

Prairie Land Talk—

Guys From North Shoot Up Town

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

LINCOLN—The following story sent me by Homer Campbell, 4831 35th st., SW, Seattle, Wash., will be of interest to Frontier readers and "ring a bell" for Henry Grady, Lloyd Gillespie and maybe others.

Homer writes: "It was not until after 1885-86 that O'Neill emerged from sporadic incidents reminiscent of the wild and woolly West. There was a Saturday night about that time I'll never forget, when a bunch of fellows from northeast of O'Neill came to town, got hilariously drunk, and shot up the north-and-south main street on departing. They did not long ride alone, however, for a posse, hurriedly organized rode in pursuit.



Romaine Saunders

"Nothing definite was known as to the personnel of the posse or the pursued; but from hearsay it is possible to reconstruct what happened as follows: Out four or five miles a thunderstorm broke, lightning revealing the fleeing celebrators a short distance ahead of the posse. A team-drawn buggy seemed to be having a hard time keeping up with the riders. Gunfire was cracking from both sides, when suddenly the exhausted team stopped, probably as the lines dropped from the fatally wounded driver's hands.

"In the early quiet of the following Sunday morning here is what I experienced: Curiosity as to a horseless buggy standing across the street from my father's restaurant (which would be in front of Sheriff Ed Hershiser's drug store and residence upstairs) exposed me to a shocking scene. The driver's body, having been brought in slumped upright in the single-seated buggy, a large hole showing in the center of his forehead, evidently from a bullet entering from behind.

"The previous night's storm of the elements had been more kindly than the storm men generate in themselves."

Cold, zero and below, snow covers our slice of earth with a blanket of white purity dotted with glittering diamonds the frost's cold hand spread across the land. Did you think to set out a dish of wheat or bread crumbs for the birds or throw out a bone for the coyote? The native life of prairie-land, the animals, the birds—shall they hunger and die? The prairie land wolf kills to eat — so does man. Toss the wolf a bone. Where does the pheasant, the prairie chicken find a morsel when the landscape is blanketed with snow? Can you spare them a few crumbs?

Steers fit for the slaughter \$34 per 100 pounds, \$340 for a 10 hundred pounder. A dollar a pound by the time a slice reaches your table. Pass the spuds! . . . A few million bread winners out of work—get out the WPA shovels. . . Another uprising in Cuba. Send down a Teddie Roosevelt with the Rough Riders. . . Doctor Decker down at the state house is in a dither over the way some of our schools are functioning. The schools are not turning out many Abe Lincolns, Edward Rosewaters, Judge Maxwells, William Jennings Bryans or Mike Harringtons. . . The bank down at Greeley was out of business after an attempted robbery until a lock expert came from Omaha and opened the vault. . . R. V. Graff was chosen as president of the '88 Blizzard club at its January meeting. He is also president of the Dodge county historical society.

Youth on the march for God. This was the headline over a story I did not read. But with the stories of juvenile rough necks pulling off their stuff it is inspiring to learn of youth throughout the land devoting their lives to better things. Not enough is said of the worthwhile activities of young America. Here they are in schools, colleges, universities, in cities, towns and rural communities, the youth, the young men and women who sense their responsibilities and are endeavoring to not only conduct themselves becomingly but to promote everything that contributes to the upbuilding of life's best interests. Come, fathers and mothers, let us go over into Macedonia and help the kids.

As this is written I look out of the window upon a winter scene, snow and lifeless things of nature, bush and tree reaching limb and twig skyward unadorned by leaf or bud. The day following when this may appear in print the door closes on prairie-land's coldest winter month. Then we step across into the traditionally windy month of March. And down the highway comes the 17th. St. Patrick's day. There was a time in the old town that you were not in good standing if you appeared in public without the green ribbon. My father was born on March 17 and my son, Romaine, has a birthday the 17th. Had I ever pretended to have a right to wear the green in the presence of a thoroughbred from the Emerald Isle would probably get one on the jaw as Nigger Jim did when he said to that thoroughbred Tom Mulen, "You know, Tom, I am part Irish."

There glows at night a thousand dots of light; but from morn 'til evening there shines but one, and the light of the bright world passes away with the setting sun. A thousand thoughts clutter the human mind but the heart throbs with just one; and if that throbbing of her dies out your fun is done. . . Lives of our leaders oft remind us we can strut a little too, and departing leave behind us best wishes for all of you.

When You & I Were Young . . . Stafford's 'Cattle King' Is Visitor

John Carr Makes O'Neill Rounds

50 Years Ago
John Carr, the Stafford "cattle king" was in the city and included a stop at The Frontier while making his rounds. . . T. V. Golden purchased R. E. Hall's interest in the lots on the corner of Fourth and Douglas streets and stands ready to build a commodious brick hotel. . . John L. Sullivan passed his examination and is a full-fledged pharmacist. . . Those renewing their subscriptions from last week's list are: A. Baker of Cheyenne, Wyo.; J. S. Walker of Page; Orville Harrison and A. L. Rouse of Blackbird; Dan D. Harrington, Ben Johring, Dennis Murphy and A. J. Hammond, all of O'Neill; C. T. Simmons of Agee; H. Shank, First National bank and William Krotter, all of Stuart; J. Beaver of Leone; G. F. Cole of Emmet; C. J. Gilligan of Sioux City; T. P. Mullen of Butte, Mont.; H. A. Allen of Atkinson; R. W. McGinnis of Lincoln. . . Marriage licenses were granted to William Cuddy and Margaret Kane, both of Emmet, and James L. Talbot of Ericson and Nellie E. Perrine of Leslie.

20 Years Ago
Mrs. O. F. Biglin was guest-honor at a party celebrating her 79th birthday anniversary. She has lived in O'Neill nearly 80 years and has a remarkable memory. . . Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Harnish celebrated their 52nd wedding anniversary. . . Mr. and Mrs. D. N. Loy celebrated their 31st wedding anniversary. . . Deaths: Fred E. Harrison of Norfolk and Mrs. Della J. Handlan of Portland, Ore., both former Holt county residents. . . Miss Nellie Toy has been promoted to superintendent of the Herman public schools. . . A son-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Carter, Vance R. Begthol of Kearney, a newspaper editor and publisher, died. He had been on the staff of Herald-Tribune of New York City and had served in their Paris office before purchasing the Platte Valley Weekly Tribune of Kearney.

10 Years Ago
Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Black of Ewing became the parents of a son-in-law of Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Carter, Vance R. Begthol of Kearney, a newspaper editor and publisher, died. He had been on the staff of Herald-Tribune of New York City and had served in their Paris office before purchasing the Platte Valley Weekly Tribune of Kearney.

Extension Club Hears Book Report

PAGE—The Page extension clubs met for their February lesson on "Life Insurance". Mrs. Dan Troshynski was the Page Extension club leader at the home of Mrs. Jesse Kelly Tuesday afternoon, February 18. The sum of \$1 each was voted for the polio, heart and cancer drives in progress during January, February and March. Mrs. Kelly gave a book report on "A Blue for Illi". The March lesson on "Soups" will be given at the home of Mrs. Harry Harper. Mrs. Kelly served lunch. The Golden Rule extension club members were guests of Mrs. R. V. Crumly Tuesday, February 18, with Mrs. Melvin Held lesson leader. Mrs. Harold Freemyer and Mrs. Calvin Harvey were absentee members. Mrs. Don Nissen was the winner of the guessing game prize. The lesson on "Soups" will be given at the home of Mrs. Joe Belear March 18 by Mesdames Lornz Riege and R. V. Crumly. A donation of \$2 was made for the heart fund when the members of the East Side Kountry Klub were Wednesday, February 19, guests of Mrs. Norman Trowbridge for an afternoon devoted to the study of Life Insurance led by Mrs. Dale Stauffer. Mrs. William Hock will conduct the March lesson on sewing featuring the zipper closing and the proper method of making a blouse when the members will be guests of Mrs. Frank Cronk March 18.

Mrs. Mabel Simon of Owanka, S.D., was a Saturday evening guest of Mr. and Mrs. Arlo Hiatt.

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Exchange Vows at Elgin

Miss Doris Childers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Childers of Elgin, and Michael London, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael F. London of O'Neill, were married Monday, February 17, at St. Boniface Catholic church in Elgin by Rev. Theodore Buel. —Westland Studio, (Neligh).

Rural Boards Adopt Holt Resolutions

The Nebraska Rural School Boards association held its annual meeting in Broken Bow Wednesday, February 19. Attendance was less than in previous years. There were 16 registered from Holt county. Charles Reece of Valentine was elected vice-president for a three-year term succeeding Otto Ulrich of Winslow, who is retiring. It was voted to continue membership in the Nebraska Council for Better Education. Alliance was chosen as the 1959 meeting place the first week in February. The Holt delegation submitted its resolutions, adopted earlier at O'Neill. Holt resolutions that became a part of the state resolutions include: That the head of the state education department be an elected official; That redistricting of rural school districts be voluntary; That the association be opposed to the dissolution of school districts that have been inactive for one year; That the association be opposed

to any raise in teacher certification requirements. "There were widely diversified problems confronting the convention," according to Mrs. Lloyd Whaley of O'Neill, who is treasurer of the Holt association and was one of the delegates. "Subjects like a state sales tax and redistricting had the effect of an exploding bomb. "Some groups felt a broader tax base is needed to maintain schools", she reported. Charles Reece of Valentine proposed a sales tax resolution, declaring: "It is the fairest tax one that everyone would be helping to pay." Reece said the sales tax would be a replacement tax—taking the state out of the real estate tax picture. Schools, he said, would acquire the surplus. The Holt delegation questioned the advisability of a state sales tax and pointed out real estate at present is providing a satisfactory base for school operations. The Holt group also raised the possibility there might not be a surplus from a sales tax in difficult economic conditions. The Holt group insisted a specific amount be earmarked for schools in the resolutions con-

cerning a state sales tax. But the body adopted Reece's resolution without the earmarking. Several spokesmen took stands against forced redistricting, declaring state officials in Lincoln could not comprehend the rural road problems, distances involved and other pitfalls in wholesale redistricting. "It takes more than redistricting to help our children develop into the kind of leaders and citizens America is needing in the years ahead," declared a Holt delegate. In submitting a report to Holt counts, the four delegates in a prepared statement said: "We attempted to stand for the things we felt the people back home desired."

Mrs. E. E. Gaskill and Mardell spent Sunday at Axel Borgs.

Ray Lawrence

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FROM THE LABORATORIES OF NIAGARA CHEMICAL DIVISION

Editorial—

Grain Tax Snafu?

On March 1, the county assessors of Nebraska and the precinct assessors are supposed to start out to make the new Nebraska grain tax assessment law work.

Here is the problem faced by assessors:

- (1) Landlords pay no tax even though they may have four or five big, fat rings of corn sitting on the farm.
- (2) Tenants pay 40 cents per 100 bushels for every kernel of corn raised on a farm . . . incidently, the same is true for wheat and soybeans.
- (3) Corn cut for silage is not taxed.
- (4) If you are a tenant and both you and the landlord sold your corn before March 1 . . . the tenant still has to pay taxes at 40 cents per 100 bushels for all corn sold out of the 1957 crop.
- (5) You can have 5,000 bushels of corn on your farm the day the assessor drives up and if you bought this corn to feed cattle you pay "no tax".

- (6) If the tenant and his family eat roasting ears out of the field, then theoretically the tenant should pay a tax on this corn produced.
- (7) If the landlord and his family enjoyed roasting ears, then the tenant should pay the tax on the corn consumed by the land lord.
- (8) If you raised 5,000 bushels of corn and fed it to your cattle . . . then you owe a tax on the corn in the cattle plus a tax on the cattle.



CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

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Farmer-Rancher Night

O'Neill Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring this night to enable their members to meet and enjoy an evening of entertainment with their Farmer Rancher Friends.

Thursday, March 6

Free Lunch & Coffee Starting 7 P. M.
AMERICAN LEGION AUDITORIUM — O'NEILL

Entertainment follows:

PHIL HENDERSON, Farm Management Specialist, Extension Service, College of Agriculture, Lincoln, also a farmer and livestock man.
TOPIC: Relations between Farm and Town People.

WALTER BEHLEN, President of Behlen Construction Co., Columbus, Nebr.
TOPIC: The Atomic Age and Colored Slides of Nevada Atomic Tests

MUSICAL NUMBERS: by members of O'Neill Schools.

Plan to Attend

And Be Guests of
O'Neill Chamber of Commerce

Free Door Prizes!

(No resident of City of O'Neill eligible.)

MAIL TO: Virgil Laursen
Chrm. Eats Committee
O'Neill, Nebraska

() I plan on attending Farmer-Rancher Night—
March 6th.

(Name) _____

(Address) _____

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