

Prairieland Talk—

Mathews, King in Great Storm

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

LINCOLN—It was the morning of January 12, 1888—71 years ago. Doc Mathews, founder of The Frontier and its first editor and publisher, was in company with Clyde King, a young printer employed by Mathews who at the time published The Free Press that was printed in the basement of the Holt County Bank building which still stands at Fourth and Douglas sts. (King later became the brilliant editorial writer for The Frontier).



Romaine Saunders

After a night spent in Chambers that morning—71 years ago—they were headed for O'Neill and home.

When they had reached Dry Creek that winter hurricane that old Bates christened a blizzard enveloped them in a cloud of snow. Mathews remained in the buggy while young King got out to walk ahead of the horses and keep them in the road. In the cloud of snow and a wild wind blowing they lost their way and found themselves at a settler's cattle shed; holed up with the cows and lived out the blizzard, arriving in O'Neill by noon the next day.

Clyde King lies in the abode of the dead just beyond the northwest limits of O'Neill. The last we heard from Mathews was in 1931. Then an old man, he was living down in Arkansas. He, too, now lies under the sod, his life's record written in the courts above.

O destiny! What big and little experiences make up our lives! So writes an 88-year-old friend out at Seattle, Wash., a pioneer kid on the prairies of Holt county in the long ago. And then adds: I have tasted the dregs of poverty and privation; picked up a smattering of learning between seasons of uncertainty—all the while gaining in experience and bits of wisdom and thank God for helping me along the way! Yes, Homer, you have traveled life's rugged highway from boyhood here in O'Neill, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Campbell, pioneers on prairie-land. You as well as many other boys and girls of the long ago met the problems of life with courage and fortitude, surviving privation and have reached the golden years of life conscious of a Guiding Hand over it all times of want, times of plenty, times of discouragement and in the end a life of victory.

The headline writer who adorns this department in 24-point type had it that it was "40 below once in Holt county." But the story of being out in 40 below weather was telling of weather conditions in a county to the south of Holt. Up here at O'Neill that day more than 40 years ago it may have been 50 below.

Following a week of shirtsleeve weather, the 20th found the Capital City citizens out shoveling snow, the third visit of Arctic weather up to date.

Editorial—

Leahy's Homecoming

A native O'Neillite returned to make a belated homecoming appearance.

Francis William Leahy, best-known as Frank Leahy, Monday evening spoke to 125 persons at a homecoming banquet held in his honor and arranged by The Frontier and radio station KBRX.

It was readily apparent to his listeners that here was a high-type gentleman who would have met a great measure of success in any chosen field. Leahy left O'Neill as an infant. He was reared at Winner, S.D., and became a highly regarded athlete at Notre Dame university. He pursued football coaching as a profession and hit the big time at Boston college at Boston, Mass.

His alma mater beckoned and, except for a stint in the navy during World War II, Leahy directed Notre Dame football teams for many years—establishing an all-time, unexcelled record in major collegiate competition.

Unmistakably Irish about the eyes and with finesse and polish of an eminently successful professional man, Leahy recounted O'Neill experiences in occasional visits—including a Fourth of July appearance in a prizefight ring in the Seth Noble lumber yard in 1925.

For more than a half hour he fielded questions from the floor. These were questions that involved his beloved school (where he resigned from coaching in 1953), comparisons between college and professional football, and quizzes concerning personal athletic history.

But the high point of his homecoming informal talk involved discipline.

Leahy said that discipline is the cardinal factor in educating a student or training an athlete.

He also stated that colleges in their quest for athletes frequently performed an injustice to the athlete by smothering them with kindness. Too much generosity and kindness tend to destroy a good student of a good athlete, he declared.

The former O'Neillite paid high tribute to his older brother, Gene, who was in the audience. Gene now resides at Rushville and sacrificed a plenty in order that Frank might obtain a college education. Frank's words in behalf of his gray-haired brother were sweet evidence of undying affection.

Leahy, now 50, soon will be moving his family from Michigan City, Ind., to Denver, Colo. He is now a public relations man for the Hamilton Oil company of Denver.

O'Neillites present at Monday's banquet are fervently hopeful the "old professor" will not permit one hundred semesters to elapse before he makes a return visit . . . and another public appearance.

Human Race Endures

Practically every speaker, including those on the air and behind the pulpit, and many of our columnists, are very busy advertising the crises at hand for humanity. "This is the day of great decisions," they assert, almost in unison, and upon the decisions we make, they say, rests the hope of humanity for years to come. The general idea seems to be to excite the emotions of readers and listeners and thus persuade them to "unselfish action," which, it is suspected, they will not accept on the basis of intelligent argument.

While the people of the world do face great difficulties at the present time, there is no reason to believe that they are insurmountable or that they are unsurpassed in magnitude. Nearly every generation has heard the same argument advanced, as men and women battle for aims. It may be encouraging to note that, so far, the human race has refused to commit suicide. It evidently possesses greater stability than some of its members would believe. Modern civilization, despite crises—real and imaginary—continues to proceed

Recently, I grasped the capable hand of Sen. Frank Nelson, on the job again at the legislative chamber at the statehouse. Not the problems of state took our attention but the warm hearted touch of two prairie-land gents that know what life is on the open prairies of Nebraska. Then Sen. Fern Hubbard Orme left her desk and came down the un-seated way to extend a polished lady's hand, sat down beside me and she too cast away cares of official life and was once more the charming maiden we had known in O'Neill. It brings a glow of pleasure to meet thus and have social contact. And they are devoted to their duties as our representatives in the state senate. Many bills have so far been introduced that are to be acted upon and it is safe to say both Senator Frank and Senator Fern know what to support and what to oppose. I drifted from the senate chamber into the governor's quarters, but the governor was out to meet some speaking appointments. His representatives at their desks are friendly and invite you to come again as you pick up your hat to go.

It was a week in January, 1902—O'Neill land men were said to be doing a large business. Attorney R. R. Dickson had business to attend to that called him to Atkinson. . . Miss Anna Barrett of the Dustin community visited in O'Neill, the guest of Miss Ada Mills. . . Mrs. C. E. Hall entertained a few lady friends at her home. County Attorney Arthur Mullen was at Atkinson on legal business. . . Miss Flo Bentley was back in O'Neill from a seige of holding down a claim in Boyd county. . . Clyde King was out from Moline, Ill., visiting his friends here. . . H. O. Jackson made a business trip to Casper, Wyo., accompanied by Mrs. Jackson.

Clergymen of the Methodist church report a membership in the United States of nine and a half million, and an additional one and a half million children with adults preparing for membership. It is reported also that of the members of congress with church connections the Methodists are in the majority, Catholics in second place. The two church groups pioneered in the O'Neill community. All who knew them can recall that Rev. Bartley Blaine of the Methodist church and Father Smith, pastor of the Catholic church up on the hill, were not here for the money there was in it but for what good they could do.

A little lady, the mother of four boys is in trouble. An abusive husband she found it necessary to divorce has the boys and they want to be with their mother. She works hard to sustain herself and has by court order her boys with her one day a week. Now the father proposes to send the boys to his mother's home in a distant state where they will not see their mother. She has been advised to go to court and ask for an order restraining the father from carrying out his designs.

throughout the earth and men and women progress toward the goal of better human beings.

Wanted: Constructive Light

Most of us are inclined to admire those who have strong convictions on the day's major issues. The man who freely and vigorously argues all the major topics, knowing correct solutions to them all, passes in some people's eyes as a great leader. Quite often the one who listens and says little, and qualifies most of what he says is considered a bit slow from the mark.

The politician, of course, must take a stand on almost everything. It would never do for him to say he didn't know about this or that, or thought there was a good argument on both sides of this or that question. A certain percentage of his admirers want him to take the lead, to espouse one strong conviction. And that he usually does, and in doing so, carries with him those who place their faith in him. Often, too, he knows it is almost mandatory for him to take a strong stand on certain issues—because his constituents demand it.

We might consider a bit more these days the man who seldom knows all the answers to the great questions of the day, but who can consistently discuss both sides, and shed a constructive light on most conversations.

Seaton For Hawaii (The Lincoln Star)

It was especially gratifying to the great number of Nebraskans that Interior Secretary Fred A. Seaton appeared before the house interior affairs committee to make a strong case for Hawaiian statehood. Secretary Seaton's forthright advocacy could be the telling punch. In any event the character of it scotched the diversionary arguments which have been effective too often in the past. One of these was the unfounded fear that communism somehow would make a stealthy entrance into the United States via the beach at Waikiki. The recorded fact is that Hawaii has pounded the commies harder than the homeland has; has stronger provisions against them in its constitution than does the mainland. Seaton dealt also with the question of Hawaii's economic and cultural preparation for statehood. He noted that Hawaii has been preparing for 59 years which is a good deal longer time than was required of most states; that it has a population of 635,000 which exceeds that of six of the states. It is also noteworthy that Hawaii participated physically in behalf of the United States in war and acquitted itself in a fashion that would do honor to any state.

Often the tragedy of old age is found in the stubborn refusal of modern business to give an old man a chance to work.



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When You and I were Young . . .

Peterson Bags 18 Skunks in One Den

This Report Is Not Fish Story

50 Years Ago Married: Miss Zorella Dell Mulhlan and William H. DeWitt; Miss Mame O'Malley and Bill Wilson; Laurenda E. Buffington of Deloit and Fred W. Liddy of Clearwater and Miss Katie Erb and John E. Beller. . . Fish stories are out of season, but Charley Peterson has a skunk story that will last until the man with the rod can get to the lakes again. He raided a den of the odorous creatures west of town and tells friends that he captured 18. . . Engaged: Miss Pauline Day of Springfield, Mass., and Lt. Charles Andrew Meals, Lt. Meals is a brother of Mrs. Romaine Saunders. . . William B. Bied died of cancer.

20 Years Ago A second installment of a history of Holt county appears in The Frontier. . . A supply of machine was taken from Reardon Brothers' drug store. . . The J. B. Mellor Motor company was sold to Henry Lohaus of Omaha. . . Mrs. G. W. Cherry of Denver, Colo., who has been a reader of The Frontier for 26 years, is always one of the first subscribers to renew her subscription in January. . . No coyotes were killed in the hunt in the Red Bird locality. . . Mr. and Mrs. Harry Lansworth entertained 50 neighbors at a card party at their home. . . O'Neill high school defeated Atkinson high school 18 to 15. . . Miss Eileen Davidson, who graduated from St. Joseph's school of nursing in Omaha, has accepted a position with Union Pacific as a stewardess and nurse on the Los Angeles-Omaha run.

10 Years Ago O'Neill is hub of blizzard disaster area, 20 more bulldozers are being sought for Holt relief work, storms delay Van Dover rites, Chambers couple perishes in storm—these were headlines in this week's issue of The Frontier on the storm situation at it continued on. . . Featured in the Jack and Jill Corner in this week's Frontier were John Patrick Miller, 8½-month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Miller of O'Neill and Miss Joan Claire (Jody) French, 1-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. O. D. French. . . St. Mary's Cardinals defeated Page by a 23 to 22 score. . . Holt county tournament opener was delayed 24 hours because of impassable roads due to the storm conditions.

One Year Ago Safeway store has grand opening. . . Charles Starkweather, 19, crazed Lincoln youth, and 14-year-old girl companion, Carl Ann Fugate, were taken in Wyoming. . . Atkinson Bales won Holt county crown, by defeating the St. Joe Bluejays in the title game, by a score of 43 to 36. . . Two submariners from Nebraska, Lyle J. Fox of O'Neill and Gary M. Vanderwerf of Pender, recently played hosts to their governor, Victor E. Anderson, at their "home" aboard the USS Bashaw at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. . . Mr. and Mrs. Earl Coppoc of Seward, formerly of Chambers, observed their golden wedding anniversary. . . O'Neill community concert presented Todd Duncan, Negro baritone of George Gershwin's "Porgy and Bess" fame. . . Deaths: Dr. William J. Douglas, 80, who practiced medicine in Atkinson for more than 50 years.

New RNA Officers Assume Positions

PAGE—The recently installed officers of the RNA lodge took their chairs Wednesday evening, January 21, at the IOOF hall.

The semi-annual audit report was read and accepted and the special auditor dismissed.

A letter of appreciation was read from Mrs. Roy Brownell, a former member now of Calif., admitting the probable coolness of the lodge room temperature at the far end of the room on a January night and denying any possibility of any hint of coolness permeating the atmosphere of friendliness that makes absentee and former members regret circumstances that keep them from also enjoying a lodge session in spite of the weather.

Mrs. A. G. Braddock served refreshments.

To Germany Soon—

S-Sgt. Donald Boyle and family returned Monday, January 26, to Ft. Riley, Kans., where he will remain until travel orders are received for his family to accompany him to Germany. Boyle has been here for the past three weeks, having been called due to the death of his mother, the late Mrs. James Boyle.

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Deloit News

Tommy Pofahl, son of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Pofahl, Becky Huffman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Huffman and Barbara Burke, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Pat Burke, started to school at Deloit in the kindergarten class for the second semester. Merle Sehi is the teacher. The semester began January 12.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reimer were supper guests Thursday evening at the Howard Manson home in O'Neill and attended the basketball tournament.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Munson of Ogallala spent the past week at the L. L. Bartak home. They also visited Vonnie Paul and family and Mrs. Alice Lodge in Elgin.

A pinocle club party was held at the L. L. Bartak home Tuesday evening, January 13. Mr. and Mrs. Bud Bartak were guests. High scores were taken by Frank Bohn and Bud Bartak received low. Mr. and Charles McDonald won the traveling award. Mrs. Louis Pofahl and Mrs. Frank Miller were assisting hostesses.

Mrs. Fred Harpster observed her birthday anniversary Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Harpster and Mr. and Mrs. H. Reimer were evening callers.

Mrs. Ivan Briggs of Ord called on her mother, Mrs. Sidney Anderson, Wednesday. The new dial telephone had just been installed in the Briggs home that day.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Reimer were Sunday dinner guests at the Mike Born home in Plainview. Mrs. Reimer attended a postnuptial shower for Elaine Reimer Born at Plainview in the afternoon.

After almost a week of sub-zero weather, Deloit residents are enjoying the fine weekend. The road west on the mail route, was blocked with snow for several days.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Manson and Sidney Anderson were Sunday dinner guests at the S. Girmsey home.

Weekend Here—

Mr. and Mrs. M. J. Timlin of Casper, Wyo., were weekend guests at the homes of her sisters and families, Mrs. Keith Abart and Mrs. J. Ed Hancock. They returned home Monday.

11 Members Present for Help U Meeting

VENUS—Mrs. Ethel Waring entertained the Help U club at her home Wednesday, January 21. Eleven members and one visitor, Mrs. J. W. Finch, were present. The hostess served dinner at noon. The afternoon was spent in sewing carpet rags and embroidery work for the hostess.

Other Venus News

Miss Marjorie Finch left Tuesday, January 27, for San Bernardino, Calif., where she has accepted a teaching position. Miss Finch, daughter of J. W. Finch, has been attending college at Wayne since September.

Mr. and Mrs. George Jeffrey and Arvid Neuhaus, were Monday evening, January 19, visitors at the Ralph Brookhouser home.

Nine members of the Work and Fun club worked on a quilt for Mrs. Risinger at the St. Paul Lutheran church basement Tuesday afternoon, January 20. Mr. and Mrs. Francis Boelter and Loren visited at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Khori and Larry at Niobrara, Monday, January 19.

A good number of the school board members attended the school redistricting meeting Monday evening, January 19, at the Walnut district 18 school.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Waring drove to Fairbury Friday, January 16. At Fairbury they visited the Dale Waring and F. Rice homes and other relatives. They

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also visited with Mrs. Juanita Waring and sons at Tecumseh. They returned home Tuesday, January 20.

William Jeffrey and Paul Lee Mitchell were Monday, evening, January 19, visitors at the Clarence Finch home.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Caskey spent Monday evening, January 19, at the Lloyd Butterfield home. The ladies attended the school meeting at district 18 which was held that evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Cleveland and son were Monday, January 19, business visitors at Center.

Returns from G.I.—

Mary Dusatko returned Saturday from Grand Island where she had been visiting for two weeks at the home of her son and family. Mr. and Mrs. John Allen, The Al-lens recently had a new baby.

Household Goods at PUBLIC AUCTION The following described personal property belonging to Mrs. Eva Grothe will be sold at public auction on the W. B. Lamb residential place (near Wesleyan Methodist church) in connection with Lamb sale on— FRIDAY, JANUARY 30TH 1—Double Bed with Spring & Mattress 1—Double Bed Mattress 1—39-In. Bed Mattress 1—Chest of Drawers 1—Wash Stand 1—Living Room Suite 12—Oak Chairs Several Scatter Rugs, Some old Dishes and Many Other Items 1—Dining Table 1—Blue Arm Chair 1—Kitchen Cabinet 1—Old Style Sideboard 1—Old Kitchen Table, two Chairs 1—Library Table 1—8x12 Wool Rug

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FARM SALE AS WE HAVE MOVED from the farm, we will dispose of our personal property at the place, located 2 3/4 miles west of the O'Neill Cemetery on the Airport road, OR 1 1/4 miles west of the O'Neill Airport Hangars, on — Wednesday, Febr. 4th Sale Starts at 1 P.M. 10-Head of Cattle - 10 5—Hereford HEIFERS 4—Whiteface Yearling STEERS 1—Yearling OPEN HEIFER 2—Stacks Alfalfa Hay; 1—Stack Millet Hay Machinery & Equipment 1941 John Deere Model B Tractor IHC Two-Row Eli J-D 10-In. Hammermill 1943 John Deere H Model Tractor 14-Ft. A-C Tractor-Disc Case Cornpicker, one-row McC.-D. Grain Drill, 10-ft., all-steel box, mounted on rubber Two-Row 14-In. Plow Hay Rack on Rubber Rubber-Tired Wagon with box Three-Section Harrow 6-Ft. Deering Binder Wood Bros. 6-Ft. Combine IHC No. 200 Tractor Manure Spreader 7-Ft. Stock Tank 8-In. Burr Grinder 3—Feed Bunks Reg. Brand and Irons 6-Volt Fence Charger Tractor Sweep with Dempster Leaver Winch for M or H IHC, never used '51 Ford tractor, overhauled 1 yr. ago, over and under drive transmission; Wagner loader to fit Ford tractor; A-C silage cutter; cultivator to fit Ford; Ford hay baler, 1 year old. Tools, Miscellaneous Items Vise, Anvil, Posthole Digger, Sledge, Lots of Tools, Two Jackscrews, Set of Tractor Chains, Small Stock Tank (combination hog and cattle), Mail Box, 5 Sacks of Fertilizer, Electric Tank Heater, Some Stucco Screen, Suckles for J-D Mower, Roll of Roofing Paper, 2—Brooder Stoves (one oil and one electric), Some Used Lumber, Garden Cultivator Set of Harness, Hog Troughs, 50-Ft. Endless Belt, 2—Old Junker Cars, Fuel Barrels, Fuel Cans, Pickup Attachment for A-C Combine, 3—Rolls of Lattice Cribbing, TV Antennae with Rotor, Surge Milking Machine (single units, pump and stall pipes), DeLaval Cream Separator, Milk Pails, Cream Cans, 12-Ft Ladder. HOUSEHOLD GOODS, ETC. — TERMS OF SALE: Strictly Cash FRANK SEARLES, owner COL. WALLACE O'CONNELL, O'Neill, Auctioneer LLOYD WALDO, Amelia, Clerk