

Prairie Land Talk

Editor Wanted Holt Sliced

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—The metropolis of southeastern Holt county, the roadside sign reading "Ewing," as you come up the highway, and "Ewing" in bold letters on the North Western railroad depot confronting you as you roll into town on the morning passenger train, receives attention from a writer at the State Historical society in Lincoln, Mrs. Elizabeth S. Radtke, through the medium of the January issue of the Nebraska Newspaper, an organ of the State Press association. She takes her readers back to the year 1888 and escorts them through the cowboy town to the editorial sanctum of the Ewing Democrat, another newspaper just added to a list of 14 then coming from Washington hand presses in Holt county.



Romaine Saunders

The Democrat, O. C. Bates, editor, an inspired pagan who had drifted into Holt county towns as a tramp printer, had been launched primarily to elect Grover Cleveland of New York president. Bates survived the flying cowpunchers' bullets a few months and then drifted back to O'Neill, dividing his time between his two loves, a case of type at the Tribune plant and a beer keg at the Crittick saloon. Bates saw the triumph of his political god in 1892 after defeat in 1888, but the defeat of his scheme to divide Holt into three slices. He set type in the basement of the First National bank building, moved on to Atkinson and got a job on the Graphic, then to Stuart, everywhere bringing to the journalism of his day the poetic beauty of a literary genius.

At the time the Ewing Democrat was launched the town already had a paper, the Item, Clarence Selah editor and Clyde King printer. The Item was later moved to O'Neill.

Selah was at one time federal revenue collector and was serving as county judge of Holt county when he died many years ago. Clyde King was editor of The Frontier in the early 1890's. Mrs. Radtke quotes from other papers what they had to say of the first issue of the Democrat. Fellow editors of Holt county greeted the newcomer as follows:

Good advertising patronage.—The Frontier. Sparkling with crystal gems of literary merit.—The Tribune. Check full of spicy reading matter. O. C. Bates, editor and publisher, is an oldtime democrat, well posted upon the issues before the people, and will place the Democrat in the front ranks of north-Nebraska's journals.—Stuart Ledger. In point of typography will compare favorably with any weekly publication in the state. We accept its invitation to cooperate in all efforts for the moral and material prosperity of the Giant Town.—The Item. Politically, friend Bates is badly off, but fraternally, here's our fist.—Atkinson Graphic.

Gratitude of Prairie Land Talker goes across the snow to L. E. Downey, freight agent at Denver, Colo., for the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad, for one of their 1956 calendars, which is not only one with large figures but is a work of art as well. Lee thus remembers me each year, and my guess is that the scenic wonders of Colorado have not dimmed Lee's vision of his native prairie land and treasured memories of life as a kid in O'Neill.

The able gentleman and one competent lady who compose the official group directing the affairs of the capital city have concluded it is time to join the procession and stick out receptive hands for a substantial "federal grant" to finance a half-million-dollar street widening undertaking. When O street was extended east to 48th and beyond from side to side appeared ample. Present day conveyances "running to and fro" make it necessary to rebuild the towns, as O'Neill patriots have discovered.

Editorial

Voiceless Majority

In the December 29 issue of The Frontier government handouts were discussed.

"Congressmen have a pet explanation for increased federal spending . . . saying folks at home are 'clamoring' and 'demanding' such-and-such. Actually," our editorial continued, "there is no widespread or organized demand at all for many of these costly activities. The so-called 'clamor' is simply an excuse for free spenders."

Naturally we were gratified when the Chicago Tribune, considered by many as the world's greatest newspaper, this week offered this in comment on President Eisenhower's message to congress:

"It is true that various pressure groups are forever clamoring that the government do things for them; and it is true, as a reading of Mr. Eisenhower's message makes evident, that politicians try to do things that will endear them to these voting blocs.

"But it is true to a far more impressive degree that the vast majority of citizens want nothing from their government except to be let alone. And that is the one thing that government will never do for the voiceless majority."

Newspapers are remiss in their responsibilities if they do not reflect the attitudes and the opinions of the voiceless majority.

Farmers Caught in Squeeze

(The following editorial comment from the January 5 issue of the Creighton News aptly sums up the farmer's plight as we enter the new year.—Editor.)

Farmers in this area got caught in a double squeeze this year. Crops were short and the prices of livestock have dropped. If farmers had raised a lot of feed themselves, they could have withstood the livestock price drop better. Or if the price of cattle and hogs had stayed up, feeders could afford to buy feed and still come out fairly well.

For that reason this area sees the farm problem as greater than in some other sections of the nation, although all farmers have suffered by the drop in prices without a corresponding drop in cost of operation.

In a strictly rural community, the effect is felt in towns, too. Stores reporting a drop in volume cannot report a drop in cost of operation. While indications are that only the smaller towns are suffering so far, it is likely that some of the larger midwestern communities will feel the pinch, too, if the situation continues.

There appears to be no immediate solution to the problem. The drop in prices has been created by a surplus production in recent years. A lot of suggestions have been made on correcting the situation. In just about every case, when the idea is followed through to completion, a snag is struck.

When You and I Were Young . . .

Full Beards Are Not So Common

Mustaches Show Popularity

50 Years Ago

Mustaches are becoming fashionable. This winter has not brought out the usual number of full beards, but several O'Neill men are training a stubby brush of hair under the nose. Doctor Gilligan and Ed Whelan will each soon have a growth sufficient to apply the curling iron. . . . The pupils of the eighth grade were entertained at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. Kline, the occasion being the 14th birthday anniversary of their son, Otto. . . . Fire broke out in the Wolverine restaurant and an alarm brought the fire company to the scene of smoke and flames. Little damage was done to the exterior of the building, but the interior requires considerable repairing. . . . B. E. Sturdevant of Atkinson is in Washington, D.C., in the interest of the candidacy for the receivership of the O'Neill land office. . . . The Snyder Lumber company has a fine span of dapple grays in a new harness hitched to one of their coal wagons. They were feeling so good when first hitched up that the gait of a coal team was too slow and they took a little spin. The driver was knocked off his footing and landed on the floor of the wagon box. The horses were stopped after a two-block run, resulting in a broken wagon tongue.

20 Years Ago

A find that aroused intense interest was made below the power dam on the Niobrara river. Wood choppers found buffalo skulls where a herd had died in the quicksand. . . . Mrs. Julie M. Uecker, 83, died at her home after an illness of several months. . . . Paddy, a little over one-year-old, a squat, flat, small white dog owned by Cecelia Edwards, believes in armament and has armored himself with one horn on the right side of his head at the point where cattle grow horns. Those who have seen it wonder if the under dog is preparing for war. . . . A young couple strolled into the county court here recently and asked the price of a marriage license. Informed it was \$2, the girl pulled out a fruit jar full of pennies. The county treasurer counted out 200 of them. . . . Charles Fox gave the eighth grade exams at the Meek school.

10 Years Ago

Ernie Weller of Atkinson has purchased the O'Neill Livestock Market. . . . Signalman Bill Grady left for Philadelphia, Pa., after a visit with relatives. . . . Josiah Starr Noble died at the O'Neill hospital following a brief illness. . . . Miss Ardith Roth and Elwyn Robertson, both of Chambers, were married by Rev. Lloyd Mullis at the Methodist church in Chambers. . . . The Bid or Bye club met with Mrs. Frank Cronk at Page. . . . A stranger with a patched chin, broken teeth, blood spots on his clothes, a bit bleary-eyed from fartying the hair, talked of an automobile crackup in language neither picturesque nor refined. . . . Charles McEvony of Athabasca, Al., Can., has been visiting in O'Neill. Mr. McEvony was a settler in Swan precinct under the section homestead act.

One Year Ago

The United Lutheran church of Spencer will dedicate its new organ which was recently purchased and installed. . . . Frank Cronk of Page has been reelected chairman of the Holt county board of supervisors. . . . Construction of the O'Neill public school's new elementary grade school building is progressing at a rapid rate. . . . Following a report by Harvey Wayman and Homer Mullen, in which they said they spotted a mountain lion asleep in a ditch near the road within a mile of the city, considerable curiosity has been aroused. . . . A 13-year-old girl, Beverly Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Anderson of Bristow, was taken by ambulance to Omaha, having been injured in a two-car accident near Bristow. . . . Holt county relatives still are without details of the violent death of Emma Schaaf, 44, native of the Stuart and Atkinson communities, who was murdered at Paradise, Calif.



Returns to Scott

A3/c Walter D. Rutherford (above), son of Mr. and Mrs. Homer Rutherford of Page, last week returned to Scott air force base near Belleville, Ill., where he is attending radio maintenance school. He spent the holidays with his parents.

Weather Circuit Adds Three Cities

Nebraska's department of aeronautics has announced that a new link has been added to the state system of air navigation aids with the connection of Beatrice, Kearney and McCook with the weather bureau at Omaha. Connected earlier were Alliance, Norfolk and Ainsworth. Pilots can have complete and up-to-date weather information by contacting by radio or phone one of the stations. O'Neill's municipal airport is under study as a possible location of a similar weather installation.

Officers Installed

Installation services were held Friday evening at the meeting of Eden Rebekah lodge. Thirty-one were present including Grace L. Inman, Inman, district deputy president, and her staff. The Inman staff installed the Eden officers.

Former Gov. McKelvie Expires in Arizona

VALENTINE—Sam R. McKelvie, 74, twice governor of Nebraska and one of the state's greatest exponents for upgrading the cattle industry, died Friday afternoon, January 6, in Mesa, Ariz. He was born at Fairfield April 15, 1881, married Flossie Fellers June 18, 1904, in 1905 became editor of the Nebraska Farmer. He published the farm magazine until his death. As governor he authorized first appropriations for Nebraska's famous capitol, revamped the state's administrative setup, declined the post of United States secretary of agriculture, and he made famous his sandhills ranch near Valentine. The place is known as the By-the-Way ranch. He was a Methodist.

New Officers Takes Posts in Club

The Martha Citizenship club met Friday, January 6. The newly-elected officers took charge of the meeting. Officers included: Roberta Klabenes, president; Sheila Hertel, vice-president; Jeanette Klabenes, secretary; Susan LaRue, news reporter, and Kathy Farrier, treasurer. In order to hold an office, members must have a C average. The next meeting will be held Friday, January 20. — By Susan LaRue, newsreporter.

GRANDFATHER DIES

Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Nordmeyer went to Gresham Sunday to attend the funeral of her grandfather, George Pollock, 91, who died Thursday at Gresham. Mr. Nordmeyer was a pallbearer.

Attend Conference

Mrs. Carrie Borg, Rev. and Mrs. Duane Lauber, Mrs. Nancy Hermann, Rev. C. P. Turner, Mrs. Edna Huebert and Mrs. Roy Cole attended a Wesleyan Methodist prayer conference Saturday at Niobrara.

Capt. and Mrs. H. M. Christenson and family, Mrs. Nellie Maloney and Mrs. Edna Coyne visited Sunday at the Mrs. Lawrence O'Malley home in Chambers.

WCS Plans to Buy New Dining Tables

STUART—The Women's society of the Community church met recently in the church basement with 21 members present. Mrs. C. R. Myers and Mrs. Ora Yarges led the devotional program. Reports of the circles were given.

It was voted to continue the three circles which had been instituted on a trial basis during the past year.

A committee composed of Mrs. George Keidel, Mrs. C. R. Myers and Mrs. Joy Greenfield was named to investigate prices and types of tables to be purchased for the church dining room.

Rev. D. D. Su was in charge of installation of the officers for

1956. They are: Mrs. Berlin Mitchell, president; Mrs. George Keidel, vice-president; Mrs. Ray Greenfield, secretary, and Mrs. Wilbur Moon, treasurer.

CDA in Session

The Catholic Daughters of America held a business meeting on Tuesday night, January 3, at the Knights of Columbus hall. Mrs. Mark Schelkopf was chairman. Mrs. Mike London won high; Mrs. Grover Shaw, low, and Mrs. Anthony Stanton, door prize. A luncheon was served by the committee.

Visit Merriman Home

Mrs. J. J. Jesse and son, John, of Omaha arrived Tuesday, January 3, to spend a day with the L. M. Merrimans.

.. DANCE ..

AT O'NEILL

AMERICAN LEGION AUDITORIUM AND BALLROOM

Saturday, January 14th

REUBEN BEST ORCHESTRA

Admission: Adults, \$1; Students, 50c

Notice of Change

Beginning with January, 1956, the Holt County Board of Supervisors will meet the middle of each month to allow claims. Other county business will be taken care of at the meetings at the end of each month.

Please file claims by the 15th of each month. Claims filed after the 15th will be held until the following month. Warrants payable on the last day of each month as has been before.

Kenneth Waring
County Clerk

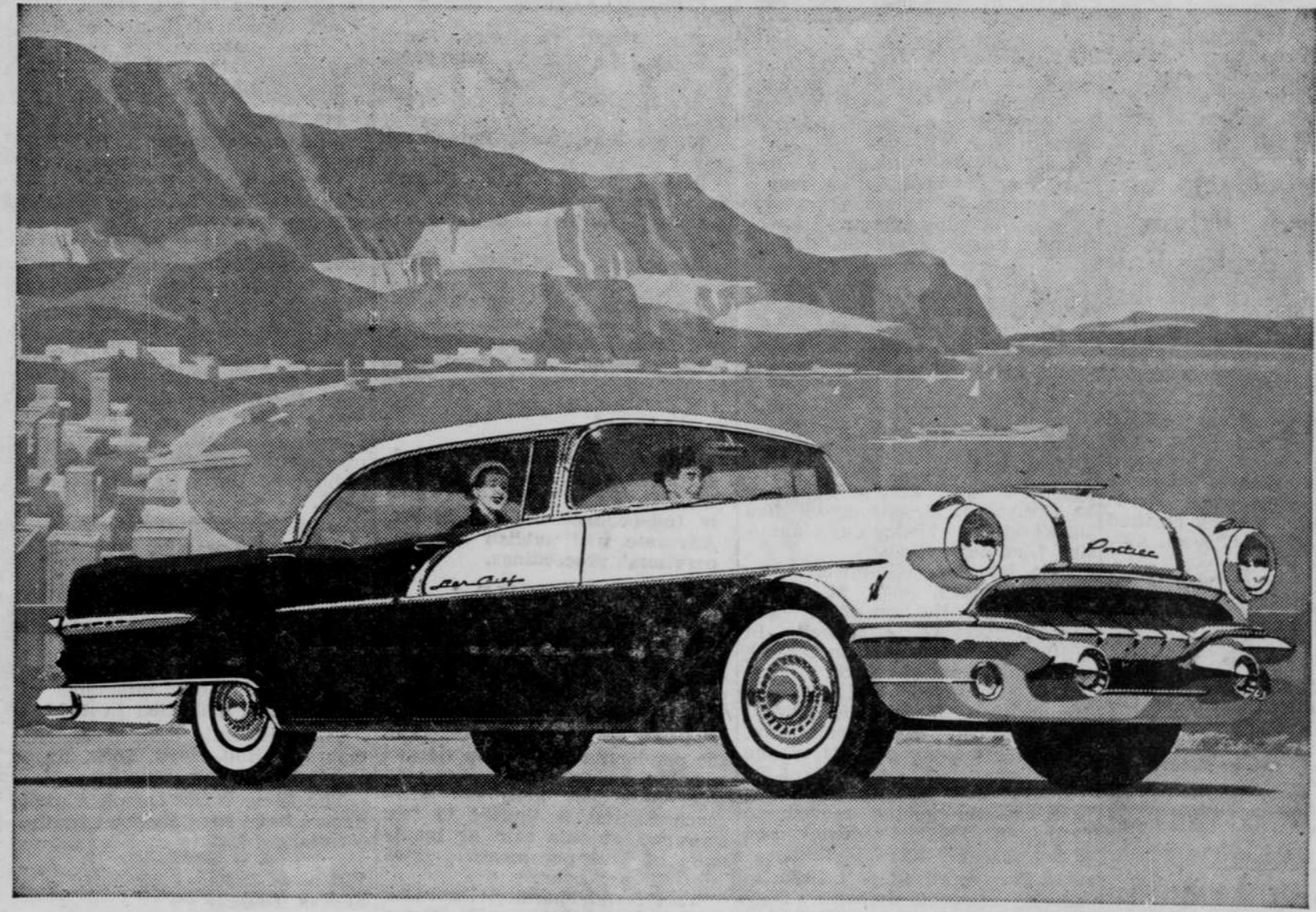
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THE FRONTIER

CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

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