

THE FRONTIER

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Holt's Average Farm Income in 1949 \$7,615; But Magazine Claims Farmers 'Standing Still'

Nebraska farmers in Brown, Rock, Holt, Thomas and Garfield counties may be surprised to learn that they are listed among America's agricultural problem children, according to Max Coffee in the Sunday, March 11, issue of the Omaha World-Herald.

In the March issue of Successful Farming, Lauren Soth, an editorial writer for the Des Moines (Ia.) Register, writes an article about "American's No 1 Farm Problem."

He decides that this is man power. He concludes that American agriculture has a considerable reservoir of inefficient, misplaced man power. He calls these people the "underemployed."

The "underemployed" farmers, he says, are "working full time but are so inefficient they add little to the nation's output."

"They have been 'standing still,'" he reports, "while most of United States agriculture has been moving forward—using more machinery, better seed, better fertilizer."

These "standing still" farmers, he declares, are "still using the methods of their grandfathers. They have not caught up with the Industrial Age."

No Nebraska area is mentioned by Mr. Soth, and his article very apparently is aimed principally at portions of the deep South.

But his article is illustrated by a map of the United States, delineated by counties and showing by varied degrees of shading where the problem children of American agriculture exist.

The shading, a lighter hue than most of the map's shaded areas, covers Brown, Rock, Holt, Thomas and Garfield counties in Nebraska.

Just to check on how "bad" the conditions are in this part of Nebraska where beef cattle and hay are among the principal products, Coffee delved into some income figures.

The publication Sales Management lists gross farm sales figures for every county in the United States. Figures for 1950 are not yet available, but it listed for 1949:

Brown, \$3,344,000; Rock, \$3,168,000; Holt, \$15,467,000; Thomas, \$913,000; Garfield, \$2,377,000.

The 1950 census reports show Brown has 536 farms, Rock 423, Holt 2,030, Thomas 135, Garfield 380.

Division of the farm census figures into the farm sales totals provides these averages of gross income per farm for 1949:

Brown, \$6,240; Rock, \$7,490; Holt, \$7,615; Thomas, \$6,750; Garfield, \$6,150.

Considering that the national average of gross farm income in 1948 was something under \$4,800, these Nebraska county figures don't indicate that farmers there have been "standing still."

The Soth article is based on statistics provided by a congressional committee headed by Sen. John Sparkman, of Alabama.

The Soth magazine article quotes, as does the Sparkman committee, statistics gathered in 1945.

The Butcher Boy With Flowers



Prairie Land Talk —

California's Snow Blockade a Huge Joke to Nebraskans Used to 'Snow That Is Snow'

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN—An hour or so out from the twinkling lights of the Los Angeles area the last night in February, the Plymouth suburban headed for our prairie land home.

Highway patrolmen were halting all cars and trucks with the alarming information that a snow blockade lay in our path some 8 miles ahead in a pass over a low ridge in a mountain range. We were told no traffic would be permitted to proceed until the pass was cleared and then not unless we equipped ourselves with chains, of which we had none.

But Ned drove back a few miles and was held up for \$12 for a pair of chains. These adjusted on the back wheels, we awaited the word to go ahead, which came some three hours later. The "blockade" proved to be a huge joke to Nebraskans who are used to rolling through snow that is snow. There was a little slushy snow on the highway for 15 miles or so but no earthly use for chains.

In the Flagstaff area of Arizona, there was snow that rendered travel a little difficult because of falling snow and a haze that obscured the highway, to get off from which you might land a hundred feet in a canyon.

After leaving Flagstaff the sky and highway cleared. New Mexico, Colorado, Kansas and Nebraska held no terror of either snow or mud for travelers.

After leaving Needles in California's eastern desert, you roll into the Arizona desert. Functionaries in Arizona hold you up to see if you are sneaking in on them with California citrus and other products. If you have it will be confiscated. We had no contraband and the gent at the inspection stand waved us along with a smile and a cheery good luck. As we rolled over Arizona deserts and mountains we wondered how an orange skin could defile or defame the rocks and cactus. The petrified forest and painted desert are two of Arizona's much touted world wonders. The "forest" consists of some petrified sticks on the ground a little out from the highway and the painted desert consists of a tinted rocky gorge that forms a drop off at a level stretch of desert land touched by weird shades under the Arizona sun.

Some miles out from the sprawling and ancient city of Santa Fe, N. M., lies Los Alamos in a picturesque setting of towering mountains crowned with snow and wrapped in skirts of vice and occupying government purple. It is a community of 10,000 patriots in government serbuildings, and as buildings they are no shanties. You must have a friend within its federal precincts to get in at all, and my daughter, Mrs. L. M. Rohrer, provided us with passes. She has become interested in putting on canvas the charming scenes of nature with which they are surrounded and has her home beautified with such works of art, which are strictly home products. Mrs. Rohrer was an O'Neill girl.

New Mexico, like other states with large mountain and desert areas, is tax burdening its people. Nothing is derived in the way of state revenue from the

week's earnings.

In the minds of tax-burdened Californians, Nebraska stands out in the picture of the 48 states as the one without a state debt, no sales tax, no income tax, and an able-managed state government.

In Los Angeles, I visited an old lady who sits the day out in an easy chair and has two canes at hand and who as a young woman lived in O'Neill and did clerical work for M. P. Kinkaid and G. M. Cleveland. She spoke of Holt county as a cherished memory and said she would like to see that beautiful prairie land again.

When times' unrolling scroll has carried you into the serenity of life's lengthening shadows, when bitter biting frosts and the stern reality of January blizzards chill to the marrow, a quiet retreat along Glenoaks Road away from the maddening millions in Southern California is not a bad place to hole up for a month or two. But prairie land will look good to you upon your return.

The life of a soldier has been saved on more than one occasion because the slug from an enemy's gun struck something the soldier carried in his pocket. The life of one Holt county girl depended on a corset steel that was hit by a bullet fired by one of the party that took Barret Scott to his doom. The story comes out of Korea of a soldier who escaped death because he had a Bible in a breast pocket. The bullet from an enemy gun found lodgement in the Bible and came to rest at the 7th verse of the 91st Psalm, which reads, A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand; but it shall not come nigh thee.

I see Editor Cal has had the courage to step in where heretofore editors thought angels feared to tread. Maybe the oldtimers of Holt county who have spent a life time on the soil have indulged tolerant smiles over the expostulations about agronomy and agrotechny of the white-collar and red-necktie farmers who learn out of a book the proper angle to set the cultivator shovels.

Much that is being promulgated at present designed to bolster up courage reminds us of those deluded guys of a quarter century ago who tried to make themselves think that day by day in every way they were doing better.

At least two factories in Lincoln have taken on war equipment contracts, the lure of profit maybe offsetting the vulnerable aspects.

Asks Applicants Not Wait Until Final Date—

After March 15, all 1951 statements of intention will be back in the county PMA office and any who have not signed at the four scheduled meetings may come in any day of the week, including Saturday.

This was announced this week by Harry E. Ressel, of O'Neill, chairman of the Holt county PMA committee.

April 15 has been set up as the deadline for signature of any farm or ranch operator who plans to participate in the 1951 farm program. Please do not wait until the last day, Ressel asked.

The 1950 applications for payment should be in the mail in the very near future.

Club Meets March 21—

The O'Neill Women's club will meet on Wednesday afternoon, March 21, at the home of Mrs. R. E. Evans. Mrs. A. Neil Dawes will be in charge of the program.

Hoosier Hot Shots Are Reorganized—

Hoosier Hot Shots 4-H club reorganized at the Albert Havranek home Friday night, March 9.

Officers for the coming year are: Mrs. Albert Havranek, leader; Albert Havranek, assistant leader; John Ramold, president; Gary Braasch, vice-president; Patricia Mullen, secretary and treasurer; Lois Mullen, song leader; Dolores Tunender, news reporter.

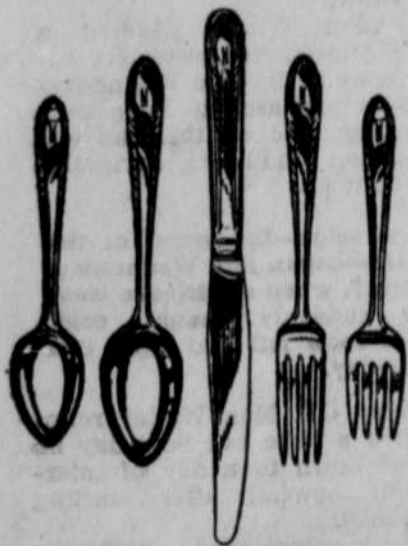
We have three new members. They are: Ronnie Richards, Luann Tenborg and Jimmy Tenborg.

We decided what projects to take the coming year. After the meeting we played games.

Our next meeting will be held at the Ramold home March 30. Lunch was served.—By Dolores Tunender, news reporter.



THE FRONTIER
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