual—we love the cheerful guy.

A mother down in old Virginia, in sight of the nation's capitol dome, calmly admits tossing her unwanted infant into a burning fiery furnace. Crazy? No. Human depravity only account for such nameless horror.

Delaware and Pennsylvania, two of the original, have been making a go of it as states since 1787. Arizona and New Mexico, the two last territories within the boundaries of the two oceans, were admitted to statehood in 1912. Hawaii and Alaska citizens feel they are ready for statehood.

Editorial . . .

O'Neill--Martyr of Weatherman

And so it happened again. O'Neill was buffeted and pummeled unmercifully last week by Ol' Man Winter during a nightmarish 48-hour stretch that won't soon be forgotten.

History-making blizzards are getting to be a habit—or so it seems to weather-hardened Holt countyans.

Still fresh in everyone's mind are the now-famous Recurring Blizzards of 1948-49, innocently beginning with a combination rain-sleet-snow storm on November 17 and 18, 1948. During the ensuing 10 weeks layer-after-layer of snow piled up, totaling some 120 inches. The mechanized U.S. Fifth army with bulldozers and weasels finally dug out the beleaguered residents and the American Red Cross did a grand relief job.

The most notable storm of the Recurring Blizzards was on January 2, 1949, when misery was dealt in the form of subzero temperatures and a huge volume of snow, borne by strong winds, spilled in the region.

The January 2 debacle was a freakish thing, so Omaha's Weatherman E. F. Stapowich explained. A large storm developed over the south-west mountain states, collided over north-central Nebraska with a mass of cold air drawn from the north by a low-pressure area. Subsequent weather charts showed that the storm, doing a 180-degree turn, slapped O'Neill from three directions—north, west and south—and deposited an abundance of snow on the earlier residue. From that moment on the problems of citizenry here grew serious and remained so for the rest of the winter. Three Holt countyans perished.

Then came March 7, 1950—a truly infamous day in Holt county history. A wind measuring up to 85-miles-per-hour in velocity swept across northwest Nebraska and roared through O'Neill. Except the temperature never got down to zero, the loss of human life and livestock might have been appalling. Snow was driven into crevices never before discovered by nature's white stuff. Holt countyans dug out, flexed their muscles, and went about their workday tasks.

Late Wednesday, last week, the mercury began to skid, snow began falling and cautious wayfarers began filling up O'Neill hostleries. By Thursday morning, it was obvious a man-sized winter's storm was at hand.

The westbound mainline passenger-mail train on the Chicago & North Western reached O'Neill 40 minutes late. Little did anyone realize it was to be the last scheduled train on that road for more than 40 hours.

Commercial and business activities and traffic began grinding to a halt. By nightfall the die was cast and the weatherman predicted zero temperatures and winds up to 55-miles-per-hour for the next day—Friday.

O'Neillites braced themselves and went to bed to await the worst. At Omaha, Lincoln and Grand Island, however, residents were blithely enjoying rain, movies and basketball games.

The meteorologists had been painfully accurate if not slightly conservative in their predictions. Anyone who didn't sample the outdoors on Friday morning will never know how devastating and breath-taking the blizzard that raged.

Swirling snow filled the air, a strong north wind bowled over anything in its path, and

mountainous snowbanks suddenly appeared outside your window.

In the late hours Friday night the storm began to recede and Saturday dawned bright and crisp. Residents lost no time in buckling into the giant drifts and by midday a warm sun contributed to the settling and shrinking of drifts by 15 or 20 percent.

A 73-year-old O'Neill farmer and a 20-year-old Osmond woman died, both indirectly blamed on the storm.

Stapowich had an explanation for the strange goings-on that so closely resembled the January 2, 1949, fiasco. "A well-developed, large storm, centered over northern New Mexico was responsible," he said. "The low-pressure area over Nebraska was pulling cold Canadian air down from the north, but shooting warm air up from the south in a counter-clockwise motion. That was responsible for the wide difference in weather between southeast and northwest Nebraska."

Of course, O'Neill got the brunt of the snow. These paragraphs on Ol' Man Winter's behavior in retrospect are not particularly important unless it might point up that for the past four years, anyway, O'Neill has been a martyr of the weatherman.

A news story in The Frontier last week heralds the scheduled speaking engagement here of Former Congressman Howard Buffett of Omaha. Buffett might well be remembered in congress as a prophet born five, 10 or 20 years too soon. The Frontier believes he's been on the right track incredibly often and we will look with anticipation for what he has to offer when he speaks before the Northeast Nebraska County Officials' association in O'Neill on March 12.

Unsung heroes of the recent blizzard: Those power and telephone linemen who braved everything the weatherman could throw at 'em to mend communications breaks for your comfort and convenience; also a tip of the hat to the highway and street employees who did a whale of a job digging us out.

The Milford trade school lives, escaping abolishment 6-3 in a unicameral committee hearing. We're glad.

THE FRONTIER

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Retires from Service

M/Sgt. Lloyd C. Caufield (above), formerly of Verdigre and Lynch, retired in January after 25½ years of military service. He served almost 19 years as a member of the army and after World War II transferred to the air force. Sergeant Caufield and his wife are residing in Arizona. He is a son of Mrs. Hulda Caufield of O'Neill and a brother of Mrs. Joseph Cunningham.

Cattle Eat Snow in Lieu of Water

Emergency Feed Is Handy

CELIA—The big news story this week is snow and strong winds last Thursday and Friday which piled up huge drifts all over and made watering and feeding cattle an almost impossible task. Most farmers have hay nearby where cattle are kept to use in an emergency, and this was the time it really came in handy. A lot of cattle ate snow for a few days before water could be opened for them.

Other Celia News

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Lauridsen and family and Leona Beckwith were Wednesday evening, February 18, supper guests at the Lawrence Smith home.

Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg attended circle meeting at the home of Mrs. Ralph Chace Wednesday, February 18. Ten members and one visitor, Mrs. Pearl Wahl, were present. Next meeting will be with Mrs. Paul Schultz.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hendricks and family were Sunday, February 22, dinner guests at the Mark Hendricks home.

Mrs. Darel Bright, teacher of Hendricks school, came from home Thursday, February 19, to teach school and was unable to return home. She spent the weekend with the Emil Colfack family.

Fred Mack, Harry Ressel of O'Neill and Lee Sellon of Randolph were Wednesday, February 18, visitors at the D. F. Scott home.

A snow plow opened roads Monday so a lot of neighbors

went to town after needed supplies. Mrs. D. F. Scott attended circle meeting at the Wes Gage home Wednesday, February 18. Ten members were present.

Mrs. Gene Livingston spent the weekend at the Charles Dobias home as she was unable to return home on account of the blizzard.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Beck were Wednesday, February 18, visitors at the Emil Colfack home.

Mr. and Mrs. George Beck spent Wednesday, February 18, at the Duane Beck home.

(Last week's news)

Friday, pupils of the Lauridsen school district 147, also pupils from the Hendricks and Celia schools, attended the International Harvester company's show in the ag building in Atkinson.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Colfack were O'Neill visitors Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Pease were O'Neill visitors Friday.

Mrs. D. F. Scott attended the Shakespeare club meeting at the home of Mrs. Hazel Pitzer Friday afternoon.

George Schaaf, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Schaaf, celebrated his 11th birthday anniversary at school on Wednesday afternoon, February 11. His mother sent chili, jello and cake to school to serve all the pupils and teacher, Miss Leona Beckwith.

Jim Lauridsen was an O'Neill visitor Wednesday morning, February 11.

Bill Carroll and Duane Beck helped Emil Colfack Monday, February 9.

Clarence Focken was an O'Neill visitor last Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Colfack, Shirley and Dennis visited the Earl Schlotfeld home on Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Focken and family were supper guests at the Joe Hendricks home and helped Jimmy Hendricks celebrate his 13th birthday anniversary.

Mrs. O. A. Hendricks attended the Atkinson Country Women's club last Thursday at the home of Mrs. Robert Fullerton. Assisting hostesses were Mrs. Daisy Genuing, Mrs. Albert Hill, Mrs. Fritz Dunn, Mrs. Louie Siebert and Mrs. Ray Elder. Eighteen members and five visitors were present. The visitors were Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Johnson, Mrs. Maude Clifford, Mrs. Bertha Fullerton and Merrill Smith. Valentine gifts were distributed, also grab bag gifts. The next meeting will be with Mrs. Jim Beck. Markita Hendricks, June and Karen Focken spent the weekend with Alice Focken in Atkinson.

Denton Colfack and Buddy Focken spent the weekend in town and attended the PFA meeting in the ag shop Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Schlotfeld and family spent Sunday, February 8, visiting his brother, John Schlotfeld, and family and father at Fullerton.

Mr. and Mrs. Hans Lauridsen and sons and Jim Lauridsen were supper guests at the Earl Schlotfeld home Sunday.

Mrs. Gene Livingston taught school Saturday to make up time lost due to illness.

Mr. and Mrs. Duane Beck

Dr. Rex W. Wilson, M.D. PHYSICIAN & SURGEON Offices, 128 W. Douglas St. O'Neill Phones: Office 138, Res. 158

.. DANCE .. AT O'NEILL American Legion Auditorium SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28th DICK BROWN and His Orchestra Adm.: Adults \$1, Students 50c

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were O'Neill visitors Friday. Hillside chapel patrons held a valentine party for their young folks at their place of worship Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hendricks and family were Sunday dinner guests at the home of her sister, Mrs. Bob Reiser, and family in Butte. That afternoon they attended a family gathering at the home of their aunt, Mrs. Hod Story, of Butte.

Mrs. Lois Milner and son, Billy, and William Maloun of Lincolnville, Kans., arrived early Sunday morning for a visit with Mrs. Milner's parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hamberg. They left Tuesday morning for home.

Paul Ziska Heads Emmet 4-H Club

The pupils and teacher of district 141 of Emmet met on January 28 to organize a 4-H club. The meeting was held at the school. The following officers were elected: Paul Ziska, president; Connie Brockman, vice-president; Mary Agnes Boyle, secretary; Leo Tunender, reporter; Don Skopce, song leader; Jim Tunender, treasurer; Shirley Tunender, recreation leader, and Mary Agnes Boyle, leader.

Pat McConnell did not join the club because he will be moving away in March. There will be seven members. Our teacher, Miss Mary Agnes Boyle is our leader, and she is also a member of the club.

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The next meeting will be held on February 19, at 4 p.m. at the school. Roll call will be answered by giving the name of your favorite fruit, and each family will bring 10 cents at each meeting for club dues.

All members are taking the project entomology. — By Leo Tunender, news reporter.

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Heriford spent Monday and Tuesday in Omaha on business.

ELKHORN FLOWER SHOP 405 E. DOUGLAS ST. O'NEILL, NEBR. Night Phone 530W Day Phone 579 We Telegraph Flowers Flowers For All Occasions

It Happened In NEBRASKA . . .



In 1870, when the "Burlington and Missouri River Rail Road Company" had pushed as far west as Lincoln, Nebraska, a few towns farther west had been named. So, as the new railroad forged into the unsettled prairie country, it determined the location and names of towns along the route. In alphabetical series: Crete, Dorchester, Exeter, Fairmont, etc.

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