

Prairieland Talk . . .

Kids Not Sainly in Grandad's Day

LINCOLN—Neither grandma nor grandpa have any illusions. They don't plan to set the screwy world straight in a day but hope something can be done about it. They know that conditions have never been ideal but even the Jesse James and Doc Middleton type of citizens had certain codes of honor. If they shot it was to save their own neck, if they stole they were not robbing widows and orphans. Young mothers in grandma's main time didn't toss their little children in a furnace or a pool of water to dispose of them. Or women didn't travel over the country working confidence games or become embezzlers while serving in public office.



Romaine Saunders

Fellows in granddad's youthful days were not all saintly but they wouldn't knock you over for a nickel or stand before high tribunals and lie as fast as a horse can run or gents from the great institutions of learning appear before congress, turn up their scholarly snoots and refuse to answer questions germane to a declaration of loyalty to the country under whose flag they live in peace and plenty.

A New Testament writer speaks of a time when "evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse." And grandma and grandpa are old fashioned enough to accept that, so they have no illusions.

It was on a bright day in May long ago, the prairie fragrant with early summer's bloom, we pulled up behind a pair of ponies to a lone house in a vast expanse of open country and another family of settlers was casting anchor in Holt county. In four-column 48-point headlines The Frontier tells us that where that house stood one mile north and four miles east of O'Neill has been selected by a group of scientists as the ideal spot in all America for their investigations and tests in wind profile experiments.

Now if it were possible for father and mother to know that their homestead land of the long ago is to be an international focus of scientific interest the graves might open and they come forth, even as at the trumpet call of eternity. Were these scientists will work sister and I were care-free homestead kids and father and mother had visions of the future, visions brought to an end by the remorseless hand of death. If the scientists were in search of a spot void of buildings and trees in a sweep of open country in all directions they have it out there where Prairieland Talker once lived, and we wish them luck. Soil is productive out there and we had watermelons as big as a wash boiler and I don't know why that section of the empire of Holt has so long been left unpopulated except for the growing steers unless biding a time like this.

The office of state tax commissioner is a superfluous adjunct to the taxation system. County assessors know the property values in their counties and no man sitting in the state-house after 10-minute stops at county seats towns can possibly be informed on values that are to be applied to all communities.

Plans are being developed by old settlers at Indianola for the observance of the 80th anniversary of the organization of Red Willow as a county. It is to be held on August 20 and 21 in connection with the old settlers' annual get-together. Among the features will be a pageant-play, "The Old Sod Shanty on the Claim." This idea may have been borrowed from the poem written by Joseph Raymond, a homesteader down by Inman which first came to public notice when it was published in the Inman Index in 1883.

A guy-out at Gering goes to the pen for three years—if not sooner released—for taking a shot at his wife as he announced, "I'm going to kill you!" Not a very good shot so the bullet did no more damage than to pass through the collar of the woman's dress. Apparently the law takes account of what you have done and not your intentions.

Editorial . . .

Anyway, It's Good Publicity

Nebraska's streamlined legislature is set forth as a model for all states in an article by Lester Velle in May Reader's Digest, which appeared Wednesday on newstands.

With its single-house legislature, Nebraska has slashed its number of lawmakers from 133 to 43.

Says Mr. Velle: "With fewer lawmakers to support, Nebraska has been able to raise legislators' pay, attract lawmakers who are free of lobbyists' handouts—and still save money."

Nebraska's success contrasts sharply with conditions in other states, notably in New York and New Hampshire. In New Hampshire the 423 members of the two house legislature drew pay at the last session, whereas Nebraska pays only 43.

In New York the state's lawmaking costs more than doubled between 1924 and 1944. Probing New York's lawmaking machinery not long ago, a grand jury found the state-senate payroll inflated with 407 employees—eight per senator—including a "principal doorkeeper," a "doorkeeper" and seven "assistant doorkeepers." The lower house had hired 424 employees, including two matrons, a nurse, 35 messengers, 35 pages and 11 doorkeepers.

A multiplication of committees in two-house legislatures largely duplicating their work accounts for a vast amount of legislative delay and waste in many states, it is noted. New Jersey, for example, boasts of 90 legislative committees; Florida 95.

As an illustration of the savings that could be accomplished, Mr. Velle advances the opinion that were New York to follow Nebraska's example, it could save one million dollars in committee costs alone.

The advances made in these and other instances are convincing evidence, he says, that any state, if it will, can have much better state government. But first, there must be a revision of antiquated state constitutions which makes possible an overhauling of legislative machinery. After that, the citizens can prod and encourage its forward-looking political leaders until results are achieved.

Says Mr. Velle: "The stakes in the fight for modern and orderly state government couldn't be higher: They involve the preservation of the citizen's voice in his government—and even our democracy as we now know it."

The Reader's Digest article sounds good as far as it goes. But it doesn't delve into the glaring shortcomings of the one-house legislature. It fails to point up, as the current session does, that a partisan governor finds 43 so-called independents formidable on certain issues. Gov. Robert Crosby recently pleaded for a reversal on the tax assessment issue, but the legislature soundly rebuffed him. It is possible if there were partisan

The Nebraska legislature 50 years ago was regulating the railroads; now it is just roads. . . The outstanding social event in O'Neill in 1903 was the party at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Harrington, 40 of the town's elite making up the group of guests. . . St. Patrick is reputed to be the patron saint of the Irish. It was about a tossup 50 years ago in O'Neill among the citizens whose ancestors' roots had been anchored in the Emerald Isle whether it was Pat or Robert Emmet. There was the Robert Emmet Literary society that kept alive the Irish melodies, thrilled their audiences with oratory and entertained with comedy and drama. . . A pugilistic encounter that had been proposed was dealt with officially when Mayor Pfund scored the knockout blow by decreeing that there would be no such doin's in town and the council members sustained the mayor's decree.

The town of Minden has organized a Junior Historical society. Since the death of the late John J. McCafferty there seems to be no active interest in promoting a history of Holt county.

A cynical gent has defined an expert as one who twists what you already knew into a confused mass. . . Trouble with these folks that start out to give us the "truth about it all" also leave us pretty much confused. . . A lower court of an Indiana town was in recess for 15 days—his honor lying out a jail sentence for driving while intoxicated. . . The wife of a government worker got her husband fired and herself in jail on a charge of "drunk driving." . . He loaded all 10 members of his family into the new car for a ride. A crackup on the highway and there were 10 less living in an Eastern state.

Omaha, Nebraska City, Plattsmouth and one or two other communities are laying plans for celebrating the territorial centennial, Nebraska being organized as a territory in 1854, admitted as a state in 1867. Governor Crosby has been authorized by act of the legislature to appoint a committee of not less than 12 nor more than 20 to arrange for our 100th anniversary in a state-wide observance of the event. The State Historical society is now taking an active part in such a promotion.

An oldtimer writes to Prairieland Talker to get off of his chest some observations on modern trends in education, saying: "I don't know the professional side of education, but I do know tomfoolery when I see it." And as to "tomfoolery", television introduced in schools he regards as such. And he discovers that in the parlor sitting room of many homes never a word is spoken since TV has come in, inviting "eye breakdown and sedentary corns."

He was from Chicago, Ill. A self-important gent stepped with a swagger into the street to cross to the other side just as the green light flickered to the red. A blue-coated cop told him to stop. "I'm from Chicago and can take care of myself," snapped the gent from the Windy City. "You're in Lincoln now; step back." He did. A scene on O street caught in passing.

I hope I shall not lose Appreciation of simple things, Bright colors from which to choose— A butterfly adorned with gaudy wings.

The blue of the summer sky, And trembling velvet leaf On branches high— Little birds that hop about underneath.

Children meet for the first time and are friends, join together in play and spend the night together. Grownups meet, look with suspicion at each other as much as to say, "What are you wanting to get out of me?"

A heart of gold and diamond-studded brain may be alright for the financial wizard, but the heart throbbing with sympathy for the suffering and unfortunate lays up for its possessor celestial treasure.

When You and I Were Young . . .

Golden House on 'Kid Hill' Sold

Saunders to Return from California

50 Years Ago
Romaine Saunders will return from Oakland, Calif., soon to resume his job as associate editor of The Frontier. . . Indications are that there will be a building boom here as several citizens are figuring on erecting residences this season. . . The Knights of Columbus organized with a new membership of 78. Arthur Mullen was elected grand knight and James Donohoe, deputy knight. . . As a general rule people are poorer this month than in any other during the year. The assessor is making his annual rounds. . . T. V. Golden sold his residence on "Kid Hill" to Michael Gallagher. Mr. Golden will erect a modern residence one block south of that property. . . Mr. and Mrs. W. N. Coats are the parents of a son born on April 4. . . Miss Lula Eidmann and Thomas Howard were married April 15 in her home by Reverend Carpenter.

20 Years Ago
The United States swung away from the gold standard. . . J. A. Donohoe's appointment for U.S. judge for the Nebraska district court was confirmed by President Roosevelt. . . Chambers was threatened with destruction when a raging prairie fire burned several thousand acres south of there and stopped within a short distance of the town. . . Some persons entered the Al Saunto store by breaking the glass panes in the skylight and dropping to the floor. He apparently hurt himself in the fall as there was blood on the floor and on some papers on the desk. He left through the rear door which was wide open in the morning. No merchandise seemed to be missing. . . Mrs. Lizzie Schuneman, 63, received a broken hip when she fell after being attacked by a rooster. The rooster flew into her face and she fell backward.

10 Years Ago
John Etherton and Robert Thomas were promoted to the degree of state farmers at the state FFA convention at Lincoln. . . The American Legion post here invested \$450 in war bonds. . . Miss Lydia Halva, who has been employed in Washington, D.C., has been transferred by the civil service commission to Ainsworth. . . Gene McKenna and Warren Burgess went to Omaha and enlisted in the army air force. . . Six hundred contestants participated in the music competition festival. O'Neill rated nine superiors.

One Year Ago
Several men from this area volunteered to fight the Missouri river on rampage near Decatur. . . Robert Carroll will represent O'Neill at boys' state. . . Miss Helen Hartly will represent O'Neill at girls' state. . . Sgt. Harold Winkler left for duty in the Far East. . . The O'Neill drive-in theater is under construction.

Bine Streeter and Mrs. Hilda and Gordon Smith of Brunswick recently visited in the Clyde and Dean Streeter and Clyde McKenzie, Jr., homes.



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Eyes of Love

Senior Play Title

The O'Neill high school senior class will present "Eyes of Love," a comedy-drama, at the school auditorium on Tuesday, April 28. Curtain time is 8 o'clock. Setting for the play is the Hudson river country. The play portrays the family life of the Judge Barry's and some of the problems of modern living. Comedy is provided by the butler-maid romance; loyalty, by the Negro mammy; pathos and suspense, by the manacled man. The cast in the order of their appearance: Carolina, a Negro servant, by Elizabeth Schaffer. Gailya, an adopted daughter, by Mary Lou Conard. Reeta, a two-faced friend,

by Marlene Waring. Burt Wade, her brother, by Leslie McKim. Mrs. Barry, Gailya's foster-mother, by Joan Binkerd. Lora, a lively housemaid, by Margaret Redd. Clark, a busy butler, by Galen Hull. Judge Barry, Gailya's foster-father, by Eddie Price. Royal Manton, Burt's rival, by Larry Fox. Jim Rankin, the manacled man, by Robert Carroll.

O'NEILL LOCALS
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kirkpatrick entertained a group of guests at a birthday dinner on Sunday evening in honor of their son, Jerry Wheeler, who was 15-years-old last Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. James Kelly went to Omaha Wednesday to visit William P. Kelly, who underwent surgery on Monday.

Mrs. John Pinnt and daughter, Dorothy, and son, Duane, drove from Chadron Tuesday, April 14, to Omaha where Duane received medical care. They returned to O'Neill on Saturday and spent the weekend with relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Lawrence went to Norfolk Saturday to attend the saddle horse show. Mr. and Mrs. Morris Kirkpatrick of Roseland spent the weekend here with relatives.

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Gregory Peck and Jean Parker in a mighty good Western.	Mary O'Hara's story of a man's love for horses and open spaces.
With Heaps of Good Shorts.	Added Cartoons and Shorts.
Sun.-Mon. April 26-27	Thursday April 30
"Ruby Gentry"	"Great Guns"
Jennifer Jones and Charles Heston with an all-star cast. Some ladies get violent when in love and might wreck the town. You men better see this.	Laurel and Hardy in a comedy that will make the whole family howl.
News and Shorts.	Carnival of Shorts

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Clearance of our better spring dresses. Hurry for best selection. Plain crepes and printed rayons. Most all sizes 10 to 20, and 16½ to 22½. Values to 10.95.

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Pretty 80-square prints. Fast color. Your choice of several wanted styles and patterns. Special!

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WORK GLOVES—

Men's sturdy leather palm gloves with tough canvas back and gauntlet cuff. Stock up at this price. Usually 1.19 pr.

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FABRICS—

One group of assorted fabrics, cottons and rayons. Fill your summer sewing needs at this big saving. Hurry for best pick!

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One group of rayon gabardines and sharkskins. Lined and unlined styles. New Spring colors. Values up to 19.95. Broken sizes 10 to 18. Hurry!

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HOUSE FROCKS—

Imagine! Prettily styled cotton dresses at this special price. 80-square percales that are fast color and pre-shrunk. Sizes 12 to 20.

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Combed cotton knit. Sizes S-M-L. Stock up for those summer days ahead.

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All wool, smartly tailored dress suits. Our famous DONFIELD Suits, offered to you for this sale only. Your favorite models and colors. Sizes 36 to 44. Hurry for this big saving!

\$39 SUIT