

Prairieland Talk

Blizzard Authority Is Dead

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—Will O'Gara heard the call and has responded to the drumbeat of eternity. He now lies in a grave in the cemetery down at Laurel. Mr. O'Gara died in Lincoln where the family has lived in recent years.

He was the son of a native of Ireland who came to northeast Nebraska during the Irish movement westward in the long ago, had but little formal education, but through reading and diligent study fitted himself to become the first superintendent of public instruction in Cedar county where he had settled.



Romaine Saunders

Will, 77, when death claimed him April 25, grew to manhood in the Laurel community, became active in public affairs and represented his district in the state legislature when it was composed of a senate and house of representatives.

Like others of his ancestral land, Will had fascination for the beauty of word pictures and so took to writing. He got into a volume the various stories of the blizzard of January 12, 1888, but was never quite satisfied with it and planned to have it edited and rewritten. One of Mr. O'Gara's interests was horse racing. He bred and trained trotters and pacers, one of which, Black Hills Lady, is the subject of a story of the Black Hills country, where Will and others of the family were homesteaders at one time. The manuscript, completed just before Mr. O'Gara's death, told the story of the colt folded on the open range, later to become a racetrack favorite.

Mr. O'Gara and daughters, Mrs. Paul Quinlan and Mrs. Edward Jenkins, who also lives in Lincoln, plan eventually to have the story of "Black Hills Lady" printed in book form.

Secretary of Agriculture Benson toured the windswept regions where the denuded earth is a sorry sight and walked about in powdered soil up to his ankles. What he may propose as relief measure has not yet been disclosed. Settler in that region invited the condition they find themselves in by breaking up and trying to grow crops where nature provided grazing land for countless herds. Cowboy country is not for the plowman.

May 1. Gladioli, tulips, lilacs and the dandelions adorn bush and flowerbed and grass grown landscape with rainbow color, hedgerows wave their white plumage in the wind, lawn mowers rumble and gumble across the yards of householders, and here and there a housewife with a background of country life and the instinct of the thrifty is in her garden with hoe and rake cherishing visions of fresh radish and loaded pea rows; apple and plum and cherry tree are bending in the breeze loaded with bloom. A yellow feathered beauty flies to the bough of a tree and pours forth a note of greeting to the May day morning. Other birds hop about on the hunt for a worm, fly to the nest and drop a morsel into open mouths of their young. Spring days, summer days come again on prairieland, schemes and plans of men and the notions of the peace-of-mind cults would defraud us of the hopes of future years but prairieland bestows the rich heritage of life that now is and that which is to come.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Beaman drove north of prairieland. It was in North Dakota they were enveloped in a cloud of dust that rendered highway next to impossible. Upon returning home, their new car as well as they required a bath. Doctor Dodge went south. In southeast Kansas he found the wheat fields headed out and the country looking its best. Charley Church went west. At Grand Island, U.S. 281 beckoned north to green pastures where countless herds were grazing and he came to a stop in O'Neill. He found prairieland robed in velvet green. Joe Phillips and Dave Eno headed east. Corn planters were clicking across the fields in Iowa. I wonder which way Edward L. R. Elson traveled to get the inspiration to write the book in which he says: "To man comes a tragic sense of failure—failure in living. We are brilliant but unhappy, clever but unstable, comfortable but comfortless; we own so much and possess so little. We are forlorn souls, groping and hungering and lost." Mr. Elson should spend a year in prairieland, roll out of his nightmare bed at dawn, catch the pink glow of coming day, breathe the air of free souls and mingle with its brilliant and also happy citizens.

Kathleen Joyce, a singer from London, England, touring the United States and Canada, includes Lincoln in her concert engagements.

A half-century ago the lawmakers and their advisors were regulating the railroads, two cents a mile passenger rates, no passes, lower freight rates, higher taxes and the size of train crews. The late M. F. Harrington and others advocated government ownership and management of the railroads. That was before trucks, automobiles, buses and airplanes got into the transportation picture. Now lawmakers are concerned in behalf of "saving the trains." Senator Nelson introduced a bill in the present session of the state legislature designed to cut down passenger train operating expenses by eliminating one brakeman. Railroad officials are concerned over shrinking revenues and seek a reduction in taxes, so perhaps the time has come to legislate for instead of against railroading.

The annual spring meeting of the Nebraska State Historical society will be held at Grand Island the evening of Saturday, May 14. Frank Doie, a D. D. Cronin member in the history of the region, will address the gathering of society members, his subject to be "The Literature of The Cattle Range." . . . The banking committee of the legislature reported for passage LB 545, which appropriates \$36,400 for the historical society to establish a museum at Ft. Robinson. Such an undertaking is also being considered by the city of Sidney patriots who wish to perpetuate the memory of a fast disappearing race of pioneers by collecting what may remain of frontier specimens that form a link with a colorful past.

Ten years ago taxes had begun to hurt a little, and spenders clamor for a sales tax. Property owners in Lincoln discover that their property tax is double this year and in some instances a third more than last year. What is the remedy? There is none so long as the public demands the things the former generations survived without.

The Frontier's circulation continues to grow-and-grow.

When You and I Were Young . . .

Leek Appointed

New Marshall Here

C&NW Building West from Casper

50 Years Ago
Eber Leek was appointed marshal by the new city council; William Gordon, weighmaster, and John Cain was appointed night watch. . . . A delegation of O'Neill KC's and Father Cassidy went to Alliance to initiate 60 members in the new Alliance chapter. . . . A dance was held at the opera house honoring Miss Moran of Ft. Randall and Miss O'Malley of O'Neill. . . . Florence Sullivan and daughter arrived home from Ireland and reported a pleasant trip and most enjoyable visit. . . . Continuous heavy rains hinder the work of farming and gardening. However, grasses and small grain are flourishing. . . . The Norfolk News report that several carloads of ties and other materials have passed up the line this past week for the extension of the North Western railroad west from Casper.

30 Years Ago
Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Murray held open-house at their home on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. . . . Light fingered gentry broke into the P. J. McManus store. Not over two dollars was taken. An attempt was also made that night to break into the Golden Rule store. . . . A May day fête was celebrated on the public school grounds by pupils of both O'Neill schools. . . . O'Neill high won the Niobrara valley conference track meet by scoring 60 points. Next in line was Lynch with 28. Butte scored 23.

10 Years Ago
May 7 was the official ceasefire day in Europe. President Truman announced the unconditional surrender of Germany and V-E day became a reality. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Larry Barrett were honored by a surprise party on their silver wedding anniversary. . . . Ira George chaperoned the St. Mary's band to Norfolk where the radio manager had invited them to play at a Nebraska audience. . . . D. Cronin made a short address. A number of O'Neill citizens formed a sort of booster caravan and went along to lend their moral support to the young musicians. . . . An unknown bomber pilot buzzed O'Neill right over the telephone poles one day during the week, giving the populous quite a thrill.

One Year Ago
A 17-month-old blue-eyed blonde little girl who had been the object of an intense all night search, is "getting along fine" at Sacred Heart hospital. Charlene Avery was found by Omar Toner about 6:30 a.m. about a mile from her parents' home on the Dr. R. E. Kriz farm. . . . A spring stag party at the Country club officially opened the 1954 series of activities. . . . Marine 7/Sgt. Darwin K. Harley was chosen the outstanding marine for the month. He is a member of headquarters and maintenance squadron 10 at El Toro marine corps air station, Santa Ana, Calif. . . . An open house at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leon Beckwith in Emmet honored her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Young, on their golden wedding anniversary. The Youngs, now living in Neligh, are former Atkinson residents.

Use of Fresh Fruits Told—
The Sandhill Billies' 4-H club met at the home of George Dunkel on Saturday, April 16. Our leader handed out last year's books. . . . Karen Garwood and Kathleen Dunkel gave a demonstration on how to use fresh fruits. Their project was "how's and why's for young cooks". . . . We sang our favorite songs. The next meeting will be at the Warden home May 21. —By Kathleen Dunkel, news reporter.

Brownies at PO—
Brownies troop 2 met Monday, April 25 in the library. . . . We visited the postoffice. Christine Herley was our hostess.—By Mary Ray, scribe.

Tune in "Voice of The Frontier", thrice weekly!

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Back from Germany

Pfc. James D. Harrington, son of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Harrington, arrived in New York last week and went to Ft. Sheridan to await discharge. He has spent the past year in Frankfurt, Germany.

Dorene Huber Is Bride-Elect

LYNCH—The engagement of Miss Dorene Huber and Gerald D. Elsass, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Elsass, of Lynch, has been announced by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Leman Huber of Lynch. The bride-elect was graduated from the Lynch high school and for the past two years has been employed by the Lynch Herald-Enterprise. Mr. Elsass was graduated from Butte high school. He was discharged from the navy in December after four years of service. The couple has not set a wedding date.

Brownies Meet—
Make Gifts—

Brownies troop 1 met at the library on May 3. They played games. The Brownies met at the library on May 9. The hostess was Sandra Clark. She served candy bars. Next meeting will be May 16—Patsy Bazelman, reporter.

Norfolk JC Plans Early Course—

An early-summer course in educational psychology, designed for the classroom teacher, is planned at Norfolk Junior college. This course will include: Psychology and school problems; readiness and development; acquiring ideas, attitudes and skills; planning, motivation and evaluation; emotional learning; construction of good testing programs; evaluation of student progress. This is a "lower development work", three hours credit.

Water Heater LEAK?

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Holt Women Back from Eastern Tour

Mrs. Esther Harris of O'Neill and Mrs. John Conard of Emmet recently returned from a three-weeks' visit in the East. They visited at Niagara Falls N.Y., and while there viewed the falls from the Canadian side. From there they went to Boston, Mass., where a day was spent sightseeing in New York City, they were guests for a week at the home of Mrs. Harris' daughter, Miss Ruth. . . . Miss Harris is employed in the United Nations, working with Oriental language.

South of Border Is Banquet Theme

CHAMBERS—"South of the Border" was the theme chosen for the annual junior-senior banquet held Thursday, April 28, at the Chambers high school. Blue and gold were the senior colors used in the decorations. The program follows: "Lord's Prayer" by Dick Young; welcome address, "My Seniors and Seniors," by Carolyn Wintermote; response, "Enchantment"; by Shirley DeHart; song "Mexicali Rose" by Carolyn Wintermote and Viona Burgett; toast, "High Mountains," by L. J. Ekdahl; takeoffs; "Interesting Scenes," by Sam Taggart, and toast "Come to the Fiesta," by Mr. Weinmeister. The menu consisted of juice, corn, potatoes, sweet potatoes, herb, salad, rolls, coffee and dessert.

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Brownies Meet—
Make Gifts—

Brownies troop 2 met at the library Monday, May 2. We finished our mothers' day gifts. Our hostess was Sandra Clark. She served candy bars. Next meeting will be May 16—Patsy Bazelman, reporter.

Frontier for printing!

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Editorial

Traffic Clamp-Down Welcomed

Within a matter of hours after O'Neill's new mayor Alva Marcellus took office there came about a transformation in the concept and attitude of law enforcement in this city. We offer our hearty congratulations to the new mayor.

The city's new chief executive brought young and experienced blood into the police department, relieved Police Chief Joe Wert, transferring him to the street department.

Mayor Marcellus commissioned two young men to "crack down" and enforce traffic and parking laws to the letter. Joe Sivesind, formerly of Orchard and a former military policeman, has been doing just that by day, and Ray Smith, a veteran of four years with the Nebraska safety patrol, has been pursuing law offenders of all types by night.

These young men have the grey-haired counsel of the mayor himself and of Harry Jolley, a well-liked and firm peace officer who has been on substitute status. Although lacking in experience, Mr. Jolley is an asset to the department and a credit to the city.

Ironically, the "crack down" could not have had better timing. Within the past month an infant suffered a broken leg caused by a car (the child is getting along okay); a school boy bounded into the street to greet his parents and was seriously injured (he, too, is recovering); a 7-year-old Basset was wandered across the highway and was fatally injured by an oil truck; a 10-year-old St. Mary's fourth grader was fatally injured by a car on a bridge just outside the south city limits.

Although in none of these situations was the motor vehicle operator held, the tragedies point up the mounting hazards of the streets and highways. The deaths of the two school children and the serious injury to two others brings misery and grief to the parents and should teach an object lesson to the rest of us.

That no lives have been lost during the past 10 years in O'Neill due to wanton and reckless driving, daily in evidence, has been an element of luck. Mayor Marcellus is to be complimented for being dissatisfied with the status quo and doing something about it. Enforcement of traffic laws, being witnessed after a long dry spell, will tend to save lives.

Two Serious Decisions

There are two movements underway in the ranks of labor that bear watching with an eagle eye.

One is the merger of the CIO and AFL into one all-powerful labor organization; the other is the growing demand for an annual wage.

The first is perhaps the more important at the moment and is the greatest test facing labor leaders today.

A merger of the CIO and AFL would be playing right into the hands of the communists. They want power concentrated in a single organization where they can concentrate their forces of evil in undermining the bulwarks of democracy and getting quick control of important bodies.

We believe that maintaining the CIO and

AFL as separate agencies representing labor is in the tradition of democracy. Our government was built and has prospered on the two-party system. Labor has achieved most of its advantages since two strong organizations have been in the field, speaking for it at the conference tables. It makes a lot of sense that two organizations be retained, albeit their objectives might be very similar.

The annual wage looks to the editor as a great danger to ambition and incentive. The short-comings of this new approach to the problems of security and stability far outweigh the advantages. This country is not ready for an annual wage program at the moment, although it may be an appealing way to settle problems in some key industries. A guaranteed annual wage most certainly would destroy jobs. If labor should succeed in gaining such a ridiculous and impractical end, the cradle-to-the-grave cycle will have arrived, in pure form. The guaranteed annual wage screwball logic then would spread to other fields and there would be a horrible day of reckoning in this country's economic life.

Wanted: A Soaker
Most of the midwest is hurtin' for some moisture. Southern parts of Holt county, where water normally is to be found standing most everywhere at this season of the year, noticeably lacks standings water. What this dryness portends we don't know. But everyone in this area shares the hope a soaker is a-comin' real soon. Many farmers have given up planting corn until the rains come.

A party writing in the Public Pulse column of the Sunday World-Herald suggested if north-Nebraskans want their last two remaining passenger-mail-express trains bad enough they should buy and operate them.

Now that the school term is about over, the real fisherman will be taking over.

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