

# THE FRONTIER

Editorial & Business Offices: 122 South Fourth Street  
O'NEILL, NEBR.

CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher  
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## We Can Eat Our Cake and Have It Too

Every citizen of Holt county and adjoining counties—including landowners, tenants, businessmen, employees, housewives and school children—should have a vital interest in the conservation of our soil and water.

Preservation of our land can assure a good future for all of us. A wasteful agriculture can despoil our farms and ranches, turn our thriving communities into ghost towns and drive our young people away from home. It has happened elsewhere, it can happen here, but it is entirely unnecessary. We can eat our cake and have it, too, merely by "treating every acre according to its adaptability and its needs," as the Soil Conservation authorities recommend.

Even though the Holt county Soil Conservation District is doing an excellent job and making progress, under the direction of its supervisors and Conservationist C. R. Hill, we are below the state average in percentage of farmer-district agreements and acreage for which plans have been made. In many other agricultural activities we have made outstanding accomplishments. We can match and even exceed other counties in the adoption of recommended land-use practices if we take our problems seriously and work toward a proper solution.

One of these problems is the tendency to plow land which can better be used for grasses and beef production. Another is the need for soil building legume rotations in our cropping programs. And, of course, we need to be always on the alert to prevent erosion, which not only increases the price of crop production, wastes time and damages equipment, but takes with it needed plant food.

Even on some pasture land we may need lime and fertilizers, because grass, too, is a crop which needs to be fed, and conservation practices have been proven to increase the carrying capacity of grassland.

All of these phases of agriculture can be converted into dollars which represent either profit or loss. Comparing the profit from row crops with that from grasses and legumes the figures may surprise us. For example, in 1949, the latest official statistics reported for Holt county, we produced some 89,000 acres of corn averaging only 22.1 bushels per acre, a total corn crop slightly under 2 million bushels. The value per acre was put at \$25. However, university studies show that it costs from \$11 to \$13 to produce an acre of corn in dry land areas. Therefore, it appears that on the average we are only netting about \$12 per acre. At the same time we are exhausting fertility and organic matter, and succeeding yields gradually fall.

Wheat isn't an important crop but in 1949 we harvested 30,000 acres of oats with an average yield of only 10.4 bushels and grossed an average of only \$6.80 per acre. We lost money on the average.

We harvested some 18,000 acres of rye, giving us an average return of \$9.20 per acre. As a grain crop it appears unprofitable. With an official 681,000 acres of cropland and 858,000 acres of pasture land, hay is our big crop, mostly native hay, of which we harvested almost 400,000 acres, and 20,000 acres of alfalfa. The statisticians figured it all at an average value of \$10.90 per acre. That is over four million dollars, which is about half the value of our entire farm production. Very little of that hay land washed or blew away. Grazed and fed as hay, it doubtless paid more net money in livestock gain than it would have returned in grain crops. Our hay can be improved in feed value as well as yields with good management.

As a cash crop too, grass seed is paying big money, sometimes producing more every year than the land itself is worth.

In some respects Holt county farmers perform far above others with similar land and climatic conditions. For example, we rank fourth in the entire state in number of milk cows, with 13,390 on January 1, 1949. Our dairy products income is about 10 percent of our entire farm income. In "all cattle on farms," we rank third.

Poultry accounts for another 10 percent or more of our income. All livestock products, including dairy and poultry, make up 90 percent of Holt county's income of approximately eight million dollars, about 10 percent coming from the sale of all crops. Feeding to livestock on the farm instead of selling our crops off as grain helps to maintain our fertility, and at almost any price level provides a higher net income for both tenant and owner.

By such farming practices we cannot only assure prosperity for the future, but within only a few years we can materially increase our net income and keep it up indefinitely. Not only do farmers make more money, but merchants also are benefited; schools, churches and hospitals can be maintained at a high level. We can all enjoy better living advantages and our young people will be guaranteed a good future here at home.

## Time Out for Some Questions



### Prairieland Talk—

## After Sojourn in 'Ham and Eggs' Country, Next Stop Is Los Alamos, Then Prairieland

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS

LOS ANGELES, CALIF.—Californians are tax conscious. Like elsewhere throughout the country, it is still in the grip stages. They think they are being imposed upon by old-timers from other states coming here to get a dip out of their 330-million-dollar budget for the superannuated patriots—the "ham and eggs" dish.



Romaine Saunders

Added to this is the federal and state, county and municipal tax loads.

R. W. Doe, a chain store executive of the San Francisco bay area, says our loaf of bread is spread with 151 tax items.

So that is why a loaf Bentley sold for a 5-cent piece in O'Neill now is 23-cents. The tax bill, Mr. Doe discovered, exceeds the entire food bill of the nation. Yankeland has always been able to master situations, so doubtless the tax headaches will be given a dose of aspirin in due time.

A woman fell and cut her head on the concrete. Two Good Samaritans happened to be going that way and stopped to aid the fallen woman. "I will go to the car and get a blanket and some whiskey for her," said Samaritan No. 1, "that is the only thing in such cases."

"No, no," said Samaritan No. 2, "I will hold her head up and check the flow of blood until the ambulance gets here."

"Do you want her to die of shock here on the pavement?" snapped Samaritan No. 1.

"Where did you learn first aid, in a distillery?" came back Samaritan No. 2.

And the police interrupted a Good Samaritan knockdown.

Two docs and their wives had a drawing room party. Now there is a damage suit on for \$105,000. One of the ladies tossed a highball glass at the other. . . Two expectant fathers and mothers picked a telephone office with a banner, "Unfair to the stork." They had been refused telephone connections. . . A mock trial resulted in the conviction of Secretary of State Acheson, the vote resulting in 793 for conviction, 13 against. . . A marine sergeant killed in action in Korea last November has been summoned twice by the draft board to appear for induction. The father and mother of that dead soldier, their only son, cry out, "Why can't they let us alone!" . . . Evangelist Billy Graham is back in

this modern Sodom. . . Oranges 45 cents for 10 pounds, loin steak \$1.05 a pound, fat hens \$2.

A little over 5½ inches of rain has fallen on Southern California until late February. Weather observers despair of getting the normal 15 inches of rain.

Time writes no wrinkle on the azure brow; such as creation's dawn beheld thou rollest now.

So wrote Byron. Man has cluttered up the land with his works. His "control stops with the shore." Yesterday we wound our way through mountain passes to the ocean's edge. The blue waters of the Pacific lay calm—except for the ever restless surf beating upon the sands. The sun bathed in radiant splendor the surface of the deep, permitting a clear view to the horizon limits.

Near-naked humans lolled on the sand, sunbrowned bodies stretched in indolent ease.

Being Washington's birthday it was a holiday for schools and public offices, when many such workers drove to the ocean shore. It was the first time one of our party of land lubbers had looked upon that 8,000 miles of ocean depths, and, of course, was properly impressed.

My next stop will be Los Alamos, N. M., where my elder daughter and her husband make their home. Then on to prairieland.

The newborn babe comes into the world with a cry of pain, goes out with a groan after accumulating the frosts of many winters. From the maternity ward to the funeral chapel tears and laughter, joy and pain haunt the steps of humanity. A millionaire leaped to his death today from a 100-foot precipice. A prominent civic leader pulled the trigger that sent a slug into his heart. Traffic deaths for the year in one California county totaled 90 by late February. The nude body of a woman strangled to death lying on the beach. A girl beat the brains out of a guy who got fresh with her. Maybe more of them should carry a club.

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R. H. ("RAY") SHRINER  
O'Neill, Nebraska

A Hollywood notable came home and informed his spouse that he had enjoyed his freedom while in Italy and wanted a divorce. The discarded lady accommodated him. After the judge granted her the decree, she was asked by a nosy reporter if there was another romance for her. "No, I've had enough!"

### Real Estate Transfers

WD—Thelma F Adams to Fred D & Grace E Smith 2-19-51 \$5900-Pt SE¼SW¼ 20-26-12  
WD—Fannie Schiffbauer to

Gustav M & Magel H Suhr 2-14-51 \$5,200-SW¼ 14-27-9  
QCD—Thelma F Adams to Chambers Village Inc 12-13-50 \$1-Pt SW¼ 20-26-12. For public street  
WD—Zedona Knoell to Clare Otto Knoell 12-14-50 \$1-E½ Sec 21 Twp 30- Range 10 except 1 acre for school house  
WD—Gail Boies to Frank C Krontorad et al 2-19-51 \$2545-Lot 12 Blk 15- Pioneer Townsite First Add- Ewing  
WD—Fred L Kanzelmeier to Lloyd & Alfred James 12-8-50 \$800-Lot 1-NE¼NW¼ 7-25-16

WD—Roy Krohn et al to Wm L Hanley 6-9-50 \$11200-E½ 21-29-11  
WD—Wm L Hanley to Edward E Hanley 2-19-51 \$11200-E½ 21-29-11  
WD—Carl H Christensen to Mele & Delmar Spangler 1-30-51 \$17500-SE¼ 15- less 20 acres off North side-E½SE¼ 22- NW¼ 23-31-9  
WD—Virgil Laursen to Walter B Johnson 2-23-51 \$4000-NW¼-W½NE¼ 7-29-9  
WD—J J Harrington to Walter B Johnson 10-27-50 \$12390-S½-E½NE¼ 7-N½ 18-29-9



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