

Prairie Talk

Maidens Continue to Wed

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Frontier Editor

LINCOLN—A gent celebrated his birthday downtown "with friends." When he got home where birthday parties should be observed with the children an "argument" is said to have followed. Whereupon a 14-year-old son after conveying the younger children to a safe distance, armed himself with bow and arrows and went to the defense of his mother. Dad is in a hospital with a hole in his broadside below the chin.



Romain Saunders

Another guy got into the papers because he took off for Athens, Greece, without telling the queen of the house anything about it until he got there and wrote her a letter. Still maidens fair with golden hair get into the wedding gown and with a smile curling ruby lips pose for the wedding picture.

Publisher Mark Cramer of the Wayne Herald was killed in an airplane crash at Denison, Ia. Maybe newspaper people should keep their feet on the ground as much as possible. In Holt county in the "horse and buggy" days—or more properly, horse and saddle—an editor might get a black eye from some guy he had "writtenev" but none ever died with their boots on. Doc Mathews, one of the first newspaper men of the frontier days and founder of The Frontier, in company with Clyde King, survived the '88 blizzard when coming in from a trip to the South Fork country. But if they had been provided with an airplane in those days instead of a reliable pair of broncs, they probably would have been blown into the Gulf of Mexico. But they, with the Wayne editor, too, are dead—the destiny of all mankind through accident or sickness.

A family group from central Illinois, which had been visiting relatives in Aurora, down in Hamilton county, made a weekend stop in Lincoln on their return to Illinois. Through a casual meeting and exchange of greetings, I learned from them that the July weather conditions are the same in their home community as they are in Nebraska.

Dorcas societies and welfare organizations of church women are doing much to help the needy but little attention is given by the public to what these self-sacrificing women are doing in lines of helplessness. While publicity, praise, money are bestowed in large measure upon other organizations with their high salaried workers, the Dorcas ladies work without pay and too little recognition of the great work they are doing. These ladies of one church group have helped 15,000 needy persons the past year involving a cash investment of \$117,000 and many hours of work and investigation of needy cases. It is all done without fanfare by kindly womanhood giving their time without money and without price.

I noted in the daily press where some Holt communities received up to two inches of rain last week.

Editorial

S.D. Pays for Mistakes

(From Business Week Magazine)

South Dakota will soon join the small body of states that have no bonded debt. By August 1 the state will have paid off the last chunk of debt piled up since 1917. At one time the state owed 60 millions dollars; in 1925 it had the highest per capita debt in the United States.

The final payoff will amount to \$9,200,000, covering the last principal and interest on rural credit bonds, which have been called ahead of maturity, some by as much as five years.

South Dakota's fall into indebtedness dates clear back to the early days of World War I, and was a byproduct of the political activities of the Non-partisan league.

The league at that time gained wide popularity through its gospel that the state should go into business and, by eliminating the middleman in trade, allow the consumer to reap the middleman's profit.

Republican leaders in the state decided to steal the league's thunder by offering some more of the same. In 1916, the GOP pushed through an amendment that eliminated the 100-thousand-dollar debt limit.

The state promptly went into the business of making loans on farms and ranches. For working capital, it issued \$47,500,000 of bonds, at an average interest rate of 5.3 percent.

South Dakota happily plunged into other ventures. It spent 185 thousand dollars to buy and equip a lignite mine at Hayes, just across the line in North Dakota. In 1919, the state set up a business insuring against hail damage; five years later it began a cement business.

The books showed a distressing tendency toward red ink. The farm and ranch loans were made in the 1917-1919 period when land values were at a peak and commodity prices were high. By the 1930's, prices were down to record lows.

Admittedly, the economic roller-coaster played a big part in the dismal showing of the loan agency, but it was widely charged that politics deserved a fat slice of blame, too.

Eventually the state began shaking off its fiscal old man of the sea. In 1934, the lignite mine was sold for \$5,500. In 1941, the legislature put up 263 thousand dollars to permit liquidation of the hail insurance business.

The cement plant remains as a good deed in a naughty world. It makes a nice profit on its \$3,500,000 annual sales.

It's fair time again. In just a few more days all roads will be leading to the Holt county fair grounds near Chambers. The fair is a fine American tradition and those folks in the Chambers community, who take the responsibility seriously as a year-around proposition, are to be commended for successfully perpetuating the Holt county exposition. We predict the night-time rodeo will be well received as a departure from the usual afternoon showing.

Atkinson's hay days follow the Holt county fair this year. Traditionally, hay days come first on the calendar; the fair, second.

It was inevitable a mechanical street-sweeping device would follow the many blocks of new paving.

What ever happened to the chautauqua programs of yesteryear?

When You and I Were Young...

150 Sacks of Flour in Closeout Offering

Doyle's Lease Has Expired

50 Years Ago
Miss Anna Davidson and Charles George were united in marriage at a ceremony performed in the bride's home. Many rural people were in town to attend the Gollmar show, which put on two exhibitions and a street parade during its stand here. D. A. Doyle is conducting a closing out sale. His lease expired and there are 150 sacks of full patent guaranteed flour to go. The ladies of St. Patrick's Catholic church are giving a lawn social at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Birmingham. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

20 Years Ago
The federal government will plant two rows of trees, approximately a mile apart, from the Canadian border to the Gulf of Mexico. In doing this they hope to regulate the climate—the trees are to modify climatic and other agricultural conditions in the drought area. Mrs. James Crowley died at her home northeast of the city. She came to Holt county 58 years ago when only a few scattered shacks marked O'Neill. The national debt increases by five billions since the new deal administration came into being—most of the increase being outright appropriations. John Dillinger, public enemy number one, met the fate of all gangsters in Chicago, Ill., this week. He was fatally shot by U.S. agents when he drew his gun for another notch when coming out of a down town theater.

10 Years Ago
Margaret Engler of Stuart was notified that she was awarded a trip to the Nebraska 4-H conservation camp at Seward. She receives this award due to outstanding 4-H club work over the past several years. The Bohemian club held its first picnic at Ewing. A large crowd turned out and another one is planned. The OPA decreed that more sugar will be released for canning purposes—each person in a family will be allowed 20 pounds of sugar. Mr. Art Wedberg, former O'Neill resident and Holt county pioneer, died at her home in Fremont.

One Year Ago
Paul Shelhamer was wounded seriously when he slipped on a log while shooting rats at the dump and the .22-calibre pistol he was using went off. The bullet pierced his left leg above the knee. A bicycle parade ended the safety campaign sponsored by the Willing Workers 4-H club.

MILLER THEATER

— Atkinson —

Fri.-Sat. July 30-31

THE CRACKED BOARDS OF THE PACING WORLD IN THE DEAREST OF THE YEAR!

LEO GORCEY AND THE BOWERY BOYS

JALOPY

— also —

LOVE, LAUGHS AND O'BOY

EVANNE STEWART

A Slight Case of Larceny

MICKY ROONEY BRACKEN

EVANNE STEWART

Sun.-Mon.-Tues. Aug. 1-2-3

JUDY HOLLIDAY

That Crazy Zany BORN YESTER DAY

IT SHOULD HAPPEN TO YOU!

PETER LAWFOR

JACK LENNON

Wed.-Thurs. Aug. 4-5

High Adventure

GLENN FORD-ANN SHERIDAN

APPOINTMENT in Horduras

ZACHARY SCOTT

Monday, September 2, 1901, Merrit Martin opened a term of school as teacher in the Hoxie school two miles east of O'Neill. That day carpenters began work building a one-room addition to the Alice Coykendall home in the western part of town which Miss Coykendall was to occupy as her dress making establishment. Will Lowrie's marriage to Miss Nona Johnston received a half column writup in the Auburn Herald. His father, Rev. N. S. Lowrie, and brother, Rev. C. W. Lowrie, performed the ceremony. Will at that time was also an ordained minister. The Lowrie family had lived for many years in O'Neill before moving to Lincoln. R. H. Jenness retired September 1 that year as receiver at the U.S. land office and D. Clem Deaver took over the job.

The nearest we have yet come to being inspected by the strangers in the flying saucers has been down at Fairbury. The civil defense night watchers at the capital city report no strange airplanes flying over us, but keep a record of the number and direction headed of domestic planes passing this way.

THE OLD SWIMMING HOLE
Now I would like to say If I can have one wish today, Just take me to the old swimming hole, In its limpid waters to roll, And get all over wet Washing away the heat and sweat.

There's the "muny" swimming pool With guard and teacher, like at school, And mobs of kids, men and women To whom swimming lessons are given. But that's not like the old swimming hole Where in limpid waters we oft did roll!

Wheeler county has two towns, Bartlett, the countyseat, and Ericson, which has boasted a railroad. Garfield county has one town, Burwell, the rodeo capital of the state. Fitting enough—from down that way came such bronco busters as Tim Bunnell and Nigger Jim. Holt county in the distant days of yore had a dozen or more noisy towns. Now, approaching old age, but a growing city, O'Neill is the admiration mixed with a bit of envy, of eight other thrifty towns and villages in the county.

Our ranch cowgirl from Cherry county shows herself capable as United States senator and it is rather to be regretted that the cards are so stacked that she will not be a candidate to continue to carry on as senator.

The assessed valuation of property in Lancaster county, the bulk of it in Lincoln, for 1954 is placed at \$186,000,000. Personal property valuations are somewhat lower than a year ago but increased valuations on real estate bring the total to something over 300 thousand more than in 1953.

A proposal comes from New Mexico that Western states, including us, outlaw cloud-seeding. It is said that in place of bringing rain, such monkey business prevents rain and snow from descending upon us. It was tried in O'Neill some 60 years ago and we got quite a sprinkling.

The Political Score

The headlines—and, in fact, President Ike himself, though quite mildly, have scored the house's almost total cutback of public housing as a defeat for the administration. Why this estimate when by far the greater part of the president's housing proposals came through?

The answer is to be found on the political balance sheet. The whole of the Eisenhower housing program fits the liberal-conservative frame: Government setting up conditions under which private enterprise finds greater encouragement to do the housing job; and in one area, that of lowest income brackets (where private enterprise has consistently found it unprofitable to operate), government assuming a portion of the burden.

This last has been the earnest on the promise that the program is liberal as well as conservative—evidence that the administration is pro-little fellow as well as pro-business. Without it, the program can be made to look all-conservative.

Another congress early next year can restore at least something more of the housing authorizations asked for by the president (which in turn were less than those backed by Senator Taft), and thus take care of some of the actual housing needs. But unless the senate before the end of this session does considerable to correct what the house has done, the republicans will have failed to take care of one of their prime political needs come November elections.

It's a reflection on the newspapers, radio stations and other media of information that more people are not aware of who is running for what in connection with the forthcoming election. People are becoming so apathetic about the conduct of the various echelons of government that only a first-class scandal or mockery jars their interest. Campaigners for senate and congressional offices and the governor's chair are obliged to work from door-to-door. Street corner oratory and debate have gone out the window. The system of checks and balances worked better, in our opinion, in the days when candidates adept at those methods of campaigning won the elections.

Wish the railroad people would let us know the next time an old-fashioned steam locomotive is due in town.

THE FRONTIER

CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher
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A 6,200-pound helicopter landed in O'Neill, piloted across the country from Bedford, Mass., until now an unknown accomplishment for these crafts. Property valuation in Holt county went up. Farm land increased by 207 percent and city and town real estate values 438 percent.

Deloit News

Leonard Miller is home after working for his uncle near Spalding for over two months. He reports less moisture there than here and scarcely any hay to be mowed.

Larry Juracek has been visiting at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Schi. Darold Armstrong is employed at the Fred and Maynard Stearns farms this summer. A number from here attended the free days at Elgin and Clearwater the past two weeks.

Grasshoppers, ants and flies are thick as usual in hot dry weather.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Stearns attended a Stearns family reunion in Iowa on Sunday, July 11.

Bonnie Rossow and Shirley Weber spent the weekend in Wayne. Don Larson came home. Elayne Reimer spent the weekend with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Don Starr, and Elizabeth in West Point.

The ladies of the St. John's church served breakfast to the parishoners Sunday morning after services.

Shirley Schj has been staying at the Rudy Juracek home near Ewing.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Temple attended 4-H camp near Seward last week.

Deloit had 20 of an inch of rain last Thursday. More would be welcome. Most of the combining is done and haying is the next big job.

Letters to Editor

Transplanted —
8705—8th Ave. NE.
Seattle, Wash.
June 19, 1954

Romain Saunders
c/o The Frontier
Dear Friend:

We have been enjoying your articles in The Frontier for several years, entitled "Home on the Range," "Small Doses, Past and Present," and now your "Prairie-land Talk."

My wife and I always turn to your article first, then "The

Frontier Woman." We are transplanted oldtimers from Nebraska. We were born and raised there. My wife was born in Bethany, spent her childhood days there and in Lincoln. I was born in Omaha. We are now getting along in years and are adjusted to the West coast. We love our home out here in Seattle. It is so beautiful here in the Puget Sound country. We miss prairie-land, though.

Mountains are beautiful, but Nebraska is beautiful, too, and after living there so many years our roots have gone so deep, and all our happy memories are of Nebraska.

We can tell from your articles that you loved the quiet beauty of that part of Nebraska. We did, too. You describe it so well. You are still giving us interesting

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Write R. A. Mitchell—Ticket Supl. H. D. Delashmutt—Sec'y.

articles from the passing scene that you are observing, although you have been transplanted to Lincoln. We love your mingled sentiment along with your good common sense.

We wish you good luck and hope your many friends will be reading your articles for many more years.

Yours truly,
D. SEGELMAN

Reminder —
Hollywood, Calif.
July 20, 1954

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

Dear Cal Stewart:
Enclosed \$3.00 check. Neglect only reason for not sending it earlier.
I enjoyed your New York story last week. Prairie-land Talk is most interesting.
Reminder: Holt county picnic, September 12, big fire-pole, Griffith park, Los Angeles. Hy Nightengale, former Atkinson citizen, president.
See you in September or October.
Best of everything,
W. J. McNICHOLS

POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT

VOTE FOR

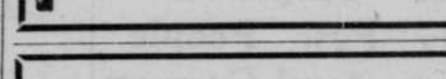
JACK ARBUTHNOT

Republican Candidate for

CLERK OF THE DISTRICT COURT

- ★ Lifetime Resident of Holt County
- ★ Overseas Veteran of World War II
- ★ Education: College and one year law; knows the duties of the office and can perform them

Your Vote and Support Appreciated . . . Primary Aug. 10



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Land: Thurman fine sandy loam, 175-A. corn and small grain; 20-A. in alfalfa; 50-A. native pasture; 20-A. broom grass; etc.; 2-story 5-bedroom dwelling; REA; cave; 24x32 barn; hog-house; cattle shed; 24x32 corncrib; windmill; possession in time for school, one mile away; hard-surfaced highway, 3/4 mile.
Personal Property: 30 head of cattle, pigs, chickens, grain, complete line machinery; see of household goods.

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NEW Engine efficiency gives low fuel consumption. At every operating speed, with full load, the Willys truck shows amazing economy.

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