

PrairieLand Talk

An 'Otolope' Birth, Maybe?

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

Twin baby girls were born March 1 to a couple living in Auburn town in Nemaha county, one came to the surface at home and to complete the job of child bearing, the mother was whisked away to Nebraska City in Otoe county where twin number two was born in a hospital. Something like that might occur any time down at Tilden, where if you turn over in bed, you may be in another county, half of the town in Antelope county, the other half in Madison. Just where is the birth of a kid recorded that is born to a mother in flight via airplane from one end of the country to the other?

One hundred years ago a few cabins stood in the vicinity where now our stately State Capital building stands. That was the beginning of a town on prairie land called Lincoln. Our capital city now rears buildings grand and high, stately mansions, humble homes, streets and parks over about half of Lancaster county. About the beginning of Lincoln history, a small group of brave men and courageous women and curious kids jumped out of their covered wagons, unhitched the horses and started life along the banks of the flowing Elkhorn a mile east of where the city of O'Neill now stands. The Thompson-McEwen colony and the Parkers. Only the memory of the colony lingers, but at least two descendants of that group of pioneers, R. H. and Joel Parker, survive. And O'Neill is here, the metropolis of north central Nebraska.

Open the windows of your soul through which the glow of God's creation may shine. Not just one window pane of partisan adherence and creed's hide-bound devotion, for through that one narrow window pane but little light will shine. But the soul with radiance glows when light shines through the spirit's open windows.

June 28, 1904, Kinkaiders to the number not just counted but said to be more than 600, lined up at the government land office in O'Neill, located on north 4th street about where the telephone office is today. Men and women made up that 600 that acquired homesteads of 640 acres each. Congressman Kinkaid of O'Neill secured the passage of a measure in congress that increased the homesteads available in his district from a quarter section to a full section. With today just here and there an isolated tract of land, that section homestead law brought the government lands in Nebraska into private or individual hands and thus became taxable property.

Down at the Statehouse Governor Brooks announces that he is "master of all he surveys." Be careful, your honor, you may be up against our Terrible Terry next state election.

A short summer. Few days radiant with sunshine, snows of winter melted away, birds awing and singing. Then it came, a Nebraska snow and blow that Old Bates there at his case of type in O'Neill in '88 called it a blizzard. The Capital City blanketed with 8 to 10 inches of snow midweek the first week in March—schools closed, no business, clerks in stores standing with their hands in their pockets, city buses not at the usual stops and workers getting to their jobs late the best way they could, mail carriers hours late, and all of us who could, looking out the windows at the picture such as only a prairie land blizzard paints. Again the sun glows bright, snow fades and the late blizzard only a memory.

Editorial

O'Neill's Attitude Picture

It has been said by many a successful promoter of civic enterprise and industry that the responsible prospective industry is interested, not so much in itself, but in the attitude of the city.

The hard-hearted businessman is quick to point out that nothing could be further from the truth and that any prospective industry is primarily interested in how easy it is going to be for the industry to get a start.

However, if you will ask the men who look your city over—and you seldom know what they're up to—you will find out that they are looking for the picture of a city wrapped up in the casual remark of a service station attendant or a waitress.

"What do you think of O'Neill and how do you like living here," they might ask.

And because the waitress and attendant hold an important key to the city's "attitude picture," the prospective industrial man with his camera-like mind records an important event.

Nationally gathered statistics show that there are, on the average, two such men who travel through cities like ours each month. These men are prone to avoid the civic leader, they stay away from banks, newspapers, and men who are interested in their city because of their own "life-blood." It is true that they want to know just what kind of improvements have been made in the past year or so including such things as new schools, paving and new church improvements. But they don't like the idea of questioning the civic leaders until the attitude picture is formed.

For this reason, then, we all can play a part in the promotion of our community.

Guest Editorial

The Burwell Tribune
In our last week's column, we made mention of the "usual" small turnout at the city caucuses. Well, after last week's gatherings, we'll have to amend the statement; there really was a fine turnout at both. We were more than pleased to see this interest manifested in city politics—and we'd say there was no particular "axe to grind"—just sincere interest in city government. One thing very noticeable was the large number of ladies present; we thought it was just simply grand to have this interest among the women of the community. They play a big part in Burwell, and their voice should be heard and their influence felt.

When we read in the daily papers about some of our representatives, in Washington, putting their relatives on the government payroll, at fabulous salaries, and even let Uncle Sam pay rent on the front porch of one home, as a private office—it almost makes one lose faith in mankind. How anyone of the caliber these men should be, could stoop to such a practice, is hard to understand, and we'd think the expose of the practice would make for dorned poor campaign fodder in forthcoming elections. We will say, that none of our Nebraska representatives have been so accused, of which we are proud to say.

Free Spending?

By Dick Howe
(Boone Companion)
Brass hats in the American Legion, who believe

The public was shocked to hear of his eleven killings, Lincoln housewives locked doors, nailed up windows, the jury found him guilty of murder and young Starkweather was sentenced to die in the electric seat at our state prison. Courts, pardon and parole boards step in after the jury findings. The young killer still lives. Move that death chair out of our state pen, set a table of roast turkey, hot rolls and pumpkin pie. Come, you bloody killers, sit down and eat!

He owns a section of corn and wheat land two hours drive out from the Capital City, dwells there with his life's companion in a large "farm house" and no beast or bird in the red barn where once were horses and cows. Twelve to fourteen thousand dollars worth of grain off of that section of land in a season shared by the renters as he sits twiddling his thumbs in an easy chair. Oh, next month he is eligible for social security checks.

A friend of PrairieLand Talk down in sunny Florida writes me a letter that I feel will be of interest to many readers of this department of The Frontier. It appears as follows:

4339 Colt Lane, West Palm Beach, Fla.
Dear Mr. Romaine Saunders:

We sure do enjoy your most interesting articles in the O'Neill Frontier: I was raised in Lincoln, lived at 334 North 23rd St., and attended the Old Elliot School. In 1914 I came to O'Neill, Nebr., with Max Golden. We really came to Ewing and spent the summer at the Ranch down at Ewing. Mr. Tom Golden was running the ranch, and Max and I came up to spend the summer and keep out of mischief in general. I stuck right there at Ewing and never left until 1957, when I came to West Palm Beach. I am not one of the filthy rich of this locality. I work for an asphalt company. I am the nite man and keep the material hot so as the crew can take off in the mornings.

I sure like to hear of all of the old timers you mention in your articles. I remember a lot of them. I was kinda disappointed in one a few weeks back when you mentioned a long string of the oldsters and you did not mention T. V. Golden's name. As I look back at O'Neill, I place him at the top of the list of the real O'Neill citizens. He really stuck his neck out when he built that fine hotel building. It was a long time before there was any pavement on either side of it, but there stood that fine building taking all of the dust and mud.

And of course, I was a little bit prejudiced for the many fine things the Golden Family did to and for me. I was much impressed with the article some time back where you mentioned Mrs. F. J. Dishner as taking Frank Nelson's place in the Unicameral. I too think she would be a very able representative for her district.

I also grew up in Lincoln. As a kid I can remember all of the big fires. Old Number 2 from 23rd was the best in our mind. I was a small boy the night of the Walter block fire where the Steuart building stands now. Across the street west you can still see the two little round window glasses still broken from the streams of water, shot up there by one of the old steam pumps.

Can you give any dope on Old Dr. Middleton, the horse thief that ran loose up there? Kid Wade was his lieutenant.

Yours very truly, R. G. Rockey, 4339 Colt Lane, West Palm Beach, Florida.

Frontiers Ago

The Frontier Was Young

Neil Brennan was one of the happiest men in O'Neill near St. Patrick's Day in the year 1899. In that morning's mail he received from the Sisters of Charity of Ballaghadernin County, Mayo, Ireland, a beautiful spray of shamrock fastened with a green ribbon upon which was printed in gilt letters "God Save Ireland." The Frontier's assistance in a beautiful token from the "old sod" and Mr. Brennan is justly proud of it and he has good reason to be, coming, as the letter accompanying it says, as a token of gratitude for the love you have shown to Ireland. The shamrock was sent by Superiores Catherine Norris Ballaghadernin in the famine district in 1898 and assistance was solicited for them of the exiled children of Erin in this country and Patrick Ford, editor of the Irish World, raised a fund in New York for their assistance. Mr. Brennan sent them a personal donation the Christmas of 1898 and it was in appreciation of that gift the spray was sent.

Cole's Jewelry and Music Store had as their ad in this week's issue of The Frontier, Edna May Schier watches, \$5.00.... P. C. Kelley has been doing work on the Independent the past two weeks in the absence of editor, P. J. Donoue traveling freight agent of the Short Line, was looking after the interests of his line in the city March 15.... Judge Westover, who came down from Rushville to try The Frontier case, returned home. He was accompanied by Court reporter Maher, who came up from Lincoln and reported the case. During these past two weeks in 1898, the following persons were granted marriage licenses by the county judge: Leonard Heiss and Dollie Reed of Page, Samuel G. Coover and Anna Heiss of Page, and George Herzay and Lillian May Schier of Chambers. D. A. Doyle will turn over the post office to his successor, D. H. Cronin, March 19.... A new post office named McCaffrey was established at McCaffrey's ranch, with Joseph McCaffrey as postmaster. Subscriptions for The Frontier was \$1.50 per year.

The Century Turns

O'Neill telephone service changed from local battery operation to the new common battery system in 1920. The actual cut-over operation took less than 20 seconds and was completed with practically no service interruption. Mr. and Mrs. M. F. Eveland celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Sherman Egan, on west Douglas street.... In this week's issue of The Frontier in 1930, Jack Graham of San Jose, Calif., former O'Neillite, reminisces in a letter to the editor.

He speaks of Doc Matthews, founder of the Frontier, with its slogan, "God's Own Country." He also spoke of many other local people. Many of the old timers remembered him as Sambo Sunflower "The Royal Theatre to give benefit for Father Flannigan fund" headlined a story telling of Mrs. Georgia O. Raseley's success in securing a benefit show for Father Flannigan's Home for Boys. Due to fire which destroyed much property and material, it was necessary to raise an immediate subscription so that replacing and rebuilding could begin at once.

Drs. Gilligan and Brown installed new equipment in 1930. The new equipment, which was the latest in X-ray and complete in every detail, Miss Edna Simonson entertained the Eldrid Club at her home. Miss Mildred Tomlinson received high score prize at bridge.... Relatives and friends of Mrs. Sam Banks gathered at her home to remind her of her birthday.... The Empire postmaster, John Coupe, purchased a new Ford Coupe. He attended the minstrel show in Atkinson March 17, in his new car.

Most Of Us Remember

Melvin Steskal, 24, Holt county farmer, father of two small children, was fatally burned as a result of an early morning fuel oil explosion and fire at their home near Inman this week in 1953. Mr. and Mrs. Frank G. Schmidt celebrated their Golden Wedding anniversary March 11.... Miss Esther Kaiser was selected O'Neill's girls' state delegate.... Ed Thorin and Bill Bowker established an office in the Hagensick building at the corner of Fourth and Douglas streets.... The O'Neill High Eagles coached by Paul Baker, stacked up a total of 19 wins compared to only four defeats. The Eagles were champs of the Holt county tournament in 1953.... Some 435 4-H club members, parents and leaders braved adverse weather conditions to attend the annual family fun night party at the O'Neill high school auditorium.... Deaths: John P. McManus, 62, O'Neill clothier and member of a pioneer family.... Army Cpl. Lyle C. (Red) McKim, 24, O'Neill's second Korean War fatality.... C. J. Davis, 73, former O'Neill resident.

Do you feel sorry for the soldier-scientists who were court-martialed at the army chemical center in Maryland last year? They felt that their brains entitled them to different treatment than the ordinary dog-face; recently the top army brass said they have no intention of treating scientists as a class apart.

I can sympathize with the scientists, but feel they are on the wrong track. I, too, had sergeants and officers whom I considered, well, stupid. It's a shame that we are forced to have armed services, but as long as we do they must be operated along the lines of a dictatorship and absolute discipline must be maintained at all times. Otherwise you have a mob, not an army.

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Major State Road Policy Shift

By Melvin Paul

Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association
LINCOLN—There has been a major shift in policy on road building in the State Highway Department.

This was evident when the department, with the approval of Gov. Ralph G. Brooks, announced the 1959-61 highway construction and improvement program.

It was apparent that the department had made an administrative decision, to dump more funds into converting gravel roads to hard surfacing.

State Engineer Roy Cochran, a former Democratic governor, explained that the department had not changed or tampered with the sufficiency rating system for determining priority of road construction.

This consists of different engineering principles that are given ratings. When a road should be improved it is determined from the score resulting from the application of the system to a particular stretch of highway.

The sufficiency system compares gravel roads with gravel roads, concrete with concrete, and blacktop with blacktop.

But it does not rate the roads as against categories. The administrative decision, Cochran said, was to put a larger share of highway funds into improving gravel roads by deferring for two years improvements on hard-surfaced routes.

This does not mean, the engineer explained, that the department has altered its idea of improving hard-surfaced highways. But, it does mean, he added, that the administrative decision was to defer work on roads that could hold up for two years and improve gravel routes which always have a high maintenance cost attached to them.

Cochran said, however, that whether this decision was entirely wise cannot be determined until two years from now when the condition of hard-surfaced roads upon which improvement was deferred, is ascertained.

Mansion Shakes

Gov. Ralph G. Brooks says it will take \$5,000 to fix up a case of the "shakes" in Nebraska's new governor's mansion.

That amount of cash, the governor's mansion.

That amount of cash, the governor commented, will not correct the shaking of floors evident in the mansion, but will reduce the severity of the quivering.

An independent engineering report submitted by an Omaha architectural firm, the chief executive said, indicated that the architect had complied with specifications and work met the requirements of the Lincoln building code.

However, the report said that shaking can be expected from the "bar joist" type of construction employed in the mansion.

Suggested as a partial solution was laying of sheet lead on the mansion floor and a half-inch thick foam rubber cushion, to give more weight to the floor.

Educational Director

Fur flew over the Eboard of Control, which governs state institutions and work met the requirements of the Lincoln building code.

The board announced it was employing Dr. Vernon Hungate, director of special education for the State Education Department, to head up the educational program at 10 of its 17 institutions. Sen. George Syas of Omaha branded the maneuver as a "cheap political trick."

Syas said the hiring was designed to defeat two bills in the

Legislature to transfer the State Schools for the Blind at Nebraska City and the Deaf at Omaha to jurisdiction of the State Board of Education.

Charles Leeman, vice-chairman of the board said there was nothing involved in the hiring that had anything to do with any bills offered in the Legislature by Syas.

Syas has been trying to abolish the Board of Control system of governing state institutions and has a measure in the hopper this time to do away with the 3-member appointive board.

Education

Interest in education bills before the Legislature continues to be high.

The Education Committee killed a proposal which would have taken away from the State Education Commissioner the authority to decide disputed points of school law.

Now, the commissioner can resolve such matters and his decision is final unless overturned by the courts.

Guard Reorganization

The Nebraska National Guard has been re-organized along concepts of the Pentomic approach to warfare.

Key to the change is reorganization of the division from three regiments to one made up of five highly mobile and self-sustaining battle groups.

Maj. Gen. Guy N. Henninger, state adjutant general, and head of the guard, approved the plan, as did Maj. Gen. Warren C. Wood, of Gering, division commander. Target date for completion of the reorganization is May 1.

Hastings Farm

A farm at the Hastings State Hospital will not be operated with trustees from the State Peniten-

tiary under any circumstances. That's the report from State Sen. Richard Marvel of Hastings, who conferred with the Board of Control about the matter. Marvel said he would ask Gov. Ralph G. Brooks for a fact-finding study and economic feasibility report on the farm. Under consideration by the Board had been turning over the property to the State Penitentiary for an honor farm. The Board, Marvel said, agreed to operate the location as economically as possible under supervision of the Hospital superintendent.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor: Although I no longer live in the state of Nebraska, I still follow with much interest its activities, especially those concerning Holt county and O'Neill. Congratulations on your purchase of an excellent newspaper. It was just 30 years ago this year that I was one of the 32 graduating students, of the O'Neill public school. Sincerely, F. M. Felts (Roseler) 24 East Bowersy St. Newport, R.I. Apt. 2.

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POSTPONED SALE

Executor's Sale

Of Real And Personal Property

To settle the estate of the late W. R. Tenborg, the following property will be sold at the Tenborg Residence, in Emmet, Nebraska, on

MARCH 25th 1959, at 1 p.m.

REAL ESTATE

The Southeast Quarter of Section 15, Township 29, North, Range 13, West of the 6th P.M., Holt County, Nebraska, located ¼ mile West of Emmet, on U.S. Highway 20.

A partially improved Quarter Section, containing 65 acres of cultivated land, 10 acres of alfalfa, 30 acres of hay land, the balance in pasture, lots and corral. Possession will be given on execution of contract and the making of down payment.

Residence property located in Emmet, legally described as Lots 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 1, Block 8, Original Town of Emmet. A 7 room, 2 story dwelling house, modern except for bath.

PERSONAL PROPERTY

1956 Plymouth 4-door sedan, 18,000 actual miles, good condition.
1 Double Granary 16x26.
1 Hampshire Boar
350 Bushels of Ear Corn
2—Stacks Alfalfa Hay and some Prairie Hay
Canvas Tarp, 10x14

Barn, 24x24
12 Brood Sows, due to farrow in April
40 Bushels of Oats
Bee Hives and Equipment
Stove Wood; Oil Drums
Chicken Wire; Hog Wire
Bed, Springs & Mattress
Dresser; Sideboard; Studio Couch

NUMEROUS OTHER ARTICLES

The following property belonging to

Ruth Wagon

WILL BE SOLD AT THIS SALE:

2 Dressers; Commode with Mirror; Corner Cupboard; Round Dining Table with Chairs; Double Burner Oil Heater; China Cabinet; Desk and Chair; Metal Bookcase; Plastic Covered Spring Rocker; Overstuffed Club Chair; 4 Occasional Chairs; Combination Radio-Phonograph and Records; Extension Chrome Dinette with 6 Chairs; 2 Metal Supply Cupboards;

Refrigerator; Combination Gas & Coal Range; 3 Mattresses; Maytag Washing Machine; Coffee Table; 2 Foot Stools; Dishes, pots, pans, canned fruit & vegetables; Fruit jars, stone jars; Step Ladder; Floor Lamp; Cream Can; Gladiron Mangle; 1 Hive of Bees; Lawn Mower; Garden Tools; Pictures and Picture Frames; Kitchen Table.

TERMS:

Personal Property—Cash. Real Estate—20% down, Balance upon delivery of deed and abstract showing merchantable title. 1958 taxes will be paid.

W. P. Daily, Executor
Norman Gonderinger, Attorney
O'Neill, Nebraska

WALLACE O'CONNELL, Auctioneer
ED MURPHY, Clerk