

Prairieland Talk

Cronin Logical Successor

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—Sunday morning, February 26, the radio as my elbow announced the death of Federal Court Judge James A. Donohoe over at Omaha. So another son of pioneers of the O'Neill community has responded to the drumbeat of eternity.



Romaine Saunders

Jim Donohoe was transplanted from his law office in rooms above the First National bank in O'Neill to the federal court seat in Omaha, the appointment being made by the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt with the recommendation of Arthur F. Mullen, a personal friend of Donohoe, and who at the time was national democratic chairman for Nebraska.

Both Mr. Mullen and Judge Donohoe were O'Neill products and were able lawyers. What would be more fitting in selecting a successor to Judge Donohoe than to take another able lawyer from O'Neill? Julius D. Cronin would grace a federal court bench with judicial dignity and ability.

Unfathomed mysteries abound. I do not comprehend the vast expanse of countless milkyways, the glow of northern lights, the midnight silence alone on the prairie. Nor do I comprehend the pink glow of dawn, the noontide glare or the bars of gold at sunset, but I can adore. I do not comprehend the mystery of a rose blooming among thorns or a morning glory clinging to a mud wall, but what is not comprehensible may be adored. I do not comprehend the deep affection of two humans one for the other, of the sublime devotion of a mother to her offspring, the mystery of devotion to a creed, a cause, a principle, an idea. Over it all, above it all, somewhere in the circle of circumstances that surround us there must be celestial forces that whisper, "If you do not comprehend, you can adore!"

Russia claims they now turn out 100,000 automobiles from their factories in a year, about a week's production down at Detroit, Mich.

The 72 million licensed drivers at the steering wheel on U.S. streets and highways travel 560 billion miles a year, killing 40 thousand persons enroute. The 17 thousand government disapproval of their refusal to adopt the modern electrical gadget way of living. Every 88 babies in the U.S.A. come single, then a set of twins, while triplets come once in 8,800 births and they come as a quartet once in 700,000. All but two of the country's 48 state governors have church connections, Methodists heading the list of denominations with 12 governors on their membership rolls. Colonial patriot, statesman, scientist, inventor—and he signed it plain Benjamin Franklin.

Editorial

Your School May Be Next

The death knell has been sounded for the Amelia two-year high school. The high school will become "inoperative" if State Education Commissioner F. B. Decker and members of the state board of education have their way.

Amelia's predicament currently is drawing considerable attention because rugged individualists in that tiny southwestern Holt county sandhills community say they will defy the state board and continue to operate anyway.

One hundred percent of the adults in the district have petitioned the state board to keep the school operative, and parents of 65 school children in adjoining districts likewise have filed a petition, stating they want their children to attend the two-year Amelia high school.

Plight of the Amelia school comes into focus at this time because enrollment has dropped below 10 pupils for three consecutive years (presently there are five pupils—all-time low ebb because school census indicates the enrollment will increase). Further, the attorney-general's office has ruled the link linking Amelia with Chambers (where there is a four-year high school) is "reasonably improved" and the distance is less than 15 miles. (The questionable road is 10 1/2 miles in distance; by state highway Amelia is 17 miles from Chambers.)

Amelia people argue that a 2 1/2-mile segment of the Amelia-Chambers short route is impassable during certain periods. They argue nobody from the state education office or attorney-general's office has ever inspected the road.

When stubborn Amelia is knocked-off the education whizzes may feel they will have clear sailing.

Let's examine the law on which Decker and his aides are basing their withdrawal of accreditation. The bill, purely and simply a product of the teacher lobby, in its original form would hang high schools with fewer than 15 pupils. Amelia patrons, and others, strongly protested and the bill, when amended, read 10 pupils. Thanks to State Sen. Frank Nelson of O'Neill, who interceded in behalf of an Amelia delegation that appeared before the legislative committee that year, the bill was amended to 10.

"It was the intent of the legislature to protect schools in small, isolated communities such as Amelia," Senator Nelson said.

Last week three members of the Amelia board of education—Clyde Widman (president), Lloyd Waldo and Glenn White—and Senator Nelson appeared at a hearing in the state capitol relative to the Amelia case. They received rather shabby treatment. They were told to be there at 9 a.m., and they were on hand at the appointed hour. It was after 2 p.m., before they were heard and they were told to keep their arguments brief. The hearing assumed the aspects of a mere formality—those conducting the hearing apparently had long since made up their minds.

Modern educators have adopted the notion a high school unit with fewer than two hundred pupils is not efficient. And, dear readers, only one or two public schools in Holt county will result if these progressive educators have their way. Don't shrug your shoulder and feel sorry for "poor Amelia," because these centralized-control men will be looking your direction next.

And, if you don't like the conduct of the state education affairs, there's nothing much you can do about it.

Previously the state education chief was elected every two years as the state superintendent of public instruction. In the last general election Nebraska voters were confronted with a series of amendments (they're always confusing to some). Innocently (?) sandwiched in was an amendment having to do with establishment of a state education board with staggered terms and a representative on the board from each district. The board, in turn, would appoint the education commissioner, and fix his salary. Decker, formerly state superintendent at \$6,000 per annum, is now state commissioner at \$9,000 per year.

Theoretically, if the state as a whole should become exercised over educational policies and

There has been greater expansion along the lines of education the past 25 years in America than during the previous one hundred years. It is then amazing that the army enlistments disclose the extent of illiteracy among young Americans. Nearly 18,000 of our enlisted men during an 18-month period were found to have had no formal schooling beyond the fourth grade. Formal schooling does not of itself imply qualification to become a good soldier and maybe the less you know the better you can fight. The fighting cock on the schoolhouse playground is at the foot of the class in the school room.

Price supports—taking a dollar out of one citizen's pocket to put into the pocket of a second citizen. Union labor—a few fellows dominating the organization who call thousands of unwilling workers out on strike, while their families are deprived of life's necessities because of no pay check. Radio salesmen—an outlandish fibber that everybody enjoys hearing. Income tax—a patriotic holdup.

If your guess is that cattle and hog prices are now at "an all time low," you ought to have been around in this part of the livestock country in the 1880's and 90's when a thousand-pound three-year-old brought \$15 or \$16 on the market, that consisted of a few local buyers, and hogs were two cents a pound. Eggs were a nickel for a dozen, potatoes 11 cents a bushel and other products of ranch and farm the same low level or "give it away." The cowboys and clodhoppers survived and probably their descendants making up today's generation will keep pluggin' away.

The car in the garage is safe. But that is not what cars are made for. Yet if that car had been in the garage there would not be today three horror-haunted homes in that Dodge county community. Should 16-year-olds be allowed to take to the highways without an older and experienced hand at the steering wheel? But they do. Incautious youth, venturesome and reckless, reap the fruits, swift and tragic. Followed by the solemn rites of burial that leave sorrow-laden hearts in desolated homes.

Lenora Gean Krueger of Norfolk and Mary Cathrine Vandegrift of Grand Island are two Nebraska students of note among a group from many states who have been given Rotary scholarships and plan to launch their barks in the circles of still higher learning at Oxford university in old England. Two daughters of prairieland have been honored for their scholarly attainments at home and can now go abroad to enlarge scholars' vision but may discover nothing much worthwhile in education has escaped our own schools.

Letters to Editor

Editor: The administration's farm program, outlined by President Eisenhower, gives communities and farmers new opportunities to increase income, both from the government program and from other sources not directly connected with the program.

It is estimated by agricultural officials that the suggested additions to the farm program would put more than a billion extra dollars into the pockets of farm folks from government resources. Part of this would come from the "soil bank" or "acreage reserve" plan under which farmers would be encouraged, but not compelled to reduce plantings of certain crops now in surplus, putting the idle acres into meadow crops.

The encouragement for taking crop lands out of production would be in the form of payments in cash or surplus stocks of such crops as cotton, wheat and possibly corn.

The "soil bank" phase of the program thus does two things. First, it brings a certain cash income from idle acres, and, second, it reduces the working size of the farm.

These two things, in turn, present some interesting opportunities. Since the working size of the farm will have more time, but less acreage. The logical opportunity here, it has been pointed out, is to practice a more intensive type of farming on the reduced acres. The payments for the idle acres will help provide any needed animals or equipment. If more money were needed, other provisions of the suggested program have as their purpose the providing of adequate credit to any farm family needing it.

Intensive farming means different things in different parts of the country. In this area, a number of factors point to milking cows and selling cream as the most promising.

The price of cream is one of the very few farm product prices which is practically the same as

press for a change, it would take a number of years before you could seat four members who could produce that change.

In Sunday's Omaha World-Herald, Decker was quoted: "Small, inefficient high schools should not be used in an effort to 'save the town.'" Economic trends sometimes make losses inevitable.

If Mr. Decker seeks to completely detach the education from a town's economic life, then small town business people throughout the state would do well to view with alarm some of the motives of the state office of education. After all, many communities would lose their identity without a school.

Back to Amelia: If the folks there want to send their children to their hometown school, regardless of size, and pay the bill, then it is their inherent right to do so. In the Amelia situation, a qualified teacher is provided and the prescribed course of study is reasonably followed.

True, some of the extras are not taught at Amelia, such as home economics and vocational agriculture. One graduate of a "larger high school" told The Frontier Saturday he spent a year in manual training doing nothing but building model airplanes.

The case of the two-year Amelia high school is an isolated example getting the shabby treatment. Thinking Nebraskans will dig into the facts and formulate their own opinions.

The editor of The Frontier has been a personal friend of the commissioner of education for 20 years. Mr. Decker is a forthright, honest and able administrator, but unfortunately, he has the statehouse view which is gained from atop the tower of the sewer and it does not represent the down-to-earth, practical view of ordinary citizens, many of whom do not have the five-hundred-dollar bill needed to consign pupils to a town school for a term and plant them with any family that will offer food and shelter for a fee.

The Decker view smacks of the theory that schools are operated for the teachers instead of the pupils or at the convenience of the teachers instead of the parents (who pay the bill).

Amelia people are going to take the matter to court. And The Frontier stands unalterably behind them.

John G. Stuijbergen Seldom has our community ever been so saddened or deeply moved by the death of one of its citizens as in the case of John G. Stuijbergen, 39, a father of three young children and one of the fine young businessmen in our city.

When You and I Were Young . . .

Irish Jig Feature of Entertainment

Hanley, Kane Dance; McManus Does Clog

50 Years Ago The Emmet Literary association held an entertainment under the chairmanship of Col. Neil Brennan. Tom Moore and Julia Biglin played a piano selection. "Believe Me If All Those Endearing Young Charms." An Irish jig was rendered by T. D. Hanley and Mrs. John Kane and a clog was performed by John McManus.

20 Years Ago Mrs. L. C. Chapman was buried at Prospect Hill cemetery. . . The Friendly Neighbors club met at the home of Mrs. Tom Edwards. . . Henry Ritts, an interior decorator, was buried from the Methodist church. . . Wayne Bates of Inman, who has been boarding with the John Rhodes in O'Neill during the cold weather, has begun driving to school again. . . Mildred Ann Ruther of Ewing is visiting her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Ruther, sr., of Inman.

10 Years Ago Mr. and Mrs. J. I. Gray of Page celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. . . Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winkler of Emmet entertained a large group in honor of their son, Edward, and daughter, Florence, on their birthday anniversary. . . Reverend Ohmart is confined in an Omaha hospital with pneumonia. . . Mary Bredehoeft died in a Norfolk hospital.

One Year Ago Carl E. Mitchell of Chambers died at St. Anthony's hospital. . . Miss Janet Seger and Duane Altman were crowned as O'Neill high school basketball royalty. . . Lyle R. Childers was named county corn growing champion. . . Mrs. Harold Heiss of Page was in charge of the world day of prayer services at the Methodist church.

50 Years Ago elia, but do other small high schools realize that they are next in line to go? How many people know the plans of this board? If they don't, it's time they are finding out and doing something about it. Do they know that they consider 200 pupils necessary for an efficiently run high school? They would be shocked if they knew the goal for the number of high schools for the entire state. It will mean whole counties with no high school.

Very little equipment is needed for a family to begin selling cream. Basically they need nothing more than some utensils, a mechanical separator, and shelter for the cows in extreme adverse weather conditions. Milk cows can produce more income per acre than any other farm enterprise, and can produce double the income of most other farm enterprises. They are thus ideal for intensive farming on a reduced number of acres.

Five or six good cows on a farm will bring in over \$750 to \$900 a year. Cows can be handled as a family enterprise, all the members helping out.

Whether the government proposed program is finally adopted or not, the important fact today is that cream is one of the very few farm products that can be sold for practically the same price that it brought a year ago. Cream is already one of the most favorable farm products that can be produced, and the farm with the milk cows will be in an excellent position to take advantage of the new government program should it be adopted.

The markets for butter products are expanding. Every 12 seconds there is a net increase of one person in the United States' population. Every three months there is an increase in population equal to the size of Buffalo, N.Y. It is estimated that increase in population in 1956 over 1955 will be sufficient to consume an additional two billion pounds of milk products.

—BEN VIDERICKSEN Manager, Harding Cream O'Neill, Nebr.

Dear Sir: I could not help the tears of disappointment when I heard your "Voice of The Frontier" news announcement this morning of the state board of education's decision concerning the closing of our high school. I had hoped that after hearing Senator Nelson's plea yesterday I would surely be at least reasonable. But now I am more convinced than ever that the impression I've received from replies to letters I have written to the governor of the state, attorney-general and others that the work of Freeman Decker is law to all of them.

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OES Supervisor Presented Gift

EWING—Jephtha chapter 85, Order of the Eastern Star, held an all-day meeting on Wednesday, February 29, at the chapter room. Mrs. Fern Root of Omaha, district supervisor, conducted a school of instruction in the afternoon and in the evening initiatory work was exemplified. A 6:30 o'clock dinner was served by the Woman's Society of Christian Service at the parlors of the Methodist church. Decorations were carried out in the Eastern Star colors. Mrs. Root was presented a gift.

Out-of-town members in attendance were Mrs. Ray Snell, Mrs. Anton Nissen, Mrs. Dora Townsend, Mrs. Merwyn French, jr., all of Page; Mrs. M. B. Huffman of Bassett; Mrs. Maud Brion and Mrs. Mary Hales, both of Neligh.

Net Polio Receipts in O'Neill \$1,930 Allan Van Vleck, chairman of the march of dimes drive in O'Neill in behalf of the Holt county chapter, National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, reports net receipts of \$1,930.88.

Receipts included \$580.01 from the mothers' march; business firms, \$385.82; schools, \$211.94; coin collectors, \$135.50; benefit basketball, \$152.85; bake sale, \$62.70; Royal theater collections, \$95.44; clubs and organizations, \$101.43; polio peanuts, \$212.94. Total receipts were \$1,938.63 and expenses amounted to \$79.55.

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Education Notes

Coming events include: March 21: Holt county rural teachers' meeting, 8 p.m., O'Neill public school band room. April 2-6: Arithmetic group contests. April 17: Holt county rural chorus practice, O'Neill public school; harmony band, 10 a.m., auditorium; chorus, 1:30 p.m., auditorium and band room. April 1: County arithmetic contest, 1 p.m., O'Neill public school grade rooms. April 25: Holt county rural teachers' meeting, 8 p.m., O'Neill public school band room. May 9: Eighth grade examination. June 29-30: Kindergarten testing.

County Superintendent ALICE L. FRENCH, \$1.80 Added to Polio Fund—When the list of contributions from rural schools to the 1956 march of dimes was published, the following had not been sent in: Dist. 26, Francis Fisher, teacher, \$1.80. This makes \$526.08, the total contribution from 123 Holt county rural schools.

Royal Theater — O'NEILL, NEBR. — Thurs. Mar. 8 Family Night THE TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE Color by technicolor. One of the all-time greats. Starring Fred Mac Murray, Sylvia Sydney, Henry Fonda, with Fred Stone, Nigel Bruce, Beulah Bondi, Robert Barrer, Spanky McFarland, Fuzzy Knight. Family admitted for 2 adult tickets; adults 50c; children 12c

Fri.-Sat. Mar. 9-10 TOP GUN Starring Steling Hayden, with William Bishop. No man ever drew on him and lived! Adults 50c; children 12c; matinee Sat. 2:30. All children under 12 free when accompanied by parent

Sun.-Mon.-Tues. Mar. 11-12-13 NEVER SAY GOODBYE Print by technicolor. Starring Rock Hudson, Miss Cornell Borchers, George Sanders. The only way she could win back her daughter's love . . . was in the arms of the man who had shamed her! Was there nothing between them now . . . but shame and a child? Adults 50c; children 12c; matinee Sun. 2:30. All children unless in arms must have tickets.

.. DANCE .. AT O'NEILL AMERICAN LEGION AUDITORIUM AND BALLROOM Saturday, March 10 DUKES OF RHYTHM Admission: Adults, \$1; Students, 50c



Want some Fun and Fast Action? Come join Buick's THRILL-A-MINUTE CLUB Here's the why of it: There's so much excitement at the wheel of a '56 Buick, we had to do something to accommodate all the folks who want to get in on it. So we set up a little Club to handle matters—and it's for fun and for free. All you do to join is drive a new Buick—that makes you a member. And all you do to drive this beauty is ask. From that point on it's pure thrill all the way. Because then you'll feel the sheer bliss of cradled travel in the best riding Buick yet built—and of a wonderful handling ease in the car with the truest sense of direction yet . . . Because then you'll tingle with the flash-fast power response that's yours from Buick's big 322-cubic-inch V8 engine—where horsepower and compression ratios hit lofty new peaks, and road command hits a soaring new level . . . Because then—and only then—will you feel the absolute smoothness and the electrifying action of today's new Variable Pitch Dynaflo*—where the first inch of pedal travel does new wonders for getaway and cruising and gas mileage—and where flooring the pedal switches the pitch for the most spectacular safety-surge in America today: So if you want some fun and fast action—if you want to see what it's like to call signals on the most performance-packed automobile in all Buick history—come join our Thrill-A-Minute Club. As we said, there's nothing else to do for membership except drive a new Buick. And, as we'll gladly show you, there's nothing to match this beauty as a bedrock buy—for we're making the best deals ever on the best Buick yet. Drop in on us today or tomorrow—press that pedal—and let the thrills fall where they will. *New Advanced Variable Pitch Dynaflo is the only Dynaflo Buick builds today. It is standard on Roadmaster, Super and Century—optional at modest extra cost on the Special. WHEN BETTER AUTOMOBILES ARE BUILT BUICK WILL BUILD THEM. BEST BUICK YET A. MARCELLUS Phone 370 O'Neill

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