

Prairieland Talk

Man Beckoned Outdoors

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, 4110 South 51st St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.

LINCOLN—Pioneer park, some 640 acres of tree-covered hills, valley stretches and waterways, at the weekend was the rendezvous of the human population of the capital city, Lancaster county also contributing a sprinkling of onlookers where deer and antelope play, where the buffalo roam and webfooted feathered creatures paddle about in the water. Toddlers just learning to walk, children, youth, ladies and gents in full spring bloom and the hoary heads—all inspired by the primitive instinct in man that beckons to the outdoors.

The day was bathed in sunlight poured forth from the bright blue above. Not yet in full floral glory but down the long avenues of stately cedars and pines came the fragrance of bursting buds.



Romaine Saunders

Prairieland Talker was with three friends as we rolled along in just one of a thousand or more cars among trees, bushes and open spaces where animal life is seen at close range. That park in the long ago was the camping ground of a delegation looking for the proper place to locate the capital city of Nebraska. This is it! And human hands pointed to the open country to the northeast where Lincoln now is.

From the park, we drove some 11 miles west of the city where a farm home had been visited by the cyclone that toer up the town of Milford. Just four more of the scores of furious folk out to see the rubble that once had composed the farm buildings, the effective evidence of what forces of nature can do. The house, twisted and damaged, still stands, barns and sheds wrecked. No one there at the time the cyclone hit was injured.

It has been written up as a tornado. What sucked a path through five counties and demolished Milford was a cyclone, not a tornado. In the great plains region tornadoes come as a straight blow out of the northwest, as pioneers of Holt county, if any survive, well know. About every pioneer family out on the prairie provided themselves with an outside "storm cave," and when that sinister cloud rose majestically above the northwest rim of earth, pa, ma an dthe kids ducked into storm shelter, remained there until the blow was over and maybe all night. When a head bobbed up out of the cave the homesteader might see his house still standing where he left it or a half mile away. No civil defense to come to the rescue nor have I read of any taking over at Milford. While tornadoes on prairieland come out of the northwest, cyclones come up in the southwest as pioneers understood it, maybe dictionaries say differently.

On lines hung out to dry today are family washings. There hangs the two legs of toiling dad's overalls, sheets and linens white, things when worn are out of sight and hanging just beside them I see some ladies' shapely stockings. The washings on the line is a reminder of the days when cowboys came looping into O'Neill and if a washing was on the line hung out to dry a reckless booted and spurred guy pulled out his six-shooter blazed away and down it came into the dirt, the housewife's days work. It was a quarrel over just that bit of cowboy fun that made Billy Reer shoot and kill Sheriff Barney Kearns.

The dainty yellow bloom of the despised dandelion is the first to add a touch of bright color as spring comes around again. . . The citizens of storm tossed Milford have found that the milk of human sympathy has been expressed in something more than words. One of the most outstanding examples of helpful acts following this disaster was that of an 8-year-old Lincoln girl who could not go and take a helping hand 20 miles but added her weekly allowance of 35 cents to the fund raised for the disaster victims, accompanied by a sympathetic childish letter. . . Word from Washington is that soon our former governor, Val Peterson, sets sail for Copenhagen to represent us at the Danish diplomatic table. Who will take over civil defense was not announced by May 1.

Lincoln has an air base. Restless gents out there under restrictions that suppress the human instinct to cut loose, they walk the streets of the city on their day off from base duties. Those human instincts burst forth, smash up something. So city courts where fines are imposed are enriched. Two gents yesterday with confined energies that exploded in a window smashing spree tossed in one hundred dollar each in fines. The young fellows at the military camps throughout the country are not exactly the Sunday-school type of citizen, and while "away on leave" pent up energies sometimes explode in acts of lawlessness, inspired in many cases by too many gurgles of fire water.

The hardy sons of the soil take the steering wheel today, drive to the city in haste, drop a coin in a parking meter, look the shops and crowds over, pay \$1.25 for a chicken dinner, go to the afternoon movie, back to the farm for the night. Tyler Scriven drove up from the South Fork 70 years ago with team and wagon, tied his horse to the wagon in the alley by Barnett's lumber yard, did his two bit trading at Mann's or Sullivan's, got a dime's worth of crackers and cheese, went to his wagon to give his horse a few ears of corn, sat down on the spring seat and ate his dinner of crackers and cheese. And the alley was lined with others like him.

As a neighbor lady of the higher educational group sees it the Irish, the English, the Germans and the Missourians are at the head of the class in about everything human. Maybe so, but it takes Nebraskans to run a great prairie state free from bonded indebtedness.

Down in Boone county officials have had pity on tax-burdened citizens of the county with the result of much unpaid taxes. Now a grand jury comes into the picture to deal with the neglectful officials, with a lawyer imported from Platte county to "prosecute". When Sheriff Pete Duffy some 25 years ago was handed a bunch of delinquent taxes to garner in, he would dig down in his own pocket rather than cause an impoverished Holt county citizen any trouble.

Jay Roblyer, who died April 24 at a hospital in Neligh, where he and Mrs. Roblyer had made their home the past 14 years, was a former citizen of Holt county, at one time in business in Amelia, moving from there to a farm in Swan precinct and later to the Atkinson community. Mr. Roblyer was 76 years of age.

When You & I Were Young . . . Stannard Buys 3 Colts to Train Will Work Them Out on Track Here

50 Years Ago
M. M. Stannard received three two-year-old colts, which he will train on the track here. They are owned by Charles Jenkins and Doctor Hall of Clearwater. Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Cole and his brother, N. V. Cole of Michigan City, Ind., visited with Charles Cole and family for a few days. . . Peter McMonigal departed for New York and Ireland. He expects to be gone all summer. . . M. J. Miller, living 10 miles southeast of town said that six years ago he bought a quarter section for \$1,700. Two months ago he sold it to Supervisor C. D. Keyes for \$3,700. . . Gov. Disney and Minnie Makiol, both of Chambers, were married. Marriage licenses were issued to Ernest E. Wilson of Redbird and Ethel Elliott of Dorsey; Charles Barnum and Hattie Doherty, both of Chambers. Lawrence Casey, 94, died at his home in Shields township. He was born in Ireland.

20 Years Ago
M. F. Norton celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary. Mrs. Minnie Bowen gave him a large birthday cake. . . Jack Kersenbrock, the 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kersenbrock, who accidentally cut his right leg above the knee with a hatchet, was taken by ambulance to a Lincoln hospital after a special call from Lincoln rushed here when the boy's condition became very bad. He is expected to recover.

10 Years Ago
Mrs. Helen Simar has sold her Apparel Shop to W. A. Doering of Albion. . . Robert A. Golden of Stockton, Calif., born in O'Neill, was killed in an airplane crash. . . Miss Joyce Urban and Donald Payder were married at Ewing. . . A feature of the junior-senior banquet of O'Neill high was "Saga of Little Nell". The WSCS served the banquet.

One Year Ago
Members of the Casper Winkler family held a reunion—the first in 11 years. . . Deaths: Miss Mary Ellen (Mamie) Shoemaker, 82; A. N. Butler, formerly of Inman, at Independence, Mo.; Eror Bengston, 68, of Eugene, Ore., formerly of Page; Mrs. Tillie Tower, 78, former Atkinson resident, at Minneapolis, Minn.; Mrs. Anna M. Clark, 87, of Inman; Mrs. Mamie Sammons, 69, of Amelia; Mrs. Laura Yarges, 85, of Stuart. . . S/Sgt. Larry Minton was discharged. . . Miss Virginia Thiele of Elgin and Leland Anson of O'Neill were married.

Herbert Stenger, 44, Killed in Crash

LYNCH—Mike Stenger received word that his nephew, Herbert Stenger, 44, of Peoria, Ill., was killed in a two-car accident recently.

Herbert has visited the Stenger family here a number of times.

Dorsey News

Sgt. and Mrs. Vernon Oleson and son, Neil, arrived Saturday morning from Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., to visit with relatives a few days before leaving for a visit with other relatives on the West coast.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Carson and the Carson sisters were Thursday evening dinner guests at the Mrs. Myrtle Pickering home.

Clara and June Carson and Marilyn Graham and Ruth Osborn helped with the entertainment at Ash Grove Friday night. There was a "very good attendance."

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Wells and Susan visited at the Howard Slack home Sunday.

Thomas Hiscock returned home from Oregon on Saturday, after having attended the funeral of his niece.

Stelling Gets Basic Training—
ORCHARD—Pvt. Richard E. Stelling, 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. Henry C. Stelling of Orchard, is receiving basic combat training with the fourth infantry division at Ft. Lewis, Wash.

Stelling was graduated from Orchard high school in 1952.

To Randall—
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Nelson and family and Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Ray and Mary were at Ft. Randall Sunday.

Visit Here—
Mr. and Mrs. Lester Miles of Chambers visited Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Nutter and family Sunday.

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Annual May Affair Held at Page

PAGE—A flower garden was the setting for the May breakfast, an annual affair, held at the parlors of the Methodist church Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

The garden was centered with a pool. The breakfast tables circled the garden.

Mrs. Leslie Mewmaw, as master of ceremonies, invited her guests into the garden to the accompaniment of garden music.

"Thanks" to the Great Gardner was expressed in song. The program reading "Johnny Jump-ups" was translated into group singing led by Mrs. Mervyn French, jr. "Bugs and Insects" introduced a skit in which Mrs. Hattie Carson, as Father Time, was assisted by Mesdames Harold Kelly, Elmer Trowbridge, Arnold Stewart, C. P. Leach, I. O. Wood and Mewmaw.

Mrs. Lou Heiss and Mrs. A. O. Weber were responsible for a "backward" musical number.

Mrs. Herbert Steinberg gave a reading "I'm So Sensitive". Mrs. Elmer Trowbridge, president of the WSCS, and Mrs. Ivan Heiss, president of the King's Daughters, presented reports on progress made during the past year in their respective societies.

Mrs. Ray Snell and Mrs. Cordes Walker sang a duet, "Grandmother's Garden." The devotions, "How Does Your Garden Grow," were given by Mrs. Raymond Heiss. Mrs. Mervyn French, jr., sang a solo, "In My Garden."

Mrs. Mewmaw presented a paper written by her mother's Mrs. Clem Harworth of Donnellson, Ill., on "Gardens of the Bible."

The favors were small packets of flower seed and the place cards were miniature baskets of flowers with the flower stems concealing the program numbers inscribed on the stems.

The back of the basket gave the breakfast menu.

Accompanists for the musical numbers were Mesdames Tom Knudsen, Mervyn French, jr., and Mrs. Mewmaw.

Chairman of the social relations committee in charge of the kitchen and serving arrangements was Mrs. Harold Heiss.

Menu for the breakfast was: Sunflower on toast (creamed chicken on toast with egg yolk center), beet flowerettes (beet pickles), fruit blossoms (jelly), cinnamon rose (rolls), garden liquid (coffee).

The program was concluded with the singing of "The Lord's Prayer" in unison.

Frontier for printing.

Haselhorsts Leave on Western Trip

LYNCH—Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Haselhorst left Friday, May 3, for a month's sight-seeing and visiting trip.

They stopped in O'Neill and called on their son, Melvin, and family, then left for Sidney where they will visit their daughter, Mrs. Herbert Rossmeyer and family.

Their trip was then to be continued to Navato, Calif., where they plan to visit their son, Delbert, and family. Delbert is stationed with the air force at that place.

They also plan to visit relatives in Washington, Oregon and Montana before returning home.

Other Lynch News
Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bryan and their daughter, Mrs. R. P. Berry, all of Lucedale, Miss., came Wednesday, May 1 to visit Mrs. Bryan's sister, Mrs. Bill Stoufer, and husband. They all visited the two women's brother in a Hot Springs, S. D., hospital. They also visited a brother in Rapid City, S. D., during the weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Sixta are

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in Minnesota looking after land interests there.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Davy entertained Mr. and Mrs. Veldon Lee and family at dinner Sunday, April 28.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Havranek of Humboldt, Ia., came Saturday, April 28, for several days' visit with friends and relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Pinkerman of O'Neill were Lynch visitors Saturday, April 28.

Miss Margaret Stenger, Mrs. Martin Jehorek and Mrs. Albert Kalkowki visited Mrs. Don Allen Tuesday, April 30.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Haselhorst and family of O'Neill, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Audiss of Anoka, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Streit and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lorie Micanek and Mr. and Mrs. Beryl Moody and family were Sunday, April 29, dinner guests at the parental C. L. Haselhorst home.

Several from Lynch attended the Bill Chesak funeral at Spen-

cer on Tuesday, April 30.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Vomacka and baby of Gregory, S. D., spent Sunday, April 29, at the Martin Jehorek home.

Mr. and Mrs. Glen Davy spent Sunday evening, April 29, at the Ed Johns home.

Francis Stenger was a Sioux City visitor Tuesday, April 30.

Mrs. Bill Spencer entertained nine ladies Thursday morning at a "come just as you are party."

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Vonasek and daughters of Verdell spent Wednesday evening, May 1, at the C. L. Haselhorst home.

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Mulhair were in Sioux City on Wednesday, May 1.

Visit Norfolk—
Mr. and Mrs. Reed R. Herley and daughters were in Norfolk Sunday visiting his brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Herley.

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Editorial

Word Speeding Overworked

Several state legislatures, including Nebraska's, have been considering the speed laws.

In our state the present limits are 60-miles-per-hour by day and 50 by night. These limits would be increased to 65 by day and 55 by night.

Excessive speed is blamed for a disproportionate share of the accidents in the minds of some persons, who pull their hair at the suggestion of abandoning the model T limits and adjusting them to modern roads and modern machines.

Iowa made a survey in 1955 of 54,877 reported accidents. This report from a state, where the limit has since been fixed higher than Nebraska's, is surprising because speed was 10th on the list of highway accident causes. Consider, too, that the auto and civil populations are denser there than in Nebraska's open spaces.

While speed was listed as 10th as accident causes, percentage-wise it was officially responsible for approximately one-fiftieth of the 54,877 accidents.

- The Iowa report, in brief, follows:
1. Failure to yield right of way . . . 7,317
 2. Following too closely . . . 6,159
 3. Improper start from parked position . . . 5,861
 4. icy or wet roads . . . 5,584
 5. Vehicle not under control . . . 4,558
 6. Improper left turn . . . 3,439
 7. Improper passing . . . 3,391
 8. Failure to stop at stop sign . . . 2,504
 9. Wrong side of road (not in passing) . . . 2,250
 10. Speed . . . 1,508
 11. Pedestrian carelessness . . . 1,188
 12. Improper right turn . . . 1,152
 13. Illegal parking . . . 1,109
 14. Driver carelessness . . . 1,047

Commenting on the same subject, Bill Cox of the Pierce County (Nebr.) Leader said:

"The word speeding is being overworked and abused. An accident occurs and immediately someone asks: 'Who was going too fast?'"

Automobile operators (not truck operators) are haled into court most frequently for speeding violations. Why? Because it is the easiest violation to check.

Following another vehicle too closely is more dangerous; passing on a hill is terrible, but the run-of-the-mill violators are haled into court for speeding.

In addition, law enforcement officers use a crutch—the radar eye—to intensify their campaign against speed.

If the Iowa study is true (and it was obtained from insurance reports) then the speed limit on Nebraska's open highways should be raised.

The days of right angle turns and model T's are over and, after all, that's when the present limits were fixed.

However, increasing the limit will make the highways more hazardous in the sense that indecisive drivers and old flivvers will have to be contended with.

That leads us up to a point which isn't covered in the voluminous statistics:

Are'n't most accidents caused by bad judgment?

Hospitals—Dramatic Progress

It's national hospital week, May 12-18. Probably no other national week, set aside for this purpose or that, has more significance or more realistic meaning for the average resident than does national hospital week.

In our own area the past decade has witnessed the erection of the fine medical center here—the half-million-dollar St. Anthony's hospital; in nearby Atkinson a hospital was erected and since expanded; Creighton has a new hospital; Sacred Heart hospital at Lynch, the "grandfather" of healing institutions in this immediate area, has been expanded; Neligh now boasts a fine modern hospital.

Probably in no other field has progress been so dramatic in the post-war era.

National hospital week is a good occasion to take stock of the facilities we have, to pass along a grateful thank-you to the persons who have made these hospitals possible, to appreciate those who today are maintaining these mercy missions.

Most families in our own community have, at one time or another, had a loved one in St. Anthony's hospital. None can refuse that many lives have been lengthened, much suffering has been alleviated, much compassion has been shown.

Healing is a high calling. Few can qualify for the rigid requirements.

During national hospital week let us offer a special prayer of gratitude for (a) the institutions and the facilities; (b) the hospital staffs.

In a very essential and vital way they help to make our region a better place in which to live.

We have long admired the people of Norway and now again we have occasion to compliment them. Russia turned their worldwire propaganda on Norway trying to scare them as Russia has scared so many countries of late. But the Norwegian ambassador delivered a note to Soviet Premier Nikolai Bulganin advising him in "friendly but firm terms" that Norway's defense arrangements are none of Russia's business.



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