

Prairieland Talk—

July Morn on Prairieland!

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

LINCOLN—A July morning. It is inspiring to step out into the open as that bright orb of day first appears above the eastern horizon, turn your eyes to the west and behold the beauty of the blue canopy of heaven spread above green-robed prairieland.



Romaine Saunders

At early morning the sky is bathed in rich blue and the rising sun touches the green of earth with silken glow. The blue and the green, nature's colorful adornment. The floral bloom of spring now faded, the morning glories at dawn of a summer's day tinted with the bright blue that also spreads across the morning sky, and the leaf of lordly cottonwoods lift their silken green to the blue above.

A July morning on prairieland!

Speaking of doing a landoffice business, The Frontier of July 12, 1900, said that Register Weekes and Receiver Jenness of the U.S. land office reported receipts for the year to be \$87,750. . . . The Holt GOP's met at Dickson's office an evening in July that year and stirred up the political pot and got it to boiling by organizing a McKinley & Roosevelt club. . . . Bat Sullivan, while shelling corn at Jerry Kelley's place northeast of town, had one hand badly injured when caught in the sheller. Brought into town and upon examination, Dr. J. P. Gilligan deemed it necessary to amputate three fingers. . . . Judge E. J. Doyle and wife of Grand Rapids, Mich., were in O'Neill visiting at the home of his brother, D. A. Doyle. . . . Mrs. D. H. Cronin and children were visiting Mrs. Cronin's relatives in Randolph.

That little gal involved in the Starkweather crimes must stand a district court trial on murder charges. Poor kid—missed it so early in life. Train up a child in the way it should go and when old he will not depart from it.

Among the files of several state newspapers that the Nebraska State Historical society has microfilmed, The Frontier is listed, including all from 1901 to 1956. A stack of The Frontiers—five feet high—will be given to anyone desiring them, or they will be disposed of in some way. There may be citizens of O'Neill or in the county who would like to have that stack of papers telling of the affairs of the community for more than 50 years. If so, they should so notify the State Historical Society, 15th and R sts., Lincoln; then come to Lincoln prepared to take away a five-foot stack of papers bearing the brand of The Frontier.

As I think of the many thousands of care-incumbered men, of the cities and nations that have risen and fallen, why grunt around with a toothache? Go see doc and have it pulled.

Editorial—

Iowan Offers Words of Wisdom

A Spencer, Ia., department store owner, in addressing a Minnesota city's Chamber of Commerce, made this observation which bears repeating:

Merchants within a town or city are not competing with each other but with shopping centers in other nearby cities. And thus it is of utmost importance that all businessmen, competitors and others, work in harmony for the purpose of enticing the maximum amount of business from their own trade area.

"When that can be achieved 100 percent, then your town will be 'on the map' not through any promotion of gimmick but through a spirit of cooperation that will help to make that town the best in which to buy."

The Frontier editor wishes to add a remark or two of his own to the above words of wisdom uttered by the Iowan.

A closely-knit community of businessmen is bound together by an active Chamber of Commerce. One cannot function without the other. What's the situation in O'Neill?

Too often the Chamber of Commerce receives only token support from many of the businessmen. The number of card-carrying members is about half what it should be. A few of the officers are burdened with work and after completing their term of office vow "never again" to serve the organization. Others, trying to do a conscientious job as officers, find their business imperiled as a result of their service in the field of community endeavor.

This, generally, is the picture in anybody's town. In part it is a sign of the times when high taxes and intense competition are sufficient reason to hew to the line.

If a Chamber of Commerce is to function to its utmost efficiency and the business fraternity of our city (or any city) is going to move ahead in respect to other shopping centers and other centers of professional, wholesale and trade services, there will have to be harmony and cooperation. And more than 15 or 20 should attend the meetings of the civic body where policy is formulated.

Great Era of Goof-Offs

What is wrong with modern America, especially as concerns the current business recession, was summed up in rather dramatic terms the other day by the head of a large advertising agency, who finds that mediocrity of salesmanship (his chief concern) is only part of the national inclination to seek the easy way and be willing to settle for something less than the best, according to the Omaha Daily Journal-Stockman.

"For this, in America," he said, "is the high tide of mediocrity, the great era of the goof-off. The land has been enjoying a stampede away from responsibility.

"It (America) is populated with laundymen who won't iron shirts, with waiters who won't serve, with carpenters who will come around some day maybe, with executives whose minds are on the golf course, with spiritual delinquents of all kinds who have been triumphantly determined to enjoy

One a native of New York who had spent much of his life in Colorado; another a native of Denmark, now bowed under the cares of life for more than 90 years, wrinkled, hair snow white; another born in Alabama, a charming lady now serving as editor of a group publication; another a native of Kansas whose life span of 70 years traveled the Dakotas; still another I saw today, a native of England, walked the streets of London, visited Wales, Ireland, Canada and told us the history of these lands from the time Caesar's Roman legions ran into a stone wall and met defeat at the hands of rock-throwing, club-swinging Welchmen, on down to date. Now here they are, Nebraskans all, and the foreign-born looking with pride and reverence on the stars and stripes as the flag of their adopted country.

His name is Shoemaker. Not one of the family at O'Neill by that name. Born south of Lincoln in Gage county, now at the home of his parents on a 200-acre farm in Lancaster county north of Lincoln and manages the plantation of corn and wheat, corn "laid by" and wheat harvested the first week in July, a "bumper" crop. And they have 100 head of cattle, a sizeable herd for any part of prairieland corn belt. Just another of our state's industrious, intelligent law-abiding and church-going young citizens whose formal education ended he told me with the eighth grade. Such as he all across our great state that fills the bread baskets of town and city dwellers, lives a contented life in the open and pays tax on all his holdings.

I have just read a column of "O'Neill News". The name of only one native of the old town appears in that column. Where are the others—the Brennans, Manns, Dicksons, McCaffertys, Bentleys, Merediths, Martins? All are gone or just don't make "news". And from whence spring the newcomers? Why anchor where Gen. John O'Neill came to a halt when traveling prairieland in search of a homestead for his colony? The strangers to such as Prairieland Talker are here for the same reason the pioneers were, to establish homes. And where would you find a more cordial community in which to hang up your hat?

The Hand that paints the gold of sunset is the Hand that points out the way from which I hope never more to stray.

The Pinkermans, the Hulls, the Mellors, out there in the Redbird community, names and people surviving the days of Doc Middleton, Kid Wade, the Dutchers and the vigilantes—the days when it took courage to face what might come up out of the gulches any day. The pioneers met it in the spirit of those of the frontier times and their sons and daughters now carry on in one of the most delightful communities of prairieland, the God-fearing, industrious citizens of the Redbird.

John locked his door, drove from Lincoln to Minneapolis to spend the Fourth with his mother. Give us more Johns!

what was known until the present crisis at 'the new leisure'.

"We may lack a few of the refinements of Rome's decadence, but we do have the two-hour lunch, the three-day weekend and the all-day coffee break. And, if you want to, you can buy for \$275 a jeweled pillbox with a built-in musical alarm that reminds you—but not too harshly—that it's time to take your tranquilizer."

What this generation of Americans needs to learn, then, is that work itself is honorable and fun, and that the only real reward life offers is the thrill of achievement—using one's God-given talents, standing on one's own two feet, doing something useful and enjoying it. Individually, the "goof-off" is nothing new to this country, but when an entire people lean toward the goof-off's habits and outlook, deterioration and decay are already well advanced.

Parallel for the Books

There is an interesting parallel in the reports of two different agencies following the Nebraska supreme court's July 3 rulings.

Following a decision favoring Chicago & North Western railroad in an appeal from the state railway commission, the railroad officials summarily discontinued the last two passenger trains serving north Nebraska. The road did not wait for the 20-day lapse for a mandate from the high court to the commission. The rail barons thumbed their nose at a state railway commission directive which insisted the trains be kept on pending the final order from the commission.

Also on July 3 the high court held that Carl Fugate of the famed Starkweather murder spree is to be tried in Lancaster district court, the mandate to Lancaster county officials would follow, and the high court ordered Fugate to be tried in October.

If Lancaster County Attorney Elmer Scheele, the prosecuting attorney, behaved as did the North Western legal chiefs and thumbed his nose at rules of the high court, he would have during last week trundled young Fugate into any court handy and proceeded to try the kid.

Never brag about something you expect to do. Wait until it is accomplished and then let others pass judgment on it.



CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

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When You & I Were Young . . . Judge Harrington's 'Diamond' Is Winner

Outperforms Spokane and Wise On

50 Years Ago
A crowd of 1,500 persons attended the Fourth of July races and other sports at fair grounds, Diamond, owned and driven by Judge Harrington; Spokane, owned and driven by William Froelich; and Wise On, owned and driven by J. B. Mellor, were entered in the driving race. Diamond won the first heat, Spokane, the second, and Diamond, the third and the race. Spokane came in second and Wise On, third. The free-for-all was won by Pat K., owned and driven by Dave Stannard; Spokane was second. Tom Nolan took first money in the 100-yard foot race with Herb Hammond, second. Jim Harding was first in the boys' race and Donald Gallagher was second. Charles Peterson carried off first money in the fat men's race. In the dog race, Will Gatz owned and drove the dog that won, Jim Weeks was second and Jim Harding, third.

The tug-of-war was won by Grattan township under Tom Coyne over Rock Falls captained by Thomas Gallagher. The ball game between the O'Neill Pick-ups and the Peelters was a comedy of errors. The Peelters won the battery for the Peelters and Ryan and Messner performed for the Pickups. . . . J. P. Gallagher purchased a half-page ad on the front page to tell of his "big murder" on summer fabrics and other items. Children's oxfords are selling for 50 cents per pair; all calicoes, 5 cents per yard; buck combs are reduced 50 percent. . . . Pat Connolly and Miss Sallie Slattery were married in Omaha.

20 Years Ago
Water rates were reduced because of the abundance of water. For the months of July, August and September for lawn and garden purposes, the rates will be: First 10,000 gallons at 30 cents; \$2.00; all over that a 10 cents per 1,000 gallons. . . . Romaine Saunders write in "Southwest Breezes": Black Beetles have been ruinous to potato patches, in some instances making a complete cleaning of the vines. The only way found thus far to get rid of them is to "smash the infernal juice out of them". . . . Death: Mrs. Seth M. Adridge, 79, of Anoka, a resident of Holt from 1883 until recent years. She and her husband came to Nebraska in a covered wagon.

10 Years Ago
Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Thorson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. . . . Joseph Brinker, 61, of Butte suffered a heart attack while working in the hard vest fields. . . . Vernie VanConnett, 68, of Pago miraculously escaped drowning in a one-car accident. His car hit a windrow of oil mat on U. S. highway 275 west of Norfolk and dived into a water hole. His only injury was a thumb scratch. He crawled from a window of the water-filled car.

One Year Ago
Deaths: J. Victor Johnson, 83, a longtime Holt resident and a na-

tive of Sweden; Mrs. Fay, Doty, 17, who died at a Yankton, S. D., hospital. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Clarence J. Dobbins of Page quietly celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. . . . A fund for Alva Parks, of Deloit, a one-armed farmer and rancher, and father of eight children, was launched by friends for rehabilitation purposes.

Returns from Speech Session in Pittsburg

LYNCH—Miss Grace Mannen of Lynch returned last week from Pittsburg, Pa., where she presented a paper at the 68th meeting of the Alexander Graham Bell Speech association for the deaf.

Delegates were in attendance from Australia, Canada, India, Brazil and the Netherlands, as well as the United States.

Miss Mannen who has been supervisor of speech and auditory training at the Nebraska School for the Deaf in Omaha will teach at the Lutheran School for the Deaf in Detroit this coming year.

Liquor Commission Dismisses Charges

The state liquor control commission has dismissed charges filed against three wholesale beer distributors who allegedly sold beer to retail licensees who had delinquent licenses.

The charges were dismissed against Jessie Marie Gatz of O'Neill, and Alfred and Wilma McCollister, doing business as Valentine Beverage Co., of Valentine, for lack of sufficient evidence to sustain the charges.

Christine Herley celebrated her 12th birthday anniversary, July 4. Dinner guests were Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Gillespie and family.



Veteran Lawyer

H. E. Donohoe (above), a native of O'Neill, was one of seven Lewis county, Washington, lawyers honored last week for having completed 50 years or more in the practice of law. The banquet, sponsored by the Lewis County Bar association, was held at the St. Helens hotel at Chehalis where Mr. Donohoe practices law. Five of the state's nine supreme court justices were present and three retired judges of the Washington high court. Mr. Donohoe was born and reared northeast of O'Neill. He is a brother of T. J. and P. C. Donohoe, both of O'Neill; Mrs. Mary MacLeod of O'Neill; Mrs. George Agnes and Mrs. Ben Grady, both of Norfolk, and Eugene of Detroit, Mich.—The Frontier Photo.

Boelter Clan in Annual Reunion

STAR—The descendants of the late Ernest and Mary Boelter held their annual reunion Sunday at the park in Verdigré. A picnic dinner was held at noon. The afternoon was spent visiting, taking and viewing pictures, pitching horseshoe and playing cards.

Those present for the occasion were: Mr. and Mrs. Roy Boelter and family; Leonard Boelter and children; Mr. and Mrs. John Leiding; Mr. and Mrs. Boyd Boelter and family; Mr. and Mrs. Reno Boelter and family; Mr. and Mrs. Albert Boelter and Merle; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Boelter and Jim; Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Boelter and family; Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Waring and Arlee; Mr. and Mrs. Ewart Miller and Barbara; Joe Boelter; Mrs. Hattie Boelter; Miss Irma Juracek, Mrs. Roy Sivesind.

The 1959 reunion will be held the second Sunday in July at the Verdigré park.

Other Star News

Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert Wilham and family and Mr. and Mrs. Vince Cunningham and family had supper Saturday evening with Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Johnson and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Vince Cunningham and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Herb Price and family at Lynch. Mr. Cunningham and Mrs. Price are cousins.

Mrs. Hattie Boelter was honored on her 72 birthday anniversary at the home of her daughter Mrs. Gerald Waring, and family Monday evening, July 14.

Bill Hibbs, accompanied by his

mother, Mrs. Arthur Hibbs, attended the funeral services of a relative in Lincoln Wednesday, June 9. They were accompanied by Mrs. Ray Siders who visited her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Russel, and family in Lincoln. They returned home Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Vince Cunningham and Kay and Barbara Miller returned home Friday night after spending three days in the Black Hills.

Mr. and Mrs. Arnold Miller were also guests at the Ewart Miller home for the birthday anniversary supper for Sharon Cunningham Tuesday, June 30.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Sholes were in Omaha last week where Mr. Sholes received medical attention.

The Star Get-together club was postponed last week and will be held this week with Mrs. Roland Miller as hostess.

Miss Strobe Is Leaving for Haiti

EWING—Miss Leora Strobe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Strobe of Orchard and niece of Mrs. Andrew Olson of Ewing, left Sioux City by plane Tuesday, July 8, for Haiti where she goes as a medical missionary.

She has spent several years in preparation for this work. For the past year she has done nursing at the Antelope Memorial hospital at Neligh and is known by several in Ewing who have been patients.

Miss Strobe plans to be gone for three years.

Ewing News

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Larsen entertained the following guests Friday: Mrs. Aletha Haspenplugg of Pierce, a niece, who was accompanied by her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bunge and son of Massachusetts; Mrs. Mae Pruden and her daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kirkpatrick, and three sons of O'Neill.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Gunter accompanied their daughter and husband, Mr. and Mrs. David Barton to visit Wednesday, July 9, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Graver, who live 10 miles south of Long Pine.

Guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Irwin Cloyd on Sunday were her parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Zimmerman of Plainview and Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Brokaw and family of Norfolk.

Mr. and Mrs. Claus Sievers of Gillette, Wyo., are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Everett Ruby, Hazel Ruby and Elsie Chase.

Misses Mary Catherine Carr and Judy Wanser of Omaha accompanied Mr. and Mrs. John Dierks of Nebraska City to Ewing Sunday to spend the day with relatives.

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