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SOUTHWESTERN BREEZES

By Romaine Saunders

Maybe if everybody first lived for their country nobody would have to die for their country.

Let's doff the sombrero to Jeannette Rankin, not because of her sentiments on a grave national issue, but because she had the nerve to remain loyal to her convictions. It would have been much easier to vote with the crowd than to register a lone "no" on the House roll call.

Time may write no wrinkles on the oceans' azure brow, but it brings changes in human relations. Not so long ago we were backing the Japs and using their flag for decorations. If they were tame apes, as a friend of mine said they were, they have now gone wild. They have been great imitators. It sort of looks as though they surpass the copybooks.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Edwards have added much to home comforts in adding to their dwelling on the ranch just lately, the neat little house formerly occupied by the Hazebakkers south of the James ranch. Neighbors with wagons and sixteen horses, moved the building a distance of over two miles.

High priced cattle bankrupt a good many speculators 20 years ago. Again the cattle country takes the same trail. Each generation has to have its fling at it. But \$90 cows and 70 cent corn with 32 or 33 cent cream doesn't make sense.

The death of Mrs. Frank Mayne was reported from Lincoln Monday. Mrs. Mayne was born in O'Neill the eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Meredith, who built one of the first homes on First street. Mrs. Saunders and I had known Lucille, for so we always addressed Mrs. Mayne, since early childhood and visited in her home frequently in Lincoln or she and Frank in ours. We saw her for the last time last August. Friends of Lucille out this way, when thirty years ago she was engaged in teaching, learn of her death with regret, their sympathy going out to the bereaved husband, one son and two daughters and near relatives in O'Neill. Mr. Mayne is remembered out here, where he was engaged in the cattle business before going to Lincoln.

When the grey walls of the penitentiary have taken one to the secure embrace of life sentence for murder he is forgotten to the world outside, unless a prison break or something else unusual happens. The unusual has happened down at the state prison. Walter Gregor, sent from Holt county sixteen years ago for life, announced he invested \$1,200 in defense bonds, money he had received as soldiers bonus for service in the other world war. His term of incarceration has been commuted to thirty years.

Out of the cold steel-blue sky of late autumn dropped a dark object, tipped with white at each end, circled wide across field and meadow on outstretched wings and sailed state-ly off toward the hills. It was only an eagle searching the brown prairie for a morsel of food. What if it had been one of those black-winged messengers of death that now dive from 10,000 feet above? Our isolated spot of earth makes us more or less insensible to the horror and chaos, to the human suffering. The mangled and broken bodies of the countless victims of air raids. And yet to the fathers and mothers who sit in safety and plenty, there are anxious days awaiting word from bomb-riddled ruins—word that will cheer or word that cuts through the soul.

On this quiet Sunday evening nature has spread a picture of surpassing loveliness across the southwest sky—a December sunset on the prairie. Above the prairie's rim, deep splashes of fire blend into pink film, above

which hangs a bar of gold touched by dainty blue fingers, and across the heavens in a long reach hangs as a canopy above the picture mystic clouds ablaze with the red glow of setting sun. I am not an artist to transfer the scene to canvas nor a master of language to put it down in words, but if your soul seeks the inspiration such beauty may hold, open your window at set of sun and look out. An hour later stars twinkle out of the gloom. God has given us another night on the prairie. "When forever from our sight pass the stars, the day, the night, Lord of Angeles on our eyes let eternal morning rise, and shadows end."

Believe my acquaintance with Mrs. Agnes Pettijohn covered a longer period than any other descendant of early settlers. The homestead dwellings, a little better than the average in the country at that period, of her father and my father, were a little more than a mile apart. Agnes was much older than I but we were neighbors. When her father was to make final proof on his claim, my father, George Lathrop and another, Frank Huntley no doubt, accompanied him on the long ride by team to Niobrara, where the land office was located. They were gone three days and Mr. Bentley got his patent to a quarter of Holt county prairie, three and a half miles east of O'Neill, lying on the south side of the section line which is the north boundary of the city. I slowly "grew up" on the homestead and the last year Mr. Bentley spent on his place we worked together in haying. As a young boy I was much disturbed when meeting Agnes because of the dignity and poise of her bearing, but in later years came to see that she was a jolly, warm hearted young woman and every inch a lady. She and Mrs. Wise were more than sisters; they were inseparable; and to her and the bereaved husband—both facing the sunset of life—a sorrowful blow has fallen.

Through the courtesy of Lee Downey, there came to hand—comprised in 40 pages and cover—an interesting history of the Burlington railroad covering a period of ninety years. Along with this attractive and informative booklet is a folder dealing with branch railroad lines, written by that veteran of the composing room, editorial chair and railway commission, printed in 10-point bold, Will H. Maupin. Mr. Maupin, points out as has been done in this column, that the maintenance of rail service on branch lines is in the hands, not of the railroads, but the public. A railroad, as any other industry, can not continue to operate any branch of its business at a loss. The public has been educated to the convenience of the truck loading and unloading at its door and will hardly want to give this up. Main lines of railroad will continue an improved service if taxes and unreasonable demands from the brotherhoods doesn't floor them, too, but the stub lines must go. Mr. Downey has a responsible place to fill in the Burlington administrative staff, and the news reminds me that the Zephyrs and Sky Rockets today are a far cry from the stage lines of his father running out of O'Neill to Niobrara and Creighton. Combining art, picture and word in the panorama of railroad building the booklet Lee sends me is an education in the transportation lines of the west. From its last page I take these lines: We cross the prairie as of old The Pilgrim crossed the sea, To make the West, as they the East, The homestead of the free!

Hospital Notes

John Sturgen of Chambers, admitted Wednesday evening. Mrs. Neil Groeling, major operation on Friday and is feeling fine. Mrs. Donald Grimes of Chambers, a girl on Wednesday, and she will be known as Bonnie Marie. Mardell Butts of Chambers, Thursday. Lorraine Barrett of Page, dismissed Thursday. Morris Parks of Page, pneumonia patient.

Cantata Christmas Eve At Presbyterian Church

On Christmas Eve, Dec. 24 at 7:30 at the Presbyterian Church the choir will present the Christmas Cantata—"The Nativity Song," by Roy E. Nolte.

This chorus will consist of 26 voices and the personnel is as follows: Sopranos—Davine Loy, Ruth Osenbaugh, Genevieve Graves, Betty Williams, Chickie Iler, Margaret Jean Yantzi, Frankie Yocum, Eunice Schwisow, Ruth Dudge, Gene Williams, Altoes—Irene Yocum, Dorothy Yocum, Bonnie Kurtz, Goldie Sebasti, Dorothy Larson, Margaret Halva, Polly Kipple, Mabelle Osenbaugh, Lydia Halva, Bessie—Roy Lundgren, John Osenbaugh, Fred Halva, Orville Lewis. Tenors—Willie Ramsay, Roy Sauers, Bennet Herlford, D. H. Clauson. Pianist—Mrs. Oral Fox. Director—H. D. Clauson.

Following this Cantata the Sunday School Program will be given and will be as follows. Recitation: Welcome to Our Tree, Thelma Leigh. Recitation—This Little Tree, Mildred Crab. Recitation—Sharing Our Christmas, Marlene Peterson. Two Primary Songs and the Christmas Story. Recitation—Christmas Excuses, Lois Sargent. Recitation—Hang Up the Baby's Stocking, Carmile Goodfellow. Recitation—Some New Arithmetic, Danny Rustemeyer. Recitation—The Best Place, Merrill Patterson. Playlet—The Birth of Peace.

Every body is most cordially invited.

Prices Steady At Local Market Monday Last

Receipts of livestock were not quite so heavy here last Monday as they were a week ago, yet supplies were unusually heavy for so late in the season. Prices ruled fully steady to strong and action was good on all classes. The war, coupled with higher prices has stimulated buying and provided a definite spurt in the marketing of livestock at this time and many ranchers are taking advantage of the prevailing advanced price conditions.

As a special feature, at the auction last Monday, the Red Cross Chapter and the O'Neill Livestock Commission Co., united their efforts to raise funds for the Red Cross by auctioning a baby goat to the public. Bidding was spirited and a total of \$344.50 was collected which sum will be turned over to the Red Cross to be used by that organization in the war emergency.

Steer calves went as high as \$13.95 here last Monday with the bulk paying from \$11.50 to \$12.50. A few choice lightweight heifers sold as high as \$11.50 but the long end of these ranged from \$10.25 to \$11.00, with many selling in the upper brackets.

Yearling were here in rather heavy supply and several straight loads were sold. Yearling steers moved in load lots at \$11.50; their heifer mates sold at \$9.75. Other smaller, packages of both steers and heifers cashed at higher prices.

Two year olds were not too plentiful, but prices on those that were here were fully steady to strong. The cows supplies held up well with another heavy run in this division. The best fat cows sold upwards to \$8.75 but that price was paid only for the extra choice kind. Bulk of this class sold from \$6.75 to \$7.85 with plainer grades selling for less. A lot of breeding cows were here and these were sold mostly by the head. Bulls were about steady in price.

Hog supplies were heavy. An extreme top of \$10.90 was paid for butchers with a practical top of \$10.85. Sows cashed at \$10.05. Pigs reached \$13.30.

Around 200 sheep showed up to complete the day's offering. These sold mostly by the head at considerably stronger prices. Next auction Monday, Dec. 22.

Births

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Eby, twin boys on Sunday December 14. Mr. and Mrs. Donald Grimes, girl on Wednesday, named Bonnie Marie. Mr. and Mrs. Elias Timmerman, girl on Tuesday, named Helen Marie.

Marriage Licenses

Charles Glen Milacek, Lynch and Betty Oman, Verdel, December 13th.

Frank Schwager, Orchard and Marcelene Ickler, Venus, Dec. 17th.

Archie E. Kreycik, Verdel and Irene G. Johnson, December 17th. Daniel Hitch and Catherine De-seive of Atkinson, December 13th.

O'Neill People Are Asked To Assist

The people of O'Neill and surrounding community are asked to give full cooperation to the national defense program as outlined by the Federal Government.

Your particular attention is called to the present government campaign for the conservation of waste materials, such as paper, metals, and so forth.

Plans now call for the collection of these materials and their donation to the government. A later announcement will notify you as to the method to be used here locally for the gathering of these materials. You are requested to give all the assistance possible to the volunteers engaged in this work.

JOHN KERSENBROCK, Mayor.

Splendid Farm Bureau Meeting Last Saturday

A good attendance of interested farm men and women who attended the annual Farm Bureau meeting in O'Neill last Friday heard Mrs. David Simms, international traveler from Hastings, give a very interesting lecture on conditions and customs in Hawaii. Other highlights of the program included the "Uses of Dried Fruits", a project lesson given in the morning by Miss Maud, Mathews home demonstration specialist; a report of his trip to the national 4-H Club Congress at Chicago by Ralph Allyn of Stuart, and a women's project club report by Mrs. George Rector.

The business meeting was in charge of William Riege, president of the Holt County Farm Bureau. Ora Yarges of Stuart and Mabel Hammerberg were re-elected to the board of directors for another term. The report of county agt. Lyndle Stout revealed another good year for cooperative extension work in the county. The fact that 150 voluntary local leaders were serving without pay to carry on the work in all parts of the county is an indication of the extent which extension work is reaching the people.

During the year of 1941, 1506 people called at the office for agricultural information and the agent visited 160 farms in carrying on the year's program. The office had 643 phone calls requesting information, wrote 2,908 personal letters and distributed 7,906 bulletins on all agricultural and home economics projects.

4-H club work continued to be one of the major activities carried on in the county. 28 4-H clubs were organized with 290 members enrolled and 274 members, or 90% completing their work. Much of the credit for this fine work was due to the splendid work of the 4-H leaders. 4-H members received numerous awards in the state fair contests and six members exhibited baby beves at Ak-Sar-Ben. One member attended the National 4-H Club Congress held in Chicago. 4-H activities in the county included, judging and demonstration day, achievement day, two county fairs and the Holt County Stocker-Feeder show and sale.

Twenty-eight women's project clubs brought home demonstration work to 385 homemakers during the year.

A handy seed list was prepared for use in the spring and 39,700 Clarke-McNary seedlings were distributed. 97 farmers received free purity and germination tests on seed samples.

The Farm Bureau has maintained the county agent's office in the courthouse at O'Neill and has received funds for this purpose from the general fund of the county. The office has all available publications from the United States Department of Agriculture, and the Nebraska College of Agriculture. These may be obtained free by calling or writing the county agent's office in O'Neill.

Beauty Operators Held Meeting Here Sunday

District Number 4 of the N.S. N.H.C.A. met at the Golden Hotel Dec. 14, for a 12:30 luncheon. Members and guests from several other towns were present. Mrs. Alpha H. Fifer of McCook, district chairman presided at the business meeting. The following officers were elected. Brnice Platt of Chambers, Assistant Chairman; Trustee Margaret B. Clauson of O'Neill for Holt county; Lois Beebout of Ainsworth for Brown county and Darylne Stahlecker of Spencer for Boyd county.

Madame Therosa of Grand Island, gave a very interesting lecture and illustrative picture on highlights of the personality of the coiffure. Mrs. Alpha Fifer explained the importance of the suitable make up for women and how to keep up their personal appearance at all times.

It Is Now Colonel Frances M. Brennan

According to the daily press the first list of lieutenant colonels of the regular army to be promoted to the temporary grade of colonel since the start of the war with Japan, was announced Saturday by the war department. Among those in the list of promotions was the name of Francis M. Brennan, of O'Neill.

Jolly Star Club

The Jolly Stars met at the home of Mrs. William Derickson for an all day meeting. The meeting was called to order by the President, Mrs. C. V. Cole. Four members and one visitor were present.

In the absence of the leaders the president demonstrated the lesson, "Toys for Children" Doll Furniture and a garage were made. The right kind of games pictures and books and how to teach the child the care and use of them were also discussed.

Plans were made for the Christmas party which will be at the home of Mrs. Hibbs.

County Court

Ed Gamel of Page was arrested by Patrolman Meistrel for driving without an operator's license. Hearing was had on December 13. He pled guilty and was fined \$1.00 and costs of \$3.10.

Fred Jackson Stuart, arrested by Patrolman Brandt on the charge of driving a car after his license had been suspended. He appeared in court on December 13, pled guilty and was fined \$15.00 and costs, taxed at \$3.10.

Chester Fees Chambers, arrested by Patrolman Meistrel on the charge of having a delinquent operators license. He appeared in court on December 13, pled guilty and was fined \$1.00 and costs of \$3.10.

Dominick F. Kubik, O'Neill, was arrested by Patrolman Meistrel charged with reckless driving. He appeared before the court on December 13, pled guilty and was fined \$10.00 and costs of \$3.10, and his license suspended for thirty days.

Duven Kipple, O'Neill, was arrested by Patrolman Meistrel on the charge of driving a car while under age. He appeared before the court on December 15, pled guilty and was fined \$10.00 and costs of \$3.10.

Clark Fordyce, Sterling, Colo., arrested by Patrolman Meistrel, charged with having an overload. He appeared before the court on December 16, pled guilty and was fined \$10.00 and costs of \$3.10.

CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank the kind neighbors and friends, who so generously administered to us in our deep sorrow, and for the beautiful flowers.—Mr. C. R. Pettijohn and family and Mrs. Flora G. Wise.

BRIEFLY STATED

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. George and son, Tommy, of Omaha were guests at the home of Mrs. George's brother, Irving Johnson Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. John Olson of Minden were here from Sunday until Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Olson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Lindberg.

Dr. O. W. French of this city and his father, George French

Rev. Wright Honored

Rev. V. C. Wright has again been honored by the Commission on Courses of Study, with headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee, by being invited to attend the College of Preachers in Chicago, for the week between Christmas and New Year's. Only about one hundred men throughout the denomination are privileged to attend.

Former O'Neill Girl Dies At Home In Lincoln

Word was received here Saturday from Mrs. C. F. McKenna, who had been in Lincoln at the bedside of her sister, Mrs. Frank Mayne, that she passed away that day and that the funeral would be on Tuesday.

Mrs. Mayne was a sister of Mrs. McKenna and was born and grew to womanhood in this city, being the eldest daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Meredith. Since her marriage, some thirty years ago, she had made her home in Iowa and at Lincoln, Nebr., but she will be remembered by all of the old timers of this city and this section of the county. She leaves to mourn her passing her husband, one son and two daughters, one brother, Col. Owen Meredith and three sisters and a host of friends.

GREETINGS FROM ST. JOHN'S

With gratitude and appreciation for your friendship and kindness during the past year, the Pastor and people of St. John's extend to their many friends in O'Neill, the greetings of the season, with the prayer that the Babe of Bethlehem will remember all of you in a special manner and that God and His Blessed Mother will take care of you during 1942.

C. A. Beyersdorfer, Pastor.

Governor Griswold Issues Statement

At the request of the Office of Price Administration and Civilian Supply, Governor Dwight Griswold today issued a statement urging all motorists to surrender their 1941 license plates and all other unused plates which they may have in their possession, at their respective County Treasurer's offices at the time they receive their 1942 plates. This move is intended to conserve needed metal in face of a shortage which threatens to cut off the entire supply of sheet steel for license tags in 1943. It is estimated on the basis of 1940 motor vehicle registrations that more than 10,000 tons of steel would be salvaged in the nation—that in Nebraska one hundred tons of the approximate original two hundred tons used in the manufacture of 1941 plates could be salvaged.

Garage owners are being asked to save all license plates scured when installing new plates for their customers, and turn these over to the County Treasurer.

State Engineer Gardner G. Scott has instructed the Motor Vehicle Division to work out a plan whereby the County Treasurer would temporarily store these salvaged plates to be picked up later by state trucks and brought to centrally located concentration points. 3,900 pounds of unused plates, including surrendered 1941 plates too battered to be reissued and extra 1940 plates, have already been salvaged in Douglas county and returned to the Nebraska Prison Industries who manufacture Nebraska plates.

of Page, spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Omaha.

Mrs. H. J. Hammond and daughter, Mary Lois, and Ira Moss were in Sioux City Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Donohoe and daughter, of Holdrege, spent the week end with relatives and friends.

The Worth While Extension Club had a Children's party at the home of Mrs. Louis Reimer Wednesday afternoon. A lesson on "Xmas Toys" was given by Mrs. Reimer and Mrs. Dorlin Lockmon. A lovely lunch was served.

Mr. and Mrs. Dale Martfeld and son, of Spalding, visited Mr. Martfeld's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Martfeld, and Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Pruss, Saturday.

St. John's Church Destroyed By Fire

St. John's church at Deloit burned to the ground last Sunday morning, December 15. First mass was held in the church and between that time and the commencement of second Mass the fire was discovered and it had gained great headway and without fire equipment it was impossible to do much. Those gathered there for Mass got busy and saved the side alters and some of the pews. The cause of the fire is not definitely known but it is thought to have been caused by an overheated furnace. The loss is partially covered by insurance. Many O'Neill people drove down from here last Sunday morning to witness the damage caused by the fire.

The loss of the church building, which, while a frame building, was only about seventeen years old and was in a good state of preservation, is a severe loss to the members of St. John's parish.

Navy Announces Physical Bars Down

A relaxation of physical standards for enlistments in the U. S. Navy and the Naval Reserve was announced this week by the Navy Department. In commenting on this action, the Navy Department announcement stated that numerous men who in past months have sought to enlist and have been rejected on the basis of minor physical defects will, because of the modification of physical standards, be encouraged to re-apply for enlistment in either the regular Navy or the Naval Reserve for the duration of the emergency.

The Navy Department has requested that any person knowing of young men who had been barred from enlistment in the Navy or the Naval Reserve because of minor physical reasons should bring this modification in physical requirements to the attention of these young men.

Applications with varicose veins will be acceptable under the changed standards, this varicose conditions to be corrected, if the condition is painful, at the Naval Training Station to which the new recruits are sent. Hydrocele, another defect that formerly ruled out numerous applicants, will be corrected, if necessary, after enlistees arrive at Training Stations. Applicants suffering from hernia will be accepted provided their I. Q.'s are 75 or better. Recruits suffering from hernia will be treated at the Training Stations and will be enrolled for schooling during their periods of convalescence.

Other physical defects which formerly prevented men from being accepted as recruits, but which now are waived, are seasonal hay fever; correctible nasal deformities or nasal deformities of such a degree as not to interfere with duty; undernourished and underdeveloped applicants, providing the condition is not due to organic disease; and minor surgical defects which can be corrected within a month. Applicants who possess 18 natural serviceable teeth, with at least two molars in functional occlusion and not more than four incisors missing, will be acceptable. Dental treatment will be given at the Training Stations.

Any applicants who have been rejected because of any of the defects noted above is urged to re-apply for enlistment in the Navy or Naval Reserve immediately. All applicants accepted with defects requiring correction will be hospitalized. After correction of these defects recruits will be returned to their Training stations at the earliest practicable time.

These modified physical standards will apply for applicants for enlistment in either the regular Navy or the Naval Reserve with the exception of applicants for enlistment in classes for prospective commissioning.

Mrs. S. J. Weekes left Sunday evening for Omaha, where she will make her home this winter.

Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Young visited Mrs. Young's parents Sunday in Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Parkins entertained the "Dutch Treat" club at a Christmas party in their home Sunday evening.