

THE FRONTIER

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Prairieland Talk—

Youngsters Don't Have Monopoly on Fun; Country Editors Once Molded Opinion

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN—I mingled with a hundred more or less at a party the other night. There were no teenagers among greying heads.

Roland Hart gave us some Irish rhyme and wit, the real stuff. He has been there.

Jim Rodney, an erstwhile pal of Harry Lauder, took us into the Scottish highlands with song in his rich baritone. Mrs. Lovell took us into the deep South among the darkies, a male quartet struck the high and low notes in song, and two charming ladies trilled the "Silver Threads Among the Gold." A spelling match found me on the winning side. An Easter parade put on exhibition a group of gents present wearing ladies' hats, which demonstrated that kid characteristics cling to the old-timers, in spite of Paul's declaration that when we become men we put away childish things.

Around came platters bearing slips of paper. You took one and then hunted up the person whose name was on the slip of paper. What became of that introduction was strictly a personal affair. "America" was sung by lusty voices as a signal to get out and go home. It was a gay evening and don't you youngsters think you have a monopoly!

I don't know what is being accomplished by the schools of journalism other than absorbing public funds to support them. Since their introduction the daily press cuts very little ice in shaping public opinion. Rosewater's Omaha Bee, Ross Hammond's Fremont Tribune, Will Maupin on the Omaha Herald, and Edgar Howard, of Papillon (later of Columbus), always caught the ear of the public and men across the state sat up and took notice.

In local affairs, Mathews, Riggs and later King & Cronin in O'Neill, John Wertz up at Stuart, Sprecker at Schuyler, Enos at Stanton and many others of the weekly press molded party policy into their communities.

The school of journalism of all of these was the long road from printer's devil to journeyman printer. Going after skulduggery these men wrote with a pen of fire and went to press with asbestos, espoused a cause with moderation and dignity, played on the harpstrings of human emotions with a pathos that would stain an angel's cheek with tears, or turned to humor that rolled with laughter. Oratory has disappeared from the platform and the mediocre taken over in many editorial rooms.

Mrs. Jennie Eppenbach, a busy mother of 11 stalwart, fine Nebraskans and carrying a family name that has been respected since pioneer days in Holt county, has written the following tribute to her beloved Nebraska:

COMIN' BACK
Have you ever seen a sunrise
O'er a high and rollin' plain?
Have you seen the glamour
Of a field of wavin' grain?
Have you seen hills and valleys
Robed in green by early June?
Have you sauntered through the meadows
When the birds trill forth an evening tune?
Have you seen the cows
In their coats of glossy silk
Coming in at nightfall
So the folks can get the milk?
Have you heard the tractor chugin'
As we're tendin' knee-high maize?
Then you're in Nebraska,
For that is what we raise.
You may go elsewhere for greener pastures,
But you find a woeful lack;
Nebraska then will beckon
So you'll soon be comin' back.
You see again her sunsets,
And her skies of azure hues,
And the sweep of open prairie—
Just the thing to dispel the blues.
Then you crank up the flivver,
While the women folk'll pack,
You head'er for Nebraska
And you come a tearin' back!

Wonder if those crusty senators ever look up at the capitol dome down there in Washington and read the emblazoned lines enshrined thereon, One God, one law, one element and one far-off divine event to which the whole creation moves.

The Shot Heard Round the World



A web of loveliness has been woven
Of flowers, trees and birds.
But not a thing in field or grove
Is quite as beautiful as words.

Words—the blind hear, the deaf may read. The music of words charms the illiterate and the cultured, sways multitudes, starts

the tear, thrills with pleasure, amuses or startles, winged messenger of joy or congeal with pain, sears the soul with cruel thrusts or lifts it on celestial wings into realms of bliss. "Let the words of my mouth," prayed the psalmist, "and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord."

Asked if genius was inspiration, Tom Edison replied, No—perspiration. . . The much-touted lands of enchantment, mountain and lake resorts, are not the main attractions for tourists, most of whom head for New York City and Washington, D.C., to "see things." . . Indiana has a Tell City. . . A chain fished out of Lake Erie is thought to have been the anchor chain of a vessel sunk 140 years ago by a British naval fleet. . . Protestant church members came forward in 1950 with one billion dollars in support of their church work. . . The Alaska moose is the largest of the deer group of animals, attaining a height at the shoulders of 8 feet and weighing 1,800. . . Pope Pius XII has decreed the Catholic faith in the Bible record of creation, thus correcting the leanings of their educators who were toying with the idea that life started in the ooze of a mudpuddle. . . The English pay \$66 taxes on a \$100 suit and \$600 on a \$1,500 automobile.

Will Spindler, lolling at ease in a Morris chair and looking out on the serene Pine Ridge country north of Gordon, was pictured with Mrs. Spindler in a Sunday paper (that everybody in Lincoln reads) with a story of their work among the Indians.

Mr. Spindler has been in the Indian country of South Dakota engaged in school work for many years. The Spindlers were formerly at the Potato Hill school but now are at the Pines.

Mr. Spindler is the author of a number of books depicting life west of the 6th P.M., the scene of

one of his stories being in northern Holt county, the home of his childhood and youth. The "Rim of Sandhills" portrayed people and scenes of the Kid Wade and Doc Middleton saga, weaving adventure, activities of vigilantes, frontier social and home life, with a touch of romance, into an interesting little volume.

We are in for some excitement. According to a gent and his Jane posing as seers down in Texas, this is what is on the agenda for 1951: "Another war crisis in June and July. What the stars foretell. A new planet is born. Stalin's defeat and the end of communism. America's victory. When will we have one world? The kingdom of Yahweh begins on earth in 1951. The return of the Messiah. Flying saucers—the truth from the Creator concerning them. New diseases and epidemics. Drought, floods, earthquakes, famines, stock crash, financial crisis. When and where will Hitler return? When will Russia take Persia and the Holy Land? And if you will send them a buck or two you will receive 15 pages of "the most valuable and authentic" dope ever produced on coming events. That's one way of getting by without engaging in the daily drudgery of work. Anyway, spring floods may boost their reputation.

The "all-star" primary, under fire of late, in the final analysis means nothing. Nebraskans are not nominating candidates for president at their primary elections. Nominations are made in national convention. The first tryout was something of a hoax. The man who carried the state

vote got no where in the national convention, and to a man up a tree it appears that about all there is to the "all-star" notion is to cumber the ballot with names.

A couple by the name of Drinkwater is in trouble with federal guardians of the law for bootlegging firewater.

World population is thought to increase by 40 kids every minute. That many more born than die each minute.

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