

THE FRONTIER

Editorial & Business Offices: 10 South Fourth Street
O'NEILL, NEBR.

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Entered the postoffice at O'Neill, Holt county, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. This newspaper is a member of the Nebraska Press Association, National Editorial Association and the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Established in 1880—Published Each Thursday

Terms of Subscription: In Nebraska, \$2.50 per year; elsewhere in the United States, \$3 per year; abroad, rates provided on request. All subscriptions are strictly paid-in-advance.

What Is Ahead for Cattlemen?

America has become great because of its Christian people and production know-how and will stay that way as long as these 2 can flourish.

This expression of confidence keyed the address by Dr. A. L. Miller, representative from the Fourth congressional district at the district meeting of the Nebraska Stock Growers association in convention in O'Neill on Wednesday, April 26.

It can be said that Doctor Miller made a hit with the stockmen. His Fourth district contains more cattle than any one of the other 435 congressional districts in the United States. Excerpts from his half-hour talk may partially explain why his talk was so popular:

"What's ahead for the Nebraska cattlemen? In my opinion if employment and wages stay high, there will be a continued demand for meat. If unemployment increases and the people's confidence in our money decreases, then I would expect a general pulling in of the belt and less buying all along the line.

"The American people have always been meat eaters. Meat has been the principal item of diet for the human race from the beginning of time. Primitive man found satisfaction in making a kill and eating the meat. . . this good meat is produced from Nebraska grass and feed. The people of Nebraska should be thankful that they have a quantity and quality of grass upon which to grow their livestock. There are more than 26 million acres of grass in Nebraska. When it is properly pastured, it will give excellent returns on labor and investment. Your livestock makes a good harvesting machine that seldom needs repairs. Some of this livestock comes off the range ready for the butcher's block.

"It is estimated that in 1950 there will be 23,200,000,000 pounds of meat produced. This is 6 per cent more than in 1949 and 8 per cent less than in 1944, when production reached the all-time peak. This would mean a possible per capita consumption of 150 pounds, as compared with 145 pounds in 1949.

"The United States imported 241 million pounds of meat in 1949, the bulk coming from Canada and Argentina. We exported 130 million pounds. I would also point out that we imported 10,000 carloads of potatoes from Canada, a million and a half pounds of powdered eggs from China, 48,000 cases of crab meat from Russia, and huge quantities of beans, fish and other agricultural products from other countries.

"When we consider what is ahead for the cattlemen we must consider what the international trade organization will do when the nations of the world meet in England on September 17, 1950. If they follow the pattern of their last meeting they will make further reductions in tariffs on agriculture products. In their last meeting, 80 per cent of the reductions on imports coming to this country were on agriculture products. This could have unusual results to your business.

"The production of cattle has increased about 2 million head in the last year. It is estimated that all types of cattle in 1949 amount to 80,277,000 head. The all time high was in 1945 when there were 85,573,000 head. It is estimated that beef cattle numbered about 43 million head.

"It should be remembered that our human population is increasing about 2.5 million a year. It would seem that the number of cattle should increase to 90 million head in the next few years if we are to keep pace with the demands of our increasing population. Thirty years ago we had 70 million head of cattle when our population was only 105 million.

"The increase in the number of livestock would solve another problem. It is estimated that if an additional 2 per cent of the cattle were fed grain, it would completely wipe out our surplus of feed grains. It is natural that the high support leveled on grain will discourage feeding it to livestock.

"In considering what is ahead for the cattlemen, we must speculate upon how far the administration will go in adopting such measures as the Brannan farm program, socialized medicine, or the so-called Spence bill, which is nothing more than a super-duper OPA with more trimmings and regulations than we have ever had before.

"If we adopt the Brannan plan, which is similar to the English agricultural program, you would not be able to sell your cattle without a permit; you could not kill them or produce more than the Secretary of Agriculture would indicate. You would be told when to sell and what to feed. The regulations in England, and those under the Brannan bill would be so numerous that incentive and free enterprise would then be smothered. There are 15 pages of penalties in the Brannan farm program, which would require you to keep such records, letters, memoranda, accounts as the Secretary would indicate. Your books would be inspected. For non-compliance you could be fined \$5,000 or be placed in jail. Adopt this plan and the future of the livestock industry would not be very bright.

"There is another move that should be watched carefully by your association and that relates to the intense pressure by the consumers of the east to lower the barriers and permit cheap meat to come in from South America. I know there are groups who are considering ways and means to bring this about. If fresh meat is permitted to come from Argentina, Mexico and other countries infested with foot and mouth disease, and this disease is transplanted to our cattle herds, as it surely will be, then the future of the cattle industry again grows precarious.

"I must sound another warning on what is ahead. In my opinion we have two Frankenstein monsters facing our people today. One is increased inflation; the other more taxes. Either can destroy the economy of this country. You people on the farm will be in an ideal position, if an uncontrolled inflation takes hold, because the quart of milk and the dozen of eggs, and your meat still has the same food value regardless of the value the dollar may assume.

"You cannot escape so readily the taxes. The huge spending of this administration, with a 7 billion dollar deficit this year, can mean but one thing—more taxes and more inflation.

"Another note of warning must be sounded and that refers to the growth of socialism and regimentation. It is not only in the Brannan farm program, socialized medicine and attempt to nationalize steel and other industries, but it means bigger government with more controls in Washington. I am fearful that socialism, like the termites in a building, is silently destroying our way of life. It is destroying the rights of individuals. The holding of property should always be a human right, but under socialism, government assumes ownership and denies that individuals have the right or the capacity to manage their property and economy.

"We have seen big government grow, from 1933, when there were only 533,000 on the federal payroll, a debt of 16 billion dollars and only 5 billion to run all phases of government, up to this time when we have more than 2 million on the payroll, a debt of 260 billion dollars, and 43 billion dollars to run the government. This does not include a deficit of 7 billion dollars for this year. In 1933 there were 351 departments of government. Today there are more than 1,850.

"The need for the adoption of the Hoover commission recommendations is imperative if we are to rid ourselves of the dead wood, duplication and extravagance in federal government. In 4½ peacetime years, we spent more than 190 billion dollars. This is more than 32 Presidents spent in the first 152 years of our ex-

istence, and during that time we went through several wars and depressions. We cannot be in a good position with printing press money. It seems to me that our government, the banks, trust and insurance companies, who are the unofficial custodians of the people's money, ought to be able to tell the citizen that the dollar that he puts in bonds today will always be worth a dollar. Unsound economic policies, with more unemployment, mounting surpluses, declining exports, with threats of government operation of business, are real storm clouds.

"I also know that our citizens have great faith, energy, character, and are of sound moral fiber. We have more food, electrical gadgets and new inventions than any other country in the world. We have great power to produce. The strength of our country rests in our soil and the spiritual make-up of our people. We are a Christian nation—a praying nation. We have the ability to meet great emergencies and still keep our economic and social balance. Our know-how of production leads the world. It is a bright shining beacon light. It is my great hope and fervent prayer that the congress and this administration will be able to guide the frustrated world through the international fog and rough economic waters so that we may be able to pass on to future generations a type of society in which they can be secure and our nation will remain strong."

O'Neill, as the winter sports capital of the midwest, is reluctant to have the season come to a close.

Prairieland Talk — Minneola, Once a Boom Frontier Town, Sat Like a Dog on a Treeless Prairie

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN — Not only a memory. A few survive in Holt county who remember the Minneola of long ago.

Setting like a dog town on the treeless prairie on the stage route from O'Neill to Niobrara, it was a boom frontier town that had about every thing, even a newspaper. A n d then one by one, there was a pulling up of stakes. O'Neill caught the backwash, including Dr. Love, Charley Hall, Andrew Watson, J. C. Ecker, the Shelhart family and some others. In time the ghost town was no more.

The L & R outfit took over and the village that had flourished between new moons became a cow camp. Early day cow outfits shifted from place to place, and when Lamont & Richards moved on Bill Goree and wife, the former Miss McCutcheon, were the next to loll in their saddles in the glow of summer sun and keep an eye on the herds that browsed over the endless miles of shoulder high blue stem.

Mrs. Goree was the first "cowgirl" to discard the conventional side saddle and ride like a man. And she was a graceful rider.

The Gorees moved on and then came the Massey family. A dwelling and a store and postoffice building took root on the open prairie.

On a quiet Sunday night the Massey family were awakened to find the store and postoffice in flames. And Minneola ceased to be.

My first night in Holt county was spent in a building that was fearfully and wonderfully made in the original Minneola. Memory still lingers of what the community once was, and there comes unbidden the mystery question: Why so many things to bring up the dead past?

On a day nearly a half-century ago James Willis was up from his ranch on the South Fork and informed us at The Frontier that he had shipped into market 3 carloads of cattle and that during the year and a half he had been in Holt county he had made more money than ever before. They are still doing it.

The happiest couple has been found in the persons of Mr. and Mrs. John Morrison. Mrs. Morrison says her husband brings her a cup of tea in the morning while she is still in bed, hands her his weekly pay envelope unopened, helps with the dishes, and on her part she regards John's snoring as "love lyrics."

Husband and wife shot down by an assassin in a saloon in Wilber, the next week a little farther east in the cul-

tured precincts of the Peru State college the president of the institution and one of the instructors were shot down by a third member of the teaching force, who then went home and killed himself. Looks like he should have been in a different kind of state institution. These 2 tragedies recorded on the dark pages of crime in this state following close the criminal acts of 4 young thugs at a lonely street corner in Lincoln.

Clergymen are at once gathering adherents out of pagan lands and concerned for their communicants at home. The passing centuries have ushered in an age of question marks and bred a generation that is not taking everything for granted.

Reading, study, investigation, scientific demonstration is leading many to recast their belief and venture out in what they have come to regard fuller light.

On the one hand, pagans dis-

card the superstitions of long centuries accumulation and accept Christianity; on the other hand men are breaking away from the denominational standards of their fathers and reject everything or are joining those with a distinctive creed.

Much that Christian nations have clung to as the spiritual guiding star is a hangover from ancient paganism. How much are we still pagan?

The third generation following the flood was introduced to the first bogus Messiah in the person of Tammuz, the illegitimate son of Semiramis, widow of Nimrod, the great-grandson of Noah. Another bogus Messiah stepped into the scene some centuries later in India, Prince Siddhartha, assuming the title of Lord Buddha. Again the third one came out of the Arabian desert after the advent of the heaven-sent Messiah, and the countless millions of the Moslem world will fight for Mohammed at the drop of the hat.

The Messiah of Christendom said, Put up thy sword; all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. And to the exalted concepts for human conduct revealed in the sermon on the mount have been mixed the philosophies of men. Into the vortex of a world in confusion has been thrust a generation that is breaking away from old moorings and setting sail on other seas. It is a time to know definitely the reason for the faith within you and hold steady.

Upon a modest Lincoln newspaper has been bestowed the honor of being Nebraska's outstanding young man. The coronation was the act of an organized group of young fellows and confined to such a circle it was doubtless wisely placed. Recent years have produced quite a collection of outlanders and maybe it has not always taken such a wonderful guy to be so exalted. I think of a young man working in a garage whom I had the privilege of giving a lift in a small way that supports his widowed mother, recently bore the expense of the funeral of his grandmother, and is also struggling to get an education. I wonder if such a young man should not have an honored place among the outlanders.



O'Neill Coloratura Soloist Will Play 'Gretel'

Miss Kathleen Flood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. N. Flood, of O'Neill, will play the lead "Gretel" in the St. Mary's college spring festival to be produced by the fine arts department of the college May 7, 8 and 9 at 8:15 p.m. in Xavier, Kans., auditorium. The May 7 performance is scheduled for a homecoming festival on the evening of the alumnae reunion at St. Mary.

The festival, under the baton of N. DeRubertis, director of the college orchestra, opens with excerpts from the fairy opera, "Hansel and Gretel," by Engelbert Humperdinck. The orchestra accompanies the 52-voice chorus, the vocal solos, duets and ensembles, as well as the dance soloists, the ballet and dance groups.

Miss Flood, coloratura soloist, will appear also in part II of the program — "Starlight."

Songnight," singing "Romany Life," by Herbert, and as a member of the ensemble; "When a Maid Comes Knocking at Your Heart," by Friml; "Love's Own Sweet Song," by Lehara, and "Chiapanecas," by De Campo.

Final Papers Signed For Chambers Port

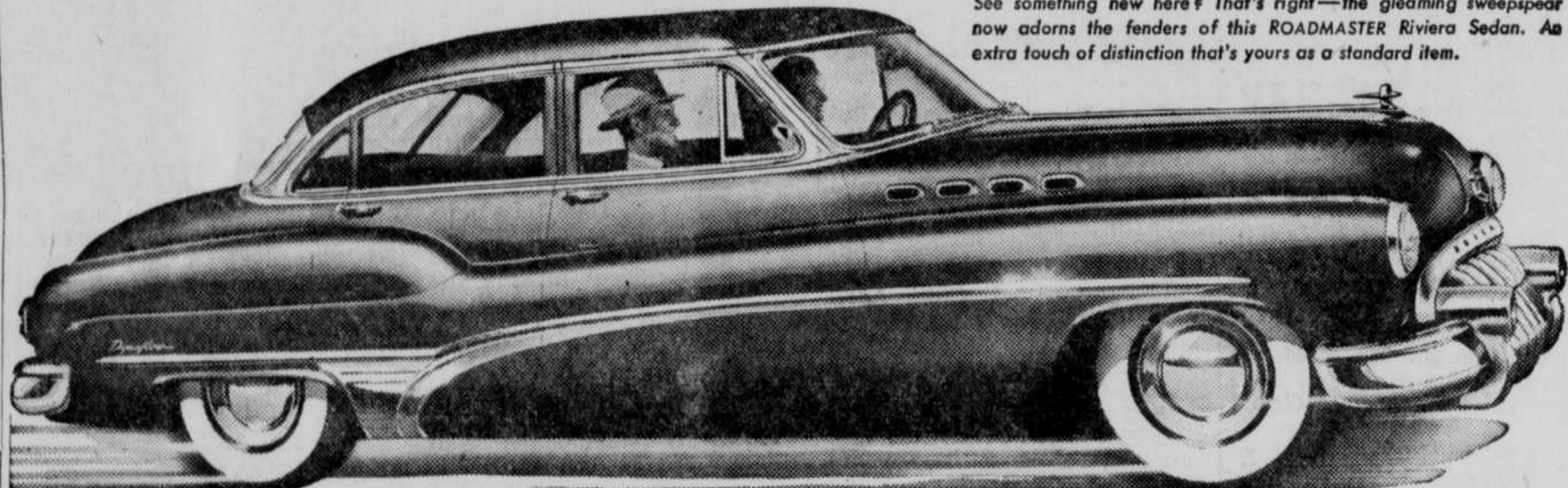
CHAMBERS — Final papers were signed here recently for the construction of the Perkins memorial airport here.

The contracts, zoning and location, were approved by the state civil aeronautics officials, according to Mayor Ed Thorin. Ground-breaking will begin on the \$13,500 airport May 15. Coultis and Nagel construction company, of Creighton, are the contractors.

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