

Prairieland Talk

Cryptic Note Revives Memories

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—A line in The Frontier's 50 years ago items some weeks ago was of special interest to one of our Page friends, Mrs. Dora C. Townsend.



Romaine Saunders

This is a period in our history when the long and irrevocable arm of the federal government reaches to prairieland and sends our boys to the ends of the earth.

And a little earlier than that, Mrs. Page, babe in arms, faced her first winter on prairieland with nothing to eat but parched sweet corn.

Mrs. Townsend says, "E. Roy has been gone 7 1/2 years." Just another of the friends of long ago who, was called, upon to lay off the tattered garments of earth to put on the robes of immortality.

If an ordinance proposed by the Lincoln city council becomes law, do it yourself is hit a blow in the solar plexus. The thrifty citizen who tries to build a home for himself and family will no longer be permitted to drive nails or saw boards at night as that disturbs a nervous neighbor, if he be a neighbor that goes to bed at night.

"Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed." A decree by the court of heaven. The electric chair at the state penitentiary will be heated a night next March after years of remaining cold.

Airbase fire and tragedy, a mysterious murder, fire at the state house, breakins, a couple of the city drops out of sight in Colorado for a week, Indians coming to town from the nearest wigwam, send them to the electric chair and gave another from that part of the state a comfortable home in our penal institution as a reward for taking the life of a young woman is not clear to some.

The estimate (or is it a guess?) has it that Nebraska's corn crop the past year amounts to more than 95,000,000 bushels, about 90 bushels for each citizen to grind into cornmeal for "johnny cakes" and mush.

Editorial

Nebraskans Are Not Consistent

Nebraskans complain about big government. They snipe at the colossus in a thousand different ways.

As a matter of principle they do not believe it is Uncle Sam's proper role to be passing out considerable sums of money to the states.

However, as the editor of the Lincoln Star pointed out in an editorial this week, as a matter of actual practice rarely do Nebraskans miss an opportunity to get every cent of money from Uncle Sam available to them.

Fish and game funds furnish an excellent example. The state collected 197-thousand-dollars in 1955 under the Pittman-Robertson federal aid and wildlife restoration program.

Nebraskans thrive on federal handouts in agriculture, military establishments, highway construction, airport improvements, power, irrigation, telephone, weather services. Some zealots (a minority in this state) want more federal dough for schools, although the state's delegation at the recent white house conference on education took a stand against federal aid to schools.

Congressmen have a pet explanation for increased federal spending in a myriad of projects. They say the folks at home are "clamoring" for such-and-such. Actually, there's no organized demand at all for many of these activities. The so-called "clamor" is simply a handy excuse for the free spenders.

Some of the tremendous spending is recovered on a loan basis and therefore becomes a legitimate business proposition, i.e., irrigation.

If you are asking us, Nebraskans are not doing too badly for a people traditionally critical of big government.

Exit the Texans

Texas—a key state in presidential elections—has come into the political spotlight in recent months. One of the reasons for this is the resignation of several prominent Texans from President Eisenhower's administration.

The second man in the defense department, Robert Anderson, left his post in that establishment and went home to Texas. Shortly afterward, the secretary of health, education and welfare, Oveta Culp Hobby, also left her post.

Other events have also transpired. Democratic National Committee Chairman Paul Butler recently journeyed to Texas to visit John Nance Garner and much publicity was given this meeting. It seemed to be a tacit reminder to democrats that a Texan had been vice-president for eight years with Franklin Delano Roosevelt. There seems to be no doubt but that the national democratic party is wooing Texas and there are indications that

When You and I Were Young . . .

Iowa, Illinois Men

Buying Holt Land

Atkinson Gas Light Plant Studied

50 Years Ago

Real estate men report an increased demand for Holt county land. The buyers mostly are coming from Illinois and Iowa. A great many are putting their money into the land as a matter of speculation. . . Bennet Martin arrived home from Omaha where he has been for several weeks at a hospital undergoing an operation. . . The North Western rail announces another special train for instructing farmers in crop and soil culture. Free illustrated lectures will be given by the professor of agriculture and other scientific men of the University of Nebraska. . . Mayor Doyle and City Clerk Saunders went to Atkinson to look over the gas lighting plant in use there and report their findings to the city council. . . Will Hammond, who is attending school at St. Paul, is spending the holiday vacation at home.

20 Years Ago

Frank P. Leahy, former O'Neill resident, died at his home at Winnetka, S.D. . . Miss Irene Grutsch, teacher at district 150, gave a program and pie to the school. . . A party was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Wayman in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Kuhns and daughter of Chugwater, Wyo. . . Earl Reszel of Chambers is in the hospital for medical treatment. . . A new arrival, a baby boy, reported at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Coolidge of Amelia. . . Ike, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Van Every, has infection of his foot, caused by excessive pressure of an ice skate strap. . . Judge R. H. Dickson sent in his filing as candidate for re-election to his present post as judge of the Fifteenth judicial district.

10 Years Ago

George Washington Mellor died at Lynch at the age of 81. . . Frank Nelson spent several days trying left for Calhoun to spend the holidays with his brother and family. . . Romaine Saunders spent the holidays with his daughter and family in Lincoln. . . Mr. and Mrs. Conley Harmon of Scottsbluff spent several days visiting relatives and friends. . . Thomas Coyne, one of the pioneers of this county, died at a hospital in Sioux City after an illness of several weeks. . . Richard Cronin, who is attending Norfolk Junior college, is spending the holidays at the home of D. H. Cronin home. . . The South Side Improvement club of Emmet met at the home of Mrs. John Conrad for a Christmas party.

One Year Ago

Miss Forence Ponton, who was crippled by polio at the age of 4, now scots from her home to her office, thanks to an electric car—Christmas gift from her uncle, David Garvis of Santa Ana, Calif. . . Leading O'Neill merchants will again shower the first-born Holt county baby in the new year. . . J. V. Johnson, president of the Nebraska Bankers association, has appointed F. N. Cronin, president of the O'Neill National bank, as county liaison banker for Holt county. . . Rev. Earl Schwenk of East St. Louis, Ill., has accepted the charge at Memorial Baptist church in Chambers. . . A prefabricated metal hangar is in the process of erection at the Stuart-Atkinson airport, located on U.S. highway 20 west of Atkinson.

January, February Calves Are Best

Calves that make the most money for farmers are born in January, February and March, according to Henry Mayo, extension animal husbandryman at Purdue university, Lafayette, Ind. Mayo says in the January issue of Successful Farming magazine that calves are worth about \$10 more for each month earlier in the year they are born. In other words, a calf born in January is worth \$10 more than one born in February, \$20 more than one born in March, and so on. Mayo gave two reasons why early calves are worth more. First, early calves are able to utilize all of the milk produced by their mothers, and second, these calves are big enough to start eating grass as soon as it becomes available.

Honors Daughter on Anniversary—

Mrs. D. R. Douglas entertained Thursday in honor of the fourth birthday anniversary of her daughter, Dianne. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Howard Newton and Patsy; Mrs. Art Holz and Suzie; Mrs. Frank McKenny, Glea and Bobby; and Rosemary Urban.

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Ewing Homemakers in Xmas Style Show

EWING—A two-act play was presented Tuesday morning, December 20, at the Ewing public school. The play featured the annual homemaking Christmas style show. Special music was played by Miss Marion Finley at the piano. The cast of characters in scene one in the living room of the "So and So" home included Sandra Shrader, Patty Wright, Karen Tuttle and Sherry Tuttle. In act two, the scene was at the home of "Mrs. Taylor's Sew and Sew" home. The cast included Mary Lois Noffke, Beverly Rotherham, Judy Stamp and Vivian Wright.

Miss Fern Pruden was narrator. The following were models, each wearing a garment she had made: Freshman group—Lorraine Bates, Shary Daniels, Sharon Kropp, Roberta McDaniels, Janette Noffke, Tamzam Peterson, Gloria Schroeder, Audrey Sladek, Carolyn Tams, Audrey Tuttle, Sherry Tuttle and Waunetta Wragge. Sophomores—Patty Ernest, Marilyn Finley, Patricia Hahlbeck, Darlene Latzke, Patty Wright, Mary Lois Noffke, Maryetta Peterson, Beverly Rotherham, Patty Schindler, Judy Stamp, Vivian Wright and Shirley Wright. Juniors—Judy Cloyd, Virginia McDonald, Patsy Pollock, Alvera Shilousky, Barbara Snyder, Linda Tuttle. Seniors—Vera Del Daniels, Mona Mosel, Maxine Noffke and Sharon Schmidt. Coffee and rolls were served after the show.

O'Neill News

Donnie Schoenle spent a few days this week at a guest at the James Conway farm. Miss Bonnie Burival spent a few days this week with Miss Carla Schoenle. Miss Betty Harmon of Scottsbluff arrived Monday night to spend a few days visiting friends and relatives and to attend the wedding of Miss Mildred Crabb and Owen Davis. Miss Harmon was soloist at the wedding.

Mr. and Mrs. Elbridge Maynard and family of Norfolk and Mr. and Mrs. Lou Speers of Verdell spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Butterfield. Mr. and Mrs. Arnett Buxton were Monday dinner guests of the George Calkins home.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed Potta of Pilger came Saturday evening and spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clements. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Kendal of Pierce came Saturday and stayed until Sunday evening at the Donald Clyde home.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Cook and family of Omaha spent Christmas with his mother, Mrs. Robert Cook. Capt. and Mrs. H. M. Christenson and family and Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Christenson of Chappell arrived Tuesday to spend the week with Mrs. Edna Coyne.

Miss Genevieve Biglin and Nora McAuliffe of Sioux City spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Cronin. Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Carrico spent Christmas with her parents at Camel.

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Davis spent Christmas eve in Atkinson with Mr. and Mrs. Will Morgan and family. They spent Christmas day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rohrer spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Don Clyde. Clarence Farr was also a dinner guest. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel DeBacker and family of Columbus, Miss Dianne DeBacker of Denver, Colo., Father Thomas DeBacker of Omaha and James DeBacker of Cheyenne, Wyo., spent Christmas with their parents, Mr. and

Mrs. G. C. DeBacker.

Mr. and Mrs. D. D. DeBolt and Miss Patricia spent the Christmas holidays with their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Farmer, and family at Rapid City, S.D. Sidney Frahm was a Christmas dinner guest at the D. R. Douglas home. Mr. and Mrs. Merl Keiser and daughter, Kay, of Valentine spent the Christmas holidays with T. J. Donohoe. Mr. and Mrs. John H. McCarrville and family will depart today (Thursday) for Ellsworth, Minn., where they will spend the new year's weekend with Mrs. McCarrville's parents. They will return on Monday.

S/Sgt. and Mrs. Henry Mangan and daughter, Susan, of Edward Gary air force base, Texas, spent Monday and Tuesday in the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. Leo Moore. The Moores had spent Christmas Mangan's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Mangan who are former O'Neill residents. Sergeant Mangan expects to be separated from the air force in three months. Robert Allen of Omaha spent the Christmas weekend with his mother, Mrs. Mary Dusatko. Mr. and Mrs. George Hammond and family spent the Christmas weekend in South Sioux City with Mrs. Hammond's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Ryan. Mr. and Mrs. Gene Barnett and Bobby of Lincoln, came Sunday and stayed until Monday at the John McClellan home.

Brownies in Yule Party—Mrs. Stanley Holly entertained Brownie troop IV and the leaders at a Christmas party Friday afternoon. The time was spent making Christmas wreaths and playing games. Mrs. Holly served lunch and Mrs. Henry Benze treated them with candy and cookies. This was the last meeting of the girls as Brownies as they will become scouts after the holidays.

Celia News

Mrs. LeRoy Hoffman was hostess to the Young Homemakers extension club Monday afternoon, December 19, at the Amelia Hoffman home in Atkinson. Eleven members were present. Mystery sister gifts were exchanged and

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HOME DAMAGED

ATKINSON—The Owen Galligan farm home, 4 1/2 miles southeast of Atkinson, was damaged by fire and smoke Friday, December 9. Most damage was in the kitchen. L. W. Ulrich, a neighbor, discovered the fire.

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