

Prairieland Talk

# Lawmakers Leave Their Mark

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—The state legislature as well as the national congress launches out for another session. Holt county members of our state law making body accomplished some worthwhile things in years now gone.

Frank Phillips put through a measure a half-century ago that brought an end to the county division movements in Holt county. B. E. Sturdevant had a hand as a member of the legislature in giving the citizens the two-cent railroad fare at one time operative in this state and I believe had to do with the passing of a measure authorizing the establishment of the state railway commission.



Romaine Saunders

Doctor Gilligan promoted and supported a measure as state senator setting up the vital statistics department of state government. D. H. Cronin was the author of the state bridge aid law and served in two or three sessions of the state legislature. L. G. Gillespie, when serving in the state legislature, gave the Amelia community a highway, and probably Sen. Frank Nelson will be instrumental in promoting legislation that will retain for Amelia their high school.

Do you know that there lies up on Prospect Hill a former Holt county citizen, a pioneer of O'Neill, M. P. Kinkaid, who was a member of the national congress secured the enactment of the section homestead law as applied to government land then available for homestead entry in Nebraska? It became known as the Kinkaid Act and most of you studied about it in your history books.

So Harry White, who has spent a lifetime in southwest Holt where for endless miles the landscape is robed in nature's silken gown of summer green and autumn brown, goes to the mountains and hangs his sombrero on a peg in mile high Denver. Harry is the one left of three White brothers, each of whom had taken root and grew with the prairie grass in the charming Amelia region. Harry has gone to Denver but he will hear the call of the prairie wolf, the song of meadow lark and catch the fragrance of the prairie rose and will come back where he belongs, where Link Sageser, Frank Pierce, Floyd Adams and the others are who have spent their lives on peaceful prairieland. Others will not return—Will Riley, Fred Watson, Rhody Adams, the senior Mr. Berry, Harry's two brothers and the aged Grandpa Thompson; they lie now under the sod their feet once tread.

I walked today on concrete-covered street where city dwellers pass on hurrying feet, and pause a moment as a friend we greet. I have stood on wayside mountain trail and beside the sea where ocean vessels sail, stood before man's towering works of wood and stone. Feeling pretty small and all alone. Nothing has before my vision rose Quite like the simple beauty of the prairie rose.

Prairieland Talker received a goodly share of Christmas gifts but happily nothing like that sent to a lad down in Texas, who with a grin had his picture taken with a boa constrictor wrapped around him that he received as a Christmas gift. And maybe those kids over at Omaha that caught a cat, poured kerosene over it and set it ablaze should have a little similar treatment that was given the cat.

Editorial

## So You Want to Start Smoking

An editor we know was about to take up smoking, hoping it might curb one of his intemperances (over eating). Then he ran across an article associating cancer with cigarette smoking.

He brushed the article aside on the proposition he wouldn't be smoking to excess until it was time for him to die, anyway.

Just about then an editorial by Frank Uhlig of the Ceylon (Minn.) Herald was brought to his attention. Now our ravenous friend, about to embark on the glories of tobacco, is in a quandary again.

Here is a portion of Uhlig's editorial which suggests that this isn't the proper time for our ever-eating pencil-pushing friend to start smoking:

"A long as young people remain convinced that smoking is a highly fashionable (and therefore correct) thing to do, they will undoubtedly continue to enjoy the pleasures (the early-morning hack and dark-brown taste), the advantages (short wind, susceptibility to cancer, stains on the fingers and teeth) and the social graces (burning holes in the host's upholstery and carpeting, allowing smoke to drift in the faces of nearby persons trying to eat) of this universally-accepted activity.

"Should a fairly large number of young people develop enough individuality—aided, perhaps by thoughtful parents—great numbers of them might be spared learning the hard way.

"Meanwhile, we fail to see why the department of agriculture should maintain supports on the price of tobacco."

### He Tells Them So

If people in sparsely settled areas of Nebraska (geographically this includes most of the state) are going to kick in money to help pay for a super-highway program, they are entitled to a state road leading to their hometown. State Sen. Frank Nelson told the Omaha World-Herald.

The World-Herald headlined the story: "People Who Pay Bills Deserve Road"—Nelson.

The story continued: "Nelson is planning a bill which would require the state to maintain a road to any town not more than five miles off the state system.

"The state now maintains connections to all towns with one hundred or more population.

"There has been considerable controversy since 1955 when the legislature knocked some nine hundred miles off the state highway system. Many delegations have appeared before the state highway commission asking that stretches of road removed from the state system be returned to it."

The "considerable controversy" the World-Herald refers to is a matter of special interest to us.

Nelson's vote against the dropping of nine hundred miles of state road in Nebraska (including 45 miles in Holt) was buried with the obscure minority back in 1955.

Now let's examine what has happened since:

O'Neill's first newspaper editor was one T. J. Smith who published a little four column sheet in the late 1870's. He was followed by M. B. Gearon, by G. M. Cleveland and then Patrick Hagerty took over the editorial sanctum. W. D. Mathews was the next to appear on the sod-bound scene with The Frontier, and my brother, Ezra, was the first journeyman printer to land in the pioneer town. He later published the O'Neill Item. Early day newspapers were also political organs and the community had first a democratic paper, but to get in on United States land office patronage the switch was made to republican. Mathews was a democrat before he came to prairieland but with columns of land notices at \$7.50 each the change over to the other political party was sufficient inducement. Upon his removal from O'Neill he became a citizen of Arkansas and a democrat again, even went after the democratic nomination for governor of that state. M. P. Kinkaid, G. M. Cleveland and H. M. Utley were the first disciples of Blackstone to cast anchor among the group from the Emerald Isle brought here by Gen. John O'Neill, a group now with scarcely a representative in the community. The first of these robed in the vestments of the clergy was Rev. J. D. Bedard, a French Canadian Catholic priest, the first to officiate for the group that started St. Patrick's church. He was followed in 1878 by Rev. J. T. Smith. Father Cassidy followed next. Rev. Bartley Blaine was here early and founded the Methodist church. Rev. N. S. Lowrie was the first resident pastor of the Presbyterian church that with the Methodist was established in the early 1880's. Just a few of the firsts and from such as those the present city of O'Neill had its beginning.

A Lincoln school man says there is no way to avoid it—a five million dollar bond debt will be the heritage of taxpayers and school patrons the next three years. Maybe the voters and tax payers will find a "way out" at the polls. The state university also has scholarly hands out for increased cash piles. If our schools can not function without voting a big debt on the public, close them up. Ignorance is bliss—tis folly to be wise.

Write it '57. The troubled earth and all thereon are one year older. We start out again but if you have come to and beyond four score years for you January 1 is just another day. And morning dawns on peaceful prairieland this day that begins another year, holding a promise of mild serenity as the sun travels its course across the azure depth of eternity above us. The old year drew to a close as the grim reaper gathered many sheaves to lay in the abode of the dead among us. Some that we had known for a lifetime have in recent days joined the innumerable caravan gone to that abode from which no traveler returns. Marching down the highway of time another year the living know that they, too, must somewhere along the way step aside to be numbered among the lifeless. And so as we start a new year we may well join that shepherd boy of past centuries in his prayer. So teach us to number our days that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.

Headline in last week's issue of the Sheridan County (Rushville) Star: "Dies on Reservation As New Year Begins — Too Much Booze in Too Short a Time."

It is up to the fault-finder to propose a remedy for the ills he discovers.

No teacher can do much with the brain of a student who doesn't want to learn.

Yule Dinner Guests—

Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Edwin L. Krugman were Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Sondet and family and his mother, all of Verdigris, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Krugman and Daryl of Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Krugman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Krugman and Mr. and Mrs. Paul Krugman and family.

P-TA in Session—

The Parent-Teachers' association held a meeting Monday evening in the band room. Music was presented by the combined sixth grade classes and high school vocal soloists.

Plan to Move—

The Edwin L. Krugman family are planning to move to the Robert Asher house this weekend. The Ashers are going to Rapid City, S.D., where Mr. Asher will be employed in a Phil Cohn store.

Entertains Tonight—

Mrs. L. R. Sutcliff is entertaining the Jeudi club tonight (Thursday).

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Caskey and Suellyn visited Mr. and Mrs. Ora Caskey at Orchard Sunday.

Timber Owners

CONVERT YOUR WALNUT TREES TO CASH — Contact Midwest Walnut PHONE 6621 Council Bluffs, Ia.

INCOME TAX

PLAN NOW to use our income tax service. WE SOLICIT your business. We will be pleased to assist you—farmers, ranchers, businessmen.

Ponton Insurance

FLORENCE PONTON Phone 106 — O'Neill

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— ON — AUTOMOBILES TRUCKS TRACTORS EQUIPMENT FURNITURE

Central Finance

O'Neill Nebraska C. E. Jones, Manager Audited (ABC) Circulation—2,559 (March 31, 1956)

When You and I Were Young

## Box of Bon Bons to Young Winners

### Pen, Holder Won by Father Moore

50 Years Ago Eddie Gallagher, Eddie Campbell and Father Moore won the prizes at the new year's banquet given for the Catholic choir. The two boys received boxes of bon-bons and Father Moore a pen and pencil holder. Among the teachers attending the convention in Lincoln were Misses Kay, Roberts and Mr. Sweet of Atkinson, Mr. Cahill, Miss Dunham and Miss Dunt of Stuart, Mr. Mote, Miss Horiak, Miss Grady and Miss Spindler of O'Neill, Mr. Mohrman of Exving and Mr. Bennet of Izard.

20 Years Ago Deaths: Michael Holland, 92, the last of the old Michigan pioneers, who came to this county in the latter seventies and the early eighties; Mrs. Mitilda Dailey, 60; Mrs. Minnie Rosenkrans, 79; Mrs. Nellie Froelich, 65; Alexander Athey of Prairie du Chien, Wis., a former resident of O'Neill; Laurence, 6-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Young of Inman, is very ill with pneumonia at the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Young. A blizzard struck.

### 10 Years Ago

Miss Twila Whaley won a \$100 scholarship for an article she submitted on fire and accident prevention in the home. Aubrey Kreiter, 13, of Oklahoma, formerly of Ewing, was shot in a hunting accident. Henry J. Wayman, 83, died. Miss Virgie Hartland of Redbird and Jack Ressel of Chambers were married. Dale Braddock of Page submitted to an appendectomy in Sioux City. Mrs. Alma Farrier of Chambers returned home from a visit to Washington, D.C., and Red Oak, Ia.

### One Year Ago

Mrs. Floyd Spence and 2-year-old daughter of Atkinson were critically burned in a fire at their home. Deaths: Mrs. Amelia Werner, southeast of Atkinson; Mrs. M. R. Marlott of Spencer; Oliver Cromwell of Creighton; Mrs. Flora Lautenschlager, a former resident of Orchard. Mr. and Mrs. Rudolph Tusha of Verdigris celebrated their golden wedding anniversary.

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Echoes from the Valley

## Might Raise Eyebrow!

By MRS. MERRILL ANDERSON

Our state legislature is in session again, and we are interested in the outcome of the K-12 kindergarten through 12th grade proposal which we're hearing so much about.

Viewing the situation from various standpoints and considering the many aspects connected with such a plan, I question the ultimate outcome of this type of reorganization of our school districts.

While we would derive some benefits from this plan, it would be offset by the tremendous expenditures involved. In many instances new buildings would be necessary, equipment and other facilities added, there would be increases in teachers' salaries because there are those in the capitol who would make it required to have a bachelor's degree before being eligible to teach in our schools. They call it higher teacher certification.

Aside from these facts, we have our ever-present road situation. If some of our broad-minded statesmen would tour these parts and get a glimpse of old Nebraska in the rough, they would better understand our problem. Our paths to learning are not paved; on the contrary, they are mere cow trails. Usually after the first snowfall of winter, the roads are not to be found!

### Out of Old Nebraska... Nebraska Furnished 'White Ring Hope'

### McCarthy Career Ends with Fatal Blow

As 1956 came to an end, the sports pages of Nebraska newspapers called our attention to the fact that professional boxing was all but dead in Nebraska. Old time devotees of the sport shook their heads sadly and recalled the days of departed glory when Nebraska fighters like Vince Foster or Ace Hudkins commanded a strong following of the state.

Nebraska's most famous fighter was Luther McCarthy, called the white champion. McCarthy was born in Hitchcock county in March 1892. He came to prominence while Jack Johnson was champion. Then much more than 20 years later, when Joe Louis became champion, the pride of the white population was stirred and there was great interest in a "white hope" to regain the championship.

McCarthy came quickly to the fore in his situation. Actually he advanced faster than the present heavyweight champion, Floyd Patterson, and he was not yet 21 when he was crowned the "white heavyweight champion". He gained this distinction by defeating Al Palmer, and over the claims of such fighters as Jesse Willard. At the time that he was recognized as the white champion, McCarthy followed a common and safe practice in refusing to fight Negroes—it was a safe practice in that the champion, Jack Johnson, and Sam Langford were probably the best heavyweights fighting then.

The Nebraska heavyweight met a tragic end, being killed in a fight in Calgary. His opponent was Arthur Pelkey of Canada, and McCarthy had been criticized for scheduling the fight, because experts thought that Pelkey was not a match for him. In the first round, after McCarthy had landed two good blows, he was caught by a right to the heart, collapsed and died very shortly. So ended

the bid of the Nebraska born white hope. He was only 21 when he was killed on May 24, 1918. How good a fighter was McCarthy that is something that will never be determined. Certainly against his claim to fame is the unexplainable defeat that ended his career and his life. On the other hand he had become a very good boxer at a very early age. Without what has been described as an "unlucky and desparation blow" he could easily have developed into one of the great heavyweights of our history. His manager, Billy McCarney, who was active in the fight game until his death in 1948, being associated with managing both Max Schmeling and Joe Louis, made a listing of the great heavyweights shortly after Louis became champion. In that list he put McCarthy first, Dempsey fourth, Louis ninth.

Charter No. 5770 Reserve District No. 10 Report of the condition of the

## O'Neill National Bank

of O'Neill, in the state of Nebraska, at the close of business on DECEMBER 31, 1956 Published in response to call made by Comptroller of the Currency, under Section 5211, U.S. Revised Statutes

ASSETS

Cash, balances with other banks, including reserve balance, and cash items in process of collection	\$ 586,570.44
United States Government obligations, direct and guaranteed	2,694,290.75
Obligations of States and political subdivisions	182,283.42
Other bonds, notes, and debentures	50,000.00
Corporate stocks (including \$4500.00 stock of Federal Reserve bank)	4,500.00
Loans and discounts (including \$551.49 overdrafts)	332,958.57
Bank premises owned	3,000.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$3,853,603.18</b>

LIABILITIES

Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	3,167,652.91
Deposits of United States Government (including postal savings)	68,467.69
Deposits of States and political subdivisions	171,295.43
Deposits of banks	121,704.09
<b>Total Deposits</b>	<b>\$3,529,120.12</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$3,529,120.12</b>

CAPITAL ACCOUNTS

Common Stock, total par \$50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus	100,000.00
Undivided profits	174,883.06
<b>Total Capital Accounts</b>	<b>\$ 324,883.06</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Capital Accounts</b>	<b>\$3,853,603.18</b>

### MEMORANDA

Assets pledged or assigned to secure liabilities and for other purposes \$ 500,000.00

I, J. B. Grady, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

J. B. GRADY, Cashier Correct — Attest: F. N. Cronin, E. F. Quinn, Julius D. Cronin, Directors.

State of Nebraska, County of Holt, ss: Sworn to and subscribed before me this 7th day of January, 1957, and I hereby certify that I am not an officer or director of this bank.

DOROTHY ENRIGHT, Notary Public My commission expires March 7, 1961



## Finally Believed His Eyes and Ears!

He has heard and read a great many wonderful things about this new 1957 Cadillac since it made its first appearance a few brief weeks ago—

—about its magnificent new luxury, for instance... its brilliant new power and responsiveness... its marvelous new handling ease... and its extraordinary new smoothness of ride.

And so, quite frankly, he began to wonder if it weren't all too good to be true. Could any motor car be as wonderful as this latest "car of cars" was reputed to be?

Well, he's decided to put his eyes and ears to the test today. And the verdict is unmistakable!

It's a joy just to lean back into those deep, soft cushions and look out over that graceful hood into the beckoning highway.

And what a revelation the car is to drive!

A curve in the road ahead? He simply follows it with the arc of his hands and the car responds with perfect obedience.

A hill in the offing? He just nudges the accelerator and the car sweeps up and over as effortlessly as if it were traveling the level road.

A stop light coming up? He presses his toe—ever so gently—on the broad braking pedal and comes to the smoothest, surest stop imaginable.

Yes, it's true what they say about this newest of Cadillacs. This is far and away the finest motor car ever to travel the world's highways.

How about you? Have you heard the wonderful things they're saying about the 1957 Cadillac? Well, the proof is in the driving—and the facts about Cadillac have never been more convincing.

## A. MARCELLUS CHEVROLET CO.

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