

PrairieLand Talk

'What Shall It Profit a Man?'

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—Within 50 miles of the cultured center of prairie land's capital city reside two bachelor brothers, or should it be said they hole-up rather than maintain respectable quarters?

Rich in money and lands, the estate of the two is said to be three-quarters of a million dollars. The house in which they live is cluttered with corncocks, wood, paper, trash and dirt; their persons and duds are unwashed as the months come and go. Apparently concerned for the safety of "cash on hand" hoarded in their houses in view of holdups being pulled off at farm homes here and there, one of the great unwashed asked the banker in a nearby town to come out and get some money for deposit. He found a basket full, \$100,000.



Romaine Saunders

Just two old misers who farm, sell the products of their toil-worn, dirty hands and hoard the money received, a pair of human specimens whose love of money controlled their lives.

"What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

A federal, state or other highway functionary says to travelers rolling westward, on U.S. highway 20: Turn north at the east outskirts of O'Neill and follow the section line until another turn is indicated. The road leading into the historic and, to a fading few, sacred precincts of the "Michigan settlement" is to be vulgarized by routing a highway over the trail where the boyhood feet of "Montana Jack" Sullivan once trod off to town, over which his father walked twice a day coming to the courthouse in town and back in the evening; the trail that Paul Sullivan, the Kelly families, Con Shea, Big Mike Carroll, the Conoly families and others of pioneer stock traveled in the long ago. Highway routing has become a fad. But those gent who have been endowed with the title of highway engineer feel they should at least keep busy. U.S. highway 281 on reaching O'Neill instead of going a half-mile west and turning north, now heads east a half-mile, north two and a half miles, west a mile to get going north. One patriot has the say in routing highways, while all share in getting up the cash to pay the bill. That's where "democracy" comes in.

One million men, one-half million women are counted by the statisticians as lost customers of the cigarette manufacturers, the figures covering a period of 18 months. This sizable falling off of the nation's smokers is attributed to the conclusions of health authorities that the little paper-wrapped fags contribute to certain diseases.

Ninety and nine in the shade. That cool wave the weather bureau gent has been saying was just around the corner for the past fortnight had not left the Arctic by mid-July. Not much hope for relief in going to the mountains as forest fires have been sweeping through the mountain ranges to the west of prairie land.

A few hundred over 11-thousand-dollar floats out of the United States treasury to be split between Cherry, Thomas and Blaine counties to be used in some way as forest funds. Where the hand of the Creator planted grass, man wants trees; where forests were planted, the hand of man cuts away the stately oak. This genus homo is a great guy. Holt shares in the "forest fund" liberality to the extent of \$4.29, not for planting a tree but for the county superintendent to promote educational interests by means of a circulating library. Maybe in this instance the publisher of this household journal would be induced to enroll two yearly subscriptions for Miss French for the \$4.29.

The three "turncoats" are home, each in his separate southern homeland. Let them alone; they have suffered enough. Their stories, unpolished and uncouth, give the true picture of life in communist lands such as no decorated tale by an ordered official investigating group can ever put before the patriots of the free spots of earth. Even harsh, rigid and often unnecessary military practices should be dispensed with and the "turncoats" allowed to adjust their lives among their own people.

A million houses have been built each year the past 10 years in the United States—10 million new homes. The old ones, with the ornate porch posts and decorative grillwork, still stand and the once popular L-designed dwelling survives the passing years but the sodhouse is only a memory. The pre-fab developments have taken over the home scene and the dwellings that have stood for a half-century or more are becoming less and less in demand. This generation may be thinking they are the ones the prophet had in mind when in 698 B.C. he spoke of a future age when "they shall build houses and inhabit them."

Southeast Nebraska has harvested a bumper wheat crop, not enough boxcars, not sufficient elevator storage and piles of the grain on the ground as harvested. From the grass lands word is that a heavy hay crop now goes into stacks and the cattle ranges are well grassed over. And this is good corn-growing weather, as Mike Bolt would have said. PrairieLand comes up another season with the usual big loaf of bread and sizable roast to serve Billy McNichols when we have the pleasure of seeing him here again.

Pagans over at Omaha at one time turned up a wicked snoot and referred to Lincoln as "the holy city." Does the movement in our state metropolises to outlaw picture books and publications of certain types now indicate that Omaha, too, will yet become a "holy city"? They have the prayers and blessings of Nebraskans in the state's first such designated Mecca.

The Washington (Ia.) Journal reported: If you want your child to be born in a log cabin, arrangements might be made with the local DAR chapter, which sponsors the cabin in Sunset park.

When you and I were young . . . F. J. Dishner Now Supports an Auto

Elks Heading for Denver Parley

50 Years Ago F. J. Dishner is now more popular than ever. The explanation lies in the fact that he is one of the mighty few who supports an auto. . . A party of Elks started for the Denver, Colo., convention. They will take in the interesting pieces in the vicinity while there. . . A farewell reception was given Miss Clara Gish at the home of her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Miles, in which a score or more young ladies participated. . . Those of our readers who are interested in business education should send at once to the Grand Island Business college of Grand Island for free circulars. . . The ditch is being dug this week for laying the pipes to carry city water to the fair grounds.

20 Years Ago Jacqueline Abbott fell and broke both bones in her left wrist. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Abbott of O'Neill. . . There are 15 Holt county students attending summer school at the University of Nebraska. . . The 1,800-pound five-year-old mule owned by Dr. H. L. Bennett has been sold to Frank Willison of Chappell for a price of less than \$500. . . Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Dishner and Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Morrison entertained about one hundred guests at a reception honoring Mr. and Mrs. Frederic Malloy of Chicago, Ill. . . A visitor in the city a few days ago the first of the week proved to be a little light-fingered, so he was given the choice of 90 days in jail or getting out of town. . . Al Sauser and Miss Nora Cronin of Omaha were married in Omaha. . . The relief of Holt county at Mrs. Johnson's home in Emmet in honor of Zelma Banks. . . Mr. and Mrs. Chaucey Porter of O'Neill spent a day in the Ed Porter and H. W. Hubbard homes in Chambers. . . Mrs. June Johnson left Lake Okauch, at Spirit Lake, Ia., where she will spend her vacation.

10 Years Ago Cpl. Adolph Jareske arrived home after spending the past 38 months in the European theater and has received his honorable discharge from the army. . . The Friendly Neighbors Project club had a surprise party at the Clay Johnson home. Mrs. Pearl Johnson was the guest of honor. . . The O'Neill town team traveled to St. John's Sunday afternoon where they defeated St. John's, 8-0. . . Mrs. Herman Grothe and Mrs. Eva Johnson held a pre-nuptial shower at Mrs. Johnson's home in Emmet in honor of Zelma Banks. . . Mr. and Mrs. Chaucey Porter of O'Neill spent a day in the Ed Porter and H. W. Hubbard homes in Chambers. . . Mrs. June Johnson left Lake Okauch, at Spirit Lake, Ia., where she will spend her vacation.

Visit O'Neill— Mr. and Mrs. Don Godel came Monday evening and visited in the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Godel. They drove to Scottsbluff Monday night, accompanied by her sister, Miss Betty Harmon of O'Neill. They returned to O'Neill Thursday where they stopped for awhile and then continued on to Norfolk.

Returns from Wayne— Mrs. Leo Mullen returned Friday from Wayne where she had been visiting for the past five days.

Star News

Mr. and Mrs. Ewalt Miller and Barbara, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Boelter and Allen, Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Boelter and Jim, Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Waring and Arlee, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Boelter and Merle and Mr. and Mrs. Otto Mittels spent last Thursday evening with Mrs. Hattie Boelter to honor her birthday anniversary. All of her children—Wayne, Albert and Ernest Boelter, Mrs. Gerald Waring and Mrs. Ewalt Miller—were present. Homemade ice cream and cake were served. Mrs. Gerald Waring baked and decorated the birthday cake.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Derickson and family were Sunday supper guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Juracek and family.

The Saturday night dance at the Ash Grove hall was sponsored by Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sholes, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hansen, Mr. and Mrs. Elroy Lieb and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Derickson. Marilyn Frahm's orchestra furnished the music.

Mrs. Elmer Juracek, Judy and Lyle called at the Merle Spangler home Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Ewalt Miller and Barbara and Mrs. Elmer Juracek, Irma and Lyle spent last Thursday afternoon at the North Branch creek.

Mrs. Robert Miller, president of the Star Get-Together club, attended the council meeting at O'Neill Tuesday, July 12.

Frontier for printing!

Hay Harvest Job-Openings Noted

The cutting of wild hay has started in most parts of the western Nebraska counties administered by the Norfolk state employment office. The hay harvest will be general in these counties in the next few days and should reach its peak between July 18 and July 23. In the Bassett-Ainsworth area cutting is in full swing; in the Cody-Valentine area work has started on many ranches; while in the Chambers territory haying will be later than usual.

In some counties a shortage of labor exists. Bassett ranchers can use three experienced stackers and five general hay hands. Ainsworth can use one stacker. In the Valentine vicinity, two stackers are needed and also a few older hay hands.

It appears that a good stacker can get work anywhere in the region. Wages for stackers range from \$12 to \$15 per day plus board and room. Other hay field workers are offered from \$6 to \$8 a day, depending upon experience and on the type of equipment being used.

Job-seekers going to these hay counties are urged to see the volunteer farm placement representatives. These men are familiar with the labor conditions and the job openings in their respective communities. Ranchers needing help can place their job openings with these representatives.

The volunteer farm placement representatives in the western counties follow:

Bill Miller, O'Neill; Julian Sojka, Ewing; Edwin Wink, Chambers; Joseph Kokes, Atkinson; John Newman, Stuart; K. Duane Cook, Springfield; Gene Newton, Ainsworth.

Bruce White, Brownlee; Luke Stotts, Cody; Robert Herrington, Valentine; Chuck Dukat, Wood Lake; Doug Stoner, Kilgore.

"These men are interested in placing job-seekers with ranchers and farmers who need help in

agricultural activities. They merit your cooperation and goodwill," explained William Beyer of Norfolk, farm placement representative of the Norfolk labor office.

Heat Stroke Is Meeting Topic

The Grattan Flats 4-H club held a meeting Monday, July 11, at the home of Morris and Dick Pongratz.

There were three members absent. We made plans for achievement day. Morris Pongratz read an article on heat stroke. After the meeting we had a lunch. The next meeting will be at the home of Velda Ernst August 1. — By Barbara Wayman, news reporter.

Lichens grows more widely over the earth's surface than any other kind of plant.



DANCE AT O'NEILL American Legion Auditorium & BALLROOM Saturday, July 23 ACES OF RHYTHM Adm.: Adults, 1; Students, 50c

It Happened In NEBRASKA... By 1865, prairie schooners were crossing Nebraska in droves! One express messenger recorded that in a single day's ride between Fort Kearney and Julesburg he counted 888 west-bound wagons drawn by 10,650 horses, oxen and mules. NEBRASKA DIVISION United States Brewers Foundation 710 First Nat'l Bank Bldg., Lincoln

Editorial

Question: How Far?

"Never throw good money after bad" is an old saw. But should it apply also to human lives?

Within the last fortnight two marine fliers were lost over the Western Pacific. Dozens of ships and planes searched 85,000 square miles of ocean. Two other fliers perished in the attempted rescue. After eight days the search was abandoned.

Was this because two lives for two is enough? How many is enough?

The answer to the first question is, "No." The search was called off because hope had been given up for those lost, not because of risks to those who sought them.

And there is no precise answer to the second. To construct some numerical equation by which rescue might be governed would erode the very bonds which unite a crew, an army a community, a nation.

How many men should be allowed to go after how many miners trapped underground? What shall we say of Admiral Mitscher, who ordered his task force to break blackout in the presence of the enemy, risking ships and thousands of lives to bring in perhaps 100 fliers caught by darkness.

The answer lies not only with the hunted, who dared to do, knowing comrades would not forsake him, but also with the hunter, who knew somehow that by forsaking another he would lose his respect for himself.

These are decisions that must be made by leaders. The correct or incorrect decision can be the making or the breaking of a leader.

This week there was a man-hunt on in northern Holt county—a hunt that could have been risky indeed. The same eternal question arose at the time in the minds of many who participated in the hunt: "What shall a man give?"

A Word of Appreciation

Guest editorial from the Nebraska (Geneva) Signal

It has been interesting to note in several weekly newspapers with strong editorial policies that many editors took occasion, at the end of the last session of the Nebraska legislature, to thank their representatives for working hard and representing them well during the past session.

In several instances, compliments and thanks were given senators with whom the editors at various times seemed to disagree violently. Such broadmindedness on the part of the editors is heartening, showing they realize the enormity of the task faced by members of our legislature. It is hardly conceivable that a senator at Lincoln can vote down the line in agreement with all of his constituents, even with the few newspaper editors in his district.

The idea behind most editorials is to let our representatives at Lincoln know we appreciate their hard work and sincere efforts to do a good job for us. Most of us have only a vague idea of the grind of sitting through a session of the legislature with its long hours of hearings, discussions and bickering. Pressures of all sorts are exerted by various groups, most of which probably are well meaning, but all of which makes it difficult for a senator really to determine the will of his constituents and what is best for his district.

Probably this isn't the time to attempt to evaluate the work of the recent session of the unicameral since much of its effectiveness will not be known until all of its laws have gone into effect and we have had a chance to see what it did.

We're Not Optimistic

We're not very optimistic about the "summit conference" being held in little 'ol Switzerland, where do-gooders have been gathering since the days of Voltaire.

Somehow the Russians have been having their own way in all the other parleys, secret and otherwise. In so doing they have acquired more peoples and land in the cold war than any conqueror in the world's history.

The Geneva meeting is now in progress as the top government leaders of the Big Four countries are conferring, wining and dining. Western people have entered into the meeting with a compassionate and goodwill attitude. But Western people as recently as 10 years ago were settling their disputes by warring on each other; whether or not the East (Russia) can quit the use of force in the few short months since the Korean affair is something else. The Korean war in the Far East was communist-inspired and to a great degree directed by the Kremlin.

Time means nothing in the Eastern philosophy. It matters not if several hundred years more-or-less are needed to attain an objective.

It is possible the pent up horror of the hydrogen and atomic warfare can avert another war. In that event, the credit for peace belongs to the scientists and not to the diplomats.

Holt County Sheriff Leo Tomjack is to be congratulated for the manner in which he directed the hunt for the slayer of Mrs. Betty Michaelson. From the moment the law was called into the case, Tomjack handled the affair in a quiet, untrifling and methodical manner.

Contemporary architecture for the new air force academy in Colorado is criticized. But, after all, these young men will not be flying airplanes with paddle-wheels, pilot houses and canvas awnings on the after-deck.

Children should realize their parents are smarter than they appear to be and parents should remember children are smarter than adults suspect.

Hard work keeps people smiling, says a doctor. When you're up on your toes, you're not down in the dumps.

The word from our farmer friends is the small grain crop is quite good. But the ranchers are complaining about the short hay crop.



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One Year Ago Sebastian Pongratz, 62, brother of George Pongratz of Emmet, arrived last week to visit the Pongratz families in Holt county. It was the first reunion of Sebastian and George in 60 years. . . Rev. and Mrs. D. D. Su of Stuart had a narrow escape from serious injury when the car overturned and was badly damaged. . . John Peter Protinsky, 73, retired O'Neill grocery merchant, died at his home in O'Neill. . . Among personal property losses blamed on recent heat included E. H. Medcalf, who reported 85 dead hens and Wood Jarman who lost two brood sows. . . O'Neill stores were warned this week by federal officials of counterfeit \$20 bills now being circulated in Nebraska.

Neligh Loses Minister— NELIGH—The Rev. Donald A. Christianson, Grace Lutheran church pastor, announced this week he had accepted the call of the Pilger Lutheran church at Bellevue as well as the church at Offutt Air Force Base. The Neligh church has granted his release. Mr. and Mrs. Christianson and their daughter will move as soon as his successor is engaged here.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Waldrop of Weatherford, Okla. and her mother, Mrs. Theresa Murray, returned Monday from Rapid City, S.D., to attend the funeral of Mrs. Murray's brother-in-law, Henry Murray. They had been visiting Mrs. Murray's son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Watson, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Lounsbury and Geraldyn of St. John, Kans. had also visited at the Watson home.

Mr. and Mrs. James Earley and Mrs. F. J. Biglin went to Omaha, where they remained Friday and Saturday.

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