

THE PARSON'S CORNER

By Rev. B. J. Minert, Pastor of the First Baptist Church, Alliance

THE CHAIN LETTER AGAIN

Have you received your letter yet? Several years ago the writer received a "chain letter" in which were a number of prayers for certain subjects and the statement was made that all who offered this prayer for seven days would receive certain great blessings, but that all who neglected or broke the chain by not sending a copy to seven friends with the like advice would suffer a calamity of some kind.

We of course paid no attention to such rot and passed it by, the gravest punishment we received, that might be traced to the failure to pass it on was that we went hunting and killed what the little boy shot at, which was nothing. On that same trip we developed a flat tire, two times. Of course we were sorry that we didn't keep the chain of prayer intact by sending a copy to seven friends with the like suggestions and warning.

Today the writer has received one of the chain letters with a written prayer with the usual warning that to fail to send seven copies to as many friends grave punishment would follow such neglect. Also the promise that a great reward of some kind would come to the one complying with the letter. There is an appeal at the end to not break the chain as it starts in Flanders, France.

Several years ago the statement was made that the prayer started at the place of the grave of our Lord. The prayer is one for the sailors and soldiers. We pay no attention to the epistle because first, the dead soldiers need no such help and second, no prayer of such a nature can be received of God, having the right to decide whether or not we should pray for them.

Third, who is wise enough to pray for enough to the good Lord to be able to tell us what we should pray for, and to be able to foresee what grave calamity should befall what great blessings should come from such prayers?

Again the command to send those chain prayers to women friends only? We tremble at what may happen if the lady of the paragonage should find out that her friends are praying for her.

This smacks too much of religious superstition and fanaticism. It has excited about these so-called chain letters, who in their ignorance feared to "break" the chain. But why fear? Who are these who speak with such authority?

They are as a rule, people of one tender mind, who are easily influenced, and go gaily on some flimsy pretext of their imagination. Read the bible and you will find that there are such fanatical writers, but the so-called religious leaders who work in the dark. Why don't they sign their names?

They don't. They are afraid of the "Endless Prayer." Well, we know of at least one link in the chain. It is the chain, therefore it will have an end, as far as this world is concerned.

Several years ago the government tried to run down one of these so-called chain prayers, but as no name appeared on any of them, really given up. I believe if the originator of these so-called endless prayers could be found we would find that he or she, who professes such religious views, gives a cent to the Salvation Army for every prayer they profess to be so devout in. We believe that a hypocrite would be found who perhaps is trying to sooth and accede to the confidence of some

petty crime committed against some one; perhaps a benefactor. True religion and undefile does not do its work in secret but in the open. Truly it is time that some folks begin to exercise common sense in religion as well as in everything else. Chain of prayers only tends to disgrace true religion. Let us who are the victims of these fanatical letters put an end to them by ignoring them. The waste basket is a good place for these warnings from the graves of Flanders. This same party who is so solicitous of the welfare of the sailors and soldiers now perhaps never turned a hand during the war to ease the burdens of war. We are tempted to believe that this is an effort to sooth the conscience of a political or religious slacker.

Chicken Season Opens Earlier Than Last Year

While in Alliance last week Secretary Leo Stuhr of the state department of agriculture called attention to the fact that the Nebraska fish and game laws were revised by the last legislature and that the new laws take effect on July 28. The law provides that both men and women, over sixteen years of age, must take out a license to hunt or fish.

The open seasons, under the new law, are the same as heretofore with the exception of the season for hunting prairie chicken, which will be open from October 1 to November 1, two weeks earlier than heretofore. The penalty for violation of the chicken season provision has been increased from \$5.00 to \$50.00 and the bag limit is five.

According to Secretary Stuhr there have been 245 prosecutions and convictions under the game laws since January 1 of this year and the laws are to be strictly enforced this year.

The Division of Game and Fish, in the Department of Agriculture, has distributed 10 carloads of fish in lakes and streams of the state this spring. These fish were taken about equally from state hatcheries at Gretna, Valentine and Hurlburt and some were secured by conservation work in seining flooded districts in eastern Nebraska.

The capacity of the hatchery of Valentine has been increased and more breeding and growing ponds added, which will increase production to 300,000 fish.

The special state fish car and crew will begin again on September 1 and will continue until freezing weather comes, subject to favorable conditions. The department intends to distribute 30 cars of fish.

J. C. McCorkle and wife and Mrs. W. R. Harper and daughter Betty, returned from a motor trip to Grand Island. They accompanied Mrs. Inice Dunning to that place where she will remain to specialize in public school music.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell are boarding at Mann's while they are breaking sod for Paska & O'Donnell. We understand they are running five or six tractors on this ranch.

FOWLING

Mr. Laursen was an Alliance visitor Friday. Mann's plants their late potatoes Friday. Mrs. Elsea and Jean spent Tuesday at Hurlburt's. Joe Kennedy started cutting his alfalfa Monday.

Mr. Russell has been plowing for Ben Swanson. Mrs. Jake Elsea motored to Hemingford Thursday. Nola Eaton visited at her sister's Mrs. Hall, Monday.

Another nice rain visit dth vicinity Saturday night. Petersons went fishing Monday night but had no luck. Norie Hurlburt and wife spent Sunday at Jim Kennedy's.

Mrs. Brus and family spent Sunday afternoon at Lou Hood's. Mr. and Mrs. Kilpatrick attended church in Alliance Sunday. We understand that the regular mail carrier will start about July 1.

Orville and Ernest Wilkins spent Sunday afternoon at John Lulu's. Clara and John Brus were callers at the Mann home Thursday evening. Hurlburt attended the races Thursday and took down the Fowling mail.

Neils Peterson and family acted in the capacity of mail carrier Wednesday. The Non-partisan league man was out in this country Thursday and Friday. Fishermen do not seem to be as lively around the Kilpatrick dam as usual.

Arline Mann spent Thursday night with Jean Hall at her Grandmother Elsea. Joe Kennedy and family spent Sunday at her parent's Mr. and Mrs. Wank.

Mrs. Henderson and daughter, Marcuerite were callers at Ab Hall's Monday morning. Edwin Wilkins stayed in Alliance with Mr. Cook last week and took in the big doings.

Mrs. Elsea and daughter, Nola and little granddaughter, Jean Hall, were callers in Alliance Friday. Mr. Belgium spent Monday night at Neils Peterson's. He came from the eastern part of the state.

Mrs. Charles Hall and Anna Hall were callers at Hood's Friday afternoon to see the new boy, Earl Thomas. C. P. Mann drove to Alliance on Wednesday with the team and brought home a new hay sweep with him on Thursday.

Fred Crawford and his hired man were hunting stray horses Sunday morning. He found one of his in Elsea's pasture. There were 39 who attended Sunday school last Sunday. Mr. Epler intended to come out to preach but the roads were so muddy that he couldn't get through.

Mrs. Elsea Hall motored to Alliance Sunday to meet her mother, Mrs. Witham from Lincoln. She spent last week in Alliance with her other daughter, Mrs. Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell are boarding at Mann's while they are breaking sod for Paska & O'Donnell. We understand they are running five or six tractors on this ranch.

Clay Harry, western Nebraska commercial superintendent for the North-western Bell Telephone company, returned Tuesday morning from a business trip of six days which took him to Grand Island, Central City and Sidney. He installed a new branch manager at Sidney.

Lou Hood and sons, Robert and Harold attended the races last Thursday and brought home a new saddle as their old saddles and harness were all destroyed when their barn burned.

Dick Henderson motored to Alliance Monday to see the doctor and to get his wife, who has been visiting in Hemingford for the past week. She was accompanied home by an aunt from Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Rockhold and daughters and their friends, Mr. and Mrs. Manske and son from Minnesota visited at Mann's Sunday evening and took a look at the milking machine. The Manskes live in a timber country so the bare prairies look strange to them.

Effective July 1st, the offices of register and receiver will be consolidated at the local United States land office. The change has been made at the request of the present officers, both of whom have tendered their resignations. T. J. O'Keefe, who has been register for the past eight years, is moving to California to make his home; J. C. Morrow, who has held the post of receiver for the same length of time, will probably enter the insurance game. The income from the offices, which is regulated by the fees received, has shrunk to a low level. James H. H. Hewett, who has held the post of chief clerk in the land office for many years, will undoubtedly be appointed to the consolidated office.

Miss Ethel Swanson, who has been employed in the Dole Variety store for the last two years, has resigned her position. After a short visit with friends, she will return to her home in Chicago. T. E. Carney, wire chief for the Northwestern Bell Telephone company, left with his family on Saturday for a vacation trip of two weeks to O'Neill, Neb., where they have relatives.

American Legion ROUND-UP AT FORT MORGAN, COLO. JULY 4, 5, 6, 7 Colorado's Greatest Celebration 60 REAL LIVE INDIANS. Ten cars Horses, Steers, Calves, etc. Band Concerts, Fireworks, Relay Races, Bulldogging, Bucking Contest, N'Everything. This is Your Chance to Come and Help Celebrate. We Are For You and We Want You With Us on Above Dates. TWENTY BIG EVENTS EVERY DAY. Come Early and Stay Late. If you want us to reserve you a room, write American LEGION ROUND-UP Manager, Fort Morgan, Colorado.

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It's A Hard Pull for the Man Who Does Not Save Don't waste the cool air of Box Butte county's eye-IT'S CERTAINLY is a tough job for the man in the winter of life to pull through who hasn't adopted a system of saving. He will encounter many a rough sea and it is doubtful if his frail craft will withstand the terrific waves. You must apply two principles if you wish to avoid the rough age of late life. First, you must have a definite plan in view and the system a t. Remember it only takes \$1.00 to start a savings account and it may be the means of staying off the stormy seas. THE PRICE IS ALWAYS REASONABLE AT MILLER'S

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