

Prairieland Talk

Visits Wilkie Birthplace

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

MARION, IND. — The countryside is aglow with the gold of sunlight this early day in April and the unclouded blue of the heavens above lends further charm to the lure of the great outdoors.

In a 50-mile drive, the buildings of opulent gentlemen and ladies of Hoosier country life gleam white in the sunlight. Cows here and there of aristocratic pedigree lie in the sun chewing their cud.

Our drive took us to the sizable city of Elwood, the birthplace of Wendell Wilkie, once a candidate for the presidency and now numbered among the dead. On a prominent street of the city stands a brick school building bearing the marks of the years that is known as Wendell Wilkie high school, a seat of learning where that notable Hoosier acquired the background of what became manifest in political and literary qualities. What might have been the rebound of the nation had Mr. Wilkie been voted into the white house can never be known. As for America and its thrifty people and men of genius it matters little who occupies the presidential throne.



Romaine Saunders

The city of Elwood probably dates its beginning far in the past. A gent from Nebraska's far-flung prairieland visiting a community bearing the name of Elwood is reminded of Cowboy Sam Elwood riding up Fourth street in O'Neill on a magnificent chestnut gelding, tossing the bride over his mount's back in front of the Critic, swinging over his saddle and maybe heading for Ed Kelly's window at the bank to negotiate a loan, giving as security for his \$50 note maybe a hundred head of longhorns. Sam was a candidate for county treasurer but failed to make it and some time later pulled up his Holt county ranch anchors and went to the Roswell community of New Mexico where all were of his kind.

Italy, a going concern among world governments for 2,500 years; and once the mistress of the world, sends hither its man with a market basket to be filled with cash and tools and power plant products to take home to "reconstruct" the toes and ankles of the centuries-worn "foet" of that ancient land. Sure, the generous hand of Uncle Sam is opened wide to all comers.

Weatherwise functionaries this morning sent out a story over the air of snow in some sections of the country, rain in others and bright sunshine in favored communities, and the "dusty days" that have brought hopeless gloom to patriots in eastern Colorado and western Kansas where nature's great grazing lands have been ruined by the plow. It was in the '30's a "dark day" enfolded us in Swan precinct in Holt county; a contribution to life's experiences on prairieland. What were spoken of, as dust storms had been blowing out of the same territory now affected at frequent intervals during the summer. At 3 o'clock one afternoon we were blacked out. A dense cloud of dust drifted in from the far southwest, and hung above the velvet green of the prairie grasslands. Above the dust blanket gathered a rain cloud. Darkness enveloped us. But rain fell and with it the dust bowl's cloud turned to mud. The wire fences took on the appearance of a mud fence. If the deposit of soil from the dust bowl regions was of any benefit Holt county profited rather than suffered that time.

It is known in Hoosierland as the general assembly. That is the state law-making body. Governor Craig, relaxing in Florida after the winter's legislative season, proposes a special session to convene later to make an appropriation of funds to build something or other. Laws, state and national, for the most part are not the result of popular demand. A legislator or the executive thinks "there ought to be a law" and so the accumulation of legal enactments pile up.

In the death of Col. Robert R. McCormick of the Chicago Tribune and Joseph Pulitzer of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch two more join the ranks of those who touched the field of daily newspaper journalism with the stamp of great persons. Like William Randolph Hearst and a few others, McCormick and Pulitzer were the papers they edited and their passing leaves few if any in the realm of daily journalism that put the stamp of individuality upon the printed page. Another somewhat less notable as editors go, who has joined the ranks of the dead along with McCormick and Pulitzer was the 92-year-old Abilene, Kans., editor, Charles W. Harger, a personal friend of President Eisenhower and the one responsible for the setup in Abilene in memory of the president's boyhood in that Kansas town.

Walking abroad this morning, lingering a moment by the brink of the river and moving on upgrade I was held up by a group of eight "bandits." Nothing to do but hold up both hands and surrender. The "bandits" were 3- and 4-year-old boys and girls who from previous experience suspected that the old guy had a pocket full of candy. Empty pocket when I got back from the morning stroll.

The 215 teachers of the Marion public schools took the day off Friday, April 1, and were the guests of community industrial centers and business men. Meanwhile, school kids made a day of it. Fortune fell to Prairieland Talker to have two of these drop over to see a specimen from the Nebraska prairies and listen to tales of pioneer life. Like most boys it had an appeal to these two young Hoosiers who had never seen an Indian. So they got the story of Sitting Bull and an account of the battle of Sitting Bull at the hands of Indian police, along with some other accounts of experiences of the long ago on the open prairie. Sports and clubs comprising various groups also were in weekend gatherings.

Among the events to enliven April's first weekend in Marion was the state Young GOP meet which brought together some 500 of the younger element of the state affiliated with that political group who assembled at Hotel Spencer auditorium. The theme of the session was "Statehood for Hawaii." Mrs. Elizabeth Farrington, delegate from the islands to congress, was one of the speakers, and a group of Hawaiian girls, students at the Indiana state university, were the honor guests. Another event arousing community interest centered in the Easter pageant put on by the Wesleyan college, which also assembled a choir of 100 voices that sang "The Crucifixion" Sunday evening in a gathering for the public at their college church. A chorus rendered the "Holy City."

Grant county, Indiana, has not only a salaried county attorney whose duties include prosecuting offenders but there is also a salaried defender of the offenders who are financially unable to hire counsel. This official has the title of pauper attorney. The theory, as expressed by the incumbent of that office, that it is an American tradition which gives all, whatever their social or industrial standing may be, the right to be heard in court. The pauper attorney faces the tears of the unfortunate, in their troubles as well as penniless crooks.

Representing the 107-year-old Associated Press, two score newspaper publishers, editors and reporters had a gay party and get-together in this Indiana city a weekend in late March. And with them came the year's heaviest snowfall, accompanied by Arctic gales. The AP was promoted by a few newsmen in New York City in 1848 and now its representatives are scattered over the globe. The AP fellows hung around here for a day or two, but the Arctic visitor came so late it could only remain overnight.

News, Views and Gossip

By THE EDITOR

No Longer Useful?

The elective chieftains who guide Consumers Public Power in Nebraska are elated with the prospects of constructing a nuclear-powered steam generating plant in this state. Inasmuch as Consumers is the only public power agency among the four applicants seeking authorization from the atomic energy commission, best guess is the public power agency has the inside track. The three competing private power agencies are located in New England and in Illinois.

It would seem the public power apostles are moving out from on this score. But in another phase of CPPD policy we beg to differ.

The chieftains are methodically dismantling diesel plants in the various cities and towns — generating plants acquired through purchases of municipal systems. For several years the O'Neill diesel unit has been slated to be torn down and moved out; similar plants at Neligh and Creighton, for instance, have been recently dismantled and junked. The procedure is to get sanction from the city and town councils before applying the sledge.

The CPPD owners say the diesel generating units have long since served their period of usefulness. They point out that steam and hydro turbos are the current thing; nuclear energy is coming up next. Meanwhile, Nebraska has been criss-crossed with a fabulous power grid, financed by federal money.

Centralized Power

Somehow The Frontier does not place supreme confidence in this widely-ballyhooed network and centralization of power—especially in view of decentralization of everything else in the interest of civil defense.

Theoretically, this country's enemies could blow the smelter-powers out of a half-dozen strategic power sources and paralyze much of the midwest. We have nearby Ft. Randall in mind as one of the possible targets—probably not at the top of the enemy's list but nonetheless on the strike sheet. Some disastrous results could be obtained by the simple sabotage stunt of throwing an iron cable over a few high tension lines at convenient places. Mother Nature is capable of crippling communications, too, in her own unpredictable way.

The grand network idea doesn't impress us as being infallible—especially in a warborn emergency.

If "Old Betsy" were kept in tune at the plant situated at the top of North Second here, she could supply enough power to pump water in the case of a blackout; she could kick oil and gas furnaces off-and-on and refrigerate foods; it might strain her but she could provide at least a 10-watt incandescent light for every home. This for O'Neillites as well as some of the surrounding towns.

Worth Weight in Gold

There would be no juice for electric ranges, air-conditioning, etc., in such an emergency, but "Old Betsy," presently of token value, could be worth her weight in gold if worse should come to worse.

Multiply "Old Betsy" by all her sisters throughout the state, who have been dismantled or are about to get the axe, and you have a disturbing situation.

Consumers economists point out that "Old Betsy" can't manufacture power at a cost which will compare favorably with costs at which power can be generated by the super-duper layouts. But we hold standby plants should be encouraged; certainly where ownership rests in the hands of the public.

St. Anthony's hospital here has an auxiliary power supply; some individuals have standby sources.

Calling Boy Scouts

If the Consumers Public Power hierarchy doesn't want to perpetuate "Old Betsy" perhaps the project could be carried out by the Boy Scouts.

Why scrap "Old Betsy" and her sisters in view of the cheap standby insurance—if they would be permitted to hang around? —CAL STEWART

When You and I Were Young...

Great Northern Eyes Denver Link

Twin Cities Route May Cross Holt

50 Years Ago Prof. J. V. Dwyer was retained as superintendent at the O'Neill high school. Madge Kay will be the principal. Other teachers for the coming year will be Laura Fields, Maggie Hurley, Anna Donohoe, Mary Horiskey and Nellie O'Fallon.

20 Years Ago

James P. Maillon will take over the M. F. Harrington law office. Stephen J. Benson, resident for over 50 years and pioneer in Holt county, died at his home in O'Neill. Republicans of the Third congressional district will hold their annual founder's day meeting in Wayne. Donald Hardesty and Miss Laura Stein-

beck, both of Stuart, were granted a marriage license in the county court. Dr. J. L. Sherbahn, a chiropractor from Benkelman, was in the city recently. He will locate here about June 1.

10 Years Ago

Harry J. Shelton, sr., and Mrs. Harry J. Shelton, jr., of St. Louis, Mo., were houseguests at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Melvin. James Golden is visiting his parents awaiting call for induction into the navy. Bernard Rhode will soon spend leave at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Rhode. He has been overseas for the past 34 months. Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Nissen will leave soon for Burbank, Calif., where they will visit their son-in-law and daughter, Pfc. and Mrs. Laurence Haynes.

One Year Ago

James Glig, pupil in district 99, won the Holt county eighth grade spelling contest. Mrs. Arthur (Eva) Bowring of Merriman was appointed by Gov. Robert Crosby to succeed the late Sen. Dwight Griswold. District 14 pupils, their teacher and Mrs. Francis Johnson visited The Frontier. Three Holt countyans, including James W. Rooney of O'Neill, Lyle P. Dierks of Ewing and Charles E. Chace of Atkinson, will testify in Washington, D.C., at a congressional appropriations hearing in behalf of the Niobrara river basin development plan.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

WD — Bert & Mary Farewell to Bert & Mary Farewell 3-31-55 \$1- SW 1/4 20-26-12 WD — Bert & Mary Farewell to Bert & Mary Farewell 3-31-55 \$1- NW 1/4 7-25-11 WD — Constance Biglin to Richard Sanders & wf 4-14-55 \$1,200

Lots 6, 7, 8 Block "J" McCafferty's Second Add'n WD — Wm. Langan to Frank Filipa 4-11-55 \$35,800 Sec. 1-31-11- N 1/4 NE 1/4 & SE 1/4 NE 1/4 & NE 1/4 SE 1/4 12-31-11, W 1/4 6-31-10- S 1/2 NE 1/4 & W 1/2 SE 1/4 6-31-10 & SE 1/4 7-31-10

WD — John Murphy to Harry L. Bennett 3-31-55 \$8000 S 1/2 NE 1/4 & N 1/2 SE 1/4 35-30-11 QCD — Thomas McGuire to John Shalt 4-8-55 \$266.00 E 1/2 Lot 17 Blk 15- Kimball & Blairs Add Stuart QCD — Thomas McGuire to

Clifford Farr 4-8-55 \$266.00 W 1/2 Lot 17 Blk 15- Kimball and Blairs Add Stuart WD — John Shalt to Wm. F. Wewel 4-8-55 \$7,321.97 Lots 11 & 12 in Blk 16, Kimball & Blairs Add'n.

Alice's Beauty Shop (In Former Apparel Shop Location) Phone 263 — O'Neill

It Happened In NEBRASKA...



When the Mormons crossed Nebraska in 1847, their wagons served as beds, kitchens, moving vans—and sometimes boats! Each 10 persons were furnished a fully-loaded wagon, two oxen, two cows and a tent. No wonder they averaged 13 miles a day!

How times have changed—in all ways! Have you noticed how even Nebraska taverns have progressed, today serving the best interests of the community by maintaining clean, well-regulated business establishments? NEBRASKA DIVISION United States Brewers Foundation 710 First Nat'l Bank Bldg., Lincoln

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Editorial

Abolish War, MacArthur Urges

"We should now proclaim our readiness to abolish war in concert with the great powers of the world," declares Douglas MacArthur in the May Reader's Digest.

War is no longer a means of settling international differences, MacArthur holds. The enormous potential of destruction to both sides, because of nuclear weapons and other "triumphs of scientific annihilation," makes disaster inevitable for winner and loser alike.

If this certainty of mutual ruin means that war can now be outlawed, "the greatest advance in civilization since the Sermon on the Mount" may be at hand, MacArthur believes. To abolish war "would not only create new moral and spiritual values—it would produce an economic wave of prosperity that would raise the world's standard of living beyond anything ever dreamed of by man."

MacArthur says the present tensions are being kept alive by two "great illusions": The Soviet belief that the capitalist nations are preparing to attack, and the free-world's belief that the Soviets have the same designs.

Yet the peoples of the world, whether free or slave, do not want war and are all in agreement on the need to abolish war, the general emphasizes. "The leaders are the laggards. They debate over a hundred issues that stem from the threat of war, but never in the chancelleries of the world or the halls of the United Nations is the real problem raised. . . . They increase preparedness by alliances, by distributing resources throughout the world, by developing deadlier weapons and by applying conscription in times of peace. . . . But never do they dare to state the bald truth, that the next great advance in the evolution of civilization cannot take place until war is abolished. . . . This is the one issue which, if settled, might settle all others."

They Saved Their Church

Trinity chapel is a country church near Lincoln. It is not a big building, but it is standing proof that people can get together to keep religion alive in their community. The April issue of Successful Farming magazine tells the story of this church, a building constructed with the aid of three Protestant groups.

This was the problem: Like many churches in the last decade, the Rocky Congregational, Wesley Methodist and Pjamaica Methodist churches in the same rural area were having trouble filling their pews. Farms were enlarging, and the total farm population was decreasing. Better automobiles made it possible to travel farther — perhaps into town — to church.

But the leaders of the three congregations got

together; in 1946 they merged. About 100 persons signed the original charter of Trinity chapel. Membership is now 150, and there is a new church building on a hill overlooking Lincoln.

The founders of Trinity chapel wanted to keep a rural church an influence in the farm community. They sought advice from parent Methodist and Congregational conferences, then went ahead with the aid of Rev. Carroll Lemon, secretary of the Nebraska Council of Churches.

They agreed to leave denominational ties outside Trinity chapel, though remaining active in denominational work. Though members do not identify themselves as Congregationalists or Methodists, they support the two churches' missions and educational institutions. There is a "family church"—with family activities encouraged.

The building of Trinity chapel was a community enterprise, financed by members and by community fund raising projects. Farmer-members did much of the construction work. The Jamaica Methodist church building was sold, and proceeds went into the chapel fund. Lumber from the two other buildings was used in the new church. Today Trinity chapel is alive and growing. An evidence of its health is an active youth group that attends church activities instead of going "into town."

Judging by the showing made at Bassett by train-saving enthusiasts, the prospect of losing Chicago & North Western passenger-mail-express trains 13 and 14 ranks second in importance to the memorable blizzard of 1948-'49.

THE FRONTIER

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