

Prairieland Talk

Biographer Skips Important Ones

By ROMANE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—Dr. J. R. Johnson, a professor at Wayne State Teachers' college, is the author of a book recently published with brief biographies of what he terms nationally prominent Nebraskans. The names of some 25 or 30 such notables are listed.



Romane Saunders

Others should have been added, including Edward Rose-water, founder and editor of the Omaha Bee; W. D. Mathews, founder of The Frontier, whose vivid word pictures of "God's Country," were largely instrumental in bringing settlers into north-central Nebraska; M. P. Kinkaid, another pioneer of O'Neill, who probably had not a single personal friend, but, who, as congressman, did more for Nebraska than any other who has served in congress from this state when he secured the enactment of a measure increasing the homestead in his district from 160 to 640 acres; Mike Harrington, Jim Donohoe and plenty of others who stood above the crowd in their day and generation.

But should the pennant of notability wave only in memory of the men we call great? What of the women who braved the dangers, endured the hardships and felt the loneliness out on the open prairie away from friends and dear ones that they might do their part in redeeming a wilderness and reduce lawlessness to ordered society. I think of the Holt county woman who had the courage and the understanding to deal with the bands of Indians on the war path that had stopped to plunder her frontier abode, of the mother whose cheek was wet with tears because she had nothing to set before three travelers who had stopped to get a bite to eat, of the young bride who found relief in tears as she sat in her homestead abode because she did not have two pennies with which to buy a postage stamp, of the pioneer couple whose first Thanksgiving dinner in Holt county was dried cherries they had bought with them from another state.

From such as these and others like them this generation had its heritage—and our highbrows write about the guys they call representative Nebraskans.

A cry of pain was heard on a busy street. Pedestrians paused to look and listen. Automobiles swished by. A shaggy little black dog limped to the curb, dropped over dead, a highway casualty. Lincoln's law making body has decreed that dogs must be chained up or otherwise restrained from running at large. The open range for dogs as well as for the herds of cows and ponies that once were free to go and come at will is no more so far as the capitol city limits extend. There was one dog less last evening along south 48th street because the dog's owners had neglected or defied the city's dog laws.

Charley Hamilton out there at Port Angeles, Wash., seems to have drunk deep from the fountain of youth. He now looks down the highway of time that he has traveled 105 years. Three former Holt county sheriffs went to Washington, "Little Hank" McEweny the first, then Hamilton and finally Ed Hershiser. A fourth, I. R. Smith, did not get that far; he quit when he got to the Black Hills.

In the United States and Canada there are 1,501 hospitals operated by Catholic Sisters in which 214,015 pain-racked patients can be put to bed.

Editorial

A Mystery Disease

One of the diseases around which much mystery still centers and about which little is yet known is childhood nephrosis. Childhood nephrosis is a disease which disturbs the kidney function and usually attacks children between the ages of one and three and a half years.

Usually the victims are boys, but girls are often attacked, and the disease knows no discrimination concerning race or climate.

The death rate from childhood nephrosis is frightening; half the victims of the disease become fatalities. As yet, little is known about childhood nephrosis, but the Nephrosis Foundation, which was begun by parents of children struck down with the disease, has been organized to publicize facts about the disease and to provide funds for research.

Because the care of a nephrotic child is very costly and because the disease is so destructive of human life, there is a great need for further effort in this field. Currently, the foundation is attempting to inform the public of some of the facts about this disease.

Childhood nephrosis is indicated by a swelling around the eyes in the morning, which sometimes disappears by afternoon, and which finally becomes evident in the abdomen and feet. Antibiotics have reduced the death rate to 50 percent by controlling infections, which frequently occur in victims of childhood nephrosis. Further facts about this disease may be obtained from the National Nephrosis Foundation or from medical authorities.

Have-Not into Haves

It was once politically fashionable to divide the world into two classes—the "have" and the "have-not" nations. Anniversary celebrations of VE-day have reminded us how the Hitlers of yesterday used this have-and-have-not situation to bluff their way to disaster with demands for Lebensraum here and still more Lebensraum there. Nobody today attempts such classifications. It is clear now that any nation is a "have-not" if it lacks the trust and friendship of the decent people of the world, regardless of whether that nation be materially poor or materially rich.

This is not to say that "have-nots" must automatically become or remain international outlaws, as the long and patient labors of free-world statesmen amply testify. Indeed, these show that the promotion of trust and trustworthiness is the high hope of the free world and its people.

In this context it will be seen that lesser nations can make a contribution to the common good out of all proportion to their material strength and resources. Australia and New Zealand have recently been in the news in this connection. With today's power struggle centered on Asia, geography has given these young English-speaking nations a great responsibility and an equal opportunity. They are Asian powers with Western traditions.

In Asian eyes Australia and New Zealand are free of the taint of "colonialism," having once been colonies themselves. Moreover, they are not

Clouds have formed above eastern and southern Nebraska wheat fields. They are reviving hope for threshing time since it was given out early in May that these fields in Thayer and adjoining counties were withering under sun and winds, so doubtless the annual contribution to the nation's bread basket will be forthcoming from the Brumby county at harvest time. April and early May inherited the winds that March was short on. It was a tradition with the pioneers of prairie-land that a three-day blow from the south meant rain and as the shades of evening gathered across prairie-land the third day dark clouds came with a rush and a roar out of the northwest and emptied a flood, the wind upsetting homestead shanties here and there. As the storm abated the head of a homesteader might be seen emerging from the "storm cave" to see if the house was still where he left it. That weather tradition had added to it the mournful note of the prairie wolf that forecasts with a mysterious certainty a coming storm. A year of so ago the busybodies were building flood control ditches in newspapers; now laying schemes to get more water.

So man works from sun to sun does he, while a woman's work is never done. Maybe she should get busy and do it. A Lincoln lumber yard has discovered the value of advertising, spreading it on with full page ads in the newspapers. Gov. Victor Anderson proposes that Nebraska gets a share in it, hightailed off to Washington from whence it is suspicioned billions will become available for building highways which are said by their promoters to assure golden crowns for prairie-land patriots. Learned yesterday that I have a former O'Neill citizen as a neighbor in the next block, Mrs. Murdy. Her husband was killed in an accident on the highways three months ago, and she maintains her home with her son at 49th and Lowell streets, Lincoln. Under the present law allotting gas tax funds to the various counties Holt gets \$8,612.67, Boyd \$3,181.88, Wheeler \$1,325.03, Garfield \$1,806.85.

Met up with a prairie-land patriot from Buffalo county last night who had come all the way to Lincoln to hear Kathleen Joyce of London, England, maybe to take his mind off of weather worries out his way where they had but one little sprinkle of rain all spring.

A fur-coated creature of the wild clung to its perch high among the branches of a backyard tree as it saw with terror ruthless hands of a man reach up and close about it. A mother of the wild was the captive of the destroying hand of man. From whence comes the lust to kill? A beautiful animated thing of nature wanting only to live its life out in the open with other harmless creatures that inhabit the land. This fur-coated bundle of animal life was a mother opossum with ten newly born little mites in their pouch and she had sought refuge in the tree top from human enemies that rob her of her babies. Out of the lights and shadows that float over the cathedral of the great outdoors comes the instinct to live, the mother instinct to guard her young, and along comes man, the killer. As a result of human blood lust the mother and her ten little ones lie lifeless in the open field that God gave to them for their home.

Any nation has its selfish men and women; it is a great country which can produce a number of unselfish citizens.

powerful enough to dominate the Asian neighborhood if they so wished, nor well placed to do so.

In short, Australia and New Zealand have a past and present background which closely resembles that of most Asian states, and therefore an ability, aided by a geographic location, to think in Asian terms and comprehend Asian problems, hopes and aspirations.

When so much depends upon building bulwarks of trust and trustworthiness in Asia, these are assets of a priceless sort, riches to make "haves" of "have-nots" and help build a bridge of understanding between East and West.

Witnesses and the Truth

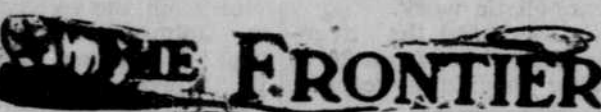
One of the best comments we have seen recently on witnesses and the accuracy and truthfulness of their testimony came from the weekly newspaper, Grit. The newspaper said there were several things to be determined about a recent turn-about witness who appeared before a congressional committee in Washington.

Among them was the question whether the witness was telling the truth about telling the truth, and whether he was telling the truth about lying, or whether he was lying about telling the truth, or lying about lying.

We think this just about sums up the net result of the testimony, and the ridiculous spectacle in Washington to which the newspaper referred.

Now that rain has blessed the parched earth hereabouts, in answer to many prayers, people should show their gratitude in a number of ways. The Lord was petitioned for rain in many churches and at many family altars during these past few weeks.

There was quick justice for the two young airmen whose crime trail ended (we hope) with the slugging and robbing of an O'Neill filling station attendant.



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When You And I Were Young . . .

Mellor, Mann Get Wet Forging Stream

Jess Swims While Joe Is Marooned

50 Years Ago

Jess Mellor and Joe Mann had an experience that neither care to have repeated. They got stuck in about 10 feet of water near the Hershiser bridge. The river is out of its banks everywhere and they undertook to ford it. The horses plunged into a pool over their backs and the buggy was submerged. The horses were cut loose and Mellor swam through the icy waters to shore. Joe could not swim and stood in the buggy waist deep until help came. The city trustee has had five occupants within a week. Police Judge Davidson says as soon as the ordinance is in force, so he can do it, every hobo and tramp will be given a term at labor on the streets. There was a flurry around the handball court. The Bazelman Lumber company has a claim of \$100 against the lumber in the enclosure. On that basis an attempt was made to remove the lumber. Club members got together to devise ways to retain the only place of public recreation in town. Following considerable skirmishing a flag of truce was run up and temporary peace was declared. Through county Attorney Mullen, the club applied for and received an injunction against Bazelmans to enjoin them against removing the lumber. All the company has is the money.

H. W. Mathews was visiting here from down Lincoln way.

20 Years Ago

Thieves took four month-old calves from Den Murphy's pasture. The calf was a splendid 1.01 inches of rain during the night one day last week. The Legion post was host to 20 legionnaires from Stuart and the district and county commander at a gathering held at the KC hall. Mayor Eisenbrock, county Supervisors Sullivan, Carson and Steinhauer went to Lincoln and Omaha to interview road officials and other federal officers regarding the paving of Fourth street, Two blocks north from Douglas in front of the federal building and a grant to the county for the purpose of building a new courthouse. The report "looks very favorable" for both projects.

10 Years Ago

Thirty-five graduated in the senior class at St. Mary's academy. Forty-two seniors received their diplomas from O'Neill high school. Gordon Wayne Harris was promoted to seaman first-class. He is serving with naval air transport squadron five. Lt. Frank Clark of Buffalo, S. D., is visiting relatives in O'Neill. He arrived home from Germany recently where he was held a German prisoner for four months. The hotel on South Fourth, once known as the Commercial, is receiving a visit. Under the direction of the new owner, Col. James Moore, the outer surface is being covered with an armor plate in the form of brickwork.

One Year Ago

Over 200 St. Mary's alumni attended the annual reunion banquet. Marilyn Fetrow and at a gathering held at the KC at O'Neill high graduating exercises. Mr. and Mrs. Nels Colfack will observe open-house on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. William W. Griffin, county attorney since 1947, this week filed for the nomination on the republican ticket. Dan Desdune's Negro band and the O'Neill Municipal band joined for a half-hour of marching and fun in connection with the Omaha Chamber of Commerce good-will visit to O'Neill. Eighty-two Omaha firms were represented.

Plan School Picnic—The school ROCK FALLS. The school mothers of district 33 met Tuesday afternoon, May 10, after school to make plans for the picnic which will be held tonight (Thursday), May 19.

Mrs. John Hynes and Helen and Mr. and Mrs. Donald Borg were dinner guests Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul M. Walker.

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To Wed in Omaha

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Berger of O'Neill announce the engagement and approaching marriage of their granddaughter (above), to Thomas John Coater, Miss Patricia Lou Berger koo of Omaha. The nuptial rites will take place at high noon Saturday, May 28, at Omaha.

News, Views and Gossip

By THE EDITOR

Veteran

In an editorial in last week's issue, entitled "Traffic Clamp-Down Welcomed," we indicated Police Officer Harry Jolley "lacked experience" and termed him as "a credit to the city and to the police department."

On the first score — "experience"—we erred by failure to do a bit of preliminary research. On the second count—"a credit to the city, etc."—our tab has been verified by scores of persons who share the same view.

By our failure to dig and inquire our notes on Mr. Jolley were limited to 20 years of cattle raising on a farm (which he still owns) five miles northeast of town and some wartime work in defense installations.

The facts are somewhat different: Mr. Jolley served 15 months during World War I as a military police sergeant at Camp Lee, Va.; during the famous packing house strike in Sioux City back in the thirties he was a special deputy sheriff; he served on the O'Neill police force under the late Mayor J. P. Gilligan; for 18 months he

was on police duty at the Hanford, Wash., atomic installation; for 17 months he was a guard at the Mead Ordnance Depot for a short time during World War II he was on special guard duty on the Alcan highway.

Erroneously we believed his past six months on substitute status on the O'Neill police staff was the limit of his law enforcement activity.

We are sorry, Mr. Jolley, and we hope the record published above will stand as corrected.

Miscellany

Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of West Germany is much in the news nowadays. Mr. Adenauer is a fast friend of Dr. and Mrs. Heinz Lettau and several times has visited the latter's New England home. Doctor Lettau was field director of the U.S. air force wind test conducted here during the summer of 1953. Lou Thez, the world's champion wrestler, in World War II served as a private in a medical detachment headed by O'Neill's George Hammond, then a youthful lieutenant. George used to sign Lou's orders enabling the latter to appear in exhibition matches for troops stationed in the Pacific Northwest. State Sen. Frank Nelson O'Neill is the dean of the Nebraska legislators. Moreover, he's the only oldest in the group who does not have to rely upon glasses. Senator Nelson has rounded the 70 mark.

Randall-to-G.I. Power Line Urged

On Monday, May 9, Nebraska's Fourth district congressman, Dr. A. L. Miller, appeared before the house appropriations committee to request funds for a 230-KV power line from Ft. Randall, S.D., to the Grand Island area. "One of the most valuable assets of our state is the abundant underground water supply, and it becomes more-and-more important that we develop this resource to meet our increasing needs for irrigation," Congressman Miller told the committee.

The number of irrigation wells in Nebraska would increase tremendously if more electrical energy is made available at reasonable rates.

REX W. WILSON, M.D. ROBT. M. LANGDON, M.D. PHYSICIANS & SURGEONS 128 W. Douglas St., O'Neill Phone 138

Missouri river basin project electric power reaches Nebraska on only two lines—Ft. Randall to O'Neill and Gavin's Point to Bel-don—which cost about \$1 million. Obviously, Nebraska isn't getting its share of this power development.

Frank Froelich went to Harrington Saturday to visit for several days at the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Wanser, and Mrs. Froelich who is visiting at Wanser home.

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It Happened in NEBRASKA ---



Nebraska's first railway depot was perhaps as much a sight-seeing point as it was a take-off point for trains. Indians, buckskin-clad plainsmen, farmers, gamblers, businessmen, ladies—ALL could be seen daily at Omaha's first depot in 1868.

In pioneer days, Nebraska's taverns were colorful, too (too much so). But times have changed. Today our taverns are quiet, respectable businesses which have, in recent years, earned the good will of all. NEBRASKA DIVISION United States Brewers Foundation 710 First Nat'l Bank Bldg., Lincoln

Hottest news in Hardtops is the 4-Door Riviera Why take anything less than the sensation of the year? WHEN you learn what's been done in the automobile pictured here, you can easily see why this beauty is winning rave notices coast to coast. Buick engineers took the hardtop body design that has been growing tremendously in popularity over the past six years—and gave it four doors instead of two. Simple? Sure—to all outward appearances. But it took a brand-new kind of body with wholly new structural principles to do it—to bring this long-awaited new kind of automobile to the public in volume numbers and at popular prices. For this is a true hardtop—with the sleek and racy look of a Convertible, because there are no center posts in the window areas on either side. And now it has front doors for the front-seat passengers—and rear doors for the rear-seat passengers—plus room increased to the size of a full Sedan. (It took some special kind of engineering magic, you can be sure, to hinge all four doors at their forward edges for greater safety, and more ease of entering and exiting.) Local Delivered Price of the 1955 Buick SPECIAL \$2351.88 2-Door, 6-Passenger Sedan, Model 48 (Illustrated) is. Optional equipment, accessories, state and local taxes, if any, additional. Prices may vary slightly in adjoining communities. Even the factory-installed extras you may want are bargains, such as: Heater & Defroster—\$81.70; Radio & Antenna—\$72.50. Thrill of the year is Buick WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT BUICK WILL BUILD THEM A. MARCELLUS Phone 370 O'Neill