

Prairieland Talk . . .

# Undertakers Keep Busy

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS

LINCOLN—It is appointed unto man once to die, an irrevocable decree. I have in hand a learned treatise on what medicine has done to prolong life. Very good, but somehow the undertakers keep busy. Doctors find means to defeat one thing that cuts down human life and a new thing develops. Moreover, what advantage is it to prolong existence beyond the productive period of life? Today I saw two snow white heads in one of those institutions where sons and daughters place or abandon their aged parents, one of these snow white heads being a man 87 years of age, the other 97, a physicians hand on years service, now mentally and physically faded away as he lay upon his bed, waiting the hour when the new feeble heartbeat throbs its last. He will leave a daughter and sons serene in the consciousness that their father had left to them the heritage of an unusual span of years of right living. The aged, those in middle life, the young and those in childhood are swept away by the remorseless hand of death. But whether or not medicine has added a minute to the span of years what we put into it and what we get out of life is the real meaning of it all.



Romaine Saunders

Maybe the bounty on coyote pelts holds no special inducement or hunters are after something they can roast over the campfire. At one time a Niobrara paper reported that a gent over that way one day brought into the office of the clerk of Knox county 71 pelts and got the bounty of one dollar each pelt. For the week that this haul was made 101 pelts had been received at the clerk's office and for the year 450 pelts indicated the reduction of the prairie wolf population by that number. . . Looks like Old Sol will take care of "watershed" worries for awhile. . . As of October 30 there were 285 traffic deaths in 10 months in 1952, or 15 more than were reported for the same period in 1951 in Nebraska. . . Anyway, the two candidates for governor of Nebraska conducted clean campaigns and treated each other as gentlemen. . . Rev. D. C. Winship mentioned in The Frontier as the officiating clergyman at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Burch at Central City in 1902, 'was pastor of the Methodist church in O'Neill in 1887-'88 going to Oakdale from O'Neill. I hauled with a team and wagon the Winships' earthly goods to the railroad to be loaded into a box car. . .

A section of the capital city which aspires to be a swank neighborhood has a Sunburst Lane and a Bryan Circle. Now they ask the city council to adorn the landscape with fancy doodads. . .

If men, women, children and babies will each chip in \$1,800 we can wipe out that national debt of 282 billion dollars. Who will pass the hat? . . The Greek Orthodox church people are opening a two million dollar cathedral in Los Angeles, Calif., where devotees of everything known to man as objects of worship may be found. . . A car of 633 monkeys from the jungles of the Philippine Islands has been brought to the United States to be experimented on with the hope of finding a cure for polio. . . One Nebraska patriot, writing of the honored gent he was voting for president, says he was "cut in the mold of George Washington." Wonder if he also has to his credit a chopped down cherry tree. . . The Chamber of Commerce down at Wilber is invited to send a delegation to O'Neill next time to get some tips on mixing pancake batter. Only between 500 and 600 Saline county patriots turned out for the annual pancake feed in their county-seat. . .

In a spirit of humility, sensing the grave responsibility, Mr. Truman took over upon the death of Mr. Roosevelt and the public felt a worthy successor had become president. Four years ago he who had inherited the office of chief executive was then elected. That went to his head. At the polls last week the sovereign citizens of America repudiated the new-fair deals and a cloud settled over the democratic party because of the dead weight of the Truman administration. No, the democratic party is not dead; neither would the republican party have ceased to exist had this election been lost to them. The sweeping victory places upon republicans to whom the country now looks a responsibility we believe will be met courageously and honestly. . .

A portion of it in North Dakota and a portion in Manitoba is the International Peace Garden. Upon the cairn are inscribed these words: "To God in His glory, we two nations dedicate this Garden, and pledge ourselves that as long as men shall live we will not take up arms against one another." . .

We have been feeding ourselves for the past six thousand years and now professional cook-stix artists forge out a livelihood by going about the country putting on "demonstrations." . .

The fundamental purpose of too many organizations that use the farmer as part of the setup's name is to farm the farmer. . .

## State Capitol News Governor-Elect Would Remove Public Health, Patrol from Present Departments

LINCOLN—Robert B. Crosby won't become governor of Nebraska until early in January but he was preparing to plunge into the complex duties of the chief executive by serving a whirlwind apprenticeship for Nebraska's No. 1 political job.

His first chore is one of the toughest faced by any governor—preparation of a recommended budget for the legislature. The governor-elect has been invited by Gov. Val Peterson to sit in on the budget hearings starting November 24. These are sessions at which heads of various state agencies explain to Tax Commissioner Philip K. Johnson, Governor Peterson and Budget Supervisor Paul Wagner the reasons for seeking the amounts they have.

Reorganization — One of Crosby's principal concerns, once he takes office, will be the preparation of a program before the 1953 legislature. He has indicated that high on his priority list will be reorganization plan for state government.

He has outlined his thoughts on this subject, in a recent interview:

"It is my belief that all tax collecting functions should be in one department. The appropriate department is the tax commissioner's office. In addition to the duties he now has relating to taxes I would want to withdraw from the department of agriculture the collection of cigarette taxes and the collection of motor fuel taxes and place those in a finance and budget department headed by the state tax commissioner."

"It is my belief that public health functions can be handled most efficiently if placed in one department. Therefore it would be my recommendation that the state activity that involves the inspection of restaurants and hotels and rooming houses should be withdrawn from the department of agriculture and placed in the public health department."

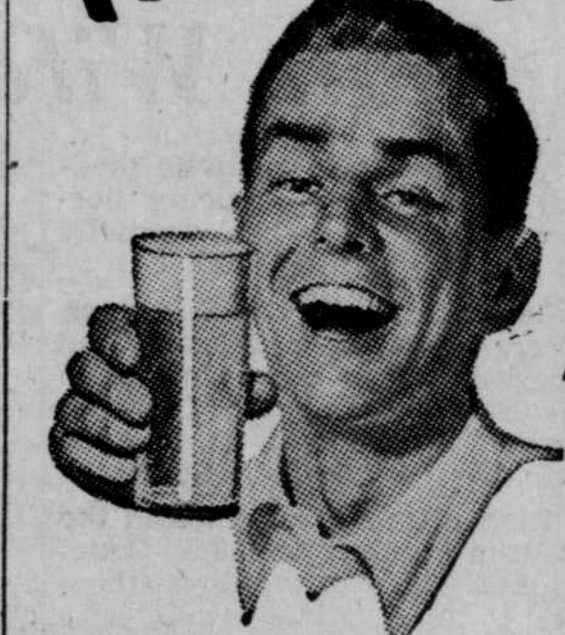
"I think to most people it is quite apparently ridiculous for any employee of the department of agriculture to be calling on a hotel, measuring the sheets to make sure they are 90 inches long as required by state law."

"It has seemed to me that we can have the most efficient operation of a department of agriculture if we permit the director and the personnel to concentrate at least most of their attention on problems of agriculture. Naturally, in a state like Nebraska where agriculture is the basis of our economy, we want a well organized department of agriculture. Therefore, if it can be done under the present law, I would like to transfer the activities that involve inspection and regulations of grain warehouses from the railway commission to the department of agriculture."

"We have in Nebraska what is called a highway to problem. It is one of the most frequently mentioned issues in this campaign. It has seemed to me that we could expect the best performance from our highway department if we allowed this director, the state engineer and the personnel to concentrate their attention on highway problems without being distracted by unrelated problems. Therefore, I would like to withdraw the state safety patrol, whose function is one of law enforcement, from the highway department and place it in the department of justice headed by the attorney general or in a department of administration under the governor."

"Pursuing the same line of thought with respect to the highway department I would like to withdraw the activity that involves the supervision and regulation of irrigation from beginning at the west end of Nebraska and continuing at least half way across the state from the highway department and place it in a division within the agricultural department because it relates, of course, primarily to agriculture and the problem of irrigation."

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forms of personal property, since a large part of the intangible property and of certain forms of tangible personal property, such as stocks of merchandise, grain in storage, etc., escape the tax rolls altogether, or are assessed at a small fraction of their actual value. Some other forms of personal property, notably motor vehicles and livestock, are assessed at a greater proportion of actual value than is real estate.

2. That while virtually all real estate is assessed for tax purposes, there is some inequality as between classes of real estate by virtue of the fact that farmlands, insofar as averages go, are assessed at figures more nearly approaching their sale value than is true of city real estate.

3. That great inequalities in tax burden are found as between individual owners of the same classes of property. Cases are found in which two properties bring substantially the same price on sale, but one of them is assessed at a much higher figure than the other. Some of this inequality arises from the fact that the original assessments were not made on a scientific basis and some of it from the fact that property values have changed rapidly during the last 10 years, with no corresponding adjustment in assessed valuation.

4. That while most citizens in the state ultimately pay their taxes, some others escape, at least in part, through the simple procedure of failing to pay. Because of the fact that some county treasurers fail to issue distress warrants, and some sheriffs fail to serve them, a great deal of personal property disappears or is removed from the taxing jurisdiction without having paid any taxes. Because of the failure of some county treasurers and attorneys to bring action against delinquent real estate, the taxes may go unpaid for 20 years or more until the property is worth less than the amount of delinquent taxes. Much of the loss, however, results from circumstances beyond the control of the taxing authorities. This is notably true of motor vehicles, which are processed in March but may be removed from the state before the tax falls due.

While it did not specifically recommend enactment of a state sales tax, the committee, headed

by Sen. Earl Lee of Fremont proposed that the 1953 legislature give voters in the 1954 general election a chance to vote on a constitutional amendment which would outlaw property tax, thus forcing the legislature to find some new tax to pay the freight for state government.

While the committee's sessions were closed, there can be little doubt that the ball for a sales tax was carried by Sen. Chris Metzger of Cedar Creek, sponsor of a sales tax bill in the 1951 session. It is equally certain that a bitter fight against the sales tax was waged by Sen. Charles Tyrdik of Omaha, a longtime foe of the sales levy.

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Editorial . . .

## Provincial View of Ike

From this provincial corner of the midlands it might be appropriate to evaluate briefly the future now that Dwight D. Eisenhower, the war hero, is the overwhelming choice of the American people as the next president.

Holt countyans and northcentral Nebraskans won't notice much difference for the first year or so, it's our guess.

On domestic issues: Ike's agriculture platform favors price support to the tune of 90 percent of parity.

He probably will make an effort to abandon the latest income tax hike that went into effect a year ago.

His stand on FEPC already is well-known and, while it isn't an issue in the cow country, all observers are aware that his stand cost him the Negro support.

A wholesale shakeup in the state department and in several hundred agencies is bound to produce a wholesome effect. Any governmental dynasty built up over 20 years needs new blood and fresh ideas and the new deal-fair deal crowd will be turned out forthwith—the express will of the people as evidenced by the November 4 balloting.

Korea? The war will either be expanded broadly or we'll pull out. We'll predict the status quo won't long exist.

The defense department? Ike steadfastly has refused to turn his back on Gen. George C. Marshall, whom The Frontier, anyway, holds responsible for manifold mistakes. Therefore, Ike's revamping of the military brass won't be as drastic or thorough as many republicans might hope for. Anyway, not as sweeping as if Sen. Robert A. Taft or Gen. Douglas MacArthur were the president-elect.

From The Frontier's provincial periscope we see the Ike tidal wave not necessarily as a tribute to the general's generous grin. Americans signaled emphatically for a change—a departure from the dark road toward socialism.

On the eve of the recent election, Bill Froelich, jr., a versatile interim employee awaiting the navy's beckoning (he's now at Great Lakes), and the editor boiled the election issues down to what they believe were the basic facts.

It was Bill's contention that Americans would vote from the heart. It was our belief they would vote from the belly.

The editor had seen evidence of where fascists had taken over by default when tables were set better (in Germany) and trains began running on time (in Italy). That was not too many years ago. We were fearful the "you never had it so good" attitude would prevail and the grand old party would be ready for the funeral orations.

But the editor was wrong and Bill was right. Americans voted from the heart. And cow country mothers and fathers in effect said they would exchange five - cent beef for the return of their son or sons from foreign wars. Laborers like \$2.25 per hour wages but they, too, would

take less "for a change."

Eisenhower has a big job and not too enviable a position. These formative days of building a new government are very important—more important, perhaps, than the first year or two after the inauguration.

The Frontier entertains certain misgivings concerning some of those men whom Ike most certainly will be obliged to appoint to high, important offices. We believe his chances of success in the light of world history will be considerably greater if he thinks twice before handing political plums to Messrs. Thomas A. Dewey, Henry Cabot Lodge, the young internationalist, and others who have been repudiated by the people.

The greatest popular vote in history ever accorded a presidential candidate cannot be credited to his political background or know-how. President-Elect Eisenhower is almost a political accident who awakened one morning to find that he's in the role of a Moses.

We wish him God-speed.

O'Neill's two prep football teams have wrapped up the 1952 season. Now we can devote almost exclusive grid interest to two important engagements for the University of Nebraska Cornhuskers: Minnesota, November 15 at Lincoln; Oklahoma, November 22 at Norman.

Mild weather has been a boon to O'Neill builders this fall. New homes continue to go up, lots of improvements are being made, and a rash of new sidewalks is noted.

There were skeptics who predicted that the new St. Anthony's hospital is too big. We noted 26 patients in the 35-bed capacity hospital one day this week. And the hospital has been open for business only seven weeks.

The prolonged moisture lack in northcentral Nebraska already has broken a 54-year record.

## THE FRONTIER

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