

Prairieland Talk

Marion Prefers Eastern Time

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

MARION, IND.—Starting November 28, Marion set its clocks ahead one hour to conform to eastern standard time, following the trend in this state. It is not being accomplished without protest.

There are many citizens who think their state belongs to the midwest group rather than to the east. Building and construction workers get on the job at 7 in the morning. The time change put them to work at what formerly was 6 o'clock and the work day now ends at 3 o'clock central time, which means 4 o'clock eastern time. Many of the prefab houses have been built in what is known as Riverview addition and still more are being erected. The building program is promoted by an organization rather than individual undertakings and the houses are taken over as homes by those financially able to meet the payments.



Romaine Saunders

Neither sun, moon nor stars have been visible for many cloud-marred days that have brought a drizzle. Why not a howling blizzard and have done with it, as prairieland performs when clouds gather? We grope in cloud shadows spread across the land by a divine hand. Out beyond the shadows in that vast unknown the sun and stars are forever stayed. So along the highway of time we step into the shadows and the heart throbs with deep emotion, everything seems to overwhelm, when again the light and joy of life glows upon our highway. Last night we drove down a dark-some glen where flows a river. Emerging from the gloom we came to a stretch along the river road where homes and buildings and street were lighted up and arrows of light cast a glow that danced and quivered upon the crystal waters of the river. So down the highway of time—for every cloud a burst of sunshine, for every tear a flood of song.

Met up with another native yesterday. And thereby saw my first professional glassblower, or one who had been until some restless Yankee put bottle making into the machine age. And then this native patriot went from one job to another and now is on the industrial shelf after discovering that no guy is as important as he thought he was.

The Indiana toll road commission bought 10 acres from the Notre Dame university for \$200,000. Ten thousand was once the high mark shot at in personal injury suits, while now with 10-cent dollars nothing less than a couple hundred thousand is considered worth going after. A Pennsylvania couple, still in their 20's and the parents of five children, face charges of murder—the mother accused of giving rat poison to her little daughter, and the father of scalding the baby. A proposition is up in the Indiana legislature to put the question of statewide adoption of eastern time to a vote of the citizens. The election of Jimmy Roosevelt to congress in a southern California district has been attributed by some writers to a feeling on the part of husbands that they wanted him sent to Washington.

When a guy is arrested and taken before an Indiana court, if he is broke and can't hire a lawyer the court appoints what is known here as a pauper attorney, who defends the accused and the state pays the defense attorney as well as the lawyer who prosecutes.

The custom of sending several hundred Christmas cards to friends and neighbors one sees every day degenerates into a chore, plus worry about sending them to those sending to you.

The secret of enjoyable food usually lies in the amount of labor used to prepare it.

Editorial

Generals and Foreign Policy

During the last few years, when the United States was steering a controversial course through troubled waters, the principle of civilian policy-making in the U.S. government has sometimes been obscured. Whether or not civilian leadership at times in this period was not up to desired standards is not the point.

The principle on which this country's government was founded is that of civilian authority over the military. When the majority of Americans forget this safeguard, it will be an ominous turn in the history of these United States.

President Eisenhower is generally thought to be a military man without the impetuosity or war-mindedness of some military leaders. Indeed, in this editorial treatment, we are not referring to, nor reflecting upon, the president of the United States. It is, however, becoming increasingly popular for military generals to appraise world events in public utterances, and recommend foreign policies to the people of the United States. While they have a perfect right to do so as do other Americans, the military leaders are not charged with the responsibility, under the constitution, for promulgating United States foreign policy.

Nor is it likely that military leaders, trained for a lifetime in military tactics and strategy, will be ideally suited to conduct the country's foreign relations. Because the forefathers of this country realized as much, they made it mandatory that civilians hold the highest positions in each of the three services, thereby precluding the possibility of a division between military and civilian elements of the new government. The joint chiefs of staff have been created since that time and, today, the country is witnessing the gradual emergence into a position of preeminent power of the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff.

We think it wise to call attention, at this stage, to the fact that generals who are ordered to conduct operations in any theater need not be experts on the political or diplomatic aspects concerned. Even after they have carried out their field operations, they are often ill-equipped to formulate foreign policy for the government. While they have a right to their own opinions, and to express them, they should use discretion in dividing the people of the country, or in turning them against the administration in power.

The voter, likewise, should remember that a general or an admiral, is proficient primarily in the art of conducting war and that, if he happens to know how to conduct the country's foreign

One ambitious newspaper publisher is said to have a string of 23 eastern dailies, the latest to be added to his collection being the Niagara Falls Gazette. No liquor advertisements are accepted in any of his papers. The great Methodist church speaks out in opposition to universal military training, pointing out that such a program did not save the German nation. American armies have been maintained largely by volunteers and have yet to meet with defeat. Two Hoosiers got into an argument on a recent Sunday and decided to settle it, one with a shotgun, the other with a pistol. One of them headed the procession to the graveyard, the other lies on a hospital cot. Who won the argument? The American Bible society sold and gave away last year 15 million copies of the Scriptures or portions of them.

Christmas decorations were hung above a clutter of moving automobiles on city streets in mid-November and groups of vocally gifted began early to warble the tunes of the songbirds for the great events of the yuletide. Merchants are stocked with gay gift packages to gather the harvest of checkles that the holiday season puts into circulation. It is announced that Montgomery Ward, the concern that introduced catalog buying to America nearly a century ago, will celebrate Christmas by closing 14 of the 580 retail stores across the country. Merry Christmas!

Abe Lincoln grew to manhood in southern Indiana, but Springfield, Ill., claims him as its own. Gen. Lew Wallace, author of Ben Hur, an American classic, was a Hoosier but Santa Fe, N.M., wants it understood that he belonged to them. Yes, he was territorial governor. James Whitcomb Riley is all Indian, and I don't know that the Riley ranch in southwest Holt county ever claimed him as a cowpuncher.

That self-confessed "world's greatest newspaper"—and a lot of patriots think it is—the Chicago Tribune, wonders why an old army mule skinner raised to the rank of general now has so tender a hide. Senator Joe peeled a little from the back of an army man involved in the McCarthy controversy who had taken refuge in the Fifth amendment. The Tribune concludes that those who join in the attack on McCarthy "are making themselves tools of the red whether they know it or not—and some of them do."

The state supreme court has ruled that under Indiana law the court has authority to appoint another circuit judge—we call them district judge in Nebraska—where a circuit judge is unable by illness or physical inability to hold court, it being explained the ruling of the court is in "the interest of justice." The action of the supreme court came about because the man elected as circuit judge in an Indiana district was unable to take over after his election to the office by reason of serious illness.

What is this we see from prairieland easy chair farmers about "redemption of agriculture"? Since some centuries before the Roman Legions plundered the onion patches of neighboring lands they overran, agriculture has been the backbone of the human race and just now from what is to be "redeemed"? Anyway, the 10 to 15 thousand dollars the prairieland farmer has been getting annually for his corn and wheat seems to look good to a Future Farmer of America.

A man named Moses gave us an understandable record of an act of creation. A scholarly gentleman of the windy city says he doesn't believe it. That's his privilege, but what he believes or doesn't believe is not important. As Moses lived something like four thousand years nearer the beginning of human history than we moderns, his story is easily acceptable rather than vague pronouncements about human embryo springing from a mud puddle.

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A Day Worth Observing

Wednesday, December 15, will be national safe driving day. The purpose of all these days, weeks, and months during which Americans are asked to give special attention to some cause or product is obvious: By concentration to make the observance stand out like a mountain peak above the lesser hills and valleys of day-by-day doings. It is an idea the very success of which could be self-defeating. And it has almost reached that point.

All the more reason for helping a few of these special celebrations—a few of large significance—to carry their messages above the rising din. Such a one is safe driving day. Its justification can be read in two sets of figures: One recording the appalling casualty toll on American roads; the other the steadily rising number of cars on the highways.

Money—despite immature thought to the contrary—does not always bring happiness or contentment.

We can't understand how that "unbeatable" football team was defeated the other day.

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When You and I Were Young...

Bank Officers Go; Don't Say Goodbye

Examiner Finds Dime in Vault

The Hagerly bank is closed. The president and cashier have left town without saying goodbye. On deposit in the vault the bank examiner found 100 cents. A. L. Shannon and R. P. Hart lost 100 tons of hay in a prairie fire that started near the red bridge southwest of Ewing. Other losers were Dwight Smith and U. C. Gunter. William Krotter wheeled into Stuart from Boyd county in a horseless carriage. He is the owner of an automobile and he can now defy trains, stage coaches, horses and mules. Ed Kinnury received word that the patent on his washing machine has been passed upon and allowed. This brings Ed into the manufacturing class and is therefore one of the "trusts" we read so much about.

Sixty neighbors and friends gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Burge to honor the couple on their 25th wedding anniversary. The Irish Players composed of well-known local dramatic artists will present a play under the auspices of the American Legion post. This is the first of a series of plays to be given during the winter months. Thirteen bids were submitted to the government as possible sites for the new federal building in this city. Miss Louise O'Donnell had three front teeth knocked out when the car in which she was riding was hit head on by a truck near Neligh.

Jerry Schmidt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Schmidt, was run over by a car near St. Mary's academy, but was very lucky and came out of the ordeal without injuries. Holt county will be credited \$20,000 in war bonds by the Chicago & North Western Railroad company as the result of its purchase of \$20,000 in the Sixth war loan drive. The distinguished flying cross was awarded to an O'Neill boy. The award was made to Lt. Roy J. Earley, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Earley O'Neill, who is with the India-Burma-China air transport command. The weather registered 3-degrees below zero Thanksgiving morning and remained so most of the day.

Turkey day is Saturday in O'Neill. Tickets will be scattered at approximately 4:30 p.m., as trucks move out in four directions from the heart of the business district. Lucky ticket holders may redeem them for turkeys or other fowl at the Speltz-Ray Lumber company yards. Elvin White of Stuart suffered serious fractures of one leg and one arm when he was caught in the power takeoff of a tractor he was operating. A new firm has joined the O'Neill business directory. Paul Shierk has announced the establishment of the Shierk Motor Company. Walter Haake of Chambers had his 1953 Plymouth sedan stolen while he was attending a movie at the Royal theater in O'Neill. It was located and recovered by Patrolman Robert Gude after a 90-mile chase through the city and south of town—the Plymouth landed in a plum thicket and a wrecker had to be called to pull the Haake car out.

'c/o Postmaster' Dropped from APO Addresses

The department of defense has requested that hereafter the phrase "c/o postmaster" not be used on mail addressed for delivery through overseas APO's. The address on mail intended for members of the armed forces or civilian registered mail should be confined to three lines, if possible, the last line to show the APO number followed by the name of the postoffice as for example: Pvt. W. J. Doe, RA 12378967 APO 801, New York, N.Y.

'Digest' of Pen Report to Be Made Public

Gov. Robert Crosby sought to reveal evidence on which a citizens' committee said it based findings of poor administration at the state penitentiary, yet he wanted to keep from revealing names of those guards and prisoners who gave the committee information. So he asked the committee to prepare a "digest" of the evidence it found, giving facts but not names. The "digest" will be made public, the governor said.

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State Capitol News

Ress, Commission in Policy Clash

LINCOLN — The battle over just what powers the state highway department had was in another, more crucial round this week.

The round started when the state advisory highway commission for the first time in its 14 month career turned down a recommendation by the state highway department on a highway relocation. The highway department for 18 months has proposed to relocate state highway 35 between Wayne and Wakefield about two miles south of where it now is. Some citizens in the area bitterly fought the move.

The commission at its latest meeting voted in favor of keeping the highway where it now is. State Engineer L. N. Ress said this meant months of surveys and plans down the drain. He asked the commission to decide on its policies on relocations.

Furthermore, Ress pointed out that the department has at least 25 relocations to make in the next few months. Would the commission want to get all of these?

To his surprise, Ress learned that the commission very well would like that. The commission hopped right on the proposition, asked Ress to furnish members with data on every proposed relocation. Commission members said that each of the seven members would decide on the relocations in his own district. Ress intimated he wouldn't take this overriding without protesting to the governor. Besides, the commission has only advisory powers and there is some question of how far it can go in giving orders to the state highway department.

Why the Fuss?—Behind the squabble lay certain fundamental philosophies that clash. For one thing in these days of motor transportation roads are absolutely vital to a town.

On the other hand, the department ever since it began building motor roads has been faced with the relocation problem. Almost every highway at first followed section line roads. If the department had not been allowed to relocate there would not be fine diagonal highways in Nebraska. And the main highways would go through every small town on the way.

But every time there is a relocation it takes a highway away from somebody's front door or away from their town. It is only natural they will fight it.

The matter comes down often to the question, "Where

does the interest of the state as a whole override the interest of private persons or towns?"

Almost as important is the question, "Who shall make the all-important decisions?" In Nebraska the state engineer has made these—at least in theory. But frequently in the past it was the governor who made decisions and often it was on the basis of political pressure from the areas involved.

This led many to clamor for a state highway commission. The 1953 legislature set up an advisory board when it found there was a conflicting constitutional provision.

The advisory commission's recent action brought into focus the whole problem again—decisions by an engineer or by a commission. Presumably the engineer would think in terms of the state as a whole, the commission in terms of interests of only their areas. The final answer was not in sight.

Record Year—Meanwhile it looks like a record highway building year for Nebraska. With two big lettings in December, chances are \$22.5 million in new contracts will have been let this year. This is considerably above the 1953 figure of \$9.5 million.

The reason is the sixth cent added to the state gasoline tax by the 1953 legislature. This will expire May 10, 1955, if the next legislature doesn't renew it. But in the meantime the state highway department is doing its best to prove that if the people of Nebraska will give the money, it will build the roads.

The highest previous building year was in 1950, with \$17 million. Significantly that was also when there was a sixth cent of gas tax before the voters in the 1950 referendum repealed the law. In 1952 new construction slumped to \$8 million.

Gas Tax Suit—But the story might suddenly become different for Nebraska's counties. State Treasurer Frank Heintze, embroiled in two suits over alleged misallocation of state gasoline tax funds to the counties, staged a counterattack by bringing a suit which could tie up future tax allocations. A Lincoln newspaper a year ago uncovered the fact that Heintze was still distributing gasoline tax funds to the counties on the basis of the 1940 census and 1949 motor vehicle registration figures although the law calls for using the latest figures in each case. Lancaster (Lincoln) and Douglas (Omaha) counties brought suits against the counties which have bonded Heintze, seeking to recover around \$450,000 they claim should have come to them if the newest figures had been used.

The suits were against Heintze's bonds and would not have affected the money distributed to other counties. But Heintze brought a case involving all the counties, stating he wants the statutes interpreted. In the meantime he asked that gas tax distribution be held up.

University Budget—At a hearing on budget requests for the University of Nebraska, Chancellor Clifford Hardin said that to have a great university, Nebraska must pay higher salaries to some of its "key faculty members." The university is asking an increase of \$3.8 million in tax funds above the \$15 million appropriation for the current two-year biennium. About \$1.2 million of this increase will go to merited salary increases for key persons on the university faculty and staff, Hardin explained.

Another \$1,350,000 would go for development programs in the

medical, agriculture and arts and science colleges. Hardin said rapid improvements are being made at the college of medicine at Omaha and that it should soon take its place as "one of the really good medical centers of the nation."

In the field of agriculture the ag college wants to add "short courses" for young farmers in the wintertime plus more research in such things as proper feed for livestock.

MILLER THEATER

Atkinson

Fri.-Sat. Dec. 3-4



Sun.-Mon.-Tues. Dec. 5-6-7



Wed.-Thurs. Dec. 8-9



DANCE AT O'NEILL American Legion Auditorium & BALLROOM NOSMO KING ORCHESTRA Saturday, December 4 Adm.: Adults \$1; Students 50c

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