

PrairieLand Talk

Ph D Thesis Written About Holt

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

LINCOLN—A teacher in the schools up at Bassett has been writing PrairieLand Talker for information about Holt county affairs and people. A paper in Ainsworth published a story about the Kinkaid section homestead law in which a "Mr. Harrington" was quoted as expressing concern that the enlarged homestead from 160 to 640 acres would "produce an influx of people."



Romaine Saunders

I have been asked to disclose the name of this "Mr. Harrington of O'Neill." There were several of that name in this community, but my guess is it was M. F. who had been quoted. The teacher is writing a thesis to win her university degree, and Holt county is being dealt with in her scholastic literary work. As PrairieLand Talker has added a bit to the Holt county portion of her production, maybe a Ph D now awaits him.

Who would have thought it seventy odd years ago as I stood by the hay burner in our humble homestead abode where the district school was held with my sire the teacher and read, "Give me of your bark O birch tree, of your yellow white skinned wrapped, and I a light canoe will build me, that will float upon the water like a yellow leaf in autumn, like a yellow water lily"

King Saud, from out the ancient land of Arabia where through the centuries Mohammedans have dropped to their knees at stated hours to mutter o'er a formal prayer, has visited us. No, not us out here on prairie land, but to look in Arabian wonder at our national official and military dignitaries a few steps in from the Atlantic seaboard. He visited our noted naval academy but declined to step a consecrated Moslem foot in the academy's chapel as he is said to "abhor everything Christian." His Arabian scruples did not stand in the way of eating the "Christian Yankee" grub served up. The King did not get to the open places out this way, but a half-century or more ago horsemen from his ancient land were a part of Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West show that was organized and started out down at Columbus. Cody assembled riders from all sections of earth, humped up riders from Arabian deserts, from Russia, from Canada and from South America, together with our open range riders, the cowboys of whom Gen. Nelson A. Miles said were the best of all horsemen. And do not the Americans excel at everything, even riding a horse?

The December, '56 number of the Nebraska History magazine came out two months late. Are the history stories no nearer the facts?

Again there has reached out from high official eminence an inexorable hand and turned the key that closes forever two more historic doors of the prairies of Holt county. Where now will go the bundles of The Frontier that for more than 70 years have gone week-by-week to Star and Dorsey? Will a ruthless hand in Washington spare us nothing that marks historic spots where treasured memories cluster? Which will be the next victim—Amelia, Emmet, Page? "Woodman, spare that tree; touch not a single bough!"

Editorial

We Spread Out; Others Draw In

(The Chicago Tribune)

One of the many unintelligible features of the Eisenhower "doctrine" for the middle east is that it commits the United States to large new military obligations at a time when critics are complaining about the effectiveness of the nation's military establishment and when other countries allied with us want to cut back their defenses, not add to them.

For example, Mr. Eisenhower pursues his policy in the face of these recent developments:

1. Sen. Symington and other Democrats charged that the administration's defense policy was permitting American air and rocket power to "decline relatively as against the steadily growing striking capacity of the Soviets." While politics may color the judgement, this is not the only expression of concern on this score.

2. Britain is seeking the permission of its North Atlantic Treaty organization allies to reduce its contribution of 80,000 troops in Germany by some 30,000 men. Prime Minister Macmillan plans to cut military expenditures at least 25 per cent. The British are seeking a large contract at American expense to manufacture guided missiles as a "contribution to NATO," thus enabling them to convert to pushbutton methods of warfare, scrap much of their air force, further reduce military man power, and end conscription. Defense Minister Sandys says that the draft will be abolished as soon as it is practical to do so, while over here the selective service administrator, Gen. Hershey, is clamoring for the conscription even of 4-F's and fathers.

3. Japan has snubbed American suggestions that next year's military budget be increased substantially. Premier Ishibashi refuses to go beyond a slight increase, bringing the military budget to 280 million dollars, although the United States agreed to pay half of any boost. Rejection of American proposals rules out a planned increase of 10,000 men in the land army.

Before Mr. Eisenhower started to barge into the middle east with an offer to protect the whole area from Pakistan to the Sudan from soviet attack, this country was already committed to the defense of 42 nations. But, the more we expand our obligations to protect others, the less they choose to do in their own behalf. We propose not only to shoulder the whole task in the middle east without help, but allied assistance in other areas of potential trouble is constantly thinning out.

As Sen. Mansfield remarked the other day, the exertions of the Eisenhower internationalists are only succeeding in reducing the nation to a condition of "isolated internationalism."

Horned Owls or Men?

Game Conservation Officer Fred Salak of O'Neill, who doubles frequently as a traffic officer (by virtue of his deputy sheriff's badge), late Friday arrested two young men near Inman.

We contacted Mr. Salak at 9:10 a.m., Saturday morning—a short time before our "Voice of The Frontier" radio program.

Mr. Salak told us the names of the two men were "Joe Blow" and "Jim Blake" and that he encountered them "up-in-a-tree" near their parked car. Salak said he was making a "routine

patrol" when he sighted the car a half-mile north of Inman. He indicated the "Blow" and "Blake" handles were fictitious; however, we asked him to repeat twice on the "up-in-the tree" angle, and he did. On Saturday's "Voice" we credited Mr. Salak with the arrests and with the "tree" version. However, after the program, we went to the courthouse. We interviewed (tape-recording) the youths themselves. They gave us their correct names, home addresses, discussed tying up a guard and escaping from the Ft. Carson, Colo., stockade, and told of acquiring stolen property in a flight across Colorado, Nebraska and South Dakota.

Our check into the matter revealed that Mr. Salak knew the names of his prisoners at the time he gave us the "Joe Blow" and "Jim Blake" version. Other news agencies, on the same story, said nothing about "Blow", "Blake" or the "tree". It turns out the 1950 Mercury the two young men were driving was parked near some bushes.

We have been handling general news for more than 20 years and never before have had a public official suppress or distort news, which is a very serious thing in our business.

When the two young escapees—Allan Rogers of Isabelle, S. D., and Richard Whitehouse of Stillwater, Okla.—told us their story on tape, we were compelled to suggest (on the air) that Mr. Salak probably was seeing horned owls in a tree, not humans, and, as a game conservation officer he should be able to readily distinguish a difference.

We had no choice but to present both sides of the story and permit the public to draw its own conclusions.

Perhaps Mr. Salak has been unhappy with The Frontier of late on other matters. Arthur J. Noecker, associate publisher, is secretary of the North-Central Nebraska Game Conservation association (which counts over six hundred members). That association has been somewhat critical of Mr. Salak's performances, and, on one occasion, Mr. Salak was sitting in on a meeting. Asked by the chair if he (Salak) was a member, the answer was "no". Whereupon the chair asked Mr. Salak to leave.

There's a prominent O'Neill businessman who tends a cow.

From somewhere out of the darkness this early morning came the plaintive note of a cow bawling. Maybe a truck with a bovine loaded aboard and headed for slaughter pens had stopped while passing on the streets and the cow emotions, expressed in cow language, called to be let out of the truck in order that cloven hoofs could head back home. Or had a suburban city dweller had enough of handing out 30 cents for a pint bottle of "half-and-half," or whole milk as it comes from the original source, and has invested in a cow, the bovine not yet adjusted to strange surroundings bawls her protest. Anyway, the call of a cow this morning before daybreak touched this superannuated former prairie wolf with a throb of homesickness.

Have you written a letter to the Nebraska members of congress? Maybe they would like to hear from you; they receive only 125,000 letters annually. Mrs. Belle Mulligan of Falls City is retiring after 54 years work as a printer. A college bred lady I talked with today did not know that the Nebraska legislature is in session, and never heard of the battle of Wounded Knee that followed the killing of Chief Sitting Bull.

Statistical experts tell us the personal income of Americans for the year 1956 totaled 325 billion dollars. Get your share? Three jailbirds escaped at Nebraska City and left the state. Let 'em go.

It is never too soon to be kind, for we never know how soon it will be too late.

Phone Line Built West of Coburn's Wearnes, Turners to Say 'Hello'

50 Years Ago
Frank Dishner returned from a trip to Texas. . . Newton Carson, who lives near Dorsey, was injured while felling trees near his home. . . George E. Hansen, one of the wealthy and oldtime farmers of the Blackbird country, has decided to sell out his farm and retire. . . A phone line is being built west from Mrs. Coburn's, George Wearne, Fred Turner, R. Bellinger, Charles Keeler, Frank Ellis, and Mr. Obermier will soon say "hello" to the rest of us.

20 Years Ago
Deaths: Walter McDonough of Miami, Fla., formerly of O'Neill; Patrick J. Reddin, 79; Mrs. Mary Sageser, 93. . . A 6½-pound son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Ritts. . . Donald Stannard and Miss Betty Branch will be married Saturday.

10 Years Ago
Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Hertel of Chambers celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. . . Miss Ardes Hansen of Venus was graduated from Immanuel hospital school of nursing.

One Year Ago
Deaths: Mrs. Elenora Dempsey, 64, and M. H. Horiskey, 73, both of O'Neill; Floyd E. Crawford, 79, of Redbird; Harley Everett, 57, of Atkinson. . . Pupils of Miss Lois Adams were dismissed for 2½ days when their teacher was married to John Langan. . . Mary Claire and James Gilg of Atkinson, sister and brother, won speech laurels for 4-H club members. . . Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Alden of Ewing celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary quietly at their home. . . John L. Bohn received a bachelor of science in education at the University of Nebraska.

Frank Spindler, killed recently on the highway near Gordon, was a brother of Will H. Spindler, author of that charming story of romance and adventure, "Rim of the Sandhills," in which the reader is taken in fancy to the wooded slopes and green vales of northern Holt county, a land replete in charm and historic interest where the author spent his youthful days. Other literary works of Mr. Spindler includes "Tragedy Strikes at Wounded Knee," the story of the killing of the Sioux chiefs, Sitting Bull, and the last of our Indian wars that followed, when 173 Sioux warriors were killed and three U. S. troopers. Frank Spindler made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Will Spindler at Wounded Knee.

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TB Seal Sales in Holt Are Increased

The Nebraska Tuberculosis association has released information on the 1956 Christmas seal sale, revealing that the state total is \$154,339.62, which is \$16,442.35, or 9.6% under the final figure for the 1955 sale of \$170,772.97. Comparisons by counties in the O'Neill area:

	Jan. 15 1957	1956 Final
Holt	\$1,362.65	\$1,190.15
Boyd	646.95	516.10
Rock	383.95	599.16
Antelope	849.70	800.25
Knox	1,389.65	1,690.00

Attend Capping Rite at Omaha

Mr. and Mrs. James McNulty, Mrs. Will Grutsch, Miss Joanne Landsworth, Miss Karen Mahoney and Lonnie Langan drove to Omaha Sunday, February 10, to attend capping exercises at St. Catherine's hospital school of nursing.

The Misses LaDonna McNulty and Barbara McCarthy were capped that day.

Miss Platt on Dean's List

CHAMBERS — Miss Beverly Ann Platt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Platt of Chambers, has been named on the Bob Jones university dean's list for the first semester of the 1956-57 school year. This official list is composed of those students who made "A" or "B" averages during the semester.

Known around the globe as the world's "most unusual university," Bob Jones university is a co-educational, interdenominational, Christian institution which enrolls each year nearly 3,000 students. The student body this year includes representatives from 47 states of the union and from 25 foreign countries.

Miss Platt is a junior enrolled in the college of arts and science.

Eight Guests Aid—

Little Gregg Marcellus had a party Tuesday February 5, to celebrate his third birthday anniversary. It was held at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Billie Marcellus. Eight little guests and their mothers were present.

'Good Turn Day' Results Announced

Goodwill Industries, Inc., of Sioux City has released the following results of the "good turn day" used clothing drive conducted by Boy Scouts in the Covered Wagon council:

	Del.	Col.	Bags	Per Cent
Clearwater	107	112	104.7	
Spencer	150	168	72.0	
Verdigre	150	87	58.0	
Creighton	392	225	57.3	
Neligh	446	250	56.0	
Ewing	149	74	49.7	
Page	75	33	44.0	
O'Neill	678	296	43.6	
Chambers	100	100	100.0	

Kolm Family Moves to Mertha Community

Mr. and Mrs. William Kolm and four children of Schuyler have moved into the farm vacated earlier in the winter by Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Chipps and family, who have moved to the West coast. The oldest of the Kolm children attends high school in Chambers; three are attending Martha rural school.

Dinner Hosts—

Mr. and Mrs. Duane McKay were hosts at a birthday dinner Sunday in honor of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Harley of Chambers. Other guests were another daughter of the Harleys, Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Struebing and family of Grand Island.

MAKE MOVE

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth C. Juran and sons have moved to the J. C. Bazeiman dwelling. Mr. and Mrs. Eldon White have moved into the residence vacated by the Jurans.

Bridge Club Meets—

Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Liddy were hosts to the Bridge club Sunday evening. High winners were Laurence Haynes for the men and Mrs. Haynes for the women.

'Welcome Back'—

Mrs. Edward M. Gallagher, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williamson, celebrated her seventh birthday anniversary, Wednesday, February 11, to honor Mrs. W. J. Froelich, who had returned from a Caribbean cruise.

Pasture Flooded; Skating Party Held

CELIA—Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meyer were hosts to 45 persons at an ice skating party at the Floyd Butterfield ranch.

The Butterfields had spread water over a pasture, and the ice provided good skating.

Among those from the Celia community attending the party were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hendricks and family, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Chaffin and family and Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hendricks and family.

Other Celia News

Mrs. William Coleman and Mrs. Don Coleman and children of Theodora were Sunday afternoon, February 10, visitors at the Victor Frickel home.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Hendricks and family were Sunday, February 10, dinner guests at the Robert Lewis home. Other guests were his parents from Springview.

Mrs. Louise Johns, Mrs. Bertha Gottschalk of Silvercreek, Ore., and Mr. and Mrs. Fritz Naber were Friday, February 8, visitors at the Milton McKathnie home.

Mrs. E. W. Samms, Carla and Dickie of Wichita, Kans. Mr. and Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg and Miss Dorothy Scott were Sunday, February 10, dinner and supper guests at the William Maloun home. Mr. and Mrs. Duane Beck and Sheryl were evening visitors and showed pictures they had taken.

Arlin Hendricks celebrated his eighth birthday anniversary Friday, February 8, while at school. His mother brought ice cream and individual angel food cakes.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hendricks were Friday, February 8 visitors at the Leonard Chaffin home. The men worked with cattle.

Notes 7th Birthday—

Bonnie Williamson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williamson, celebrated her seventh birthday anniversary, Wednesday, January 30, at a party for 15 little guests.

Hostess for Meeting of Two Clubs—

Mrs. Ira Moss was hostess to Martez club and Delta Dek clubs Wednesday evening, February 13, at the M and M Cafe. Among the guests were Mrs. Margaret Boler, Mrs. William J. Biglin, Mrs. L. A. Burgess, Mrs. Frank Dishner, Mrs. W. H. Hart, Mrs. R. R. Morrison, Mrs. J. J. Harrington, and Mrs. John Conrad of Emmet and Mrs. Earl Beulow of Racine, Wis. Winners were Mrs. Boler, Mrs. Burgess, Mrs. Dishner and Mrs. M. J. Golden.

Buffet for Friends—

Bill Miller and Mr. and Mrs. D. A. Kersbrook were hosts at a buffet at the Town House Monday evening for a number of friends.

Wed 26 Years—

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Graham celebrated their 26th wedding anniversary Sunday at a family dinner. Among those attending were Don Graham and Miss Marge Norman of Omaha, Mr. and Mrs. Burton Kimball of Osmond, Mr. and Mrs. David Maughan of Tilden, and Mr. and Mrs. Phil Dempsey and Mrs. Bob Cook.

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