

Prairieland Talk

# Homemade Goods Once Flourished

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

LINCOLN—I do not know if Ed Hagensick is still operating his horn-weight manufacturing concern on North Fourth street where he turned out weights at one time to be attached to the horns of young bulls to cause the horns to grow on a downward slant. Maybe by now he has transplanted the activities to his home in the northeast section.

Among the home manufactured products that O'Neill has known, the hay-burners turned out by the McCafferty hardware — and also Brennan's — were the most numerous as well as being the most needed in homestead abodes in pioneer times.



Romain Saunders

Another factory of the days now gone, turning home products into "manufactured goods", was the creamery operated by H. M. Uttley that stood on lower Fourth street near the railroad. Uttley quit buttermaking to turn to the practice of law.

A little known local enterprise operated in a crude building facing the alley west of where outgoing and incoming buses now park on the north side of Douglas street was the "basket factory" conducted by an oldtimer by the name of Mitchell, an early day hotel proprietor. The baskets were made of willow twigs gathered down by the Elkhorn river, the bark peeled from the willow and then woven into baskets that held as much as the ordinary bushel basket. These baskets were strictly home products, as was Mr. Uttley's creamery butter.

The town had a cigar factory at one time, the patriotic proprietor turning out a brand of cigars he called Pride of O'Neill. But the great chieftain factory on the open prairie just west of town and the brickyard to the south of that were really going to put us on the map.

Money buys a loaf of bread, a pillow whereon to lay your head. Money buys a coat and cap to wear. It buys everything that is for sale while traveling down this mortal trail. Money does not buy the open air, the open sky or the white clouds floating by. It can not buy the glow of early dawn or the sunsets burnished gold. It can not buy the green of leaf or velvet gown upon the landscape all around. These are heaven's gifts within our reach each day for which we do not need to pay.

Bennet Martin continues to occupy the mayor's seat in Lincoln official circles. He was re-elected at the recent city election. The name Bennet Martin had an appeal to such as Prairieland Talker with memories of the Martins in O'Neill in the days now hung upon the scroll of the past. I voted for the luser, Pat Ash. That name Pat has its appeal—there were a lot of them in and around O'Neill. Ash came into Lincoln as an orphan boy, got work at the YMCA for meals and lodging, went to school and it is such as he that are needed in public service.

Editorial

## LB 140 in Close Squeak

State Sen. Frank Nelson's LB 140 very nearly upset the boat for State Engineer L. N. Ress and state highway advisory commission.

The background of LB 140, introduced by the lawmaker representing Holt, Boyd, Rock and Keya Paha counties, should be of interest.

The 1955 legislature adopted a grand highway plan for the state which dropped more than nine hundred miles of road state maintenance. The legislature, at the same time, added more than four hundred miles, leaving a net loss of more than four hundred miles (or, stated another way, turned over four hundred miles back to the respective counties for maintenance).

The effect on Holt was severe. Holt lost 45 miles of state-maintained highway in the shuffle, ie: O'Neill - Page - T'wing - Deloit, Stuart - Naper, Lynch south, Amelia spur.

It is no wonder Senator Nelson stubbornly battled the grand plan two years ago, because Holt, for example, wound up absorbing one-tenth of the total cutback in the state. He was one of a handful opposing the grand plan.

Even before the 1957 session of the legislature had convened, most of the senators who had favored the grand plan had made themselves part of delegations calling at the statehouse requesting one or more roads in their respective districts be restored to the state highway plan.

You might say many of the senators who supported the grand plan in the first place were shortsighted, or, reported another way. Senator Nelson was farsighted.

Whereupon Nelson entered LB 140, which would restore the Lynch-Page road to the state system (20 miles in Holt). The bill was doing all right until other senators saw an opportunity to amend it by tacking on their favorite stretch to appease voters back home.

While the state engineer's office was lopping off the four hundred miles, super plans for a super highway across the state were gaining impetus. Few of our people give a hoot for the super-duper schemes, and won't accept graciously the rejection of such bills as LB 140 (it was finally killed 20-19).

Some of the state senators who wear Harvard tweed and big horned-rimmed glasses would do well to counsel with Mr. Nelson while some of this legislation is in the making. Senator Nelson doesn't wear tweed and, without glasses, reads more into some of the grandiose plans than many of his colleagues.

### Ike's Speeches Miss Mark

President Eisenhower's television-radio appeal to the public in behalf of his 71-billion dollar budget failed to check the flood of mail pouring into Capitol Hill. Unprecedented numbers of letters are protesting the ponderous budget, and representatives and senators of both parties are being deluged.

Furthermore, both Majority Leader Sen. Lyndon Johnson (D-Tex.) and Minority Leader Sen. William F. Knowland (R-Calif.) favor deep cuts in the budget.

Nebraska's congressional delegation reported during the weekend the mail has been extremely

A lady of culture, a native of the great state of Illinois, who the past three years robed in silk-gowns has sat at a desk in our capital city. Back there in her native land of corn fields and crowded haunts of humanity she had heard of Nebraska as a desert land of prolonged rainless days. Dripping wet from the downpour outside I stepped into her office yesterday. Her queenly features were lighted with a smile—it is a raining! The lady had heard of wind blown fields out toward the continental divide, where the buffalo once roamed and the herds of the Two Bar X fattened on the native grass, where in late years deluded sons of the soil plowed up the world's best grazing lands, sowed wheat and wheat and dirt blew away when winds moaned across the land. So this is the Nebraska desert, the lady from beyond the Mississippi concluded. She and others such as she should roll across prairieland from Falls City to Chadron, from South Sioux City to McCook, through verdant fields of growing grain, across the miles of velvet-robed grass lands where prairie roses bloom, where the birds sing, the sly coyote is on the watch and the countless herds graze in this great beef state, the fellows on horseback up and down the cow trails; visit the villages and towns and open country where prairieland dwellers have found this "desertland" to be their Garden of Eden.

Mrs. Nellie Hunt, living at 51st and O streets, a mile or two north of my city abiding place, has been called to St. Louis, Mo., on account of the illness of her son, who has been laid up in a hospital some weeks. Mrs. Hunt, widow of the late Den Hunt, both of pioneer Holt county families, had planned to be in O'Neill for memorial day but instead was called to the Missouri city.

It was at the early sunset hour drawing to a close a stormy day in winter. A young man standing erect in a wagon drew the lines tight and said whoa! The team stood still in front of George Jones' livery stable where the "horseless carriages" have been available on East Douglas street. The young man climbed out of the wagon, unhitched the horses and stalled them in the barn. Another young fellow had arrived in O'Neill to start life in a pioneer community. That was 70 years ago; that young fellow was soon about the most popular guy in town, worked and in time became a leading business man of the community. Everybody knew and regarded Jess Mellor as a friend. He, too, came to the end of the trail, joined that endless caravan marching to the home of the dead.

High schools, colleges, universities have graduated another select lineup of young Americans. They now face the problems of life in an unfriendly world. Some may inscribe their name on the rolls of notoriety and others relax to enjoy the fun of the simple life content to win only a livelihood. Evangelist Billy Graham says his Yale and Harvard has been the Bible, the world's best seller of the millions of books published. And Graham has preached to throngs numbering more than 25,000,000. Abe Lincoln lay on the floor in the log cabin by the fireplace and read out of his one book. His Gettysburg speech stands yet today unmatched in all American oratory. There are not many Abe Lincolns.

heavy, the homefolks clamoring for cuts. Only a small fraction of the writers have tempered their feelings in the wake of Ike's appeal.

Champions for a reduced budget urge constituents to write their representatives, but to put more steam into letters going to the senators. They urge still more sting in letters going to the white house, which needs it more than ever.

Congresswoman St. George (R-N. Y.) recently referred to the spending ability of the two houses and offered this reference to the senate in her newsletter: "That is where the big spenders live and breathe."

Nebraska is blessed with two inherently conservative republican senators—Roman Hruska and Carl Curtis. But sometimes they are pressed by the white house and colleagues to go along on spending the proposals that are foreign to their prairie nature.

### Rain, Rain! Glorious Rain!

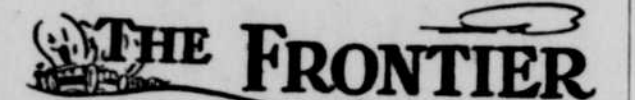
When the sun finally appeared early Tuesday after 10 glorious days of rain the country side wore an indescribable coat of green.

Seldom has the land been so well soaked at this season. Precipitation is far above normal and now the pent up energies of nature and man will stir as never before.

Four inches of rainfall thus far in May is worthy of better lines than these. The moisture has overcome the winter's deficiency, and the prospects for 1957 are indeed bright.

The proof of the pudding in this eastern-most bit of the great American desert lies in what the skies have to offer in July and August. Perhaps the drought that has scorched much of the countryside during the past three years, at long last, been broken.

Joe McCarthy wasn't such a bad guy after all—judging from eulogies that have been forthcoming. Seldom has our editorial work created more comment than did our kind words for Joe and his deeds which appeared last issue. To those who saw fit to express appreciation we offer our thanks. Until now those readers who felt differently about Joe have not been heard from.



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## Thomas Quilty, Wife End Wedding Trip

### To Live in House Vacated by Loys

50 Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Quilty returned from their honeymoon trip and will live in the house recently vacated by Ed Loy . . . Jack Raggert of Chambers recently returned from a hospital in Omaha "much improved" . . . Leon A. Van Hove of Bristow and Miss Claire Lansworth of Agee, daughter of P. J. Lansworth, applied for a marriage license; also Vencle Kozisek and Rosella Koplin, both of Atkinson, and David Leinhardt of Chambers and Martha Freilich of Atkinson . . . Jerry McCarthy died after a lingering illness . . . C. E. Stout has purchased the S. J. Weekes property in the northeast part of town . . . William Menish and Michael Welch, of Portland, Ore., formerly of O'Neill died.

20 Years Ago

The Connolly boys celebrated the 63d anniversary of the arrival of their father in O'Neill. Thomas Connolly and his wife were members of the original General John O'Neill colony that came to this city on May 12, 1874 and founded O'Neill . . . E. A. Steskal, living northwest of O'Neill, brought the scalps of 12 little coyotes to town. He dug them out of one hole on the Ed Earley farm . . . Little Harry Dwayne Fox, the 1 1/2-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fox of Meek, choked to death on a bean while he was being rushed to Norfolk . . . Little Sammy, son of E. E. Young, was missing from home. He was found with his Newfoundland dog, "Buster" . . . Mrs. Newton Carson of Redbird quietly celebrated her 85th

## Ewing News

birthday anniversary . . . The barn and granary on the John Sullivan place were destroyed by fire . . . Another fire gutted the \$100,000 Armour Creamery plant.

10 Years Ago

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Vitt celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary . . . The WSCS honored the following ladies, all over 70, at a sunset tea: Mrs. Frank Bowen Mrs. Addie Wrede, Mrs. F. H. Griffith, Mrs. Ella Carr, Mrs. Anna Connell, Mrs. Maggie Siders, Mrs. Peter Curtis, Mrs. L. G. Gillespie and Mrs. Sam Barnard . . . Andrew P. ("Pat") Wettlaufer, 3, of Page died after falling into scalding water at his farm home . . . Donna Mae Furber, an O'Neill farm girl who is completely paralyzed, received her eighth grade diploma. Her story was told over a nation wide broadcast by Ted Malone, radio's human interest reporter-philosopher . . . Mrs. Walter B. Pharris, 25, of Gregory, S. D., a former O'Neill resident, died . . . A family reunion was held at the Levi Clemens home in Amelia.

One Year Ago

Marcia Widman, an eighth grader from the Amelia school, won top honors with a 12.7 out of a 12.9 in county eighth examinations. Last year the winner was Rochelle Sammons, also from Amelia (district 228) . . . Dr. E. J. Bild, a physician for 53 years, died in his office at Page . . . Paul Baker, former O'Neill high school principal and coach, who is with Continental Oil Company, will have O'Neill as his sales operative headquarters . . . Raymond Barnard of Valley fell 40 feet from the courthouse roof while working . . . Clyde McKenzie, sr., of Lynch died . . . Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Serr, Boyd county pioneers, celebrated their 64th wedding anniversary at the James Minarik home in Ewing . . . Dennis ("Den") Hunt, 87, was fatally injured by a car in Lincoln.

Frontier Wants are Mighty!

Supt. L. M. Carter was a guest Thursday evening when Mrs. Carter and other teachers in the Page public school honored two other members of the faculty, Stanley Gross and George Austin, at a dinner at the Town House in O'Neill. Mrs. Gross was also a guest.

Mr. and Mrs. Merle Schilousky of Orchard attended the commencement exercises Friday evening at the school auditorium. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Tams of Clearwater came to Ewing Friday evening to attend the graduation exercises at the school auditorium. Their grandson, Robert Tams, Jr., was a member of the senior class.

Mr. and Mrs. George Garhart and children are weekend guests at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Cloyd. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Lee had as their guests the past week Mr. and Mrs. Louis Tomjack of Wyoming and Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Spes of Fremont.

Mother's day guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Latzel were their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Latzel, of Kilean, Tex., and Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Kresl of Crawford. The Kresls, also visited his parents at Weston. The Francis Latzels left on Monday for Omaha to visit relatives there.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Lee returned home Monday, May 13, from Dixon, where they had spent the weekend with their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Curly Sanders, and family. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Harold Brown and Merle Lee of Omaha.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kusek and children of David City were weekend guests at the home of her mother, Mrs. Hazel Kimes, and sons. They also attended the commencement exercises at the public school Friday evening. Mrs. Kusek's brother, Dean Kimes, was a member of the graduating class. Mr. and Mrs. Merle Alsinger

and children of Clearwater also attended the commencement and called at the Kimes home. Recent guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Kropp were Miss Dorothy Kropp of Norfolk. Mr. and Mrs. Mason Moiry and family of Stanton, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Kropp and family of New-castle.

The Young Matrons Pinochle club met Tuesday evening, May 14, at the home of Mrs. Rose Bauer. Mrs. Thomas Eacker was cohostess. Guests were Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wright, Mrs. Gene Ruby and Mrs. Lester Bergstrom. Mrs. Gail Boies won high score and Mrs. Ruby, low. Mrs. Kermit Jefferies received the traveling prize. Refreshments were served.

Mother's day guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bohn were their daughter and husband, Dr. and Mrs. Fred Prellwitz, and family of Kearney and Mr. and Mrs. Gail Boies of Ewing.

Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Smith of Caldwell, Ida., were overnight guests Monday, May 13, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Spence. Mrs. William Spence, worthy matron of the Jephthah chapter 83, Order of the Eastern Star, and Mrs. Sis Ebbengaard attended grand chapter at Lincoln.

Lyle Spence of Lincoln spent the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Spence. Guests at the home of Mrs. John Archer Friday afternoon were Lewis Miller of Lincoln and Mr. and Mrs. Mick McKay of Atkinson. Mr. Miller accompanied the McKays to their home where he spent the weekend. All attended the commencement exercises in the evening at Ewing.

Thirteen eighth graders receiving diplomas: Mary Ann Bauer, LeRoyce Blunt, Jerald Black, Bertha Harris, Leonora Tuttle, Anette Rotherham, Sharon Hobbs, Clifford Juracek, Karen Mnarik, Gene Daniels, Freddie Wright, Clifford Steskal and Jerry Tams. Supt. L. M. Carter presented the eighth grade diplomas and

awards. Leonora Tuttle received the top honors with a 12.9 rating; Anette Rotherham, second, 12.0 rating.

Jim H. Schmitz, of O'Neill, May 11, speeding night, fined \$35 and \$4 costs; officer—R. L. Gude.

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