

PrairieLand Talk

Pioneers Were Young People

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

It was a rainy day. During the drive to Nebraska City the windshield wipers were kept in motion to maintain clear vision ahead. We were headed for the spring session of the Nebraska State Historical society. Why at Nebraska City? That venerable community is celebrating its 100th anniversary. This made a fitting setting for the state historians, 200 of them taking over at the banquet tables. After the feed had been devoured at 1 o'clock John C. Miller, president of the Otoe County Historical society, took over introducing a number of the more prominent guests and then a program of short speeches followed. Editor Sweet of the Nebraska City News-Press being followed by Editor Lawrence of the Lincoln Star, who also is president of the state society. Dr. Olson of the state society discussed at some length the history of Nebraska City.



Romaine Saunders

That community is rich in early history and the generation now living there is making the most of its heritage from the very early settlers who are often referred to as "old pioneers."

In his talk, Mr. Sweet mentioned that as being erroneous. Pioneers for the most part who settled the West were young people or at most coming into middle life.

Nebraska City citizens made this occasion a time to show their hospitality as well as to contribute to the program which was opened by prayer offered by Rev. Merrill R. Willis. A male quartette, composed of Earl Seyfer, Arthur Lindahl, Earl Dyer and Kenneth Wallace, sang.

Places of historical interest were visited after the program. These included Arbor Lodge, the early home of J. Sterling Morton, a pioneer of Otoe county, and a visit to John Brown's cave. A log cabin, stands above the cave that was built in 1851 by Allen B. Mayhew, age 21, and his young bride of 19. It became a refuge for fugitive slaves and is said to be the oldest building now standing in Nebraska.

The national headache demands the monthly consumption of 1.6 billion aspirin tablets.

A stolen horse over in the Chambers country put William Barnett in the penitentiary for five years and his step-father, Charles A. Thomas of Glenwood, Ia., in for one year. That was in 1902 when a horse was a horse. Barnett was convicted after a trial in district court in August that year in which E. H. Whelan, who was defending Barnett, made the hair of the heads of the courtroom spectators stand up by his eloquence in making a plea for his client. Thomas had been on the witness stand and swore his step-son was in Glenwood on the date the horse was said to have been stolen. Maybe you could get away with a shooting scrape those days but not with a stolen horse. In spite of Mr. Whelan's efforts to clear his client the jury brought in a verdict of guilty and Judge Harrington pronounced sentence. At the conclusion of the trial, County Attorney A. F. Mullen filed charges of perjury against Thomas and two weeks later in district court Thomas pleaded guilty, but stated while he was "lawfully guilty he was innocent morally."

It was in 1931 that Art Dexter was the great guy in Holt county 4-H club achievements. He was head of the Amelia Baby Beef club, connected with the Ballagh Yanks Potato club, led out in the Ballagh Yanks Garden club, and was doing some fancy roping as a member of the Rope club. All of which entitled him to represent Holt county as a guest of the North Western railroad at the National Club congress held in Chicago, Ill., in November that year.

I was in Atkinson for an hour or so a day last week. I don't know whether it was the city council, the Ladies' Aid society, the Dorcas Sisters or possibly the Atkinson Graphic that did it, but Atkinson has what every town needs. Along the shady side of a business block in Atkinson is a row of benches and here congregate when the weather is inviting the community sages. They were there that day and amid the smoke curling from briar pipes protruding prominently from unshaven but kindly faces of guys who know what it's all about were heard as I passed bits of the comment respecting world events of the day. It is such groups in towns and villages here and there that constitute the bulwark of the nation. Maybe to them, not to the president of the bank or the merchant prince, is credit due for the preservation of our liberties and daily enjoyment of community cordiality.

Senator Griswold came out from Washington and addressed the Nebraska Wesleyan alumni. He says one of the most important movements in Washington is replacing military with civil authorities in control. . . America's highly esteemed former first lady, Eleanor Roosevelt, now in Tokyo, ran into the "new woman" of Japan and had some rough treatment by a group floating the red banner. . . Nebraska's late governor, Val Peterson, stopped to see relatives and a few friends in his home state while on a flight to Denver, Colo., in connection with his duties as head of the civil defense. He may take another step up in federal service if the call from the Virgin Islands to take over the governor's job there bears fruit. . . Five youngsters out at York escaped safely from the upper story of their burning home by sliding down the drain pipe.

The New O'Neill, where PrairieLand Talker spent a few days recently with friends and memories of other days, has many beautiful homes—or shall I say houses?—so that the descendants of the Gen. John O'Neill colony have risen above the dugout and sod house period of their fathers and newcomers add to the incentive for beauty in residential sections. I have suggested the poser, are they homes or houses? What we see of community life in this fast and hectic age there is little of home life as it was once known. Home has become a place to hole up at night, sometime in the night, away through the day and evenings out at the club, the lodge, the movies, the social function or business conference. Be that as it may, in the New O'Neill the spirit of hospitality, the friendly greetings without ostentation survive the sod house and dugout.

Barbara Nutter of Tulare, Calif., was awarded the honor in a recent contest involving a group of young women of representing the county as Miss Tulare at a gathering of state notable beauties August 19-21 in Santa Cruz, when one of the group will be selected to receive the crown of Miss California. Miss Nutter is a niece of Mrs. L. G. Gillespie of O'Neill.

It was a boxcar-size truck. Across the sides with letters as big as a barn door could be seen a block away "Nebraska Horse Meat." The license plates indicated the outfit was from Lincoln county and the driver explained that he was in the business of making dog feed. And so it has come to that—our good Nebraska horses killed and thrown to the dogs.

Yesterday furnaces were still ablaze, today at 98 in the shade at 5 p.m., electric fans were buzzing. Time didn't stop for a rest and overnight summer arrived robed in a green silken gown spangled with white and blue and red and yellow floral bloom. In a day of high hedgerows have burst forth with a crown of snow—white flowers but I have my eye on Alice's long row of golden lettuce in the back yard.



Airman of Week

A/2c Duane L. Cavanaugh (above), son of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Cavanaugh of O'Neill, recently was honored as airman of the week at Nellis air force base near Las Vegas, Nev. He is a member of the 3595th medical group. Airman Cavanaugh is the flight surgeon's assistant, a post he has held since December, 1952. He enlisted in December, 1951, and following his basic training he was assigned to the medical unit at Nellis. He received his medical training in Alabama. He is a graduate of St. Mary's academy, O'Neill. The whiskers are a novel stunt at the air base in connection with a celebration.

Stuart Soldier Sees A-Bomb Test

STUART—Army Pvt. Roland L. Shald, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Shald of Stuart, witnessed the first test-firing of an atomic shell from the army's giant cannon at Camp Desert Rock, Nev., May 25. He was one of nearly 3,000 officers and enlisted men, most of them artillerymen, who crowded behind revetments 4,500 yards from ground zero as scientists fired the huge 280-mm-artillery piece by electrical control from a tower 10 miles away.

Before the actual firing of the atomic shell, the group was thoroughly indoctrinated in atomic warfare techniques and took part in experimental firing of conventional non-atomic projectiles from the mammoth weapon. Private Shald, who is assigned to the 10th infantry division's 86th regiment at Ft. Riley, Kans., entered the army last October.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Schroder of Grand Island were memorial day visitors here. The Schroders were enroute to the Ozark mountains on their vacation. Mr. Schroder is a member of the Grand Island police force and says frequently he has an opportunity to visit with Holt countyans at the Veterans hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Lee Osborn and Norman of Parker, Kans., and Mr. and Mrs. Morris Harmon visited Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Gaskill Saturday afternoon.

When You & I Were Young . . .

Incoming Train Frightens Horses

Buggies Damaged by Excited Team

50 Years Ago
George Weingartner suffered a serious blow on his forehead when a cylinder head of a small gasoline engine, which is used for running the ice cream freezer in his restaurant, flew up and hit him. He was unconscious for some time. A horse race was pulled off north of town in which a nag of Sid Smith's beat by one length a horse belonging to strangers. The purse was \$20 but with the extra bets the strangers lost \$40. . . Frank Daly and Miss Maggie Coffey were married in the Catholic church at 7 o'clock Wednesday morning, June 3. . . While unloading some cream at the North Western depot, Nels Cain's team became frightened by an incoming train and ran away damaging the harness, smashing the tongue of the wagon and damaging several other buggies.

20 Years Ago
Ninety guests were present at the St. Mary's alumni banquet. . . Miss Annabel McKim and Donald Shoemaker were married June 2 at Sioux City, in Sacred Heart church. . . A small twister lifted a chicken coop and 200 baby chicks off the ground on the William Luben, Jr., farm when the coop was dropped, only 15 chickens were killed. . . At the St. Mary's commencement exercises, Ralph Shaw was salutatorian and Mary Jeanne Hammond, valedictorian. . . Mrs. Clara Cole returned to O'Neill to stay with her daughter, Mrs. Esther Cole Harris. . . Mrs. George Melior, 67, died after a long illness.

10 Years Ago
F. J. Dishner was hit by a car and quite badly bruised and injured when crossing at the corner of sixth and Douglas streets. He was thrown to the ground, his head apparently striking the curb and tearing his ear so badly that twelve stitches were taken in it. . . 41 Holt county boys were inducted into the armed forces in June. . . The state railway commission ordered the North Western railroad to restore its agency in Emmet. . . Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Cork of Page became parents of a son born on May 27. . . Thelma June Finley Nissen, 21, of Page died after a one-day illness on May 28. . . Cpl. Edward Stein was awarded the distinguished flying cross. . . William J. Froelich was speaker at the memorial services.

One Year Ago
A 24-year-old escapee from a Minnesota mental hospital abandoned a stolen airplane three miles northeast of Ewing. . . The O'Neill drive-in theater opened on June 5. . . Mr. and Mrs. Don Moyer of O'Neill became the parents of a daughter born on June 2. . . Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Harkins of Inman celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on June 1. . . Judge Lyle E. Jackson of Neligh was memorial day speaker.

Frontier for printing!

'Too Much Emphasis' on A-Destruction'

"I witnessed with considerable emotion the explosion of an A-bomb at Yucca Flats, Nev., and since that time my thoughts keep returning to my first remark following the explosion: 'What has God permitted man to do?'" Thus spoke Nebraska's fourth district congressman, Dr. A. L. Miller of Kimball, in an interview this week.

"I am wondering if we are spiritually ready to assume the responsibilities of the A-bomb. It is sobering, horrifying, and yet gives one a sense of pride to know that we Americans have the know-how of taking from nature a hereby closely-guarded secret.

"Today we can destroy with its wrath, a wrath which closely reaches that of the Almighty—tomorrow we might be able to save lives. It seems there has been too much emphasis on destruction and not enough on what might be done for mankind. Surely some of its power can be directed to treating cancer, controlling disease, or producing huge amounts of power for civilian needs.

"Of one thing I am certain: Neither the atom nor the hydrogen bomb should ever be used against anything except military objective."

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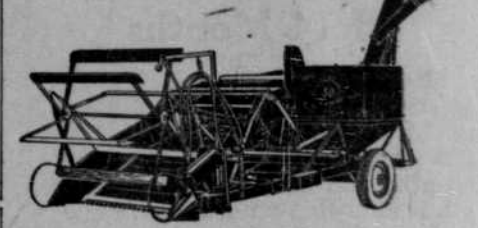
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Editorial

Let's Be Consistent

The vast majority of the American people favor a balanced budget with its reward of lower taxes and a halt to inflation which has cut the value of our dollar to 52 1/2 cents.

Unfortunately, many of the people who shout the loudest about balancing the budget, reducing taxes and stopping inflation are the same ones who are turning to Washington seeking federal-aid and federal handouts. Those who refer to federal money as "free money" would do well to consider that the government has only the money it takes from us in taxes. Grants-in-aid and handouts are only a return to the taxpayers of their money. In this case, however, the recipient is getting back only 80 to 85 cents on his dollar as the rest is lost in administrative costs on its roundtrip to Washington.

When President Eisenhower pledged a balanced budget he counted on the cooperation of the people and pointed out it is virtually impossible to achieve a balanced budget unless people at the community and state level fully cooperate. While many pledge their cooperation it is no secret that our congressmen are besieged with requests to expend money for pet projects and to project federal welfare.

Reducing expenditures in the military and civilian budget is not impossible but it takes courage and the will. The idea that spending for defense and security is so technical and complicated that non-professionals are incapable of understanding, has long been perpetuated by the advocates of big spending.

Authoritative sources give the following examples of possible savings:

The Sarnoff committee advised a cut of \$5 billion. Senator Robert Taft expressed hope for a \$4 billion reduction in military spending.

Secretary of Defense Charles E. Wilson has requested the armed forces to report on the effect of a \$4.3 billion cut.

The civilian part of the budget provides the greatest field for savings. The amazing truth is that civilian expenditures have gone up steadily in the face of the needed economy brought on when so much of our resources must go to defense and the Korean war.

In 1951 civilian expenditures were \$14 billion. Former President Truman's "lame duck" budget for fiscal 1954 calls for civilian expenditures of \$16.24 billion and that increase is exclusive of interest on the public debt which totals over \$6 billion.

In order that we may revise our economy all Americans must have an immediate tax cut. A tax cut should be accompanied by a reduction in federal expenditures and a balanced budget. By this action, and with the cooperation of the American people, we can maintain our security in both defense and in our economy. One without the other is folly and offers no security.

Benson Baffles Experts

Political observers in Washington are a bit baffled by the farm policies of Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson. Benson's policies are

apparently going to evolve from the old two-price system . . . a domestic price and a foreign price. The controversial Mr. Benson, incidentally, will be main speaker at the Nebraska Stock Growers association's annual convention which opens Monday in Omaha.

Benson's plan, according to the May issue of Successful Farming magazine, is to attract world buyers for the main export commodities by low prices while maintaining a higher price at home.

The new secretary of agriculture points out that the details aren't worked out, but the plan is to have the whole matter handled by the farming industry and not the government.

This plan poses the problem of just who represents the farming industry in the matters of farm policy. The Farmer's Union, Farm Bureau and Grange usually do not completely agree on just what the farm policy is.

One of the facts that baffles politicians is that Benson represents political change as far as agriculture is concerned. Past secretaries of agriculture have been eager to arise to emergencies and took special emergency action whenever it was possible and practical. Benson's policy is not to take emergency action unless circumstances force it, but to permit the economic system to function as freely as a practical policy will permit.

Benson's policies are supported by President Eisenhower and make up a revolutionary change in relations between government and agriculture. But if Benson acts to carry out the Benson farm policies, there will have to be a firm political basis for it. Congress will have to be convinced that farmers will be willing to face the future without relying too much on the government. . . and congress is not yet completely convinced of this.

Amid the griping over federal tax demands it is at least interesting to learn of one patriot signing himself "John Doe" who donates to Uncle Sam sizable sums, the internal revenue office at St. Louis recently receiving a gift of \$800 from generous John.

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.

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