

Prairieland Talk

Prairie Cherished by Seattle Friends

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—From the Segelman household at 5705 Eighth Ave. NE, Seattle, Wash., came a letter this holiday season that not only expresses their interest and delight in what they read in The Frontier, but brings to Prairieland Talker cordial and sincere greeting.

The letter also contains an effulgent word picture of the hills city planted on the great overlooking Puget Sound, and mentions visits from time-to-time to a higher point in the city where they see the ships entering and leaving the harbor, coming in and going forth to sail the Pacific lanes of ocean travel. The streets of the city are so steep that they appear to stand on end. And that may be a novelty to these former flat prairie-land dwellers.



Romaine Saunders

Mrs. Segelman mentions receiving a nice letter from an O'Neill friend and says "her most gracious little mother and I worshipped in the same church in the long ago." Turning then to the scenes of their present home, I read in the letter from these Seattle friends that "when the sea-born fog comes rolling in this is an enchanted city; then the streets are veiled in mystery and familiar landmarks loom like giant phantoms through the mists, and we hear the deep-throated fog horns on the passing ships". Yet in it all, memories of their Nebraska home is cherished by these Seattle friends and they call Prairieland Talk TOPS.

The physicians of O'Neill before those now in practice here started with Doctors Connely, C. D. B. Eiserman, Shore, Love, White, Murphy, Trueblood, Flynn, Gilligan and Wilson, who took over Doctor Trueblood's practice.

Besides these resident medics there was an imported M. D. who held forth in upper rooms of the Gallagher building at Fourth and Everett streets, supervising the Keeley Cure Institute which was designed to sober up the old soaks, of which there were plenty.

The physicians of an earlier generation have been named; now let us look at another group of other days, more in number if less exalted professionally—the postoffice barn boys: Moffitt just west of where the postoffice building now stands, John Brown's and I. R. Smith's barns on South Fourth street, E. M. Ward on east Douglas street, followed in the same location by George Jones, Mullen Brothers, then Mellon and Quilty. Jim Weckers built the Checkered Barn, taken over by DeYarman Brothers, George McCutchen located on west Douglas street, later P. D. Mullen barn and one of the Bowen boys whose barn was located a block south of Everett street near Fourth.

Livery barns are no more, "filling stations" have it now. What next?

The door will soon close on another year. Five more days then at midnight the bells ring out the old, ring in the new year. And with the old shall the bells toll the knell for last year's heartaches, its disappointments, its withered hopes, its mistakes, its hates and its envy. Kindly thought, vision to see roses blooming by life's pathway, senses open to hear the music, hearts throbbing with tenderness and charity for all. The door is closed. Yet memories reach through the keyhole, travel on down the highway of the past to pause a moment where happiness had met us by the way and so gather inspiration as the closed door is left behind and we step ahead to meet what may be ahead down the highway of the New Year.

By the way of summing it up, a bit critical, and out-and-out denouncing of bringing in refugees which some think replaces native sons and daughters is but showing to new comers what is ever shown to a stranger moving into a community. That spirit of helpfulness was what sustained many in pioneer days and in the absence of which many settlers could not have survived. A few years ago there came into the community where I was then living, a family from a distant county of the state. Ranch community had bubbled up, received and helped the new comers. Deadbeats and social misfits they soon had to leave. America is letting in refugees. Some will be worthwhile citizens, some will have to be deported.

The new fallen snow spreads a blanket clean and white over city, field and open prairie, hides from view the fallen leaf, the withered flower and the emblems of decay that sink into earth. Denuded arms of towering trees reach heavenward as if in mute appeal for that which sustains life and bids them put on their silken gown when springtime comes again. The snow lies out there in unsoiled purity until the tread of human feet and whirling wheels of the machines of men disturb the white levelness. In all its clean purity is nature's plan of renewing elements that bring growth when flower and grain and fruit-bearing plant spring anew to life as winter passes away. It too is symbolic of spiritual purity that leads the way to full bloom of that endless life.

Nebraska publishers of weekly papers now travel the world over. There was a time if we got away from the shop to get down to Omaha for the press association gathering we thought we had been places. One of the most recent editors to go abroad was Howard Crilly, accompanied by Mrs. Crilly, of the Superior Express. He tells the story in the December number of the Nebraska Newspaper, organ of the Nebraska Press association. The Crilly couple were among a group of American newspaper people to tour Europe. In Moscow, they were royally entertained. "Prices on everything you buy in Russia are fantastically high", reports the editor of the Express in his story.

When You & I Were Young... Land Plutocrat Gets Gold Watch

Mike Lyons Receives Mail Gift

Frank O. Clyde and Edna M. Smith, both of Page, and Walter G. Green and Nellie McKenna, both of Inman, were married at the county judge's office Monday. . . . Charles Richter of Scottville and Miss Lizzie Schmidt of O'Neill were united in marriage Christmas day at the home of the bride's parents. Rev. Abbott, pastor of the Methodist church officiated. Mike Lyons, the genial land plutocrat of Emmet, was wearing a handsome gold watch yesterday. Not that a gold watch is a new thing to Mike, but this was a Christmas gift he received by mail.

Jerry Bergstrom, four-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Bergstrom, died of pneumonia at the Lutheran hospital in Norfolk. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ted McElhane moved into their new home. Robert Gray of Page died at the age of 89. . . . Mrs. Emma Maling and son, Ollie, of Emmet called on Mrs. Joe Ziska, the former Margaret Gaughenbaugh, who is at the Stuart hospital after an appendectomy. . . . Miss Clea McNichols gave a very excellent Christmas party at her rural school about 4 miles southwest of Inman.

The Frontier's first Holt county baby contest was inaugurated. . . . P. T. Stevens, 90, of Page, celebrated his birthday anniversary quietly. Mrs. E. H. Russell of Chambers suffered a leg fracture when milking a cow. She was kicked, knocked over and trampled. . . . Mr. and Mrs. George Coventry, lifelong residents of the Inman vicinity, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. . . . Robert Childers and wife of Chambers celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary.

Thomas Murray, 67, lifelong resident of O'Neill; Joe Miller, 96, of Atkinson and a pioneer; Mrs. John Ryan, 55, of Stuart and Harold Bowden of Chicago, Calif.; and formerly of O'Neill, all died. . . . Basketball ball scores: Meadow Grove 54, Ewing 49; Chambers 67, Oakdale 39; Atkinson 47, O'Neill 43; O'Neill 37, Albion 32; Holy Trinity (Hartington) 48, Ewing 41; Center 63, St. Mary's 57.

Veridgre Burial for Judge Hrbek

VERDIGRE—Funeral services for Adolph Hrbek, 81, a lifelong resident of Knox county, were conducted Tuesday, December 18, at the ZCBI hall here. Burial was in the ZCBI cemetery.

The late Mr. Hrbek, who was born May 5, 1875, at Pischelville, died Friday, December 14, in the Creighton hospital. His wife, Marie, died in 1943.

Survivors include: Sons—Henry of Minneapolis, Minn.; Sylvyn of Richmond, Calif.; Milton of Verdigre; daughters—Mrs. Joseph B. (Rose) Klappal of Austin, Minn.; Mrs. Emil (Bertha) Klappal of Winner, S.D., and Mrs. Emil J. (Evelyn) Cejda of Oklahoma City, Okla.; 18 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren.

Miss Betty Gallagher was a guest of honor at a miscellaneous shower Monday. After luncheon at the M&M the guests went to the C. J. Gatz home. Mrs. Gatz, Mrs. Frank Froelich and Mrs. Guy Cole were the hostesses.

O'NEILL LOCALS Mrs. and Mrs. Arlo Hiatt left Wednesday, December 19 for Chicago, Ill., to spend Christmas with their son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hiatt.

Mr. and Mrs. William MacKinnlay and family left December 20 for Chadron and Cheyenne, Wyo., to spend the Christmas holidays with relatives and friends.

Mrs. Margaret Elkins and Bernice are spending Christmas holidays in Sioux City, Ia., with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Dowd.

Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Kruse are spending the Christmas holidays at Perry, Ia., with Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Van Evers and boys and at Swea City, Ia., with her mother, Mrs. Anna Hahl, and other relatives.

Actually, the liberal tendencies of the high court began when President Roosevelt first "stacked" the court a quarter of a century ago. Few of the justices today have had any judicial background. This no doubt accounts for the fact the court has been charged with "amending" the constitution instead of interpreting it.

THE FRONTIER

CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher ARTHUR J. NOECKER and ESTHER M. ASHER, Associate Publishers

Entered at the postoffice in O'Neill, Holt county, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. This newspaper is a member of the Nebraska Press Association, National Editorial Association and the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Terms of Subscription: In Nebraska, \$2.50 per year; elsewhere in the United States, \$3 per year; rates abroad provided on request. All subscriptions are paid in advance.

Audited (ABC) Circulation—2,559 (March 31, 1956)

Ewing WSCS Holds Christmas Party

EWING—The Women's Society of Christian Service held its annual Christmas party Thursday evening at the Methodist church parlors. A Christmas theme was carried out in room decorations with red, green and silver. Festivities began with a 6:30 o'clock dinner. The table was centered with candle Christmas carolers. Entertainment, in charge of Mrs. R. G. Rockey and Mrs. Claude Elliot, featured contest paper and pencil games. Several guests received prizes. Gifts were exchanged.

Misses Hazel, Ruby and Elsie Chase were guests. Seventeen members were in attendance.

Other Ewing News

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Bazelman returned to their home at Carroll, Ia., after attending the funeral of his father, Fred Bazelman, held at St. Patrick's Catholic church on O'Neill on Tuesday, December 18. During their stay, they were guests at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Latzel in Ewing.

R. G. Rockey, who has spent the past 10 days in California, arrived home Wednesday, December 19.

Merton Dierks, accompanied by Mrs. Kermit Jefferies, went to Omaha on Friday to get Mary and Sandra Dierks and Judy Jefferies, who spent Christmas at the parental home.

Mrs. Grace Briggs went to Omaha on Friday to spend the holidays at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Dorothy Vaughn, and family.

Mrs. Grace Briggs entertained the Thursday Bridge club on Thursday, December 13, during the afternoon. Scorewinners were Mrs. R. G. Rockey and Mrs. Earl Billings. Refreshments were served. The club will meet in one month at the home of Mrs. R. G. Rockey.

Mrs. Earl Wright and Freddie were Thursday evening guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Steskal, sr.

Mrs. Wilda Carr and family arrived in Ewing on Saturday to spend the weekend and Christmas with her father, M. H. Dierks, and other relatives. They returned to their home at Holdrege after Christmas.

Mrs. May Pruden returned to her home in Clearwater Friday after spending a few days in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Larsen and Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Pruden.

Mrs. J. L. Pruden and her guest, Mrs. May Pruden of Clearwater, accompanied Floyd Tucker to Grand Island on Wednesday, December 19.

Supt. and Mrs. M. L. Carter attended the Page Friday evening basketball game at Page Friday evening. Mrs. Carter, who teaches in Page, is sponsor of the pep club.

Mrs. John Wimmer went to Stanton on Monday to spend Christmas with relatives. Members of the Ewing Commercial club were treated to an oyster supper at the Legion club Friday at 6 o'clock. Treats were sipped for Santa's visit on December 22.

Allen Peterson, who is in the navy, arrived home Wednesday, December 19, from California for a 14-day leave at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hans Peterson.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Grim had as their guests on Christmas day his mother, Mrs. Lizzie Grim of Creighton, also Mr. and Mrs. Telford Grim and baby of Verdigre, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Butterfield of Orchard.

Mrs. Robert Tams, who teaches at Emporia, presented a Christmas program on Thursday evening for the public.

Mrs. Paul Noffke, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Noffke and family attended the Christmas program.

Dr. Donald E. David OPTOMETRIST Eyes Examined Glasses Fitted Phone 2101, Spencer, Nebr.

Pontone Insurance FLORENCE PONTON, Prop. Insurance of All Kinds & Bonds Phone 106 — Golden Bldg.

GOOD HEALTH SUCCESS... Thanks a million for being so swell in the past! It will be fun serving you in the future! Loads of health, and wealth to everyone! O'Neill National Bank Member F. D. I. C. PATTON'S BEN FRANKLIN STORE

License Examiners Attending School

The entire staff of driver license examiners of the state of Nebraska will assemble in Lincoln on January 3-5 for the purpose of attending a three-day training program for driver examiners set up by Dale A. Rogers, assistant director of the motor vehicle division, and William Edwards, chief driver license examiner of the state.

The purpose of the training course is to review the present activity of the examiners and to promote definite uniform standards of examining in conformity with the program of the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators, which is the organization which has developed minimum standards of driver examinations throughout the country. The state motor vehicle division of Nebraska is an active member of that association.

Since all of the examiners for the state of Nebraska are to attend this school, no driver license examinations will be given at any point in the state on the specified dates.

Mrs. Gibson Is 84—CHAMBERS—A dinner honoring Mrs. Jennie Gibson on her 84th birthday anniversary was held at the Darrel Gillette home Wednesday, December 6. Frontier for printing.

Income Tax For assistance in filling your self-employment and tax reports, call on Geo. C. Robertson O'Neill Accountant and former employee of Internal Revenue. Downey Bldg. Phone 534

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO OUR MANY GOOD CUSTOMERS FOURTH STREET MARKET O'Neill

Happy New Year WE WISH OUR MANY FRIENDS GOOD HEALTH, PEACE AND PROSPERITY PAT'S BAR O'Neill

Happy New Year... PATTON'S BEN FRANKLIN STORE

Editorial

Faulty Laws Reflect on Agency

On very nearly the eve of the start of the 1957 session of the Nebraska unicameral legislature, State Sen. Frank Nelson, O'Neill farmer and dean of the last session, fired several salvos at the state education department.

His criticism was published in virtually every daily newspaper in the state, many weeklies and was aired on television and radio.

Senator Nelson is a well-qualified observer. It is not his nature to attack unless provoked into doing so.

Said Senator Nelson: "In my opinion, the state education department during the past eight years has helped to sponsor and enact more unconstitutional legislation than any other department of state government."

"History of some of this faulty legislation runs like this: The law goes into force and is applied. Ultimately some individual or group comes along takes the matter to court and finally the unconstitutionality is proved.

"I refer to the blanket tax law a few years ago, declared unconstitutional.

"The law in regard to the state reorganization committee passing on redistricting plans in counties with the petitions bearing signatures of 55 percent of the legal voters in the districts affected. That law was thrown out last spring.

"The state education department's regulations concerning school inadequacies have been declared unconstitutional.

"The Amelia test case is now in the hands of the state supreme court. The two grade Amelia high school in my opinion has very strong constitutional grounds.

"There have been other instances.

"Irony of this faulty legislation lies in the fact that I have branded some of these measures unconstitutional during their making, both off and on the floor, but apparently failed to get my point across.

"Delegates to the lay conferences on education have complained to me that these conferences are stacked and are conducted by professional educators trying to impose their own will.

"I am seriously concerned about some of these tendencies although, granted, some realignment of school districts is needed because of population shifts."

Senator Nelson has been friendly to the Nebraska Small Schools association since the organization was founded. State Education Commissioner F. B. Decker has labeled the association as a "noisy minority".

The small schools association is growing by leaps and bounds because it represents organized opposition to the K-12 proposal to redistrict by compulsion rather than by local voluntary methods.

State Education Commissioner Decker resorted to double-talk to deny some of the Nelson charges, but Nelson's phrases were studied and carefully worded and, as far as The Frontier is concerned, they were accurate and pointed. Judging from Decker's naive retort, the senator's charges must have hurt.

Senator Nelson's review of education history, spawned in the ranks of the education hierarchy, very likely will serve as a storm signal for rural Nebraskans, most of whom do not want K-12 or any other high-handed legislation shoved down their throats. And K-12 would arm the state-house do-gooders with the power to decide what they seem to think is good for us and our own.

Warren's Views Prevail

It is fair to say that Chief Justice Earl Warren has recently come into the limelight as one of the most liberal, or left wing, as the reader