

Prairieland Talk

'Wounded Knee' Story in Schools

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—Crowned with a shock of black hair, dark eyes, large nose set in a full round face, lighted at times with a smile, clouded at other times with a frown, ample frame and active legs and arms of prairieland youth, 70 years ago he set type at the cases in The Frontier plant, also for the Atkinson Graphic and Stuart Ledger, attended school part of a term in a one-room temple of learning in O'Neill, held a case at the Sioux City Morning Journal and saw "30" in most nights without catching a galley. Now, at 85, he lives in retirement in Seattle, Wash., the son of a pioneer Holt county couple, the author of works that found their way into universities as textbooks—that, in brief, is the story of Homer Campbell, a Holt county product.



Romaine Saunders

Now another son of Holt county pioneers, another guy who twirled the lariat as a cowboy, lived among the Indians for a quarter of a century, has written books and taught the descendants of Spotted Tail in their schools on the great Pine Ridge reservation of South Dakota, the home of a thousand Ogallala Sioux—a step across the Nebraska state line. You will find his latest book, "Tragedy Strikes at Wounded Knee," in South Dakota public schools as a textbook giving the authentic history of America's last war between Indians and the pale face. The state superintendent of public instruction of South Dakota recommends it to the schools of the state. The author is Will H. Spindler of the Holt county tribal group by that name who settled in early times in the picturesque region of north-central Holt county, a region rich in pioneer lore.

Majestic, awe-inspiring, eternal they stand from out of the countless ages. With these words the same author takes us on a journey along "Badlands Trails," into that strange region of solitude, of changing colors of frightening yet charming aspects of nature where romance and adventure, tragedy, life and death met face to face—where tourists go today to sit upon a rock and marvel at what nature has wrought. This, too, is a thrilling tale from the fertile brain of an inspired Holt county writer.

The late P. J. McManus, O'Neill's pioneer promoter of "quality merchandise," was also the community's insistent booster for the notables among us. And Holt county's grass-grown landscape has sprouted a number of them.

Don't become excited over what he said. That was just one guy's opinion of it. Room in the world for all.

For the information of Billy McNichols, not hearsay as the lawyers term it, I still tell the story of the big hat from time-to-time. Spending a few minutes with Doctor Olson of the Historical society recently, he cast an admiring—maybe a bit envious—eye on my black beaver, so I had to tell the story again. Then learned that our gifted guide of the State Historical society had met Mr. McNichols on a state occasion out at Lexington.

Mother's apron strings are a relic of the past, but we are all tied to the grocery man's apron strings.

Editorial

More Pumping Makes Difference

Anyone driving through an area where irrigation is practiced and where experience has been gained in that endeavor does not need to attend an irrigation meeting to learn what pumping can do. As one irrigator pointed out recently, seeing a good field of corn across the road from a poor one tells only one side of the story.

The first field represents a tremendous investment, a lot of applied knowledge, generally high expenses for fuel (or electricity), round-the-clock tending and generous use of expensive fertilizers. Many mistakes are made, sometimes the plant leaves are hopelessly scorched or blistered. These factors offset some of the advantages of having a crop and a good yield.

A good field of corn or grain hasn't come about by magic. It involves other factors and certainly a lot of hard work.

Both well and stream irrigation are in their infancy in this area, by comparison to other sections where there are thousands of pumps.

The O'Neill region appears to be blessed with a good supply of underground water (most of the underground rivers head in the Black Hills area). Users of both well and stream water appear to utilize it wisely and humbly.

Several more years of irrigation experience will, we predict, make considerable difference to agriculture—particularly during abnormally dry years like the one we are experiencing.

Here's How to Lose License

(Guest editorial from Pierce County Leader)

The Nebraska VFW has prepared cards for motorists warning them to "protect your driving privilege by observing the state traffic laws."

These cards give motorists a short resume on how a driver's license can be lost. Here is the Nebraska law:

Conviction of a felony in which a motor vehicle was used—12 points.

Third offense drunken driving regardless of whether trial court found it to be third offense—12 points.

Third offense reckless driving or willful reckless driving—12 points.

Failure to stop and render aid—12 points.

Driving under the influence of liquor or drug—6 points.

Willful reckless driving—6 points.

Careless driving—4 points.

Negligent driving—3 points.

Reckless driving—5 points.

Speeding—3 points.

All other traffic violations, except parking and overloading of trucks—2 points.

Forfeiture of bail, not vacated, is equivalent to conviction of the offense charged.

An accumulation of 12 points in any two-year period will cause automatic revocation of your driver's license for one year.

This is certainly a forceful warning to drive "lawfully" and a warning that should be heeded by all.

Our belated welcome is extended to newcomers to this community who have joined the teaching staffs at O'Neill public school and St. Mary's academy.

The danger of prairie fire is compounded when the winds blow and pastures and other fields are tinder dry.

Robbed in silken green, aglow with sunlight by day and the man in the moon looking down upon us by night with a smile, prairieland stretches from the mud-stained Missouri to the rugged Rockies, calm and peaceful these mild September days. Amid the whirling activities of life all about us, the fads and follies and tragedies of life are mingled with the cultural and high aspirations that guide communities to the ultimate destiny. Fairs, celebrations, rodeos, the midway fun and folly have come and gone, young Nebraskans sit again at the desks and gather once again on the school playground. Dad has gone to the day's job and mother stands in the doorway this morning seeing her children off to school. From Omaha to Scottsbluff, from O'Neill to Hastings, from Valentine to McCook, prairieland leaves behind a hot, dry summer to go into autumn days when stalwart patriot, mature dame, blushing maid and bashful youth alike partake of the inspiration that comes with changing seasons that adorn nature's picture with varied hues.

Believe it was Thomas A. Edison who thought the thoroughly contented person was the one he counted the complete failure. But Mr. Edison had never visited prairieland.

Higher salaries seems to be the answer to about everything as the moderns look at it. The controlling group now thinks that what is the matter at the state institutions for the care of what now reads "mentally ill" is the pay check and proposes to boost it for a recently discovered group calling themselves psychiatrists. "Mentally ill"—he was more than that when Sheriff Charley Hall brought him in from out northwest and strapped him hand and foot and bodily to a jail bunk, a raving, howling maniac. The Holt county wife and mother who awoke one night to find her husband standing over her with drawn knife and listened with a shudder when she heard him say that God had told him to kill her knew something more serious than "mentally ill" had possessed her liege lord. The psychiatrists may have blushed for shame when these two and many like them were received at the insane asylum where they both died. But we look down across the centuries and hear the cries of humanity to One Who could speak the word that set the crazed creatures of earth free. "Mentally ill"—some so pronounced that are heart-sick, lonely, unwanted.

I got away from the thickly populated San Francisco, Calif., bay region where I had presided for a year over the ad alley in the Pacific Press plant and had seen that the ads for the Pacific Coast Merchant were ready for the make-up, just in time to miss the earthquake that paralyzed the community in 1906. Again that region has been shaken by a quake, much damage to the works of man resulting. I had a neighbor on 21st street, in Oakland, Calif., who told me one evening of the scare in his home the night before over a tremor that my prairieland sense of security had failed to warn me. Said he had endeavored to calm the fears of his wife by telling her to come lie down, as it was he who shook the bed, not an earthquake. Quakes are a constant fear in the bay region around San Francisco.

The Frontier continues to grow-and-grow.

First Business First

The Lincoln Star this week offers this in reference to the troubled state penitentiary and men's reformatory at Lincoln:

"One final word, we hope, relative to this mess in which Nebraska's penal institutions find themselves. We say final because there are other matters of importance to the people of this state, and in the series of developments which have been taking place there must be a growing wariness with daily discussion in the press.

"We say to our fellow Nebraskans that the first order of business at the Nebraska penitentiary and at the state reformatory should be the restoration of discipline and authority at any price.

"If it can only be achieved by resorting to what some people may regard as harsh measures, then regretfully those responsible in dealing with the problem have no other choice than to act decisively and, if necessary, harshly. Discipline and authority will come only when there is recognition among the inmates of those institutions that acceptable administration rests in part with the attitude of the inmate himself. Too frequently, we fear, he has not understood his relationship to society.

"Finally, we suggest that the present members of the Nebraska board of control in the best interests of the institutions under their supervision might best serve the state by resigning.

"Their integrity or their good purposes are not in question. Those qualities which each member of the board possesses in abundance should be recognized by all the people of the state, and we believe they are.

"This board wishes nothing quite so devoutly as to be able to say that its troubles are at an end and the path ahead is smooth.

But this board, we fear, has lost the confidence of too many Nebraskans. . . ."

We think the 4-H program is wonderful in almost every way—except: We seriously doubt if it can be possible to distribute purple ribbons by the bushel (as done at the state fair) and, at the same time, do justice to the really outstanding entries. Just a random thought.

This is Community Concert membership week. Last year's introduction of a series of fine musical concerts was one of the most worthwhile contributions in a long time. We hope the membership campaign is even more successful this year.

THE FRONTIER

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When You and I Were Young . . .

Atkinson Bank into New Quarters

Open Wholesale Fruit, Vegetable House

50 Years Ago
A bachelor of some years standing was evidently caught hugging a girl on kid hill the other night. At any rate, he is talking of the evils of young people peeping into the windows at night. . . . Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Snyder and daughters left for Philadelphia, Pa., where Mr. Snyder will attend the sovereign grand lodge, IOOF, as a delegate from the grand lodge of Nebraska. . . . Sally Edmonds, 66, died on the North Western passenger train as it was coming into O'Neill. The woman was from Spearfish, S.D.

20 Years Ago
Tom Edwards and Lloyd Godel found a black widow spider while working on a shed west of the depot. There have been reports of many of them having been found in O'Neill recently. . . . W. H. Barnhart of Atkinson has rented the Ryan building and will open a wholesale fruit and vegetable market there. . . . Charles Cooper, 14, is in the hospital suffering from a skull fracture and lacerations received when a horse he was riding threw him. . . . Eleven children and their families gathered at the home of Mrs. William Hull to help her celebrate her 80th birthday anniversary. . . . Funeral services were held for William Hagensick, 79, early pioneer of this county, who died at his home here.

10 Years Ago
Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Streeter celebrated their silver wedding anniversary at their home with a family dinner. . . . The new Methodist minister is Rev. Lloyd Mullis of Pender. He will have charge of the services next week. . . . Dr. and Mrs. F. A. O'Connell left for Washington, D.C., where they will attend a family reunion. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Max Wanser are the parents of a son. . . . Mrs. W. H. Bowker and Miss Harriett Hammond entertained 12 guests at a breakfast at the M&M in honor of Lt. Nadine Coyne. . . . Miss Lois Siders and Clarence C. Juracek were married at the Presbyterian manse. Rev. Kenneth Scott performed the ceremony. . . . Sgt. William Hansen is on his way home from the Philippines. It has been four years since he has been home.

One Year Ago
Possibilities for a series of professional musical concerts during the winter and early spring months were informally discussed. . . . More than two hundred Spencer public school pupils were inoculated with gamma globulin shots after one of the teachers, Miss Barbara Brunckhorst contracted infantile paralysis. . . . Miss Betty Gallagher returned from a two-months' tour of Europe. . . . An amphibious airplane called it quits and fluttered into Municipal airport here. The pilot said he no longer could negotiate through a swirling dust storm. . . . O'Neill firemen for a half-hour fought a stubborn blaze—the Shierk Motor company's repair shop where damage was estimated at \$1,500. . . . Sfc. Donald H. DeGroff,

whose wife, Geraldine, lives in Atkinson, is returning to the U.S. from Korea.

Visiting in Iowa—
DORSEY—Mrs. Carrie Hunter departed Sunday for Mechanicsville, Ia., to visit an uncle, Russ McCormick. She accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCormick of Valentine. Mrs. Hunter will be gone two weeks.

Return to Michigan—
Miss Grace Campbell returned to Battle Creek, Mich., after spending the week at the home of her brother, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Campbell.

Tour of Native Grass Seedings Planned

Hendricks Place Is First Stop

A grassland tour to show the results of native grass will be held Wednesday, September 21. The tour will be conducted jointly by the Holt Soil Conservation District, the soil conservation service and Holt extension service.

The schedule:
Leave the court house annex at 1 p.m. with stops as follows: First—Felix Hendrix, one mile east of O'Neill; second—Mrs. Alice Matthews, one-half mile east of northeast corner of O'Neill; third—Clarence Ernst, three miles west of cemetery; fourth—William Froelich, six miles west, one mile north of drive-in theater corner; fifth—Edward Sterns, four miles north, one and one-quarter miles west of Emmet; sixth—Joe Wagman, immediately west of Sterns.

A brief account of the seeding follows:
Mr. Hendrix seeded a mixture of 14 pounds of bromegrass, intermediate wheatgrass, crested wheat grass, green needle grass and Grama grass and six pounds of alfalfa per acre in August 1954. This year a good amount of grass seed and over 70 tons of hay was taken off this 60 acre seeding.

Mrs. Matthews seeded approximately eight pounds of a native grass mixture per acre in June, 1950. This field has been used for pasture the past two or three years.

Mr. Ernst has a variety of native grass seedings ranging from 1948 to 1951. All are being used at the present. This stop will afford an opportunity to compare several different types of mixtures of native grass.

Mr. Froelich seeded six pounds per acre of native grass in the spring of 1950. A portion was seeded to vetch in the fall of 1950. Bromegrass was also seeded the same year in an adjoining field.

Mr. Sterns seeded about 40 pounds per acre of native grass seed in 1954. Ordinarily native grass seedings cannot be utilized for three or more years. However, Mr. Sterns had excellent pasture the second summer.

Mr. Wagman has seeded native grass since 1946 up to last year and results of his seedings should prove of interest.

C. R. ("Bob") Hill, unit conservationist, says "nearly 4,000 acres of old cropland was converted to native grass last year."

"However, if all the severely depleted cropland and 'go-back' land in the county was re-seeded at the rate of 4,000 acres per year it would require over 20 years to complete the job."

Mr. Hill declares it should be done faster than that. If all persons interested in seeding native grass will attend this tour we feel sure they will be encouraged with the results, he continued.

Regional Deaths

Emil Splichal
VALENTINE—Funeral services were held at the Presbyterian church in Valentine on Monday, September 5, for Emil Splichal, 76, who died Friday, September 2, in the Sandhills hospital. Survivors include: Widow, two grandsons, five sisters and three brothers.

Mrs. John Lindsey
CREIGHTON—Funeral services were held Sunday, September 4, for Mrs. John Lindsey, 83, who died Friday, September 2. Survivors include: Widower, John; six children, 18 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Hattie Cole
NELIGH—Funeral services were held Wednesday, September 7, for Mrs. Hattie Cole, 67, who died Monday, September 5, at the Antelope hospital. Survivors include two sons, two daughters, 10 grandchildren and three sisters.

D. P. Morrison
BASSETT—Funeral services were held Friday, September 7, for Dewett P. Morrison, 72, who died Monday, August 29, at Ainsworth. Survivors include: Widow; seven children, 14 grandchildren, one brother and one sister.

Albert C. McFarland
LYNCH—Funeral services were held Friday at the Lynch Methodist church for Albert C. McFarland, 83, former Lynch editor. Miss Anna Nelson officiated.

Son of Ex-O'Neillite Declares East Unfair to Natural Resources

The acting governor of Colorado is Stephen L. McNichols, son of William McNichols, a native of O'Neill. Stephen McNichols was in the headlines during the weekend when he charged that congressional hearings in Denver and elsewhere in the West on uranium stock issues are "an indication of Eastern antagonism to the development of natural resources of the West."

Mr. McNichols, who is the elected lieutenant-governor of the state and is acting chief executive during the governor's absence, said the manner in which the hearings are being conducted fits into "the overall attitude of hostility of Eastern people toward Western uranium development, reclamation and other natural resources."

Lieutenant-Governor McNichols' father left O'Neill about a

half century ago and has been chief auditor in the statehouse for many years.

MILLER THEATER

— Atkinson —

Fri.-Sat. Sept. 16-17

M.C.M.'S. BIG BLAST OF SCREEN EXCITEMENT
"The Marauders"
IAN DURYEA, JEFF RICHARDS
KEENAN WYNN, JARMA LEWIS
COLOR

Sun.-Mon.-Tues. Sept. 18-19-20

The Living Desert
TECHNICOLOR

Wed.-Thurs. Sept. 21-22

JUMP INTO HELL
JACK SERINAS, KURT KASZMAR

WHAT A MEAL!
ATTENTION, Hog Growers!
Do you want to make more money? Then start today feeding HARDING'S CONDENSED BUTTERMILK
It is a product made from pure creamery buttermilk—only the moisture has been removed. Guaranteed 10% protein and 27% solids.
PROVED TIME AND AGAIN TO BE 3 TIMES MORE ECONOMICAL THAN OTHER COMMERCIAL FEEDS
Especially Good for HOGS — POULTRY — TURKEYS
Pick It Up at Our Plant — Manufactured by
HARDING CREAM CO.
— O'NEILL —

50 million times a day at home, at work or on the way
There's nothing like a
Coke
1. PURE AND WHOLESOME... Nature's own flavors.
2. BRIGHT, EVER-FRESH SPARKLE... distinctive taste.
3. REFRESHES SO QUICKLY... with as few calories as half an average, juicy grapefruit.
DRINK Coca-Cola
COCA-COLA BOTTLING CO. OF LONG PINE AND O'NEILL
LONG PINE, NEBRASKA
"Coke" is a registered trade-mark. © 1955, THE COCA-COLA COMPANY

NOTICE
The Holt County Board of Supervisors requests that all weeds along County Roads be mowed by September 30, 1955. If dirt windrows are left along road, please contact your Supervisor so that they may be removed for mowing.
Signed by:
County Board of Holt County

Attention Stockmen
2 — IMPORTANT SALES — 2
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 15
The Neligh Chamber of Commerce will sponsor their annual 4-H Feeder Calf Show and Sale. Open to all breeds and any consignor.
Is the date for Nebraska's largest ALL SHORTHORN SALE of feeding steers, yearlings, heifers, calves, registered and commercial breeding stock. Sponsored by Antelope County Breeders' Association.
If you are interested in selling cattle at either of these events, write—
DONALD F. ENGLE, County Agent, Neligh, Nebr., or
JOHN G. DONNER, Elgin, Nebr.