

Prairie Talk . . .

Inman Once a Humdinger

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN—Citizens of Indianola, out in Red-willow county, will devote their annual celebration in late August to a tribute to the homesteader, with a real sodhouse the center of attraction and a pageant with "my little old sod shanty on my claim" the theme song.

Maybe Holt county, or Inman precinct, should be coming up with something in honor of that Holt county homesteader, Joseph Raymond, who immortalized the sodhouse in verse which first appeared in the Inman Index, a little four-page paper that Cross & Son managed to produce during the 1880's with a case or two of type and a Washington hand press. The mechanical equipment was not so much but editorially it was one of the bright stars in a galaxy of literary talent that graced the press of Holt county in the radiant days of its youth. Raymond was a sodhouse homesteader three miles south of the town of Inman, a humdinger in those days of straight-shooting cowpunchers and brilliant village talent. And now at Inman as well as elsewhere there rests upon the brow of time the evidence of the taming work of the years.

And yet Inman has its memories of the shining days of long ago when such as Joseph Raymond put humor, romance and adventure into life in a sodhouse on the claim.

In a letter from a venerable friend who grew up in Holt county, now making his home in a distant state, I read this: "I seem to hear an aeolian dirge as the hot winds beat northward, as they must this time of year in Holt county. For whom are they playing—for friends gone before, for mature men and women when we were boys, or boon companions our own age?" Well, Old-timer, to you the wind is playing on the harp-strings of memory; it brings again the dolorous call of the prairie wolf, the thunderpumper's salute to the setting sun, the evening note of the meadow lark, the long drawn-out call of a prairie wildling for his mate, the booming crow of the prairie rooster as he struts before his harem. It whispers to you through the waving treetops and silken gown of green-robed prairie-dancer of romance and adventure of the lang ago, of youthful dreams and high resolves. It touches, too, a mournful chord for the departed red man whose footprint is forever washed away by the silent flowing Elkhorn, a dirge for our fathers and mothers whose lips are silent, toilworn hands at rest. And for this generation whose heritage is a subdued wilderness the aeolian note is one of courage and inspiration.

What is this "diehard" element and who are they the political sprigs, who have one "paramount issue" one minute and something else the next minute, speak of so ruthlessly? They are the people who have tested principles of right and wrong in government, know where they stand and are not carried about by every vagary of political doctrine that floats about. Who are they that make up the "old guard" at whom some just out of the diaper period cast aspersions? They are the solid folks who have grown gray in party service and know the sane and workable from the vagaries. Heaven preserve the old guard and the diehard!

Anyway, Mr. Truman remains loyal to his Kansas City cronies. The president picked a gent out of the Pendergast gang as his alternate at the democratic national convention.

Patent No. 2,594,725 has been obtained by a California patriot for a process which is said to make artificial snow. Let's have some of it these hot summer days.

Editorial . . .

Too Many Grass Fires

The incidence of grass fires in the O'Neill region during these past few weeks, while this section has been in the grip of a costly drought, provokes a discussion of farm and ranch fires.

The rural fire bill of nearly one-third of a million dollars for every working day of the year means a tax upon every bushel of grain the farmer hauls to market; upon his dairy and poultry products; upon his livestock.

Unlike urban areas where fire protection and water supplies are adequate, farms often face total destruction when fire strikes. When fire destroys a farm, the loss of farm equipment, livestock and personal property often throws such an economic burden upon a family that it can not regain its financial independence.

While insurance protection is a necessary safeguard against loss by fire, the cost of time and labor to rebuild is usually far in excess of the value destroyed.

Nearly all farm fires can be traced to two basic causes — faulty building construction and lack of knowledge. Realizing the importance of the fire menace, leaders in municipal, county, state and federal government are now waging war on two fronts—prevention and protection.

Inspection is the right arm of fire prevention—the safeguard that may mean the difference between a small blaze, quickly extinguished, and the wholesale destruction of buildings, property and possessions. Farms are very often without adequate water supplies and isolated from fire fighting facilities.

Inspection of dwellings, of barns and out buildings: Lightning causes more fires than any other hazard on the farm, annually destroying thousands of buildings, taking lives of approximately four hundred persons and injuring about a thousand more.

Protect livestock by grounding all wire fences. Connect grounding rods with each lateral wire of the fence and extend into the ground for at least three feet. Fences joined to a building should be grounded at the post nearest the structure. In addition, the ground rod of the building should be connected to the fence.

Many factors play a part in the spontaneous ignition of hay: Moisture content, chemical action, bacterial action, the presence of sufficient air and a pile so large that heat cannot escape.

Most grass fires are products of lightning—a natural cause over which we have no control. Some, however, are caused by sheer carelessness.

The extension service of the University of Nebraska college of agriculture would be pleased to provide you literature and details on rural fire prevention. The state department of health also has prepared special bulletins. Their services are available without charge.

Law enforcement officers are making out cases involving beer taverns for selling to teenagers whose demand for firewater is on the increase. If it is good stuff for an old fool, why not alright for a young fool? . . . American Legion vets had what it takes to put on a half-mile parade down the solar furnace of a Lincoln street in late July. . . "Saucers," those mysterious objects seen moving across the heavens that some scientists reluctantly have concluded may be visitors from distant planets, have been reported circling above the District of Columbia. Before the atom bomb was dropped on ancient Sodom and Mrs. Lot became a lump of salt because her curiosity got the best of her, Celestial Visitors checked up on doings in the oldtown. If the saucer visit at our nation's capital has any such significance let us hope the report is more favorable than what has been coming out of congressional committee investigations. . . Convention halls have trembled under the impact of oratory soaked in partisan hogwash. The smiling FDR, jr., not the least, "The voice is Jacob's voice but the hands are the hands of Esau."



Romaine Saunders

Maybe that which was of more interest to prairie patriots than political conventions was the horse show down at Grand Island the past week. Fanciers of the palomino in Nebraska and adjacent states had their nags on show. That is about all a horse is useful for since the machines on the highways and farms have taken over. The palomino show up rather classy and with a dude aboard who thinks he's some pumpkin as a rider, but who causes the rider of the old range days to snort with disgust, and the horse show is complete. . . Amateur statesmen here and there think a national primary would be the thing. Primaries in several states is what has split political parties into factions and made more trouble than a box of monkeys. With a national primary law to select candidates for president the way is open for 48 states to come forward each with a favorite son and man of destiny to appear on the ballot, which would involve us in a political mess that even these gents advocating the primary would be able to see.

Published proceedings of the Lancaster county board contained a list of 294 persons to whom salary claims had been allowed. The highest \$391.66, lowest \$11.93. The average run about \$200. This makes it about \$55,000 for the month. All counties in the state have a salary list of greater or less volume. Salaries are only a part of the cost of county government. Consolidation of counties has been discussed as an economy measure but so far economy either in private life or official circles is not thought of seriously. Waste goes on everywhere. And while householders consign unusable table leftovers to the garbage can they will not worry about the cost of government.

At a cost of \$500,000 to the United States, American airmen have been spraying fields in Egypt, Jordan, Israel and other spots in that part of the world with a powerful insecticide known as aldrin to rid those countries of swarms of locusts. So Yankees go to the cradle of the race and show them how it is done.

In bold script across the side of his truck an enterprising gent says: "Get it up right." Now no doubt he can spell right right but maybe he thought to make a hit if he would write right rite but just how is he going to get it up right when he makes rite out of right?

It was a pleasure to note that Bill Grothe up by Emmet has safely negotiated another milestone and added another year to his active life. Mr. G. and his estimable household have long been friends of The Frontier and the entire force responsible for its publication, extend their congratulations and wish for Bill happy years ahead.

Other Editors . . .

Supply and Demand

(From Cedar County News, Hartington)

To see the difference between the workings of the law of supply and demand and that of a controlled price set in Washington can be best illustrated by taking a look at the recent potato shortage this spring.

That the law of supply and demand will control prices better than some politician was well demonstrated. Let's look at the potato story.

The potato crop last year was smaller than the recent average. That might have caused a temporary shortage. But ordinarily the shortage would have lasted only until the potato crop in the southern states was ready for market.

But the controls changed the ordinary process of marketing. Because prices were fixed at a comparatively low rate, southern farmers decided to let their potatoes stay in the ground until they attained full growth. Then a larger yield might compensate for the lower price.

As last year's crop of potatoes was used up, black marketeers invaded the southern potato fields and began buying up the crop at prices high enough to induce the farmers to harvest promptly. Legitimate dealers couldn't do that, because of controls. The situation was rapidly growing worse.

Finally Price Stabilizer Ellis Arnall was pressured into canceling the ceiling. As a result prices did advance for a few days. The price increase induced more farmers to start digging. Housewives who objected to the high price let potatoes pile up in the market.

Finally the price broke sharply. Soon potatoes were selling in the New York market at five pounds for 25 cents. It took 15 days for the free market to restore the price to what it should be under the law of supply and demand.

THE FRONTIER

Editorial & Business Offices: 122 South Fourth St. CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher Established in 1880—Published Each Thursday Entered at the postoffice in 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. 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.

GETS COMBAT BADGE

Sfc. Cecil F. Keyes of Inman was recently awarded the combat infantryman badge while fighting with the 40th infantry division on the central Korean front. The badge, symbol of the front line fighting man, shows a miniature Revolutionary War flintlock rifle mounted against a blue rectangle. A silver wreath extends across the bottom and up the sides of the badge.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

WD—Agnes E Sullivan to Roy J Shelhamer & wf 7-18-52 \$31,750-Lot 1 & E 1/2 lot 2 Blk 19-O'Neill  
WD—Anna D Newton to Agnes Slaymaker 5-19-52 \$3500-Lots 4-5 & 6 Blk 45-Pioneer Townsite Add-Atkinson

When You and I Were Young . . .

Hotel Evans Host to 98 Diners

Ball Game Attracts Crowd to O'Neill

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Zimmerman are rejoicing over the arrival of a young son. . . Miss Dora Alberts left for Inman to spend a week. . . The ever popular Evans hotel served 98 dinners. This fact gives some idea of the size of the crowd that witnessed the ball game that day. Atkinson won the score being 16 for Atkinson, 14 for O'Neill. In the foot race between Fred Swingley of Atkinson and D. Clem Deaver of O'Neill, Mr. Swingley was the winner. . . D. W. King of Newman Grove is in the city visiting his brother-in-law, C. E. Hall.

25 Years Ago

MacKintley Simonson, who is employed in the Chicago & North Western dispatcher's office at Norfolk, visited his parents. . . The subject of paving is the principal discussion in O'Neill at this time. . . Mr. and Mrs. Ira Moss expect to leave for the East soon. . . Mrs. Van Robertson of Chambers drove her beautiful new Buick six sedan to O'Neill. She was accompanied by Mrs. Charles Robertson and Mrs. George DeKay.

10 Years Ago

The ladies auxiliary of the American Legion has secured about 100 pictures of soldier boys and has them displayed in the windows of Johnson's drug store. . . John R. Gallagher is now a second lieutenant in the marines. . . Mrs. Merle Hickey, Mrs. Norbert Dill and Mrs. G. J. Ryan entertained eight ladies honoring Mrs. Bert Davis and Mrs. H. M. Von Dollen. . . Miss Lou Birmingham entertained 35 guests at a swimming party at Piccadilly lake.

One Year Ago

The O'Neill volunteer fire department was summoned to extinguish a small grass fire near Don McClellan's Dr. Keith Vincent was notified that he had passed "very successfully" the three examinations of the national medical board. . . The cub scouts were hosts at a family picnic at Ford park.

DELOIT NEWS

Mrs. Ferdinand Hupp, sr. of Norfolk spent last week caring for her grandchildren at the Ferdinand Hupp home. Sam Kennedy of Iowa, cousin of Mrs. Stanley Huffman, is working at the ranch this summer.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Funk and family were Sunday dinner guests at the Clarence Shavlik home recently.

Rain is badly needed. Corn has never looked better. Almost everyone is having.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Ziska and daughter of Texas are visiting at the Leo Funk home.

Sunday dinner guests at the Ewald Spahn home were Mrs. Spahn's sister and family of Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. Jewell Tomiack of Bluehill spent the weekend at Ralph Tomiack's, Mr. and Mrs. Gene Ray and Vicky of Omaha were also recent visitors at the Tomiack home.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Reimer and Flavne attended the funeral of the latter's uncle in Ewing Sunday, July 20.

Leonard Miller has been hired to teach the Reimer school next term.

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Huffman and daughter spent Sunday in Elgin with Mrs. Zoe Huffman, Mr. and Mrs. Henney and family of Omaha and Mr. and Mrs. M. Huffman and daughters of Ewing.

A number from here attended free days in Clearwater Friday and Saturday.

MONEY TO LOAN

ON AUTOMOBILES TRUCKS TRACTORS EQUIPMENT FURNITURE Central Finance Corp. C. E. Jones, Manager O'Neill, Nebraska DR. H. D. GILDERSLEEVE, OPTOMETRIST Permanent Office in Hagensick Bldg. O'NEILL, NEBR. Phone 157 Eyes Examined - Glasses Fitted Office Hours: 9-5 Mon. thru Sat.

State Capitol News . . .

Coonrad Raps Assistance Staffs as 'Asinine, Part-Time Political Boards'

LINCOLN—Representatives of 19 counties were to gather Wednesday at the capitol to show the state board of equalization why their farm land and improvement assessments should not be jacked up by percentages ranging up to 50 percent.

The decision to hold the hearing came at a heated meeting of the board which found State Treasurer Frank B. Heintze and State Auditor Ray C. Johnson, both candidates for reelection, voting against Gov. Val Peterson, Secretary of State James Pittenger and Tax Commissioner Philip K. Johnson. Neither Peterson nor Pittenger is a candidate in the fall election and Commissioner Johnson holds an appointive office.

These are the counties where the board wants to raise assessment and the proposed increases, percentage-wise:

Table with 2 columns: County Name, Percentage Increase. Includes Arthur (25%), Banner (10%), Box Butte (20%), Chase (10%), Deuel (10%), Dundy (10%), Frontier (10%), Garden (20%), Grant (50%), Hayes (10%), Holt (20%), Lincoln (20%), McPherson (20%), Perkins (10%), Phelps (20%), Rock (10%), Sheridan (20%), Sioux (20%), Thomas (20%).

The board's action came after a session in which Governor Peterson, the group's chairman, proposed that all counties with a percentage ratio of assessed value to the 20-year average sale price per acre of less than 50 percent be increased to 50 percent and that all counties with a ratio of more than 50 percent be dropped to 50 percent.

Peterson said his plan would be the first real equalization of farm lands in improvements in the history of the state. The motion, which failed to draw a second was defeated, Peterson said, "because it was absolutely sound, fair and just."

Also defeated for want of a second was a motion by Auditor Johnson that the board take no action in increasing farm land and improvement assessments.

Best opinion here at the statehouse is that the chances for a special session of the legislature to pass a highway revenue measure are pretty dim.

Despite the fact that governor Peterson has been urged by several highway groups to summon the lawmakers and despite the almost-certain recommendation of the Nebraska Editors Highway Improvement association that such a call be issued, it is believed here that a special session is most unlikely.

Scheduled to meet at Grand Island August 8 is the full editors' committee to receive the recommendation of a five-member sub-committee.

After the editors recommend a special session, it is believed Peterson will poll the lawmakers for their opinion. This is what he did when Sen. Hugh Carson of Ord urged an emergency session to raise the cel-

PAGE NEWS

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Holliday and family of Orenara visited Sunday evening, July 2, with Mrs. Myrtle Coonrad.

Miss Nancy Heiss, who is employed at Norfolk, spent from Saturday, July 20, until Tuesday, July 22, at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Heiss.

Mr. and Mrs. Eimer Spann of Atkinson spent Sunday, July 20, with Mrs. Spann's parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Russell.

Mrs. Tom Sinnaru of Grand Island spent from Sunday, July 20, until Tuesday, July 22, visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Snyder and her father, George Fink, and wife.

Mrs. Jerry Asner was a dinner guest Sunday, July 20, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Asher. Pvt. Jerry Asner telephoned from camp Crowder, Mo., and talked to his wife and mother. He is being transferred to Camp Chaffey, Ark.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Jacka and their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Smidt and baby of Tecumseh came Monday, July 21, for a few days visit with Mrs. Jacka's brother, Frank Snyder, and wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stolle, of Rochester, N.Y., and Mrs. Anna Stolle of Battle Creek spent Tuesday afternoon, July 22, at the home of Mrs. Alma Tegeler. Mrs. Stolle is a sister and Walter Stolle a nephew of Mrs. Tegeler.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Roach and Larry were Sunday, July 20, dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Troshynski. They all attended the ball game at Orchard that evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Snyder and two children and Donald Snyder visited Monday evening, July 21, with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Snyder and their house guests, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Jacka and Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Smidt and baby of Tecumseh.

Mrs. H. L. Brummett and two daughters and Mrs. Hugh Holliday visited with Mrs. Howard Holliday and children of Grand Island in the Dave Loy home at O'Neill Thursday, July 17.

Mrs. Laura Walker spent from Wednesday, July 16, until Sunday, July 20, at the C. A. Townsend home. While here she called on several of her old friends. She returned to Orchard where she had been visiting in the home of her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bright. She plans to go to O'Neill this week where she will visit in the L. A. Burgess home.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Wagers of Lodi, Calif., spent Friday afternoon, July 18, here where they called on old friends of Mr. Wagers. He is the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Bill Wagers, old time residents of this community. He left here when a young boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade Clarke and three sons of Sunburst, Mont., came Sunday, July 20, to spend a week visiting in the George Fink home. Allen and Billie Zempel drove up from Grand Island Sunday to visit for the day in the Fink home. Mrs. Fink is the mother of Mrs. Clarke, Allen and Billie Zempel.

Lawn Mowers Sharpened

The Factory Way You'll like the way your mower cuts through heavy grass when sharpened on our precision machine. A few minutes here will save you hours in the sun.

Hand \$2.00 - Power \$2.50 Pete's Saw Shop Phone 491w O'Neill

Merriman Gets ROTC Field Training

Cadet James E. Merriman, an ROTC student at Creighton university, Omaha, is now attending the 1952 infantry ROTC summer camp at Ft. Benning, Ga., the home of the U.S. army infantry center.

The ROTC camp will consist of six weeks of intensive training in courses ranging from bayonet training to radiological defense; however, most of the training will be concerned with learning the basic infantry techniques to include the firing of individual and crew served weapons and tactics.

In addition, recreational, social and religious activities will be a part of the camp program.

The ROTC summer camp training is an important part of the ROTC program, and it is designed to supplement the instruction which is given to ROTC students at educational institutions.

Cadet Merriman is the son of Mr. and Mrs. L. M. Merriman of O'Neill.

Mrs. Kenneth Braddock and Audrey came from Omaha Tuesday, July 15, and plan to visit until the last of this week with relatives and friends at Page and with Mrs. Braddock's parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Heiter of O'Neill.

Advertisement for Sweet Lassy feed supplement. Includes text: 'Castle gained 2.5 Lbs. per day on SWEET LASSY! Says John Mlenski, Rocky Ford, Colo.' and 'HERE'S HOW: 1. CATTLE EAT, DRINK MORE. 2. STRETCHES FARM FEEDS. 3. FAST, PRIME FINISH.' Includes image of a cow and a bag of Sweet Lassy.

Large advertisement for Willys Aero-Lark cars. Includes headline 'Smart to drive! Smart to buy!' and 'The Aero-Lark Willys'. Features a large image of the car and text describing its features: 'You'll feel smart driving this car . . . so new it has features others won't have for years. And you'll be smart buying the Aero-Lark . . . for it offers more than any other at its price! Its sweeping beauty has a purpose—the low silhouette and aerodynamic reduce wind drag and add to mileage. Front and rear seating space is 61 inches wide—luxurious spaciousness. It is the only car with visibility that lets the driver see all four fenders. We invite you to drive it . . . feel the performance of its Lightning 6 Engine . . . marvel at its ease of handling . . . test its "airborne" ride.' Includes price information: 'DRIVE YOUR CAR IN FOR APPRAISAL. If it is of average value, it will more than make down payment. DOWN PAYMENT AS LOW AS \$425.00. MONTHLY PAYMENTS \$54.00. The Aero-Lark Willys. ANOTHER GREAT CAR VALUE FROM Willys. Asimus Motor Co. (Tony Asimus) WEST O'NEILL. PHONE 373'.