

Prairie Talk

15 Venturesome Irish

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—O'Neill has reached the venerable age of 82 years. On May 12, 1874, Gen. John O'Neill arrived at the site of the present city that bears his name with his first colony of settlers consisting of 15 venturesome Irishmen.

These were Patrick F. Hughes, Timothy O'Connor, Henry Curry, Thomas Connolly, Michael H. McGroarty, Neil Brennan, T. N. J. Hynes, Michael Dempsey, Thomas Kelly, Robert Alworth, Ralph Sullivan, Patrick Brennan, Thomas Cain, Henry Corey and Patrick Karney. The Patrick, the Karneys and the Thomases seemed to predominate. Some of this group settled to the northeast and some to the northwest of what now is the city. The next year O'Neill came with his second colony and this group built the first house on the site of the present city, a sod structure they spoke of as the Grand Central hotel. The McEvony-Sanford-Thompson group that came from Wisconsin in 1873 and settled just down the river a mile or so east was the first to set the foot of the pale face where Indian moccasins had made trails.



Romaine Saunders

Delegations from across the land come to Lincoln to solve life's problems of which there seems to be no end. One of the latest were here to conserve water resources, a dry weather worry for the moment. Maybe next year it will be a flood control worry. Just be calm, fellows, nature will take care of us.

A Frontier reader in California saw it in Prairie Talk, cut it out and sent it to a friend in Caldwell, Ida., that friend having been an O'Neill girl a half-century ago. Bessie, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Snyder, was the girl and the talker clipping told of her marriage to A. Myers on August 15, 1906. An interesting letter has come from Mrs. Myers, who says they have lived in Caldwell for 48 years, been active in politics and public affairs during the years. Mrs. Myers serving as vice-president of the Republican Women's club of Idaho and on various civic and state committees. On August 15 last their 50th wedding anniversary was observed when many friends were present. Mrs. Myers enclosed in her letter the newspaper story of the gathering in honor of the event and a picture of the couple and the cake that goes with wedding anniversaries. Mrs. Myers loves her Idaho home and cherishes memories of girlhood days in O'Neill.

A newscaster on my radio this morning let us know that Cal Stewart is still active saving the trains and has found that north Nebraska will not be left without passenger train service.

If you have lived 50 years and got to bed every night you have spent 18,250 nights in bed.

President Eisenhower announced before launching into election worries, if he has such, that he as a candidate stands on the record made as president and that the truth shall be his campaign watchword. The political game has swung into action and truth must triumph in the end. A sorcerer here and there says he will vote for the party's candidates, which is the Yankee privilege but does not determine election results.

Editorial

Let's Build a 'Soddy'

Down at Colby, Kans., an organization seeks to preserve some samples of the sod house. And the Kansas State Historical society already has constructed a "soddy" in its Topeka museum.

This points up a fact we have often mentioned in these columns, but, somehow, the suggestion falls on deaf ears and nothing is ever done. Holt county should have a historical society.

Wouldn't an authentic "soddy" be an appropriate historical marker here and wouldn't it be a fitting starter for a historical group?

Probably not a very large proportion of Americans even know what a sod house is. But to those who do, it shows a place in the American pioneering tradition along with the log cabin, the stockade, the colonial New England farm house, and the adobe dwelling of the Southwest.

The sod house is a kind of log cabin without logs. Its native habitat is the great plains, the one-time buffalo country from western Oklahoma and the Kansas northward through Nebraska and the Dakotas and into the edge of Colorado. There, in the short grass country, no trees worthy of the name offered shelter or lumber to homesteaders.

But it has been observed that every part of the earth offers some material for building human habitations — if there are no forests or quarries, there is camel's hair for tents or ice for igloos. So when homesteaders pushed westward beyond the reaches of scrub oak or even cottonwood, they burrowed into the soil with the prairie dogs to last out the hard winters and to "prove up" on the claims they had staked.

The result was a dwelling half above, half below the ground. With their plows or shovels they cut slabs of sod several inches thick, sometimes the matted roots were so thick that ox teams could break the ground. These they piled up into walls and into the roof frames. Inside, the farmer and his family had a fair equivalent of air conditioning for coolness in summer, as much warmth as could be found against the "northers" in winter, and—a dwelling that was pretty well proof against tornadoes.

Romaine Saunders, who presides in The Prairie-Land Talker department, and a good many other oldtimers would be gratified, indeed, if interested persons were to keep alive a reminder that "home on the range" was more often than not a sod house.

Losing Weight Wisely

Every sixth American is 10 percent or more above his ideal weight, according to the actuarial tables. As a people, say the nutrition experts, too many of us are "overweight but undernourished." Statisticians report that the fat die young. And medical science has long recognized that those excess pounds are either a diagnostic indication of certain diseases or they at least predispose the system to make us their easy prey.

Viewed in this light, the Health News Institute points out, overweight among our patients in preventive medicine easily heads the list. And it calls for the care and counsel of the physician as unmistakably as any other pathological condition.

Yet overweight does not manifest itself dramatically, like cancer or tuberculosis. It's a bodily state which tempts us to experimentation, and lends itself to appeals to vanity rather than to serious self-concern.

If you're overweight, the Helah News Institute warns, remember that while you may think you have an aesthetic problem, it's also a medical one.

News, Views and Gossip

By THE EDITOR

Blair's O'Hanlon Detests Fuss

Reed O'Hanlon, jr., is the forthright, cheerful editor-publisher of the Blair Pilot-Tribune and is one of the Midwest's best-known Irish writs.

We had the privilege of extending to him an invitation to appear on a panel discussion in connection with the Interstate Editorial association's annual meeting to be held shortly in Sioux City.

In a letter to The Frontier's editor, the invitation was accepted by Mr. O'Hanlon.

In a letter to Henry Trysla, editor of the Dakota County Star, South Sioux City, Mr. O'Hanlon's secretary (he doesn't have one) outlined certain suggested steps in preparation for Mr. O'Hanlon's trip through that city enroute to the Mayfair speaking engagement. A carbon copy of the letter to Mr. Trysla found its way into our box.

September 21, 1956

Mr. Henry Trysla, Dakota County Star, South Sioux City, Nebr. Dear Mr. Trysla:

My employer, Publisher Reed O'Hanlon, jr., will be traveling through South Sioux City on Friday, October 5, enroute to address the Interstate Editorial association at Sioux City.

While he detests fanfare of any sort, he recognizes that the citizens of South Sioux City no doubt will wish, as usual, to pay their due respects as he proceeds through the city along Dakota avenue.

Therefore, Mr. O'Hanlon has authorized me to make arrangements for the procession (which will be as brief as possible) through the Nebraska safety patrol and the FBI, and we have mutually come to this conclusion:

Motorcade will be met at 8:10 a.m., October 5, at Dakota City (next to Joe Saloon) for an escort in and through town.

Mr. O'Hanlon will be propped up in a solid gold Cadillac for the South Sioux City appearance, and has agreed to wave and nod at the people as he is wafted through the city.

The parade will commence at the south edge of South Sioux and we think the order of procession might be as follows:

Mr. O'Hanlon and Henry Trysla will ride in an arm-up Dakota system, smiling at the people and dropping out coupons good for free subscriptions to some other newspaper.

In order, behind them:

1. Squad of South Sioux street cleaners in arm-up uniforms.

2. Numerous policemen on motorcycles.

3. Dakota County Star printers marching four abreast in white coveralls.

4. Bagpipe band, direction of Henry Trysla.

5. Numerous nearby editors, riding in Trailmobile trailers, or similar vehicles provided by Broyhill & Associates.

6. Free liquor to the multitude, with Mr. O'Hanlon shooting it to them via atomizer.

7. Girl clerks from South Sioux's Council Oak Store, passing out free samples of the 29c Rob Ross peanut butter (creamy).

8. Sons-of-Acropolis lodge in full regalia, with real Greek philosopher wearing tunic.

9. Firing (at midway point in parade) of the entire 1957 Fourth of July fireworks spectacle by Dakota County Star.

10. Drum corps, directed by Henry Trysla.

11. Special float, depicting Bill Lee looking through a telescope at Mars.

12. Beautiful girls attired in veils and playing guitars.

13. Two hundred poets on foot.

14. Magnificent float depicting the growth of The Pilot-Tribune during the past 87 years.

15. Harmonica band, direction Henry Trysla.

16. Fire department, squirting water from hoses.

17. Members of the Dana college Theta Sigma Literary club and Gimme-Two Poker club, both of Blair.

18. Secretary of State Frank Marsh, handing out chances on a set of dishes.

19. Miscellaneous citizens, soldiers, peasants and small boys, afoot and on decorated bicycles.

Mr. O'Hanlon wants this all to be kept as simple as possible. Hoping this will give you a helpful guide, I remain,

Yours,

HIS SECRETARY

O'Neill Deanery Leaders Will Be Active at Omaha

Officers and members of the O'Neill deanery chapter of the National Council of Catholic Women will have active roles in the Omaha archdiocesan meeting in Omaha on Tuesday, October 2.

Most Rev. Gerald T. Bergan, archbishop of Omaha, will open the convention at 9 a.m. in St. Bernard's church. Opening business session will be at 10 a.m. Theme: "Know Christ — Live Christ!"

Mrs. R. G. O'Brien of Omaha will preside at the opening session; Mrs. A. L. Oberbridge of Bloomfield, afternoon session.

Serving on the hospitality committee is Mrs. James J. Berigan of Atkinson. Mrs. Joseph Jamber of Spencer is an auditor.

A member of the nominating committee at the convention will be Mrs. Edward M. Gallagher of O'Neill.

Rev. William A. Foster of Spencer is moderator of the O'Neill deanery. Mrs. Leonard Knapp of Ewing is treasurer of the archdiocesan council.

President of the O'Neill deanery is Mrs. John Hickey of O'Neill. Members of the board of directors are Mrs. Berigan, Mrs. Knapp and Mrs. Reiser of Atkinson.

Other deanery officers are: Mrs. A. Kalkowski of Lynch, Mrs. John Thiele of Clearwater, and Mrs. Robert Cole of Emmet.

Emphasizing different phases of a woman's life with relation to her parish and community, a panel will be composed of the Misses Mary Kay Berigan of Atkinson and Theresa Reichmuth of Leigh, and Mesdames Don Loewenhoefer of Stanton, and Mrs. M. F. Harder of Albion.

Moderator is Mrs. John Hopkins of Omaha and the evaluator will be Rev. Edward P. McCaslin of Omaha, vice-chancellor.

When You and I Were Young... Harry Weekes Dies; Lockjaw Is Cause

Harry Weekes died of lockjaw caused by an accidental shot in his hand two weeks ago. The wound had not been considered serious. Della Benson of Turner and Fred E. Harrison of Hickman were married. S. A. Blackman of Atkinson sold a loan of oats recently for one dollar per bushel by being able to follow the trail left by the parties who took them out of his granary.

A telegram from Chicago, Ill., stated that J. D. Grimes of Chambers was successfully operated on for appendicitis. Henry Losher, one of Holt's most substantial farmers living about 12 miles north of O'Neill, left to visit his Indiana childhood home, which he hadn't seen for 24 years.

20 Years Ago Ray Verzal of Wayne and Margaret Quinn were married. Roger Rosenkrans of Dorsey, a junior at the university at Lincoln, was awarded a scholarship of \$100. Eldery Gaskill and Miss Mildred Bicek of Verdigré were married. Mrs. Frank Murray died of burns from an accident at her farm home. Mrs. Abe Saunto died after an illness of several months. Funeral services for Linus Berglund, 73, were conducted at the home north of Opportunity by Reverend Ohmart. A family reunion was held at the Dennis Murphy home.

10 Years Ago Capt. Ivan French, who had spent 19 months in Japan, arrived in San Francisco, Calif. Saturday. Miss Anna Donohoe, 67, died member of a pioneer family, last of a heart ailment. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Mitchell and sons and Miss Lorraine Mitchell of Hastings and their grandmother, visited in the Carl Mitchell and Frank Tracy homes in Chambers last week. Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Steinberg and Naomi and Mrs. Elsie Cork of Naomii visited at Spencer.

One Year Ago Mr. and Mrs. Rollie Bell of Page celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Leach celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. James H. Snelson, 68, of Atkinson was chosen to attend a planning session on county government day for high schools. Four members will attend the district meeting in Tilden October 9.

Furlough Ends—S/Sgt. Delbert R. Rouse returned Monday, September 24, to Lockbourne air force base, Columbus, O., after a 15-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rouse, and other relatives and friends.

GOES TO EUROPE INMAN — Army Cpl. Leon L. Urban, who was stationed with battery B, 865th missile battalion, Plaza Del Rey, Calif., has been transferred and recently departed for Europe. He left from Ft. Monmouth, N.J.

DISTRICT COURT District Judge L. R. Mounts and Ted McEhany held court at Ainsworth Monday.

Legion to Remodel Kitchen at Club CHAMBERS—At a meeting of the American Legion held Friday evening, Stanley Lambert was elected commander; Vernon Harley, vice-commander; Merlin Grossnicklaus, temporary adjutant.

It was decided to remodel the kitchen with the help of the auxiliary and make necessary repairs to the building.

Don Dankert and Bruce Grimes were chosen to attend a planning session on county government day for high schools. Four members will attend the district meeting in Tilden October 9.

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Accidentally Hurt by Gunshot 50 Years Ago Ray Verzal of Wayne and Margaret Quinn were married. Roger Rosenkrans of Dorsey, a junior at the university at Lincoln, was awarded a scholarship of \$100. Eldery Gaskill and Miss Mildred Bicek of Verdigré were married. Mrs. Frank Murray died of burns from an accident at her farm home. Mrs. Abe Saunto died after an illness of several months. Funeral services for Linus Berglund, 73, were conducted at the home north of Opportunity by Reverend Ohmart. A family reunion was held at the Dennis Murphy home.

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Family Gathering for Ressel's

Mrs. J. W. Ressel of Plainview came Saturday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Harry E. Ressel, Mrs. J. W. Ressel is Harry Ressel's mother.

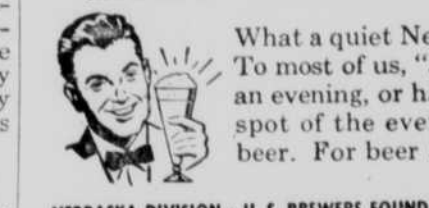
Saturday noon, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Templin of Detroit, Mich., came to spend a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ressel. On Sunday a family get-together was held with the Edward McManus, Thomas Ressel and Ronald Ressel families at the Harry Ressel home.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tomlinson and Veldon of Star were Saturday evening guests at the Gilbert Fox home.

It Happened In NEBRASKA---



Chief Crazy Horse, one of the last Sioux to give in to the white man, escaped from the Red Cloud agency in 1876. When captured and returned to Fort Robinson, he tried to fight his way out and was bayoneted by soldiers. Only the disorganization of the Sioux tribe at that time saved Fort Robinson from annihilation.



What a quiet Nebraska we live in—only 80 years later! To most of us, "adventure" today means going out for an evening, or having friends in. And always the high spot of the evening is that cool, refreshing glass of beer. For beer belongs—the right touch every time!

NEBRASKA DIVISION - U. S. BEERERS FOUNDATION, 710 First Nat'l Bank Bldg., Lincoln, Nebr.

AT AUCTION — 87 REGISTERED Aderdeen-Angus Cattle WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3 Starts at 12:30 At Albion Sale Pavilion 8 Yearling Bulls 20 Bred and Open Heifers 31 Cows, 28 with calves at side MAIL BIDS MAY BE SENT TO THE FIELDMEN Auctioneer will be Ralph Kuhr of Blair, Nebr., assisted by Fieldmen Arden Aegerter, Omaha Journal-Stockman; Lawrence Butler, Nebraska Farmer, and Jess Cooper of the American Aberdeen Angus Breeders' Association. ATWATER BROS. & BENTJEN Write to Atwater Bros., Albion, Nebr., for sale catalog.

Will Your Family Have the Benefit of Nebraska Blue Cross-Blue Shield Protection When They Need... Hospital-Medical Care? "1 OUT OF 3" FAMILIES Will Be Faced with a Hospital and Doctor Bill This Year ARE YOU PREPARED? Suddenly, without warning, sickness or accident will strike every third family this year. It could happen to you! That's why it's wise to budget ahead for hospital and medical care through Nebraska Blue Cross-Blue Shield. SPECIAL ENROLLMENT IN O'NEILL AND HOLT COUNTY October 1 through 12 Contact: Virgil W. Leach at Golden Hotel Enrollment Representative will visit established Blue Cross-Blue Shield Groups and will assist new Employee Groups to organize. Persons under age 65 not eligible for Group Enrollment may apply for Individual (Non-Group) membership—single or family. Any Nebraskan under age 65 may apply, and there's a choice of coverages from which to select the one that best suits your own needs and budget. Nebraska over age 65 may apply for the special Over 65 Blue Cross coverage for hospital benefits only. NEBRASKA Blue Cross-Blue Shield Officially Approved Blue Cross for Hospital Care Nebraska Blue Cross has the official approval of the Nebraska Hospital Association and the American Hospital Association. Blue Shield for Medical Care Nebraska Blue Shield has the official approval of the Nebraska State Medical Association. Organized by Nebraskans for Nebraskans

It could be glands, bad eating habits, or a variety of factors—not the least of which may be the psychological driver which creates the so-called "compulsive" eater. Doctors have found that it is generally true that the fat person is the person who eats too much. In emphasizing once more that obesity is a medical problem, the council on foods and nutrition, in an official statement in the Journal of the American Medical Association, recently declared: "Ethical advertisers of foods recommended for weight-reducing regimens have likewise stressed the importance of a medical consultation prior to reduction of the food intake. Weight reduction may be harmful to health or even endanger life if undertaken without full understanding of the problem." A low caloric diet may be an unbalanced diet, in which event your physician may be wise to supplement your reducing routine with vitamins. Or he may prescribe certain drugs to be taken in connection with the diet he recommends for your your particular case. Again, the whole point is that excess fat is the individual condition, and calls for the physician's individual attention. Any one particular diet or "reducing plan" may or may not be the right one for you. There's only one rule for dieting that's completely safe and wise: See your doctor first.

Nothing Startling Yet

The presidential campaign is warming but nothing very exciting has yet rippled the surface. But it's a bit early for the brickbats.

Then it's Eisenhower-Nixon stumping for peace and prosperity and Stevenson-Kefauver promising the moon.

The proof of the pudding lies in what will be promised between now and November 5.

In Iowa last week both party chiefs disclaimed any responsibility for the lack of rain.

The Frontier ventures it will be a horse race—not a shoo-in for Ike-Nixon as many of the so-called experts have been predicting. It'll be Ike-Nixon on top—a horset race.

A member of a sewing club in a nearby town lists one of its members as ready to be "suspended" because she just sits there and sews.

Always try to drive so that your license will expire before you do.

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