

Prairieland Talk

Prairie Talker Explores Indiana

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

MARION, IND.—Indiana's 36,291 square miles support a population of a little less than four million citizens. There are great cities, quiet villages, factory towns and rolling farm lands. The population for the most part is composed of native Hoosiers.

I met a farmer yesterday who has lived all his life in this community, but learn he has his farm up for sale, so maybe he feels it's time to pull up the roots of a life time and go places. The time zone is being agitated and the state contemplates moving out of the central time zone and adopting Eastern time.



Romain Saunders

What brings a prairielander into an Eastern state? I have a son and daughter-in-law who have within the year established themselves in a beautiful new home in this Indiana city. And when dads have fallen into the ranks of the homeless, they like to get around to see those of their family group. The young man living here was a pupil at the Berry school in Swan precinct in his kid days, also at Atkinson high, and he won his college degree at the University of Colorado in Boulder, as did also his capable young wife.

I am hemmed in by the gadgets of modern living and there comes a wishful thought of the simple life that we have known out in prairie-land. But here, too, are bright autumn days, tinted beauty on tree and shrub, friendly people and loyal children.

And so Prairieland Talker explores another country and discovers the way of life of its people. Son and I were out in the country yesterday. Saw four fat horses and more firewood at one farm than there is in all Nebraska. Farmers use it for fuel, the city dwellers depending on gas. A gas well, I am told, started the city of Marion. Now some large corporations farther east have moved into the community with branch houses.

I was met in Chicago, Ill., by my tribal couple, who were accompanied by some friends. We had lunch and drove about the city until time for the football game between the San Francisco Forty-Niners and the Chicago Bears when this prairieland innocent accompanied his group to the gladiators' arena and saw his first professional football game. Humanity in the mass crowded every available space. As I know nothing about football and care less, my attention was taken up by and interest centered on the reaction of that vast throng of men, women and kids to what went on out in the arena. And how the spectators did shout and cheer and jump to their feet at critical moments in the game! I was told the Forty-Niners won.

Don't know that I shall get in on another football game. What I ran onto in Chicago illustrates that folks like action, want to see a guy do something—sort of hero worship. The victor hailed with delight, while the vanquished walks away with bowed head.

Will it come to this, that after more than 70 years north Nebraska is to have no passenger trains rolling across its fertile plains? O'Neill at one time had six daily trains coming in and going out—four on the FE&MV (now the North Western) and two on the Short Line (now the Burlington). The reason assigned for the threatened move on the part of the North Western is lack of patronage. The railroad is to some extent responsible for this, though other means of transportation enter into the picture. The railroad's passenger train service has been getting less inviting of recent years and the depots along the road if open at all at train time have been anything but inviting places to wait for a train. Bus depots are made inviting to the public. Maybe north Nebraska towns can do something to retain the needed trains.

Indiana was the home of the Hoosier poet who wrote about the frost on the pumpkin and the fodder in the shock. From the piles of large ones at food centers this must be the pumpkin state.

The Chicago Bar association is reported to have taken up the study of "artificial insemination" with the thought of having another dad legalized. If any of Chicago's array of legal talent desire to become dads and don't know how to achieve the status of parenthood they might get in touch with any father of 10 and receive some valuable tips.

Editorial

The Right to Work

Many states are passing legislation concerning the labor unions.

We, as an individual, have no fight with the unions. They have in many instances done a very good job for the laboring man and woman, but we also, as an individual, have and do believe that one should be allowed to work at a chosen job or trade without joining a union if said individual wishes. Union strong-arm methods and the racketeering that is rampant in the union hierarchies might lead to the eventual undoing of organized labor.

We belong to our editorial association because we think it is a worthwhile organization, not because we have to belong and we believe the unions should be on the same basis. There will probably be some questions as to the duties and privileges of the labor unions come up in forthcoming sessions of some state legislatures—and right now we're thinking, in particular, about the Minnesota law-making body.

The right to work should be the privilege of every man. To tell him he must join an organization to get or hold a job is infringing on his personal liberty.

This writer will agree that unions have improved the lot of labor—and they needed improving—but some of the leaders seem to think they should go farther, that the rights of minorities, so carefully guarded by the framers of our constitution, should be disregarded; that the majority should ride rough shod over all opposition.

Demanding that a man or woman join a union to get or hold a job just because a majority joins, is just as ridiculous as demanding that every citizen join and pay dues to the republican party because a majority voted that way last election.

Attention to Detail

The following is from the Wall Street Journal and is offered to the Frontier readers with no comment.

Newspaper editors of half a century ago never

Jack Frost visited the community last night and laid a diamond-studded blanket over green lawns. The sun came forth from the shadows of a cloudbank hanging on the eastern horizon and within the hour the celestial furnace had melted away the frost and bathed the land in light and warmth. Homes on quiet streets in the city of Marion tell the story of generations of long ago. But in the recently developed outlying districts new dwellings are being built to meet the demand of a freshly blossomed generation for low, one-story dwellings equipped with all the gadgets of the times for which they pay enough to have built an old-fashioned house, or maybe pay for an 80-acre farm. The new dwellings are painted all colors of the rainbow, and here as elsewhere there is the worry of high living costs and taxes. Factories and mills afford employment for a population of 30,000.

Fifteen were reported last night as the Hoosier state's traffic deaths for the weekend. The total for the past 10 months is placed at something over 800. . . Southern California has the smog plague. Indiana begins each new day with dense fog, which disappears as the sun rides its flaming chariot across the heavens. . . Two dames, former employees of the Indiana state welfare department, were arrested in Louisville, Ky., and are being held in custody charged with subversive activities and connection with the communist group. . . Marion has both a weekly and daily newspaper, separate institutions dealing in human activities. The daily—five days a week—was established as a weekly publication in 1865. . . A sister up in New York arises in feminine wrath and in a copyrighted explosion demands that the hurricanes should be known as Hazel and not as Henry. Hazel Hurricane! It is all yours, sisters.

Even here I find a flavor of prairie-land. There is a Center, a Royal, a Knox and a Rushville and Marion has a Nebraska street. Moreover, a thrill of delight was experienced yesterday when the Lincoln paper arrived and I read that A. Neil Dawes, agriculture agent of Holt county, was one of two Nebraskans who were given awards for outstanding achievement by the national association of county agents in session at Salt Lake City, Utah. I have been out of touch with the work of Mr. Dawes in recent years but have known him in the past to be especially helpful to 4-H club boys and girls. W. R. Peterson of Harlan county is the other Nebraska county agent to be given an award.

Interesting to note that our good friend, Ralph Leidy, has been up from Arkansas to see how things were going in O'Neill and set the editor straight on the Joe McCarthy issue. Out of the confusion and rumble and grumble and roar of these troublesome times, Ralph has caught the fever, now dying out, that the Wisconsin should be shot at sunrise. Subversive characters are being rounded up and seditious activities brought to an end, the inspiration for such action springing from the initial steps of Senator McCarthy. The Leidy family roots were deep anchored in prairie-land and can it be that transplanting these in strange soil at this late day has temporarily befuddled Ralph's usually sound-thinking?

Chicago is known as the "windy city." It was just that the day we were there. Farm lands in central and eastern Illinois are under water. "Corn picking" will be delayed at many farms until the water disappears or is frozen solid enough to bear up the wagons and pickers. Heavy autumn rains have fallen throughout this section and on into the Ohio river valley where flood conditions are reported. And a gent in an Ohio city has front page space in the newspapers, he being in court charged with beating the life out of his young wife. The defending attorney in a plea for change of trial court said his client was convicted before he was indicted. Probably so. Neighbors get at the facts without the aid of courts and juries.

Political talk in some quarters has had it that unemployment and "recession" have become prominent features of the times. The Indiana university business bureau reports a substantial increase in business and employment as the industrial picture for the state the past month.

The name of William P. Dailey, Emmet, appears among those on a list of Nebraskans as an heir to a "forgotten fortune."

neglected the minutest detail of local activities, but, above all, they always remembered on which side their bread was buttered.

Witness this account of a wedding: "Miss Jennie Jones and Bob Henry were married at the Jones mansion last night. The bride is the daughter of Constable Jones, who has made a good officer and will doubtless be reelected in the spring. He offers a fine horse for sale in another column of this issue. The groom runs a grocery on Main street and is a steady patron of our advertising columns. All summer he paid two cents more for butter than any other store in town. They were married by Rev. Josiah Butterworth, who last week called at this office and gave a nice order for printing. He is also going in business and will write fire insurance. So say the business cards we printed for him. Jennie and Bob left on the 10 o'clock Milwaukee to visit with the bride's uncle, who, we understand, has lots of money and cancer."



CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher
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News, Views and Gossip

BY THE EDITOR

Miscellany:

A fortnight ago when Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Coyne returned from a 10-weeks' sojourn in Europe, including a visit to Rome, our printer's devil mused: "Two Coynes in a Fountain." Among the Sunday afternoon trick-or-treaters were two gals young at heart—one 78 and the other 72. The bewitchers, whose wrinkles were completely covered by appropriate masks, made several stops, including a visit at the home of Dr. and Mrs. J. L. Sherbahn. However, Doc and his wife didn't recognize the voices of two of their neighbors. . . A delegation from Ainsworth called at The Frontier Monday, gathering details from our experiences in presenting automobile shows. If Ainsworth follows, it will be the second smaller Nebraska city to pattern a show after The Frontier's. Incidentally, the auto show idea has been used successfully in several other states in cities of comparable size.

Our rather conservative newsletter made reference in its final pre-election issue to Ives, republican, and Harriman, democrat, backing for the governorship of New York state. Ives, the letter said, is "Tweedledee" and Harriman is "Tweedledum." . . Three breathless teenagers pulled up amongst a group of adults on the eve of Halloween. Asked by the elders where they had been, they explained they had been out "spotting cans." We weren't hep to the phraseology until one of the parents translated: The mission had been a reconnaissance of outdoor privies to be upended the following night.

When You and I Were Young . . .

Hallowe'en Pranks

Unlike Yesteryear

Devilment Idea Is

on Wane

50 Years Ago

Addie Wrede of Agee is going to school in O'Neill. . . Hallowe'en passed without any very destructive demonstrations on the part of O'Neill kids. The Hallowe'en idea is gradually growing out of date. The occasion is a very tame affair at the present day compared with a quarter of a century ago. . . Swain's big city show is the only first-class attraction which is now traveling in this part of the country. The opera house manager is trying to secure it for his patrons. The attraction will probably be here about the middle of the month. . . O'Neillites were disappointed by Col. W. J. Bryan, the silver-toned orator. He failed to be definite on his change of platform on which he, a silver democrat, was in favor of the election of a gold democrat to the presidency. It seemed we went in circles. We found nothing to weigh in his speech. The street commissioner is putting some of the public highways about town in better shape by grading down the high places and by filling in the low ones. This with the recent improvements in the way of cement sidewalks, makes much better the state of affairs on the streets.

20 Years Ago

H. W. Tomlinson, republican congressional chairman for this county, met in Norfolk with the congressional chairmen of the district. He says that all members of the committee were very optimistic as to the result of the coming election. . . Miss Maxine O'Donnell and Stuart Meech were united in marriage at Chicago, Ill. She is the daughter of O'Neill and Mrs. James O'Donnell of this city. Mr. Meech is a professor at the University of Chicago. . . Work began last week on the new paving in the city. . . Lloyd A. Collins of Monowi and Miss Yvonne Long of Lynch were granted a marriage license in county court last Saturday.

10 Years Ago

William P. McKenna funeral services were held from St. Patrick's Catholic church. Mr. McKenna died in the Stuart hospital. He had been a resident of Holt county since 1901. . . There were 800 head of cattle at the sale Monday. The market was fully steady with a week ago. . . Mrs. Guy Cole of Emmet took enough pheasants from these sand hills to Lincoln to serve the entire Sigma Nu chapter at the University of Nebraska. Three of her sons are members. . . Word has been received by relatives that Norman Nissen has been missing in action in France since the first part of October.

One Year Ago

About 5,500 personal property tax notices were mailed out by the county treasurer this week. . . Biglin Brothers, a pioneer O'Neill firm, this week passed into new hands. But the firm name will be retained. Mrs. William J. Biglin and Mrs. Frank J. Biglin, whose husbands died in February, 1950, and July, 1953, respectively, this week announced the sale of the funeral directing and furniture establishment to R. E. Clinkscales and George Hammond. . . A Dutch lunch, starting at 5:30 p.m., has been planned for armistice day by Simonson post 93 of the American Legion. . . Navy Chief Duane Thorin, a helicopter pilot who had been held prisoner 18 months by the North Korean Reds, preferred chasing pheasants to granting interviews after arriving in O'Neill this week. He is the only known repatriated American serviceman from this area.

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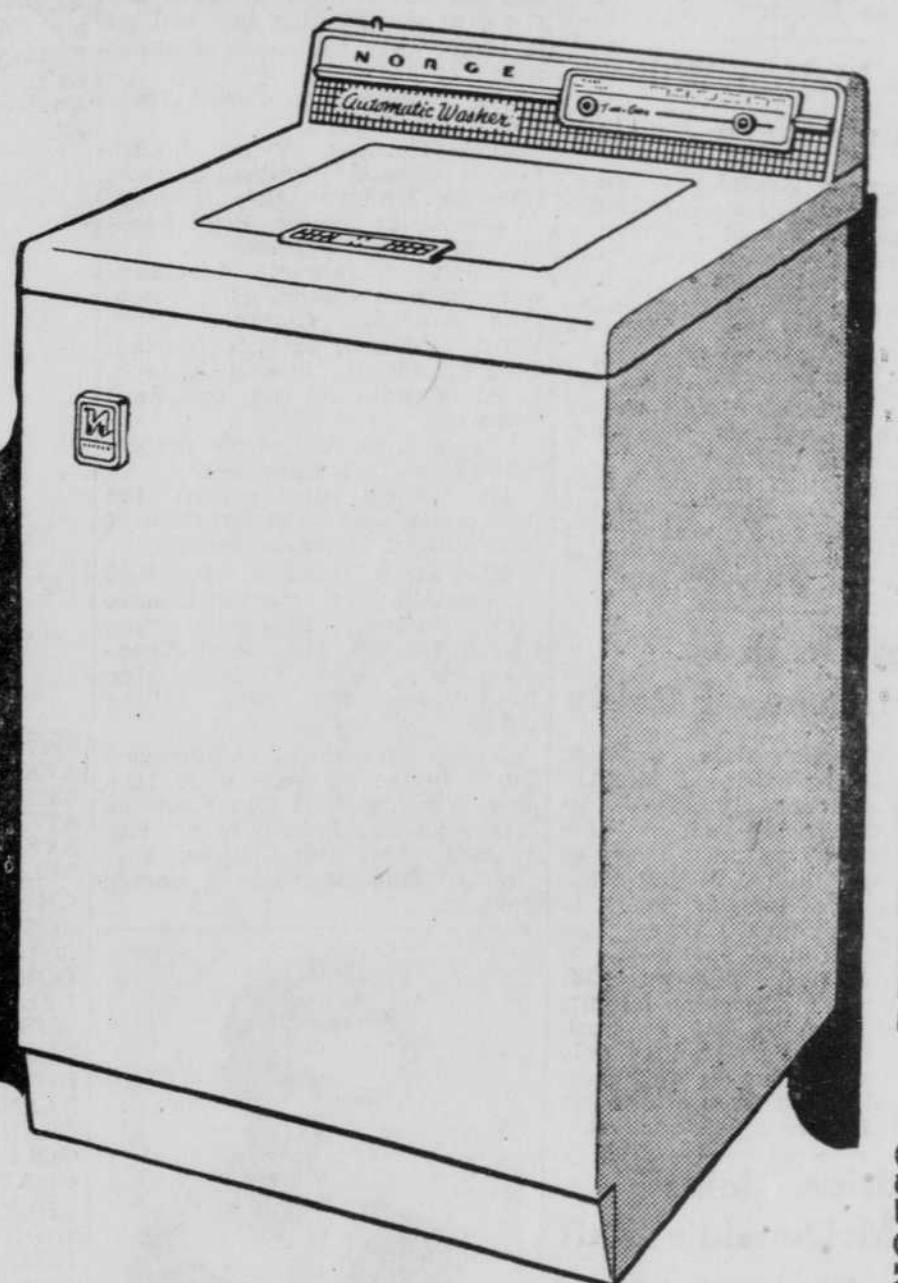
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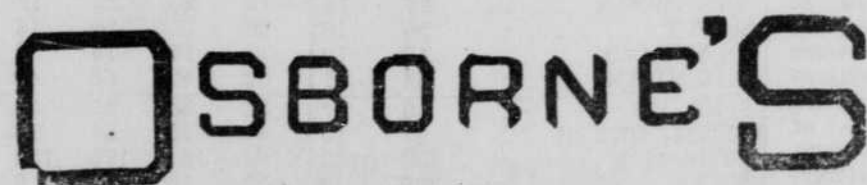


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