## Courtroom Needed Good Airing

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN—The village of Stuart now lets the light shine in dark places. It is something like 46 years ago Stuart was supplying considerable activity at the countyseat by

keeping the mills of the gods grinding and the legal talent occupied.

One event of note in county court was that of a weather-tanned amazon and her belligerent son charged with taking shots at the woman's divorced husband. It developed into a torrid display of a hell of a home life with unprintable language jarring the walls of the courtroom until the county judge put the taboo on such proceedings. Upon

Saunders

arriving at his office the following morning, Judge Malone opened doors and windows to "let the fresh air blow the stink out."

Judge Harrington of the district court that same day allowed a woman from Stuart to add the names of additional defendants to her petition for damages because of the death of her husband via the booze route. But Stuart has contributed in full measure to Holt county's distinguished group of citizens. There was the picturesque John Wertz, editor of the Ledger. The last time I saw John the front of what had once been a white shirt bore evidence of having not been to the washtub for many weeks. John's talents were not of the Beau Brummell type but when you read his Ledger you sat up and took notice. Rosa Hudspeth, poetess, author and editor, lent additional literary flavor to The Ledger and feminine charm to the community. The late Wm. Krotter and the Coats put Stuart in the forefront commercially.

One of the charming sections of Holt county is Green Valley, robed in verdant splendor in summer, lying at the doorstep of Stuart and spreading its inviting loveliness across southwest Holt.

Juvenile delinquency began a long time ago. Cain started it by clubbing his brother. Kids have been at it ever since but not many go that far into "delinquency." It was in 1907 an O'Neill father and mother enlisted Sheriff Hall to recover possession of their daughter who got as far as Norfolk with another girl in a little innocent maidenly adventure. But still another O'Neill couple about that time had their young girl taken to a state institution for girls. Can't mention the boys-too many of them!

Double, double toil and trouble: fire burn and cauldron bubble. Fillet of a fenny snake in the cauldron boil and bake; eye of newt and toe of frog, adder's fork and blind-worm's sting, lizard's leg and owlet's wing, for a charm of powerful trouble like a hell-broth boil and bubble. Remember when they had a witch over in Boyd county? Not the standard hag riding a broomstick that haunted moonlit glens. Not that kind for Boyd county. They had a charming young Miss who bewitched a young gent who had asked her for a dance at a community social function in the early days of the settlement near Spencer. The young fellow was making out gorgeously with his lady when suddenly one leg was caught dangling in the air and he was "bewitched." But after a spell of alternate laughing and crying while he sat on the sidelines he tried it again and the "witch" got him the second time. Events in days to follow were such it came to the attention of the officials and to break the spell the young man left the county-so the story went, but there was a suspicion that this was an invention of fellows at Butte as a slam at Spencer.

Thanks to Lee Downey out at Denver, I start the new year with another Burlington railroad calendar to keep me straight as to dates another year. This year's number is crowned with a scenery in colors through which palacial Burlington passenger trains are passing that gives a fellow an urge to take a trip.

Busy men in O'Neill allot a portion of their time to leadership in church work. Archie Bowen and Neil Dawes are active in the affairs of the Methodist group, as Oscar Snyder, E. H. Benedict and Jim Harnish were in an earlier generation; while Jim Riggs, G. M. Cleveland and Dr. A. H. Corbett were filling like responsibilities in Presbyterian church activities, and J. B. Ryan saw to it that Rev. M. F. Cassidy of St. Patrick's church had a good team and buggy to take him to the homes of his church members living at a distance. The sisters in the various church groups sway the spiritual forces and men not to feel ashamed of themselves come forward with a helping hand. The church group with which Prairieland Talker affiliates hung \$700 in little bags on a Christmas tree to be sent abroad for missions and once a month chips in 20 thousand for general church activities. Americans think a lot of their

Today, new year's day, January 1, is when we start out highly resolving to make some changes in the daily program of life. The custom harks back to the ancient Persians, who started the year by giving an egg to someone, the egg being a thing that would hatch signified new life. The Romans turned to Janus, their god of gates and doors. This god had been made b y Roman craftsmen in the business of making such things with two faces, one looking forward, the other to the rear, so the devotees sized up their record of the past year and then looked ahead determined on improvement. Not a bad

There may be some out at Blackbird and nearby points in northeast Holt who will remember Reverend Kuntz who in the late 1890's was pastor of the Methodist groups out that way. During his ministry in that part of the vineyard his home was at Blackbird but the circuit of his labors took in Minneola, Paddock and other points. He is now retired and living in a home that is presided over by a couple who specialize in the care of old men, located a few blocks from where Prairieland Talker makes his home. I recently had a visit with Mr. Kuntz and he recalls more. with pleasure his sojourn in Holt county. Most | Britt's ton-mile tax on trucks everybody does whose memories of home are would yield about \$3,500,000 a anchored on Holt county sod.

From out of the clouds of tragedy and despair in that unhappy land comes the story of kindly ministery on the part of United Nations military authorized work of feeding, clothing and giving ed the 1950 referendum, for a shelter not alone to South Korean orphans but also to those taken from the enemy zone. Many North Korean adults are being humanized due to the Christian kindness shown by our American Air Force and the work of army chaplains, Bread instead of bullets, beds and home and shelter and the warmth of human fellowship for the masses, chains and dungegons for the warlords who close their hearts and minds to all that civilized man has wrought out upon the anvil of time.

\$1,288,971-it was in 24-point black type stating the value of grain and hay produced in Holt county the season of 1906. Prices for these products then were a fraction of what the same is today but the overall profit was little or no different. If you get a big price for a bale of hay you pay a big price for a pair of boots.

A heartless father got away from court with a \$25 fine for burning the hands and otherwise cruelly treating his little son. A trapper was soaked \$250 for trapping muskrats out of season. A water rat worth more than a little

The Historical society museum in the statehouse is a constant source of interest to visitors both locally and abroad. The November record of visitors who signed the register showed a total of 2,463. Of these there were 27 from foreign lands. Not all visitors register.

Editorial . .

# Time Will Measure Harry

We have become a government by press agent-where the mimeograph output is the first line of defense.

Public opinion molding is one thing but preparing to shape the course of history at taxpayer's expense is something quite different. President Truman has an all consuming passion

to be remembered as one of America's "all time great" presidents that he isn't going to wait for the history books to be written. He has ordered chiefs of department, agencies, bureaus and departments, to prepare detailed accounts of the Truman administration achievements.

All this at taxpayer's expense and on taxpayer's time.

Many taxpayers will dislike having to pay the bill for the president's frantic desire to be recognized as "great." We think the passing of years will give the proper evaluation to his place in the pageant of America-not the bally-

hoo of some bureaucratic publicity effort. Come next . Tuesday-January 20 the retiring president will board a train in the nation's capitol and head for Independence, Mo. We don't ' know what the future will hold in store for Mr. Trumen, but it's our guess he will live comfortably the remainder of his days on substantial sav-

ings he has accumulated while in the white house. We doubt very much of the business community will welcome him in the manner it did Ex-President Hoover.

With the redoubtable Terry Carpenter in the unicam this winter there promises to be some lively moments to jar an otherwise calm legislative session. Senator Carpenter threatens to stir up the animals around the university campus and the highbrows have warning to be on their guard lest the witches get them if they don't watch out.

### Deep Freeze Surgery

Recently, doctors at the University of Minnesota performed an intricate heart operation by "deep-freezing" the patient and temporarily stopping the flow of blood. The flow was stopped for five and a half minutes, long enough for the surgeons to sew up a hole in the patient's ceart.

Afterwards, one of the doctors predicted that refrigeration might be the answer to the "search for a method to work inside a bloodless heart." Another said he believed the operation was "the first time refrigeration had been used to perform cardiac surgery."

Dr. Lloyd Lewis, 36, who was in charge of the operation, also believes the operation may open a new avenue to heart surgery-which has long been one of the most difficult of all operations.

Welcome, Bob Crosby

This week Nebraska receives a new governor-Robert Crosby. And Washington dispatches are speculating that the retiring governor, Val Peterson, will become U.S. ambassador to India. We believe Bob Crosby to be a solid, successful young lawyer who will give the state a good administration.

### Telling the Difference

A Frontier reader sends in the following pol-A recession is a period in which you tighten

In a depression, you have no belt to tighten.

When you have no pants to hold up, that's a panic.

Snake river ranchers in Cherry county are making a big fuss over a proposed irrigation canal incorporated in plans for development of the Niobrara river basin. Some 51 signors represent ownership of some 31 thousand acres of land along the proposed 52-mile canal route. These ranchers represent the principal opposition to the overall basin development. The canal can be likened to a railroad or new highway. If it's soundly engineered and will be economically successful for most of the people it should go through. that this legislature put on the

Every man and woman has to settle the problems of life for himself or herself. No one else can do the job.

How many new year's resolutions have you broken by now?

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State Capitol News Stormy Session for Unicameral Seen;

Highways, Diversion, Schools in Spotlight of state as whether to accept a 25-room southeast Lincoln home

Diversion -

Miscellany -

legislative session.

question of water diversion.

Sen. Richard Marvel of Hast-

ings has said he doesn't want to

start a Pier 6 brawl with his

proposal that the state law pro-

hibiting the diversion of water

pared to fight diversion every

Merrick counties in order to

eration of the board of educa-

Governor Crosby will propose

a series of bills to reorganize and

streamline state government.

tional lands and funds.

some of the thorniest problems license. to face 43 men in the state's

In addition to the ardous task of finding solutions to the problems, the lawmakers were involved in spirited contests for the speakership, for committee chairmanships and for committee assignments. In every session there are perhaps half a dozen men eyeing the governor's chair two or three terms hence-men whose political ambitions have a of Grand Island says he's prestrong influence on their legislative performance.

step of the way. With all these factors for friction, it looked, as Lt.-Gov. Charles Warner banged his gavel to ences between residents of the begin the long grind, that it's Tri-County area south of the going to be quite a session. Platte and those of the Midstate area in Hall, Buffalo and

of legislative problems is the road situtation. As this legislature settles down to work after its opening ceremonies, it will be offered a bill by Sen. Karl Vogel of Omaha proposing the re-enactment of the penny-a-gallon gas tax increase and the higher registration fees (a \$3 boost most cars) which were passed by the 1949 session but erased in the 1950 referendum.

Vogel was chairman of a legislative council committee which studied highway finance. His bill is a result of that group's recommendation.

Another measure will be Sen. Howard Britt's proposal of a ton-mile tax coupled with a suggestion that the counties get a penny less of the present nickela-gallon gas tax and the state get a penny more.

Ofificials here at the capitol estimate that the additional cent of gas tax would produce \$4,600,-000 next year. Upping the registration fees you pay for your licenses should bring in \$1,700,000

Tied in with any new highway revenue measure will be a demand from many senators, backed by the same farm, petroleum and truck groups which sponsorstate highway commission to map general policy for the highway department.

Some of the 1951 session's biterest personality clashes came between those factions sponsoring a highway commission and those wanting to re-enact the gas tax increase. Their squabbling among themselves led to the defeat of both measures.

Schools-

There appears to be a growing sentiment among the men who write Nebraska's laws to "do something this session" about the state's complex school prob-

There are seeveral aspects to the problem: state aid to poor districts, redistricting, teacher certification standards and the teacher retirement system.

The first two are inter-related. Robert B. Crosby, who becomes governor on Thursday of this week, is expected to tell the legislators that Nebraska doesn't need to extend state aid to school districts; it needs to eliminate districts.

The present "voluntary" redistricting law was passed four years ago and contains no penalties for failure to consolidate and no inducement to consoli-

Nebraska has more school districts than any other state in the union and more than 1,700 of them are now contracting

with neighboring districts. The Nebraska State Education association, in a dogged, neversay-die manner, will go before this legislature, as it has the last several, to urge state aid and it will suggest that a state income tax be adopted to finance the program. In the past

two sessions, a \$12 million-a-

year proposal died in commit-Just as Nebraska has the highest number of districts, so it has the lowest teacher certification standards. Nowhere else can a girl go right from her high school classroom to a teaching job. The legislature will be asked to make at least a year of col-

lege the minimum.
And a legislative council committee will recomend that the first step be taken this year toward putting the teacher's refrement fund on a sound actuarial basis. This is expected to cost between \$1 and \$2 million a year for the next several years.

Taxation-The sales tax fight will be slugged out again this year. Sen. Dwight Burney of Hartington, the principal sponsor of a two per cent sales tax in the 1949 and 1951 sessions, will try again on the strength of a proposal by a legislative council committee 1954 ballot a constitutional amendment which would take the state out of the property tax field, thus forcing some other method of raising revenue to support state government. Sen. Charles Tvrdik of Oma-

ha, an arch-foe of a sales tax will lead the opposition. Meanwhile, Sen. Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff reportedly is readying a bill to provide for a sales tax with the income going for roads.

Another problem will be to find an acceptable way to implement the constitutional amendment adopted last November when the legislature was authorized to adopt a new method for taxing motor vehicles. Most likely solution will be to

Phones 316 and 304 DR. H. L. BENNETT VETERINARIAN - O'NEILL -

And finally, this new 1953 legislature will have to concern itself with such important matters | with his mother, Mrs. Edna Lofof state as whether to accept a quest in Ewing. as a gift for governor's mansion, LINCOLN - The 65th session retain the present formula but whether to appropriate money so of the Nebraska legislature con- to collect the tax at the same the murals may be placed in the vened here this week beset by time the motorist obtains his multimillion dollar capitol which isn't "finished" without them and -problem of problems-what to and family of Wisner were guests do about the controversial eight- at the home of his mother, Mrs. One of the most heated battles | foot statue of William Jennings is expected to be waged over the Bryan at the north entrance to the statehouse.

## **Ewing News**

from one valley to another be re-Mr. and Mrs. Ebben Grafft and pealed but young Sen. Joe Martin Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Spangler law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. and children drove to Fullerton Wayne Fry, and daughters. to spend new year's day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Aaron Had-Last-minute attempts are un- field. Mr. Hadfield is a brother derway to iron out the differ- of Mrs. Grafft's and Mrs. Hadfield is a sister of Mr. Grafft's.

Spangler and family on Friday, Always high on anybody's list avoid the classic struggle which flegislative problems is the marked the 1947 session.

Merrick counted avoid the classic struggle which Rudy and Andy, of Ewing, and Rudy and Andy, of Ewing, and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Coons and family of Beemer. Mr. and Mrs. Ebben Grafft en-

Those are some of the prob-lems, but by no means all. There tertained their daughter and sonis likely to be some extensive dein-law, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur bate over the appropriations blll, Spangler, on Christmas day. Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Wagoner the prime reason, after all, for a returned to Hastings on Monday. School land problems will December 29, ofter spending the come in for a big share of the holiday weekend with her pardiscussions. Freshman Sen. Mon- ents, Mr. and Mrs. N. A. Berg-

roe Bixler of Harrison will offer a bill to keep the income from Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Larsen returned home on Friday school lands in the counties where the lands are located. A from Meadow Grove where they had been guests at the home of legislative council committee Mrs. Larsen's niece, Mrs. Herheaded by Sen. Robert McNutt man Hasenpflug, and family of Lincoln has several suggestions for strenghthening the op- since January 1.

Six o'clock dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Harris on new year's day were Leonard Hill, James Wilson, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wilson. In addition, the legislators will Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Olson find themselves squeezed between spent new year's day with their demands for economy on one son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and hand and demands for new gov- Mrs. Merwin Olson and family ernmental services on the other; near Clearwater.

and sometimes the same persons | Miss Alta Lou Miller was a 6

The Friends of St. Mary's ARE HOLDING A FOOD SALE

Shelhamer's Super Food Market Saturday, January 10th

Mr. and Mrs. William Lofquest | Page. and family spent new year's day

Mrs. Edna Lofquest and Mrs. Ernest Norwood attended the new year's eve services held at the Wesleyan Methodist church

at O'Neill. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lofquest Edna Lofquest, on Friday, De-

cember 26. Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Gibson and family had as their guests Monday evening Mrs. Conrad Cleveland and son, Galen, of Ne-

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Gibson and family were guests at the country home of their son-in-

Dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Ruby were their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. James Ruby and children, of Norman, Okla., Mr. Six o'clock dinner guests of the and Mrs. William Spence and home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur son, Lyle, the Misses Hazel Ruby son, Lyle, the Misses Hazel Ruby

pressuring from both o'clock dinner guest at the home and Elsie Chace, Mr. and Mrs. of Mrs. Edna Lofquest on Friday. Joe Beelaert and children of

Mr. and Mrs. James Ruby and children attended a reunion of the Casper Larson family held

at the parental home on new year's day. Mr. and Mrs. Henry Myers of Clearwater were dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferies on Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferies. and Mrs. Arthur Funk accompanied Mrs. Wilma Daniels to O'Neill Tuesday, December 30. where they transacted business. Miss Minnie Neiderheider spent Friday with her sister, Mrs. Wi

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