

Prairieland Talk

Niobrara Town in 100th Year

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—Niobrara, successively an outpost of the paleface in Indian country; a frontier town of conglomerate clusters of soldiers, cowboys, outlaws and bums amid a group of worthwhile, law-abiding patriots whose purpose was to develop a settled community of thrifty citizens; Niobrara, the point where one of the first United States land offices was established for the great plains region, now a peaceful Nebraska village 51 miles northeast of O'Neill where the troubled waters of the Niobrara river mingle with those of the muddy Missouri, will be 100-years-old next year.

This calls for something special from its citizens so they will celebrate. The soldiers, the picturesque frontier characters, the Santee Indian reservation with the school for Indian boys and girls where an O'Neill teacher, Miss Anna Lowrie, guided the rising generation of Spotted Tail warriors and their squaws in their efforts to learn to read and write, are now but memories.

A village called O'Neill was mapped out on the open prairie by the Elkhorn 10 or more years later. This at first meant rivalry. Here they came from Niobrara to wreck us and thought the best way to do it was to put Doc Mathews and his newspaper, The Frontier, out of business.

But they hadn't reckoned with such rents as Doc Middleton and some others who pitched in and put the invaders to flight. Time passed.

The two communities were connected by a stage route inaugurated by Charley Downey, who made the drive from O'Neill carrying passengers, mail, a sack of prairie chickens, and fresh mutton ready for the skillet. The first stop was at Minneola, then to Stoney Butte and on to Niobrara.

The land office at Niobrara was responsible for much of the traffic from O'Neill going to Niobrara. With the removal of the land office to O'Neill, stage coach service was discontinued.

A charming little state park at Niobrara affords a quiet retreat to which you may repair to calm your troubled soul amid the enchanting scenes of the great outdoors.

In the long ago Niobrara was the gateway to the Nebraska prairielands. Many emigrants crossed the Missouri river by ferryboat that took off from Runningwater, Dakota territory, and landed them on the Nebraska side where they found temporary lodging at a hotel in the frontier village of Niobrara.

The hotel was operated by one Colonel Towle, a somewhat sourpuss who later got into the land office and came with it to O'Neill. We concluded the sourpuss dealing with motley groups in the hotel business was a gentleman of culture and an orator who could float you in the clouds by his eloquence.

A 31-year-old citizen of Beatrice, Robin J. Scully, comes into ownership of sizable slices of both Gage and Nuckolls counties by a judicial order. Mr. Scully has on his hands 56,768 acres of land in the two counties and tenants who occupy the land. . . The state health supervisors announce that curtailment in the number connected with the department is necessary because of budget cuts by the legislature. Both the announcement and the "cuts" will be welcomed in most communities as Nebraskans are well looked after healthwise by the home doctors. . . Announced by the artillery of the skies as much as four inches of rain fell last night. Hail beat wheat and corn fields to fragments in communities near Lincoln and today a few farm people look out upon the ruins. . . Jimmy Roosevelt, now a member of congress from a California district, has been legally and judicially cast away as a husband by his former spouse.

They are an eyesore—pictures of the Molotovs, the Churchills, the Eisenhowers and the Stevensons, Stassens and the Andersons, congressmen and senators, the Seatons and the Petersons, the governors and the judges. The daily papers flaunt the mugs of the great and those in the realm of the heroics day-by-day. It would be a relief to see a picture of a baby sitter, of a kitchen worker in apron and sleeves rolled up, of a workman in overalls putting up a building, plowing a field of corn or straddling a mower in a hayfield; even a linotype operator with nimble fingers running out the life stories for a reading public. And there, poised amid the rumble of daily life in a worried world, is the true picture of human greatness to be found in the humble walks of life. For the gilded frame before hanging the picture on the wall, gather the doctors, the lawyers, the editors and the representatives of business and industry of prairieland communities with the clergymen to invoke the blessing of heaven.

At the national convention of the U.S. Junior Chamber of Commerce held in Atlanta, Ga., last week, Hugh McKenna, a native of O'Neill, was elected president. Hugh lives in Omaha, is the son of Mabel McKenna, also a native of O'Neill, and the late Charles McKenna. Prairieland Talker, having known Hugh's parents and grandparents, extends sincere congratulations. The parents of his father were Holt county pioneers, who in the long ago moved from the open prairie to O'Neill, and the senior Mr. McKenna became the "village blacksmith," with a shop near where the Shelhamer Food Market now stands. Hugh's maternal grandfather, H. J. Meredith, was a member of the Holt County Bar Association, was the captain of company F, Second regiment, Nebraska national guards. Mrs. Meredith was a sister of James H. and George Riggs, publishers of The Frontier for several years. Owen Meredith, brother of Hugh's mother, is a retired army officer now living in California.

On Monday, July 7, 1902, the city council of O'Neill, Ed F. Gallagher, mayor, and J. F. Gallagher, city clerk, met to consider the problem of "unwholesome meat from diseased animals" reported being sold at the "butcher shops" in town. The council resolved that not only the laws of the state of Nebraska were thus being broken but "the confidence of our citizens has been betrayed." The council went on record pledging support to law enforcement agencies to bring an end to any such business in the community. The diseased meat complained of came from a lumpjaw critter butchered at the slaughter house down at the river. Anyway, the aproned gent at the meat block continued to slice off a round of A-T branded steak and sell it to you for a dime.

I have returned from the church services, looked upon the face of the dead, witnessed the solemn rites at the grave into which the lifeless form of a friend I had known was lowered. I turned away with the many others who had known him to resume the duties of life among the living. One more whom we have known heard the drumbeat that announces life's journey is ended. A year ago he and I sat together in the car following another lifeless form to its last resting place when my companion remarked as we entered through the gate to the portals of the dead that he had known more who now lay in the graves than he knew among the living in the community. In him today one more joins the silent majority.

Members and friends of the Bethany church south of Amelia may be interested to learn that their former pastor, Reverend Pederson, with Mrs. Pederson, visited in the home of Reverend Pederson's parents in Lincoln last week. Reverend Pederson is pastor of a church at Canon City, Colo.

Editorial

Free Men or Slaves in 1965?

The controversy rages in Washington, D.C., as to whether or not Russia is way ahead of us in production of advanced type airplanes. The Soviets have flexed their air might muscles in several "fly-byes" over the Kremlin.

There is no controversy over the terrifying fact that Russia is racing far ahead of us in the technical manpower race.

Twice within one week spokesmen at national meetings have issued frightening warnings concerning the way we are being outstripped by Russia in the field of education.

The man who regards the Russian as a dumb kulak peasant type has the jolt of his life ahead of him.

William C. Foster, president of the Manufacturing Chemists association, says that the Russians have outnumbered in natural scientists in a "quiet but horrible race to develop the inter-continental ballistic missile."

It is this development that will determine whether we, and our children, will be permanently slave or permanently free.

We have some great scientists working on our team. But the men who are working for Russia are not peasant oafs but brilliant scientists and there are more of them.

The Soviet output of engineers is two and a half times that of America.

And we do not make the best use of the ones we have. The military industrial conference committee points out that a large percentage of our available specialists are wasted on non-technical military tasks, reflecting short-sighted and wasteful thinking on the part of our armed services.

If every boy and girl now in universities would enter engineering we still would be out-paced by the Soviet. Instead of keeping up we are falling behind.

In 1950 we graduated 50,000 engineers.

In 1954 we graduated less than 20,000.

At one university with a full time enrollment of 20,000 students there will be only six chemical engineers graduated this spring. Forty companies are bidding for the services of those six seniors.

Nothing can be done about the needs of 1956 or even 1959 in engineering. Engineering is a "long term crop" and it takes seven to eight years of preparation.

Part of the trouble, maybe the major share of it, starts in our school system. We need to give greater opportunity to study basic natural science in our ninth and 10th grades. In the United States with a shortage of 300,000 classrooms this is easier said than done. We have a serious lack of natural science and mathematics teachers. We have done a

poor job in making these subjects interesting or attractive to students. This progressive education isn't exactly conducive to turning out fledgling scientists. The progressive educators tend to retard the advanced students and try vainly to speed up the slow ones.

The terrifying fact is that we are falling behind in the race which will determine whether we are slaves or free men a decade from now.

If You Charge, We Charge

A newspaper has only one thing to sell to bring in the money to pay wages and the costs of doing business—and that is advertising.

Some people think we can exist on free publicity. We, for years, have had the policy on publicity that if you charge, we charge.

If an event is staged for the purpose of making money, we feel justified in charging for advertising to publicize the event. This is universal newspaper practice.

Moreover, page one advertising is not for sale. Page one display space is often requested in The Frontier (and most other newspapers throughout the country), but very few newspapers make it available. Every cause, commercial or charitable, would want front page display if it were to be offered "for rent."

In order to assure even distribution of advertising throughout this family journal, no ad space is available on page one.

This, too, is a traditional American newspaper policy.

THE FRONTIER

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When You and I Were Young . . .

Livery, Lumber Firms Hit by Lightning

Jack Sullivan Wins Over Trommer

50 Years Ago Fire destroyed the Bowen livery barn and Bazelman lumber yard. It is thought that a bolt of lightning struck the livery barn. . . Miss Ruth Evans gave a porch party at the Hotel Evans in honor of Owen Meredith of West Point Military academy and Miss Green, teacher in the O'Neill schools for the coming year. The spacious porch was decorated with flags in honor of the approaching holiday. . . Senator Currie of Custer county was in the city. . . The 10-round boxing exhibition between Jack Sullivan of O'Neill and Franklin Trommer was pulled off in the Ryan Bros. hay barn before a crowd of 250. At the end of the fifth round the contest was decided in favor of Sullivan by Referee Frank Leahy. . . Judge Kincaid arrived home from Washington, D.C., congress having adjourned.

20 Years Ago Masons from Holt county towns and some of those west of Holt county gathered at Stuart to commemorate the completion of a half-century of existence of the lodge at Stuart. . . A bolt of lightning is thought to have been responsible for the death of Nebraska King, \$2,700 colt owned by M. W. Zaborowski. . . Frank M. Shaner, holding the contract to furnish a new city well, reported that an ancient human arm had been drawn up from a depth of 32 feet while digging the well. . . An unknown person broke into Conoco station and made off with 15 gallons of gasoline and 3 1/2 gallons of lubricating oil. . . A mother's vacation camp will be held this year in Neligh. . . Officials said there is a very fine chance that the two blocks on Fourth street running north from Douglas street may be paved within a short time.

10 Years Ago Virginia M. Schultz, WAVE seaman, first class, has reported for duty as a master-at-arms in the WAVE quarters at the Puget Sound navy yard in Bremerton, Wash. . . Dick Reed of Chambers was kicked by a horse in the abdomen, resulting in an internal injury. . . The Up-an-A-T 4-H club was called to order by Twila Whaley, president, at the home of Ira and Helen Bowden. . . Mrs. Ira Watson and Carolyn of Inman spent several days in Omaha, where Carolyn had a dental appointment. . . A large crowd of O'Neills traveled to Neligh for the Fourth to see O'Neill defeat Tilden in a close game by a 3-2 score. . . Mrs. Ann Asher spent the Fourth with her brother and family, the Tom Hartigans, at Inman. . . A large delegation of Holt county 4-H members attended the camp held this year at Long Pine.

One Year Ago Mrs. Chet Fees of O'Neill grabbed first-place honors in the "powder puff" derby—the feature of the Fourth of July stock car race show. . . Miss Marjorie Weichman of Stuart was named Stuart rode queen. . . Miss Barbara Brunckhorst has returned home from a teachers' tour to New York. . . A large crowd attended the celebration at Bethany. The main attraction was the three baseball games in the church league. . . Many relatives and friends called at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Raymer of Atkinson on July 4. The Raymers were celebrating their silver wedding anniversary. The 212 South Fork 4-H club held its regular meeting at Leonard Peterson's. . . Mr. and Mrs. Donald Clyde attended graduation exercises at the Milford state trade school. Henry Rohrer, Mrs. Clyde's father, was among the graduates.

Gallups Move to Omaha—Mr. and Mrs. Pat Gallup and two children moved Friday to Omaha, where Mr. Gallup will be employed as a cattle feed specialist for Nutrena Mills. Mr. Gallup, a graduate of Oklahoma A&M college, served four years on the O'Neill high school faculty. When he was not a candidate for reelection, Mr. Gallup planned to move either to Stratford, Okla., or to Omaha. He decided to locate in Omaha.

NEW DWELLING EWING Work has begun on the new Mr. and Mrs. Allan Pollock residence on their lots in the northeast part of the block in which the Methodist church is located.

ATTENTION Stockmen and Ranchers

If you will be needing hay for winter feed, why not make arrangements for it now? I can save you several dollars a ton. I have 200 tons of first cutting alfalfa baled and piled before the rains and can get all the second and third cuttings you might need.

I have all the equipment to put alfalfa in wire-tied bales and pile. Second cutting just starting, some good first left.

If you want good hay now or later, write or see me and we will get it ready for you.

LAMONT SCHRACK Phone FA4-2963 — 811 N. Harrison Lexington, Nebr.

Riverside Clubbers Go to Neligh

The Riverside 4-H club met at the Leo Schneider home Sunday, June 19. Because it was fathers' day, a picnic was held in honor of the fathers. After dinner the members gathered for the meeting. Roll call found a few members absent. Plans were completed for the 4-H picnic. It will be held at Niobrara State Park on Sunday, July 24. Everyone will gather in O'Neill after church and leave by truck.

The holiday picnic will be held at the Matt Beha home on Sunday July 3. On the Fourth the club went to Neligh for the evening celebration.

The next meeting will be July 12, at the John Vitt home.

Two of the group were recent patients at St. Anthony's hospital—Mrs. John Vitt and Charles Boyle.—By Mary Agnes Janzing, news reporter.

Curtis Supports Affidavit Bill

U.S. Sen. Carl T. Curtis (R-Nebr.) Tuesday pledged support to a bill introduced on June 27 by Senator Eastland of Mississippi. This bill would require any attorney practicing before any federal court, before a federal agency or commission, or before a committee of the congress to file a non-communist affidavit prior to his appearance. The American Bar association in its brief on communism tactics, strategies and objectives pointed out that membership in the bar is not a right but a high privilege. Continued membership depends on high standing and high character in legal circles. In addition to giving assurance as to the character of attorneys working in the federal courts and with congress, this bill would prevent an attorney from making an appearance before a congressional committee and then taking refuge under the Fifth amendment about possible communist affiliations. Senator Curtis believes this legislation will receive expeditious attention of the senate.

Margaret Pritchett Weds Norfolkian

Miss Margaret Pritchett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Pritchett of O'Neill and Wayne May, son of Mrs. Millie May of Norfolk, were united in marriage at 2 p.m., Wednesday, June 29, at the Methodist church in Norfolk. They will make their home in Alliance.

Bohn Participates in Task Force Effort

Marine Sgt. Richard O. Bohn, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Bohn of O'Neill, participated in amphibious training exercises conducted by the First marine division's Fifth regiment off the coast of Southern California. The regiment sailed from San Diego, Calif., June 12 with a navy task force. After five days of training at sea, the leathernecks made an amphibious landing near Oceanside, Calif., on the Camp Pendleton reservation. Two days of tactical maneuvers followed.

Sergeant Boyle Headed Home

In a letter to the Frontier, Sgt. Donald E. Boyle, who is stationed in Schweinfurt, Germany, stated he is in the process of coming home with the First division. The First will replace the 10th division at Ft. Riley, Kans., so he will be leaving Germany about July 12, arriving in the U.S. around July 24. There will be a ceremony at the dock and some of the soldiers will be on television. His division was originally stationed near New York City. Thus New York state is considered the home of the First.

Venetian blinds, prompt delivery, made to measure, metal or wood, all colors.—J. M. McDonald.

Senate Okays 115-KV Line to Neligh

The senate appropriations committee in Washington approved 940-thousand-dollar Friday for a 115-kilovolt transmission line from Ft. Randall dam-to-Neligh, but added an important proviso.

It recommended an additional appropriation of 60-thousand-dollars for the bureau of reclamation to study the feasibility of a 230-kilovolt line from Ft. Randall-to-Grand Island.

If the bureau finds it is feasible to build the 230-KV line instead of the 115-KV line, the committee said, then it should submit its study to the committee and await further instructions.

The 115-KV line already has been approved by the house.

The senate committee noted that Nebraska power officials have contended that a 230-KV line is needed for pump-irrigation and talented oration from town power, although at present, for economy reasons, most pump irrigation is gas- or diesel-powered.

It reported out a 745-million-dollar bill for the army engineers and bureau of reclamation containing a total of approximately 145-million-dollars for Pick-Sloan projects in the Missouri basin.

Of the Missouri basin amount, about 90-million-dollars is for the engineers and about 56 million for the bureau.

For the big dams on the Missouri river the committee approved the same amounts as voted by the house, with one minor exception.

It provided \$20,100,000 for Garrison dam in North Dakota, 100-thousand-dollars more than the house amount.

The senate committee approved \$5,800,000 for taming the Missouri river between Omaha and Sioux City and two-million-dollars for river work between Kansas City and the mouth. These amounts were the same as voted by the house.

The senate committee's report contained a recommendation that the army engineers stick to the original plan to acquire 40-thousand acres of land for the Gavins Point dam in Nebraska and South Dakota.

Under the administration's new land acquisition policy, it pointed out, the engineers reduced that figure to 36 thousand acres.

Some persons in the vicinity of the lake to be formed by the dam have protested the reduction, while others have been against the engineers taking more land, especially by condemnation.

The committee said the increased acquisition should be restricted as far as possible to land not suitable for agriculture.

These were the committee's other recommendations in which there were no charges from the amounts voted by the house.

Alice's Beauty Shop

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

Club Plans Picnic—Pleasant Brook

CLEARWATER—The Pleasant Brook 4-H club held its last meeting at the Schmisser's. Two of the members went to 4-H camp at Long Pine. They gave a report on their activities. It was decided that the club picnic would be held at the Neligh park Tuesday, July 12.

Monuments of lasting beauty made by skilled craftsmen of the J. F. Bloom Co. . . monuments from the factory to the consumer. — Emmett Crabb, O'Neill, phone 139-J. 374

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Reimer, jr., and son, Jimmy, spent the weekend with her father, Doctor Brown of Dennison, Ia.

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

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Best way ever invented to protect farm income: CROP HAIL INSURANCE a necessary, vital protection that needs to be taken care of NOW call us or see us and get the hail problem off your mind right away: BILL BOWKER AGENCY, O'Neill Office Phone: 207 Residence Phone: 468-W

.. DANCE .. AT O'NEILL American Legion Auditorium & BALLROOM Saturday, July 9th ACES OF RHYTHM ORCHESTRA Adm.: Adults, \$1; high school students, 50c

Don't miss this big, Summer \$ DOUBLE \$ SAVING \$ Electric RANGE and WATER HEATER INSTALLATION OFFER! You'll have to hurry though! This unusual INSTALLATION OFFER ends July 31, 1955! By acting NOW, you may make substantial savings on the installation of your new electric range and electric water heater! Get into the "swing" of Cool, Cool, Electric Cooking! By actual test, an Electric Range keeps kitchen temperatures up to 18° cooler than other types! On the average, this is equivalent to installing a one-half ton capacity air conditioning unit in your kitchen! Best simmering kitchen temperatures the modern way—Cook Electrically! Switch today to Cooler, Cleaner, Electrical Living! For the finest in completely automatic hot water service, choose the Worry-Free, Longer-Lasting, Automatic Electric Water Heater! The perfect companion to truly modern living, the Automatic Electric Water Heater serves your every need Safely, Silently, more Efficiently! Remember, only an Electric Water Heater can be installed anywhere in your home to give you the greatest Convenience and Efficiency in service! * FOR COMPLETE DETAILS—On this Money-Saving, SPECIAL INSTALLATION OFFER, see YOUR FAVORITE ELECTRIC DEALER, or your nearest CONSUMERS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT office, today! In many instances, this offer may almost completely cover the installation cost of your new Electric Water Heater and Electric Range!