

THE FRONTIER . . . O'Neill, Nebr.

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A Forward Look

During the past several weeks, The Frontier has been discussing with its readers various current events and problems and making various suggestions which seemed to it timely and important. These discussions ranged all the way from Fourth of July celebrations to national elections. Quite a lot of territory has been covered in recent issues and we hope that our readers have found the discussions of some profit and interest.

A number of events both of local, statewide and national interest have occurred during this period. Indeed, it seems in retrospect as though this particular period has been one of unusual importance and interest. It is not easy to recall any other particular period when so many major events have taken place.

In the first place, there were such important local events as the opening of new business firms and the dedication of new business buildings; there was a special election on a question of vital interest to the people of O'Neill; there was discussion of a new hospital; there was the county fair and the state fair; as already mentioned, there was the national Fourth of July celebration and the fall season brought with it a number of particularly interesting events of both national and local interest.

There was National Newspaper Week, when tribute was paid to the free press of America, there was National Fire Prevention Week, when the terrible destructiveness of fire was stressed and greater vigilance against it was urged, there was National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week, when that important duty was urged and there were several other special observance weeks and days.

And, topping the entire list of special events and observances, of course, has been the national political campaign which has been in progress for the past several months and which will have climaxed in the general election of Tuesday, November 2 before this edition of The Frontier goes to press.

The great political campaign of 1948 will long be remembered. It was the most important, interesting and spectacular that has been staged in the United States in a long time and, while we are writing this several days before the election, we have no hesitancy in saying that it will be one of the greatest ever held in the history of the nation. Interest increased steadily as the day approached, the candidates made their last appeals to the voters as the campaign neared its whirlwind finish.

It is too late now obviously to comment on the national campaign and election as a current event, but The Frontier would like to make a suggestion. It would like to suggest that, after the election has been held, the votes counted and the result announced, we will, as good Americans, accept the verdict of the voters as calmly and courageously as possible and get back to normal as quickly as possible.

It will not be easy. It has been a hard fought political campaign and there will inevitably be some humiliating defeats and bitter disappointments; but we must, both for our own peace of mind and the future welfare of our country, be reconciled to the result and go forward together to achieve greater things in the future than we have in the past.

That is our duty as patriotic American citizens and we should all be thankful and proud that we have such a country to live and work for, regardless of the election returns.

Jealously, rancor and hate should not be allowed to enter into our national life as the result of the campaign and election and all our political differences should be forgotten in our common devotion to our national ideals and objectives.

And, apropos to this thought, we would like to remind our readers that now is the time to take a forward look. We have been discussing current events and problems; now is the time to turn our eyes to the future to see what it has in store.

In a few days after election, another Thanksgiving day will roll around when we should pause to give thanks and enumerate our blessings and, then, it will only be a short time until Christmas.

Regardless of the result of the election in nation, state and county, let us rejoice that we are American citizens!

The Farmer Speaks

Seventy-two percent of American farmers feel that the United States is "too soft" in its policy toward Russia. Only five percent feel that we are being "too tough" and 12 percent think our present policy is just right.

These opinions were revealed in a national survey of a cross-section of 6,000,000 farmers conducted for Successful Farming magazine.

The same survey shows that 70 percent of the farmers think Russia definitely is trying to build herself up to become a "ruling power" in the world. Only 16 percent of the farmers feel confident that the Russians are simply building up protection against attack in the event of another war.

"Grand" is a word which is probably more often incorrectly used on the radio than any other. Wonder just what exactly is meant by a "grand time."

After the Brawl

NOW LET'S GET THIS OLD WORLD BACK ON ITS FEET!



Prairieland Talk —

Mysterious Thing Known as 'Buck Fever' Overtakes Oldtimer Within Reach of a Doe

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS

LINCOLN — The sale up at Bassett of 3,135 head of ranch cattle for \$590,000 was the inspiration for a column in the Lincoln Sunday paper recently about the Nebraska sandhills, closing with this brief but worthy tribute: "One would dislike to see the poetry and the beauty of this region disappear. Against that the old hills stand sentinel."

The "poetry and the beauty," the wind-waved sea of grass through miles of winding valley, the white sand of the funnel formed by a "blow-out" that has taken the pinnacle from a hill when winds are playful in prairieland, the streams of clear water and little lakes reflecting the sunlight, the floral bloom, the wild life, the song of birds, the booming at early morning of the strutting prairie rooster, the plaintive call of the coyote, the circling among the clouds of the majestic eagle, the freshness of morning, the warmth of midday, the color of calm evening, the celestial tapers glowing out of the night sky—I have known it for more than a half-century. I have lived intimately within its enfolding, unchanging embrace and it will never be other than it has been, the great domain for free men and feeding cattle, Nebraska's unplowed grass lands.

Shotguns have been taken out of storage and the mighty hunters go forth to get a few birds. Game is pretty important to a modicum of citizens—so important as to have a department of state government to fix the days, hours and minutes for drawing bead on a flying fowl.

In that happy day when big game was plentiful on prairieland an oldtimer down on the Calamus had been crawling through the grass until he thought he must be about where the herd of antelope were that he had spotted.

Moving the tall grass aside with his rifle barrel, he found himself in the midst of the herd that had laid down to rest. He could touch a fine doe with the end of his gun barrel just in front of him, but that mysterious thing known among hunters as "buck fever" got him and he fired into the sky.

It was his only cartridge and he saw the antelope bound away across the prairie while he stood there helpless.

Timothy Iron Bear, a Sioux Indian, is in the Nebraska penitentiary under sentence of death for murder. There lies a lingering shadow across the legal picture that brought about conviction of one of the copper-skin tribe of Sitting Bull that suggests a possible innocent victim. The pardon board may or may not intervene. September 12 is the dead line for appeal to the United States supreme court, and this fatal word comes from the red man's attorney out at Chadron. "This is out of the question because of lack of funds."

Whether guilt shadows or innocence lights a candle in this instance the avenue to the last judicial word is open only to the one with a full purse.

Out in Hollywood, where the very air reeks as you pass through the streets, the whole motion picture industry comes to the rescue with a pot of gold to redeem the fallen angles from the judicial penalties for violated law and contempt of social decency.

In view of the insults they are subjected to from low brow partisans, it takes courage for any patriot to become a candidate for president. Maybe "there ought to be a law."

When a fellow "goes dog" he will talk by the hour about his canine friend, if he can get someone to listen. I encountered such a gent the other day. His dog was with him, a fat little stub-leg creature that they would like to get into the stew pot over on the Rosebud.

The gent sat down on a stone step by me, maybe because I lacked the courtesy to get up and offer him the only chair available and in which I reclined while musing on things earthly and celestial as evening shadows gathered.

The day had been hot, the night was hot and the tongue of the little dog hung from his open jaws. I learned that the dog had attained the venerable age of nine years, was the only companion the owner had in his home, had a place with him on his bed, could raise window shades, open and close windows, challenge the entrance of a stranger at the door and understand about everything said.

How much of all this was apparent only to the fellow telling it is your guess. At any rate, during the hour's eulogy of an apparently worthless little mutt I drew the conclusion that if parents were as devoted to the care and training of their children as my visitor was with his dog we would not read of 13-year-olds being involved in revolting crimes.

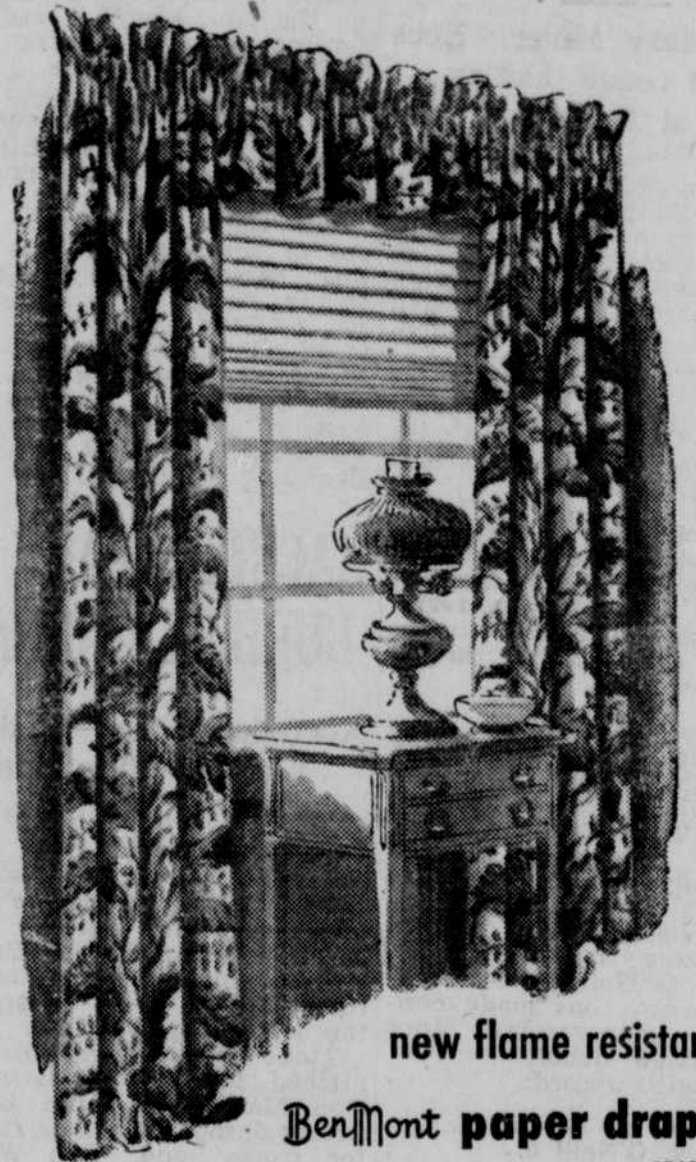
And a grown man walking abroad with a dog attached to a string spells just zero.

Tax is a hateful word. Maybe that has had something to do with the retirement of two able Nebraskans in recent years from the job of state tax commissioner. But Mr. Armstrong, the retiring commissioner, is not divorcing himself from taxation problems as he goes at it from another angle when he becomes head of an association of taxpayers functioning in Omaha. His former chief assistant at the state house, P. K. Johnson, takes over the duties of commissioner under appointment by Governor Peterson.

Losses sustained because of storm and flood water arouses communities to action. Waste in the federal government in recent years eclipses a half century's losses by storm and flood. What floods destroy may be grown again. What government wastes is a goner.

Four-H club interests are giving the youth something worthwhile and we will not hear of any so engaged becoming involved in this thing known as "juvenile delinquency."

Charles Evans Hughes and Babe Ruth have gone the way of all the earth. The one an able jurist and patriotic citizen; the other a symbol of the best in American sports; and both great Americans.



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