

Prairieland Talk

# 'Old Jules' Occasional Visitor

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Frontier Editor

LINCOLN—Possibly Mrs. Dave Stannard, L. G. Gillespie or some relic of pioneer days may recall having seen a bewhiskered and begrimed specimen of frontier life from over at Niobrara who came to O'Neill a few times. That was Old Jules, about whom Mari Sandoz wrote a book.



Romaine Saunders

Miss Sandoz is to be the after dinner speaker at the 76th annual meeting of the Nebraska State Historical society to be held at the Cornhusker hotel in Lincoln September 25. Miss Sandoz is the author of a number of books dealing with pioneer life in Nebraska.

To what extent it received public attention is immaterial but Gov. Robert Crosby designated August 23 as "Mari Sandoz day." Her first book was "Old Jules" and he was her dad.

October 14, 15 and 16 the Nebraska Library association will be in convention at the Blackstone hotel in Omaha. Miss Elizabeth Hage, librarian at Eldridge, Ia., will address the first session. Mrs. Marion Marsh Brown of Omaha, a Nebraska author of note, will be one of the convention speakers.

Where the O'Neill bus depot now functions and meals and lunches are for sale, J. J. McCafferty conducted a hardware and tinshop business from early days until 1903 when T. V. Golden bought out Mr. McCafferty. Then Walter Hodgkin of the Leonie country and J. H. Peeler became partners in the business. . . . It was in that year that two prominent families of the Emmet community became closely associated when Stella, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Maring, became the bride of Alexis Ashton. . . . That year J. S. Harrington was elected mayor, Clarence Campbell city clerk, Barney McGrevey treasurer, O. E. Davidson police judge, and E. H. Whelan, James F. Gallagher, Emil Sniggs and Henry Zimmerman composed the council membership.

Representatives of the nations that were gathered in Brussels ostensibly seeking common grounds for unity that will lead to world peace give it up as hopeless, as most any prairieland patriot could have told them. Trust the world council of churches meeting in an American city can get together on fundamentals, as those at the first council of the Christian church did in old Jerusalem in the year A.D. 52.

Four kids around 17 years of age from what were supposed to be respectable homes in an eastern city were caught in a police dragnet for beating, torturing and killing their victims "for the fun of it." Two churches in an eastern Nebraska community were visited by a similar gang and destruction wrought within sacred precincts. And such inhuman, evil acts are rewarded with a few years confinement at most. Maybe the whipping post would be the thing for the kids, awaken parents to their responsibility, and jar the public out of its unconcern.

The state supreme court faces an unusual case for judicial decision. A Lincoln lawyer brings suit for damages against one of the district court judges of Lancaster county, alleging that the lawyer's good name and character suffered from what the district court judge got off his chest and fired at the attorney who was representing a client in his court. A case of "smear" coming from the eminence of the judicial throne.

Editorial . . .

## Time for Stop Sign

One wonders how many persons are yet to be killed, maimed or injured at the dangerous junction of U.S. highways 20 and 281, northwest of O'Neill, before a stop sign is erected?

No matter what the Nebraska highway department's policy is concerning which federal highway should have the right-of-way, if any, etc., it is entirely wrong not to have a large sign north of the intersection for warning and slowing down the southbound traffic and another sign, ordering a full stop for that same traffic, at the intersection. A "slow" sign has been in position for some time, but obviously this has been inadequate.

It's a fair guess the corner is the scene of about one death per year, on an average, not to mention the alarming frequency of near-tragic accidents. In most instances one of the vehicles is driven by a stranger who doesn't know the danger inherent at the tricky and deceptive corner.

Disregarding all other considerations, The Frontier feels appropriate traffic control signs should be erected without delay. The same feeling is held by Holt County Sheriff Leo Tomjack, who investigated the most recent accident in which six persons were hurt, although not seriously.

### No Future?

(From the Nance County Journal, Fullerton)  
Sometimes people say there's no more future left in this country. Everything discoverable has been discovered, they say, and everything inventable has been invented.

We're surprised at this lack of information about all the things this country needs. The field for new things is practically limitless. The big brain who can come up with a rattle-proof popcorn sack for the character in back of you at the movies will have it made. The future Edison who will invent a simple porch gadget to drench an insulting magazine peddler when you push a button inside the screen door will acquire honor and riches. A fortune awaits the perfecter of a device that will permit you to talk back to radio and television orators when they get too mouthy in your living room. A rear-view mirror to show a hefty gal in shorts how she looks to everybody else would be one of the country's fastest selling gift items.

No future left in this country? Don't let 'em fool you, young feller. We got more of that than anything else!

End-of-swimming-season results: Small fry leaping from 10-ft. diving board.

## News, Views and Gossip

BY THE EDITOR

### Sandhills Are Rich

This is a sample of what S. W. Lohman of the United States Geological Survey has to say about the Nebraska sandhills in a special "type area" study of "Subsurface Facilities of Water Management and Patterns of Supply."

"Nature has endowed this area with an abundance of grass, natural hay meadows and water. In the western and northern parts of the area the thousands of natural lakes and ponds provide water for the livestock — elsewhere, stock wells with windmills are easily constructed. In an area north of Hyannis many flowing wells supply stock water.

"Judging from the numerous brown haystacks that dot the luxurious meadows, ordinarily more of this commodity is grown than is consumed."

Cattlemen began to settle the sandhills after 1860, as railroads pushed westward, Mr. Lohman pointed out.

"The first settlers found unexcelled natural conditions for cattle-raising and experience has not forced a change in the use of the land," he adds.

He calls the area "unique," topographically, and says it "resembles a stormy sea."

Most sections of the high plains are underlain by large ground-water reservoirs, but the sandhills is exceptional in that respect.

"The mean rate of replenishment to this particular reservoir . . . is about five times greater than that in most other parts of the high plains—thanks to the mantle of porous sand which the precipitation infiltrates readily," he explains.

The area's population has dropped since 1920—from about 45 thousand persons to about 38 thousand.

That, however, is a poor gauge of the sandhills' prosperity and economic activity.

"Previously the area had contained many small, separately owned homesteads in a region where only large holdings could be profitably operated," Mr. Lohman points out.

Since World War I, and particularly during the drought of the 1930's, small farms have gradually been merged into large ranches.

### Hyannis Richest

But he points out that the cities and towns in and near the sandhills have been growing at about the same pace as other communities on the high plains.

He mentions that Hyannis, with a population of 432 in 1950, "is reported to have the greatest wealth per capita of any community in the United States."

"This wealth was derived from cattle-raising," he explains. However, great wealth was drawn during World War I from the water of alkali lakes around Hyannis.

Mr. Lohman sounds almost like a chamber of commerce booster when he talks of the sandhills' "exceptional" recreational facilities.

### When You and I Were Young . . .

**Minus Owner's Okay, Team Sprints Home**

**Family Sees Building Topple in Storm**

R. R. Dickson's black and white English pointer, Colonel, won the grand prize at the field trials of the Nebraska Field Trials association. Second place was won by an English pointer owned by Judge Harrington. There were 25 other dogs entered for the run. . . . Fat Biglin's team included in a little sprint the other night without the consent of the driver. The team was standing by the oil tank at the North Western track when the bell announcing 6 o'clock pealed forth. The team started at once for their quarters up town and got there by a circuitous route without causing any damage. . . . Lloyd Gillespie and family returned last week from an extended visit at Minneapolis, Minn. Lloyd says they were about in the storm center when the Twin Cities were devastated by the recent cyclone. However, none of them were injured beyond a hair-whitening terror as they saw a massive building crash in ruins and a great monarch of the forest topple from its throne. . . . O'Neill's omnibus service will be increased by another vehicle of this kind now in course of construction at Hagensmith's blacksmith shop for the Dewey.

**20 Years Ago**  
A free day will be held in O'Neill. Funds for entertainment have been raised and a day with plenty of entertainment is assured. . . . Two persons were injured in an auto accident when the car they were in went out of control and into the ditch five miles west of town. . . . Mrs. Bartley Blain, 87, died at her home in Page, Mrs. Blain had been a resident of this county since 1909. . . . The republican and democratic county conventions were held in O'Neill on the same day. D. H. Cronin was elected chairman of the republican county convention and Garry Benson of Ewing, secretary. Dr. N. P. McKee of Atkinson and W. H. Holliday of Stuart are counterparts from the democratic convention.

**10 Years Ago**  
Students from both schools are organizing a teen age canteen in O'Neill. Many cities all over the country are adopting this idea. . . . Six Holt county 4-H club members have been selected to represent Holt county at the state fair. . . . Dorance C. Crabb and Franklin J. Scott were inducted into the armed services during the month of August. . . . The Woodman circle organized a sorority chapter here. There are 25 charter members.

**Videos**  
Three matrons, one from Emmet and two from O'Neill, were discussing television the other evening.

Mrs. Al Carroll said, one day an airplane was over O'Neill and in radio contact with its home base.

"A man's voice came in on channel 6," she said, "and the pilot told his home base to relay to his wife the word he was over O'Neill and would like to have his wife meet him in about 30 minutes."

Mrs. Bud Cole mentioned that telephone linemen were working on a pole and a TV viewer she knows insisted the test conversations on the phone line splashed into the TV set and out into the livingroom.

Our good wife, third member of the trumvirate, reports "picking up" Charleston, S.C., and Pensacola, Fla., occasionally — something which has been rather common.

All of which proves there's a certain amount of fascinating voodoo in TV and even the electronics engineers don't completely understand it, else these things would not be permitted to occur.

—CAL STEWART

**To Kentucky —**  
Mr. and Mrs. George McCarthy and daughter, Lynne, left O'Neill on Friday, August 13, via auto for Louisville, Ky., to attend the 72nd annual supreme council meeting of the Knights of Columbus held in the Kentucky hotel. After the convention, they visited several places of interest in Kentucky, including Mammoth cave. Enroute home they also visited friends and relatives in Chicago, Ill., Kenosha and other cities in Wisconsin, returning home Saturday, August 28.

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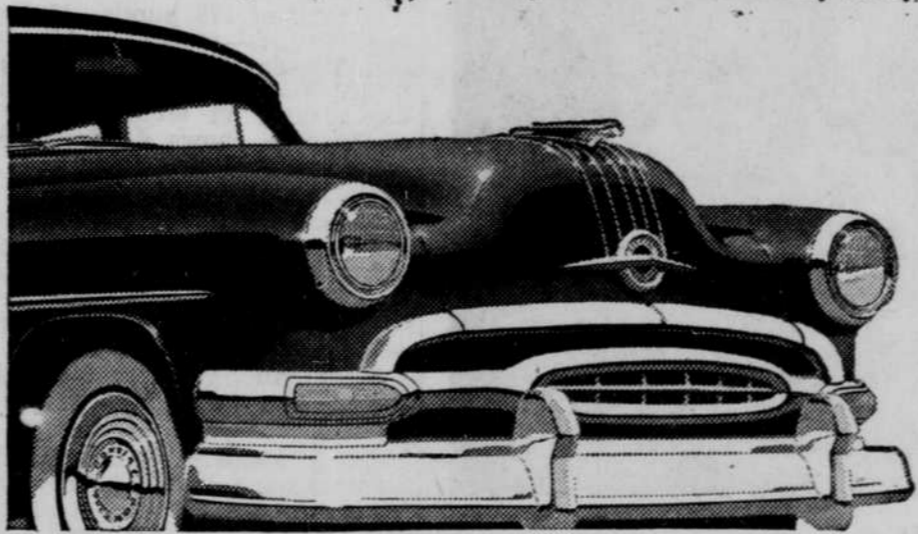
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