



An object of great interest in the State Historical Society's museum in the state capitol is the hay-burner stove presented to the society in 1934 by E. H. Bush, of Tecumseh.

The hay burner, as such as any article of equipment used in old Nebraska, testifies to the ingenuity of those people who pioneered the plains.

Fuel was one of the stern necessities of life. In many areas wood, the conventional fuel, was scarce, if not altogether unobtainable. For a time cow chips were used in certain parts of the state, but as the ranching area pushed westward, it was necessary to find other material. The next best thing was the wild prairie hay which grew so abundantly in Nebraska.

Hay was never wholly satisfactory as fuel. It was a good starter, but at the same time a quick burner. Various devices were invented to twist the hay into reasonably solid sticks, but the best of these were only moderately successful.

To make more effective use of the native fuel, hay-burning stoves were invented. The one in our museum is of the magazine type. It is similar to an ordinary cook stove except that it has two pipes about 30 inches long opening into the fire box. A spring on one end of the pipe pushes the hay into the fire box as it is burned. According to those who used the stove, it had to be stuffed with hay almost constantly.

Another type of hay-burning stove was the "Mennonite Grass Burner." This was of brick and much more elaborate than the ordinary stove. It was claimed that this stove needed to be fed only twice a day. Despite this, it never was widely used. It is quite probable that the cost was prohibitive.

A difficult problem connected

ROYAL THEATER

O'NEILL

THURSDAY - JAN. 27

Donald O'Connor and Maureen O'Hara in "The Egg and I" —Marjorie Main and Percy Kilbride—Together Again!

Feudin', Fussin' and a-Fightin'

with Penny Edwards and Joe Besser.

Adm. 42c, plus tax 8c, total 50c — Children 10c, plus tax 2c, total 12c.

FRIDAY - SATURDAY - JAN. 28 - 29

Big Double Bill

Lynce Roberts and Charles Drake in

Winter Wonderland

60 minutes laughter and music.

— also —

Johnny Mack Brown in

Under Arizona Skies

Thrills, hard riding, trouble shooting

Adm. 42c, plus tax 8c, total 50c — Children 10c, plus tax 2c, total 12c. Matinee Saturday 2:30

SUNDAY - MONDAY - TUESDAY - JAN. 30-31 - FEB. 1

Barbara Stanwyck and Burt Lancaster in

Sorry, Wrong Number

with Ann Richards, Wendell Corey, and Harold Vermilyea.

Joan Crawford says: "It left me breathless! Barbara Stanwyck's performance deserves nomination for the Academy Award!"

The prize-winning radio suspense drama that thrilled 40,000,000 people now electrifies the screen!

No one will be seated during the last five minutes!

Adm. 42c, plus tax 8c, total 50c — Matinee Sunday 2:30, Adm. 42c, plus tax 8c, total 50c — Children 10c, plus tax 2c, total 12c.

with the use of any hay-burning stove was the storage of fuel. Great quantities were used each day and to find room in the small soddies to store an adequate supply presented great difficulties. In addition, the presence of large amounts of hay greatly increased the danger from fire.

It is little wonder that each stick of wood was cherished and used with the greatest care.

State Capitol News

Taxes appear to be the main problem before the 61st Nebraska legislature now in session.

Growing sentiment is reported that the property tax cannot support many more demands, and that new sources of income must be provided.

Sen. Dwight Burney, of Hartington, and Sen. William Metzger, of Cedar Creek, signed a bill to levy a two percent sales tax. Burney wants to leave the field of income taxes to the federal government, support state government with the estimated 20 million dollar annual revenue from the sales tax, and allow local governments and school districts a clear field with the property tax.

In that way, he said, local citizens are given a close check rein on their taxes.

Metzger said he wants the proposed sales tax held until the all-important budget bill is ready and the senators can see exactly what the financial situation is. If much additional money is needed, he said, the bill should be passed. If the legislature is able to "hold the line" of government spending during the 1949-51 biennium, Metzger said, then the legislation should be killed.

Sen. Lester Anderson, of Aurora, changed horses in mid-stream. Last month he announced he had decided to sponsor a two percent sales tax bill. He said he was convinced it was the answer to Nebraska's financial ills.

But this week he said he had changed his mind. Investigation convinced him, Anderson said, that a sales tax "is a poor man's tax which would rob persons on state assistance rolls of \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 a year."

He said he will introduce a state income tax bill, probably next week. Anderson said thousands of wealthy Nebraskans live on the income from bonds and securities, owning no property which can be made to share the load of financing state government.

"These are the fellows who can and should help pay the added taxes we need," he said.

Anderson estimated his income tax legislation would provide \$10,000,000 to \$15,000,000 a year.

Other legislators are hopeful some solution will present itself which will eliminate the need for either new tax. Increasing present levies and fees would be preferable to these lawmakers.

The 1947 legislature tried that approach and boosted liquor taxes sharply. Revenue from this source is considerably smaller this year than last, a fact Chairman Richard Brega of the state liquor control commission attributes at least partially to the higher taxes.

The matter of aiding Nebraska's needy citizens undoubtedly will be another thorn in the unicameral's side. Legislation boosting maximum monthly assistance grants to the ages from \$50 to \$60 a month, and to \$70 for the blind, sailed through the public health committee without a hitch, but ran into trouble on the floor of the legislature.

Sen. Norris Schroeder, of Hoskins, served notice he will try to kill the bills. He argued there is no ceiling now on assistance payments, since needs beyond the \$50 ceiling are met from state-county funds.

Sen. Arthur Carmody, of Trenton, argued that needs still are unmet for 20 percent of those on the old age assistance rolls, and that all would benefit under liberalized grants. The extra money will be spent in the state, he said, at the corner grocery and drug store.

Schroeder called this a philosophy of "attempting to spend ourselves into prosperity. We have seen this tried, and we all know the results."

Further debate is scheduled for January 31.

Valentine Rancher Don Hanna is sponsoring another of the perennial bills to permit the state to serve oleo instead of butter at state institutions. The board of control estimated this would have saved Nebraska \$55,000 last year.

Hanna is prepared for opposition that the legislation would be a blow to dairymen and the state's economy. But he said law

Correspondent Writes: 'We Walk Over Gates and Fences; So Do Hogs and Cattle'

(Editor's note: Mrs. Henry Reimers, who lives in Wheeler county southwest of Ewing, is a newcomer among The Frontier's rural correspondents. In casual conversation with The Frontier we sensed a representative running story of the Recurring Blizzards of 1949. The article that follows was solicited from Mrs. Reimers.)

By MRS. HENRY REIMERS
Special Correspondent

When asked to write a story of the blizzard we thought (or hoped) the subject would soon be ancient history. However, there's a new storm raging outside now—Sunday, January 16. We've just heard that all country roads are blocked and highways are blocked, too. We've been "snowed in" most of the time since November 17. That was such a lovely Spring-like day. We attended project club in Clearwater not knowing it was our last trip for many days.

The storm struck with a terrible force early on November 18. By 10 a. m. the roads were blocking. The snow came so fast and with such a strong wind one could hardly see. About 24 inches fell that time. People were marooned, one teacher was forced to stay in the school from Thursday morning until someone found her on Saturday.

One family—father, mother and two children—were marooned about three miles from home and they were forced to stay at the home of a neighbor for seven days.

Our mail came to our box on November 18. That is the last time for these two months.

Our mail has been coming to Hupp's store, four miles away. From December 28 until January 13-16 days—we had no mail except that brought in by plane, and none was delivered except that carried by horses to the store and taken out by plane.

For over two weeks we've had no roads North, East, South or West. The stork was hovering over a home so the husband left by team and wagon at 7:20 a. m. one morning for the store four miles away to order a plane. At noon the stork had not arrived but the plane had. The patient was hesitant about taking her first ride in a plane, so we dashed off through the snow knee deep to see her off. The plane landed ¼ mile away so we waded through snow to see her off. However, the husband arrived just in time to say goodbye.

The baby was two-weeks-old before the daddy was able to get to town to see her.

A man was found dead near Bartlett recently. He had been dead for over a week.

Our daughter, a senior at Bartlett high school, arrived home from school on December 21, just before another storm. There was to be a one-week vacation, but she stayed three weeks. On Friday horses were used to get out to Hupp's from there to O'Neill where she took a bus to Bartlett, a trip of about 100 miles farther than necessary. It is actually only 24 miles to Bartlett.

Feeding the livestock has been a major problem on farms and ranches. The storm came so early that about one-third of the corn was in the fields. There's so much snow the stock can't eat cornstalks. Some winnowed the hay. It is under three feet of snow. The snow has become so deep that horses can hardly walk without a load. Only a small amount can be hauled. The tracks blow full most everyday. A number of cattle were lost during the first storm. Many have cattle and hogs ready for market but no truck can come out. Cattle can be heard bawling day and night. Several ranchers have hundreds of cattle. Some purchased large caterpillar tractors for hay hauling.

The farm produce has been piling up. One family has cream in every available crock, fruit can, etc. They have eggs in clothesbaskets. There has been just one produce truck out here since November 17.

Fuel is running short, too. Why is it the fuel oil barrel and wood pile are always low when a storm hits? Those with oil burners have to load them on a wagon and go to the nearest station several miles. Those burning wood, as we do, have a problem. Wood is covered with snow and if one cuts any it is almost impossible to move through deep snow. Right now we're wishing for some coal but it can't be carried in a plane and roads are impassable.

One of the neighbor's horses left during the first storm. It was found last week at the home of a farmer who had lost one of his and was using the stray.

The road from Ewing, 14 miles away, was opened to the county line Thursday but we're still three miles from that. (It is blowing full today.)

Quite a few haven't had provisions since December 20. A number got out Friday and Saturday and some can't get home. Mr. and Mrs. John Kaster and three girls are marooned in Clearwater. They went to town on Saturday and the roads became blocked. Henry Trunnepohl is also "snowed in" at Clearwater, his wife is at the farm home alone. They called for a plane but it's too windy and stormy to fly.

Our rural teacher has been forced to take three weeks' vacation. Our daughter, who walks over three miles every day, frosted her feet before Christmas. The school program had to be postponed.

Since our meat supply ran out, we were forced to eat Elaine's pet duck, for Christmas dinner. Some of our Christmas packages are still in town. We received some last week. We were forced to spend Thanksgiving, Christmas, Elaine's birthday and Henry's birthday alone.

A neighbor purchased a new plane. He, his wife and daughter make trips to various towns. They bring mail, groceries and take passengers if necessary. The income tax reports required several trips. Perhaps some good was accomplished by all this. People have gotten acquainted with their neighbors and helped each other. We ladies have caught up on our sewing and fancy work; the men have had time to read.

There is plenty of ice for ice cream. The children love that. We've been unable to have church for two months. Quite a number of the radio batteries are giving out. A radio is such a comfort these days. Our telephone has been out since November 18. We haven't been able to get central. We can talk on our party line though. When it gets crossed up with two or three other lines it is really very interesting. When one person gets a call, it isn't unusual for four or five to join in on the conversation when you haven't seen anyone for two months.

We've had between 50 and 60 inches of snow in all. We can walk over the gates and fences and so do the hogs and cattle.

Our little country store has been a great comfort. But with no roads for over two weeks it is out of flour, potatoes and yeast. However, the supply was replenished recently.

Meanwhile, we must count our blessings. We hope no one gets sick and next Summer it will seem like a bad dream.

requires margarine sold in this state to contain at least 50 percent animal fat, and said the law to protect the dairymen is comparable to taxing grapefruit grown outside Nebraska.

Gov. Val Peterson announced he has reappointed all state department chiefs except Neil Vandemoer, head of the assistance program. Vandemoer has served on a month-to-month basis ever since Peterson took office in 1947.

William H. Diers, of Gresham, was reappointed to the board of control for a six-year term. Ross D. Rash, of Gordon, was named to the board's assistance advisory committee for the term ending July 15, 1951, replacing Ralph A. Baker, of Valentine.

Patrick F. Payne, of Omaha, and Harry Peck, of Lincoln, were appointed to the board of

Murphy Rites Held at Page

PAGE—Funeral services were held Wednesday, January 12, for James L. Murphy, who died at Stromsburg.

Rev. T. O. Brownfield had charge of the services. Mrs. T. O. Brownfield, soloist, accompanied by Mrs. John Lamason, sang "Rock of Ages," "Leaning on the Everlasting Arm" and "Does Jesus Care?"

Pallbearers were: Alton Brad-dock, Herbert Stevens, Harold Heiss, Harry Harper, Raymond Heiss, Soren Sorensen, Oscar Reed and Merwyn French.

Relatives from away attending the services were: Mr. and Mrs. Walter French and daughter, of Stromsburg, Mr. and Mrs. William Thompson, of Norfolk, Mr. and Mrs. J. Lowell Murphy and Mr. and Mrs. Russell Sorensen, of Plainview, Dr. and Mrs. O. W. French and Miss Alice French, all of O'Neill.

Other Page News

Duran Rutherford stayed at the Mrs. Dora Townsend home with his mother, Mrs. Della Rutherford, while Mrs. Townsend visited her sister, Mrs. Myrtle Fleming, at Ewing.

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Taylor and Mrs. C. A. Townsend went to Norfolk Wednesday, January 19, where they attended the funeral of their niece, Mrs. Justin Fritz, the following day.

Richard Trowbridge, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stevens, Mrs. C. G. Shane and Miss Jean Woods came from Lincoln Friday, January 14, to spend the weekend with relatives here. They had to wait until Monday, January 17, to return because of the blocked roads.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Stevens have moved to Lincoln where they both have employment.

Mrs. Jennie French, Mrs. Archie Treadway and Miss Alice French were dinner guests Saturday of Mr. and Mrs. Alton Brad-dock, honoring the birthday anniversary of Miss French.

Wilson Lamason, Garry Banta, Sterling Albright and Jack Hartman accompanied Supt. John Lamason to his farm on Saturday where they hauled hay and helped with chores. They all walked to Page Sunday and were joined on the way by Carroll French and Norman and Judith Trowbridge.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Niesus and sons and Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kirschmer have returned from a visit with relatives in California.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Parks spent January 15 and 16 in Norfolk with Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Stevens. Kenneth Stevens, of Omaha, who had spent a week at the Elwin Stevens home, accompanied them to Page.

MRS. TAYLOR DIES
DELOIT—Mrs. Clint Taylor died recently in California. She has been a resident of the Deloit community.

Miss Althea Hamman, a teacher at Page, was a guest Wednesday and Thursday, January 19 and 20, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wells.

WJAG . . . 780 on your dial!

When You and I Were Young —

Coal Discovered in Boyd County 'Appears to Be of Paying Quantity'

65 YEARS AGO
January 15, 1884

Rev. W. F. Eastman, who resides at the new town of Richmond, four miles East and eight miles North of Atkinson, was a caller at our office Saturday, Mr. Eastman is the Congregational missionary for Holt county and preaches at present at Richmond, Minola, and near the Parker postoffice on the Redbird, 12 miles from O'Neill, at the latter place he organized a Congregational church on December 30, 1883, with a membership of 13, all of different denominations. They are moving to build a new church.

"Hank" McEvony yesterday presented to the "honorable board of county commissioners," a petition, numerous signed by the citizens of O'Neill, praying that a bridge be built across the Elkhorn river on the section line between 32 and 33 in this township. The point is near Hank's house, at what is known as his ford.

The vigilantes were in Niobrara last Thursday with Kid Wade, and two other parties whom they arrested at Springfield, Dakota. It is reported that they have taken the kid to Brown county.

The creamery company has built an ice house and are putting up the congealed water. M. E. Tierney has the contract and Andy Mulligan is packing the ice.

54 YEARS AGO
January 17, 1895

Mrs. Lee Hershiser met with quite a severe accident Tuesday. She had been visiting at Mrs. Hick's over the meat market, and on going down the steps slipped and fell to the bottom. She was picked up and carried home. It was then learned that with the exception of some bruises sustained in the fall, she was uninjured. It was a very fortunate escape.

A telegram was received from Calumet, Mich., Saturday announcing the death at that place of Patrick Kelly, a brother of Con, John and Jerry Kelly, who reside about three miles Northeast of this city. Jerry intended to go and attend the funeral, but as he could not reach Calumet before Tuesday noon he received

Perrigo Optical Company
FRED M. PERRIGO, O. D.
JOHN N. GUNNING, O. D.
Optometrists
416 Norfolk Avenue
Phone 330 Norfolk, Nebr.

a telegram stating that they could not keep the remains that long, and he did not go. George Pfunder, father of J. F. Pfunder, died at the residence of his son, in this city, last Saturday, aged 85 years. Deceased had been sick about one month; his death resulting from old age. The funeral took place Sunday afternoon at nine o'clock and the remains were interred in the Protestant cemetery.

43 YEARS AGO
January 18, 1906

Coal has been discovered in Boyd county on the farm of Joseph Klasnn, four miles West of Gross. It is said that the vein appears to be a paying quantity one, and it is hoped by the citizens of that section that the prediction will prove true. Coal has been found in other sections of that county.

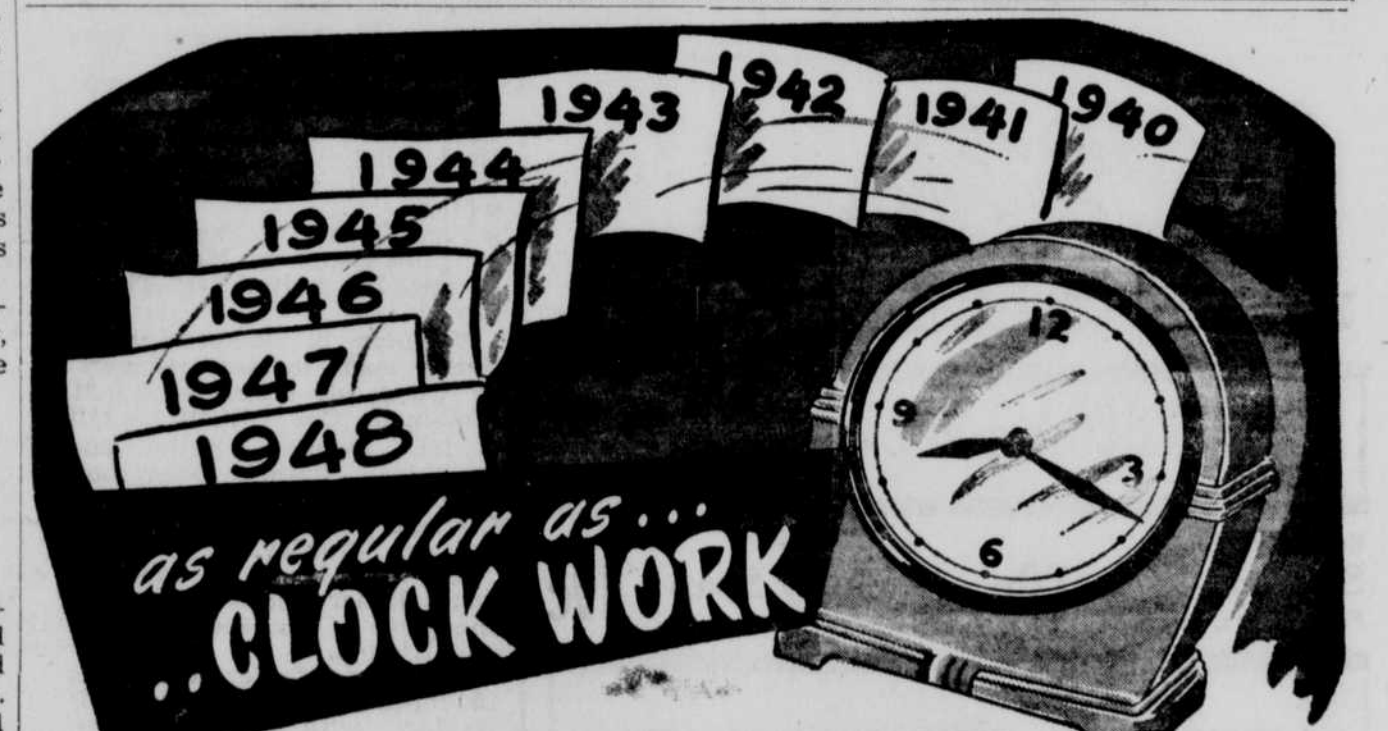
Gamblers are getting a touch of the law in other towns than O'Neill. Down at Fremont the other day five of the profession were nabbed in the police net, three of them being fined \$25 each and the other two \$50 each, with trimmings.

William Gielish, who lives about two and a half miles Northwest of this city, had the misfortune to lose his house and household goods by fire last Saturday night. Mr. Gielish was not at home at the time and his family are unable to account for the origin of the fire which started in the basement and gained such headway before being discovered that it was impossible to save any of the contents. Mr. Gielish says his loss is about \$750 with no insurance.

Campaign Begun

PAGE — The Improvement club voted at its last meeting to sponsor the March of Dimes campaign this year. Members had a theatre party followed by lunch at Cope's cafe last Thursday evening.

We Are Now Able To Offer . . .
REPAIR SERVICE
for the following Reels:
● Shakespeare
● South Bend
● Bronson
● Ranger
Pflueger Expected Soon!
Bob's Sport Shop
Sportsmen's Headquarters
Jonas Furniture Bldg.
— O'NEILL —



CONSUMERS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT HAS MET EVERY BOND AND INTEREST PAYMENT ON SCHEDULE

FOLLOWING its established policy of retiring its bonds and paying interest on or before schedule, Consumers Public Power District retired \$591,000 of its bonds January 1, 1949. This brought the total of bonds retired during the year to \$1,217,000.

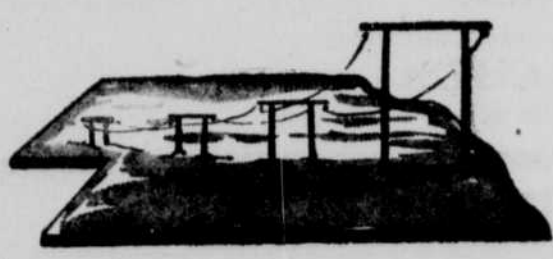
In addition to the \$1,217,000 of bonds retired, and payment of all interest due during the year, Consumers also paid \$315,677.40 for taxes in communities in 71 Nebraska counties.

Over \$4,000,000 of improvements to electric facilities were completed during the year in the face of extremely increased costs, and yet the District was able to maintain the low rates which saved electric users \$1,107,000 compared

to electric rates in effect when Consumers Public Power District began operation.

These specific items represent definite benefits to Nebraska electric users and are typical of the advantages Public Power has brought to Nebraska.

Thus, through its established pay-as-you-go policy, Consumers Public Power District continues to pay its way while Nebraska and Nebraskans enjoy the electrical advantages it provides.



CONSUMERS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT

MONEY TO LOAN
ON
AUTOMOBILES
TRUCKS
TRACTORS
EQUIPMENT
FURNITURE
CENTRAL FINANCE CORP.
C. E. JONES, Manager
O'NEILL, NEBRASKA