

THE FRONTIER

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CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

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Those Missing Persons

Holt countyans, like residents of most counties in the north-south belt running from the Canadian line south through the Dakotas, Nebraska, Kansas and Oklahoma, are asking: Where are the missing persons?

As this editorial is written, the district census supervisor declines to state specifically the extent of loss of population in the county because, until early this week, all tabulations had not been completed. But in a general way he declared that Holt's decrease would represent a town of a thousand persons.

That there is a drop comes as no surprise. The trend for years has been away from the ranches and farms.

Mechanization of the farm and expansion of farm and ranch operations are primarily responsible for the decrease. This trend was established in the 1930s during the years of drouth and depression.

Then came war preparedness and, like a vacuum, people were drawn from the Midwest. Then during the war years the dislocation heightened.

With the cessation of hostilities there were those who hoped that the young men trekking back from the wars would settle down to agricultural life. But this did not develop on a noticeable scale. Many of these young men went into other work, frequently into work for which they had been trained in the service. Many of them found jobs in other places. For many of them, we regret to say, the farm or ranch had no more attraction. Probably a more important reason was the inability, financially, for most of them to establish themselves on a farm or ranch. They soon discovered that farming and ranching had become big business; that these operations in the post-war era required considerable capital.

With the disappearance of old dobbin and with the highly mechanized methods of farming many sets of farm buildings have disappeared. Places where families once lived have no buildings at all. Fewer persons nowadays can handle many more acres.

At the same time, more production per acre has been developed through improved methods of cultivation, fertilization and conservation of soil.

There are fewer persons to make use of the facilities of the small towns, but the per capita income has increased substantially.

While the tractor age has been responsible for the depopulation of the farms, there has been no new industry developed to absorb these people formerly engaged in farming, and that is a reason why these people have sought employment elsewhere.

Also attributed to the county's population decline is the method of counting. The college students are counted where they are attending college rather than their hometown. In 1940 they were counted at home—where they should be counted. There are perhaps 200 Holt county college men and women on somebody else's census roll.

Naturally, the people in O'Neill are happy to know that their city has increased a handsome 500 persons or more—into the 3,000 bracket. It would have been better, however, if all towns in the county had made a substantial gain.

The increase in the number of housing units in most towns has proved a deceptive guide to determining the number of people in these communities. In most places the number of units has increased but the size of the families has decreased.

O'Neill has seen scores of new homes constructed during the past decade and frequently in the removal of buildings from farms and ranches O'Neill has gained units by simply moving the house into town.

The Frontier firmly believes that the mechanization of the farm and ranch is here to stay, and that Holt county, as well as most other rural counties in Nebraska, must develop methods of processing the products in the county and practice extensive soil conservation in order to hold its population and prevent further loss.

O'Neill's gain of some 500 persons is handsome—about 20 percent—but it is offset by the county's net loss from its 16,552 figure in 1940.

No Deaths Thus Far

Axel Borg, Second district representative on the Holt county board of supervisors, has called to our attention an interesting fact pertaining to Holt county highway fatalities.

He pointed out that in 1949 Holt had 8 highway fatalities representing a third of all the fatalities in the 18-county Norfolk area of the Nebraska safety patrol. So far in 1950 Holt county has a perfect record—no fatalities.

Mr. Borg believes it would be a wonderful thing if we could keep the year 1950 free from auto fatalities. Needless to say the rest of us share the same feeling.

Just a Matter of Color



EAST BERLIN'S BLUE SHIRTS:

Prairie Land Talk —

Gone Are Days of Free Crackers, Cheese and Tobacco at Grocery Store

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN — They were the good old days. Don't sneer.

Within the happy memory of those still living a period of "good old days" was recorded on the scroll of time. You could go into a grocery store, help yourself to a slice of cheese by the simple process of grasping the butcher knife and cutting from the huge round cake what you wanted, go to the cracker box and walk out with a handful of crackers and a slice of cheese which some times was strong enough to walk out alone.

There was a cigar box in which was free smoking tobacco at which most of the time there was some fellow poking his cob pipe full with a practiced thumb. There were free matches. And if you brought a few groceries in that same store the clerk put in a sack of candy "for the children." Board and room at most any hotel was \$3.50 a week and a single meal consisting of all you could eat was 2-bits. Common laboring gent made \$1.50 a day, while \$3 was the limit for the best skilled artisans.

A doctor would treat you all winter for \$25 and \$5 was the "retainer fee" a lawyer charged and more than likely he didn't get any more than that.

There was no income tax and no withholding tax and no bureau chief to make your allotment of what you were to plant. Hunting and fishing licenses hadn't been invented and you could go to the Elkhorn most any summer evening and land a 5-pound pickled or strip to the nude and plunge into its limpid waters. You could drive over the prairie and bring in an antelope and a week's supply of prairie chickens.

There was no A or H bomb

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but you learned to be careful not to offend any pard that might throw a 44 slug at you. There was an absence of "no hunting" signs and not many wire fences to shut you out. Your buggy or saddle horse had no license plate and you needed no driver's license, but you had to know how to stay on your bucking horse when he took that notion.

The first sign of what was coming was the glint of the white of his eyes and then his back went into a hump.

Whatever can be done in the way of building with \$1,120,000

in the till is coming up for enlargements at the state university.

Next year auto license plates will be different if state house plans are not thwarted. Figures designating the county will be replaced with letters. Holt county plates to bear the letter HL. It is promised that the new style will save \$7,000. That will be a start. The auditor reports a take out of the state treasury of seven and three-quarter million dollars during the month of March. If sufficient items on which a saving of seven thousand each can be twisted from the hopper a worthwhile dent

can be made in the monthly outgo at the state house.

Wayne O. Reed, state superintendent of public instruction, who has been caustic in his criticism of school laws and regulations and vociferous for a broadened tax base" appears to not have had enough of the strenuous life at the state house and files again for the nomination. Down at South Sioux City has arisen a contestant for Mr. Reed's third term in the person of Merle Haynes.

"Voice of The Frontier... WJAG... 780 on your dial"

COUNCIL OAK

TOMATO SOUP 10¢
CAMPBELL'S. For the one hot dish. 10 1/2-oz. can

SUPERB TUNA FISH 37¢
SOLID PACK. No. 1/2 can

SLICED POTATOES 25¢
Grand for Potato Salad. 2 No. 2 cans.....

PORK & BEANS FINEST In Tomato Sauce 2 No. 2/2 CANS **33¢**

SWIFT'S PREM 12-oz. Can **39¢**
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ROBB-ROSS GELATIN ... 4 pkgs. **19¢**
SUM-R-AID COLD DRINK POWDERS 4 pkgs. **19¢**

HI-C Orangeade
46-oz. Can .. **31¢**

CHINESE MAID
★ **Chicken Chop Suey** 37¢
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CHINESE MAID
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Colored Oleomargarine
ARMOUR'S ... **37¢ lb.**
Blue Bonnet ... **44¢ lb.**

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★ **SARDINES** 2 1-oz. Cans **31¢**
BEST EVER

FRUIT COCKTAIL \$1.19
Gallon

PENICK
★ **WAFFLE SYRUP** 49¢
A Choice Blend. 5-Lb. Tin

SOILAX 24-Oz. Pkg. **25¢**

CHARMIN
PAPER NAPKINS
125's **25¢**

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GRAPEF'T 3 for 25¢

ORANGES & LEMONS, doz. 49¢

LETTUCE 2 for 29¢

CUCUMBERS, lb. 10¢

Cantaloupe, 2-lbs. 23¢

TOMATOES, lb. .. 21¢

CARROTS, 2 bun. 15¢

CABBAGE, 3-lbs. 16¢

IVORY SOAP, 2 large 25¢.....3 med. 23¢
CAMAY SOAP, 2 bath 21¢.....3 reg. 21¢
P & G NAPHTHA SOAP.....3 10-oz. bars 20¢
IVORY SNOWlarge package 25¢

BOSTON STYLE PORK ROASTS
43¢ LB.
FRESH PORK STEAK
TENDER SLICES, LB. 49¢

SLICED BACON ENDS
1 POUND PKG. **19¢**

SWIFTNING UNEXCELLED FOR 73¢
QUICK-MIX CAKES 3 LB. TIN

FRESH PORK HOCKS 27¢
SO GOOD WITH KRAUT. Pound

SLICED BACON 49¢
COUNCIL OAK SPECIAL. In Bulk. Pound

SIRLOIN STEAKS 79¢
TENDER, SAVORY BEEF. Pound

SUMMER SAUSAGE 49¢
Those Tasty "Shorties" Pound

SKINLESS FRANKS 39¢
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