

Prairieland Talk

There Passed Tragedy

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

With the passing of Holt county's old court house more than twenty years ago, there passed also out of the picture tragedy and comedy, political turmoil, stories of defaulting county treasurers and scandals...

county, and as Rev. N. S. Lowrie and others in O'Neill did in the closing years of the 19th century.

June 1, 1833, first permanent settlements in Iowa. June 2—John Brown rescued his sons from Virginia raiders, 1856. June 5—Ben Franklin 'judged' the lightning, 1752. Third Sunday in June Fathers' Day. June 16—Alaska gold rush, 1897. My father died June 16, 1887. June 14 Flag Day. Congress adopted the Stars and Stripes 1777. June 18—U. S. went to war with Great Britain, 1812. June 20—great seal of the U.S. adopted by Continental Congress 1782. June 27—Boston-New York telegraph line open 1847.

Medical findings as to the effect of smoking and its relation to certain diseases seems to have promoted rather than reduced smoking. The record for 1958 of 436 billion cigarettes went up in smoke in the mouths of Americans.

She is but 11 years old, her home down in Florida. Had saved her nickles and dimes and quarters to accumulate a fund of \$61. She planned to buy a horse. But the weight of our national debt rested upon her young heart...



Romaine Saunders

As you lay a flower on the grave of your dead you may be inspired by your memory of the worthy life they had led.

A gentleman of learning that has become a university instructor, in a talk before a group of parents and teachers in Denver, tells us that only one in seven Americans are 'mentally normal.' Is he the 'one' or a slip over from Red Russia? But if it is that way and you are a little off in the upper story you have a lot of company. Maybe it is the six that are mentally normal and the seventh a highbrow.

The clock struck 6 the morning of May 22, the time set for Charles Starkweather to die in the electric chair. He lives, another stay, another prolonging of Nebraska's most disgraceful juggling of the course of justice. The young killer says he is at peace 'with God.' Let us hope so. But should not that peace inspire him to raise his arms and declare that these blood stained hands condemn me, I have killed, kill me! Long drawn out court proceedings many thousands of dollars of taxpayers' money to pay lawyers and court costs, and two youthful murderers live on.

Glen White, a native of the Amelia community of southwestern Holt county and a worthy citizen, heads a temperance organization that entertains a vain hope to do away with the flowing stream of intoxicating liquors. Multitudes want it and the revenue collectors have out an eager hand for that booze tax. But Glen and his group can do their bit to promote a worthy cause, as Mrs. Dustin in the long ago did up there in the Dustin community of northwest Holt county.

Editorial

Representation of Jackrabbits

The representation of jackrabbits in our state legislature couldn't be much worse than a government which has such little flexibility that the minority is doomed to remain a minority.

Senator Frank Nelson explained, on a recent visit to O'Neill, that one of the favorite remarks of a senator from eastern Nebraska is that people, rather than jackrabbits, should be represented at Lincoln. "Those senators from the east would be very firm in their intention to do away with any type of representation on the area rather than the population basis," he said.

A lot of people are getting sick and tired of this business of looking at legislative representation on the basis of area versus population. And they have very good reason to feel this way.

The proponents of selecting representatives on the basis of population believe they have a strong argument when they say a fair method is one where an equal number of people have access to speak and legislate for them.

The proponents of the area plan say the fair method is one that will take into consideration the vast and relatively unpopulated areas which the highly populated areas are dependent upon.

They say, for example, that one reason the stockyards in Omaha have become the largest in the world is because the western Nebraska cattlemen on the vast range must yell to his neighbor to be heard. Fortunately for eastern Nebraska, there is a sparsely populated western Nebraska, they say.

Both groups have a point, of course, and although some talk of a combination area-population plan is heard, the legislators are overlooking something very basic in the formation of any government which proposes to be democratic—the majority faction must never be so strong that change in the method of selecting representatives is made impossible.

You can bet your last dollar that those eastern legislators will have nothing to do with changing the present system and that any discussion of a combination area-population plan is just like so much wind in the air. To begin with, the present population system of legislator-choice, controls its own destiny and cannot be changed by seven or eight western legislators.

And it makes little difference whether it would require a constitutional change made by the vote of the people or not since the majority (or should we say the eastern half of Nebraska) feeds upon the unicameral system while the western half suffers representative starvation.

Any state or government examining the unicameral system should realize, before it is accepted, that once formed in such a geographically split city-range area, it is created to stay.

It is like the scientist who discovers he has made a monster, but finds it cannot be destroyed.

This, then, is the very serious shortcoming in Nebraska's legislative set-up—that the minority has no chance of change.

Frontiers Ago

30 YEARS AGO

Memorial Day services in 1909 were well attended despite the rainy day. The old soldiers present were: Slaves, J. B. Beavers, Jake Ernst, E. H. Thompson, John Skirving, W. E. McRobert, Benjamin Sanders and Barney Jones.

The graduation class of the O'Neill Public school was the largest ever graduated from that school. It contained fifteen members, nine boys and six young ladies. John Hunt was called to his old home at Winona, Minn., to attend the funeral of his brother-in-law, T. H. Burke.

Death: John Larson, 83, father of the Larson boys of Paddock township and for many years a resident of Holt county.

20 YEARS AGO

The city erected a band stand on the lots owned by the county north of the A & R service station and the first concert was given Saturday evening, June 3, 1939.

Deaths: George F. Kivett, 79, of Inman; Mrs. Stella L. Friday, 53, of Inman; Mrs. Hans Storkhagen, 77, of Spencer; Emmett A. Harmon, 35, O'Neill, a prominent young attorney; Mrs. John McCaffery, 53, was instantly killed when an oil truck in which she was riding overturned rounding the corner at Danceland while coming to O'Neill.

10 YEARS AGO

Rev. Wayne A. Hall accepted a pastoral call from the Assembly of God church in O'Neill. Earl Medcalf, Chambers farmer, met with an accident when the tractor he was driving overturned and pinned him beneath it.

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5 YEARS AGO

Rev. Basil M. Price, S.J., son of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest G. Price, O'Neill was ordained into the priesthood of the Roman Catholic church on June 16, 1954 at St. Mary's college, St. Mary's, Kans.

Deaths: Mrs. Arthur Waldman, 61, wife of an Amelia carpenter; Donors to the St. Anthony's hospital building fund stopped daily increasing numbers to boost the push for a minimum of 46 thousand dollar medical center.

Deaths: Minnie C. Gamel, 56, Page, widow of the late Harvey Gamel, at Our Lady of Lourdes hospital at Norfolk, following an automobile accident near Venus. Nearly 500 persons toured the municipal swimming pool during open house. The U.S. Senate confirmed the appointment of Ira H. Moss for postmaster of O'Neill. Pfc. Ralph H. Lindberg was assigned duty at Ft. Leavenworth, Kans.

Controversy at Pen Continues This Week

CAPITAL NEWS By Melvin Paul, Statehouse Correspondent, The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN—Attention has again been focused on the state penitentiary, after a 4-year dearth of controversy at the institution.

The ruckus began when Gov. Ralph G. Brooks demanded the resignation of Warden Joseph Bovey from the post he has held since April, 1955. The job pays \$550 per month, plus food and shelter.

Brooks alleged mismanagement of the institution, but the Board of Control said it investigated statements of the governor and its findings "indicate that the governor's statement is insufficient to warrant the discharge of the warden."

Bovey resigned after a week of controversy and charges by the governor's office.

The warden said the governor, who is chairman of the state Board of Pardons, and the warden must work in "close relationship."

In view of that and the present "situation," Bovey said, he insisted the board accept his resignation.

The board unanimously agreed that the charges of the governor were insufficient to warrant dismissal of the warden, Vice Chairman Charles Leeman said.

Deputy Warden John Greenholtz was immediately named acting warden and Bovey was given permission to remain in the warden's residence until July 1.

After a long meeting attended by the board, Robert Conrad, administrative assistant to Gov. Brooks, who is recuperating from a light stroke, and Bovey, three terse statements were handed out.

One was Bovey's, another the board's and the third was under the name of the governor.

The governor's statement said: "I have conferred with the Board of Control relative to my statement about the penitentiary. I recognize their administrative authority in such matters and I am confident that they have been prompt and fair."

Billboard Ban A bill to ban billboards on right-of-way of the Interstate Highway was killed by a legislative committee.

The measure, LB 714 which had the support of Gov. Ralph G. Brooks, but the dust after a public hearing by the Legislature's Banking, Commerce and Insurance committee.

Sen. Joe T. Vosoba of Wilber introduced the legislation at the request of the governor. Another sponsor was Sen. Harold Stricker of Rising City.

Vosoba said the bill was designed to take advantage of bonus offered by the federal government which would have been in the vicinity of \$1 million.

Outdoor advertising people, and Max Towle, a Lincoln attorney representing outdoor advertising interests, opposed the bill. Towle said about 20 states had already rejected similar legislation.

One of the main proponents was former Gov. Robert Crosby, who said he would like to see "just one highway in Nebraska not cluttered up with billboards so the public can look at the rolling landscape."

Brooks Conference Gov. Ralph G. Brooks held his second news conference since suffering a light stroke April 17.

He appeared fit and had gained about 5 pounds, he said.

The governor showed no evidence of a paralysis of the left side of his face, and moved his right arm—weakened by the stroke—easily.

However, it is known the governor has difficulty walking any distance because of a weakened right leg. His left foot has been braced since early in his campaign.

The right leg was weakened by the stroke. But the governor says he goes up and down stairs.

Water Pollution A tentative plan has been okayed by the State Water Pollution Control Council.

The plan is designed to encourage large up-stream towns to take the lead in a 7-year program of stream pollution abatement.

T. A. Filipi, state sanitation engineer, said planning is going ahead on the assumption that Nebraska will get \$688,000 in federal aid for the 1960 fiscal year.

In seven years, he added, Nebraska's pollution problem could be pretty well under control.

The federal government foots 30 percent of control projects, and communities the remaining 70 percent.

Filipi said applications for 1960 funds can be received no later than July 15 of this year.

Politics The Republican party is looking for a new state chairman to replace Richard E. Spelts Jr., of Grand Island, who says he plans to resign as soon as a successor can be found.

The Democrats, meanwhile, have been busy in rebuttal to charges

of State Sen. Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff, a Republican who is believed to be lining up for a try at governor.

Carpenter charged Democratic Gov. Ralph G. Brooks is a "puppet" whose strings are pulled by Bernard Boyle of Omaha, national committeeman, and former committeeman James Quigley of Valentine.

Brooks attacked Carpenter, as did Boyle. Commented the governor: "I still love him. If it weren't for him we wouldn't have any fun."

The information from the survey on the number of acres planted to corn, sorghum, oats, soybeans, and other crops will provide the basis for the monthly estimates of crop production during the 1959 growing season. In the same way, the reports on livestock will be used in estimating the calf, crop spring and prospective fall pig crops, milk and egg production—information which is used by farmers and ranchers in making their marketing plans.

Rural mail carriers and their postmasters will cooperate in selecting farmers to receive the blank forms for the livestock survey.

"We hope," said Mr. Nordquist, "that every farmer and rancher who receives a blank form asking questions about his crop acreages and livestock and poultry numbers will take a few minutes to fill out the form accurately and put it in his mailbox. The more reports we get, and the more carefully they are filled out, the better we can make these estimates of crop and livestock production."

Direct shipments increased 12,905 head during the month of April while the sale rings showed a gain of 31,888. The two terminal markets at Omaha and Sioux City were up 2,251 and 161 head respectively. During the month, a total of 1775 head were held for proof of ownership. Seven stray cases were settled and proceeds paid to the rightful owners and in addition, proceeds of \$300.35 on two cases were directed to the school funds of the counties where the estrays originated.

Floyd Seesley and E. E. Bailey, investigators for the committee, had four court cases and fines totaling \$200.00 and costs were imposed by the county judges.

The Nebraska Stockgrowers Association is now offering a \$500.00 reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a cattle thief who steals from any of the members of their organization. It is the desire of the Nebraska Brand Committee to cooperate with all agencies and associations to help curb cattle theft. In line with this, the committee at present is publishing a list of all no brand calves sold at the various sale rings in the brand area of Nebraska. This list is published monthly in the Nebraska Cattleman magazine, official publication of the Nebraska Stockgrowers Association.

With the cooperation of the cattle people and state associations, the Nebraska Brand Committee feels that cattle theft can thus be maintained at a minimum.

Area Farmers to Help With 1959 Crop Survey

Several thousand Nebraska farmers will be asked to help in the June 1 surveys on farm crops and livestock in the state and nation. The mid-year survey of crop acreage and livestock numbers will be made during the period of May 20 to June 3, A. V. Nordquist, State Agricultural Statistician announced today.

Brand Inspection Up Over One Year Ago

Inspection records released by the Nebraska Brand Committee show an increase on cattle inspection in April 1959 as compared to receipts of one year ago.

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Social Security A representative of the Norfolk social security office will be in the assembly room (basement) of the courthouse in O'Neill from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, June 10.

A person reaching retirement age this year and expecting to earn \$200 or less is urged to apply for social security benefits about a month before his birthday.

Good Feeding Discussed Victory boys and girls beef club held a meeting May 24 at the George Fick home. Six members were present and two absent. We discussed the factors important to good feeding. The selection and mixing of rations and the essential nutrients in feeds. Each member told about some experience they had had in the last month while working with their calves. Each member is to give a report on some livestock disease at the next meeting. Kathy Fick, reporter

Orville W. Banks In Weapons Matches FORT RILEY, KAN.—Sergeant First Class Orville W. Banks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Banks, O'Neill, recently participated in the Fifth Army rifle and pistol matches at Fort Riley, Kan. Sergeant Banks, a tank commander in Troop B, of the 1st Infantry Division's 4th Cavalry at Fort Riley, entered the Army in 1950 and was last stationed in Greenland. The 25-year-old soldier, whose wife Marilyn, lives in Manhattan, Kan., attended O'Neill High School.

Paul Shierk INSURANCE AGENCY O'NEILL, NEBR. Insurance of All Kinds

AT AUCTION Wednesday, June 10 — 2.30 P.M. REMINGTON ARMS MOTEL Ainsworth, Nebraska This is one of the best Motel's on U.S. 20 Hiway, the Yellowstone and Black Hills Route. There are 20 units, 16 single and 4 doubles and 1 two room unit, 2 units have tub baths, balance showers, all in ceramic tile. Heat is hot water from central heating unit with circulating pump. The furnishings are high grade and complete in every way. Telephones in all rooms and 13 rooms air conditioned. At the center are the living quarters consisting of nice well equipped office and covered 2 car port at the front, large kitchen with loads of builtins, disposal sink, automatic dish washer, dinette with built-in booth and table, 2 bed rooms and bath, full basement with 2 bedrooms and bath. To the rear of the Motel is a large building containing 2 car garage, storage room and complete commercial laundry with linen and bedding storage. The grounds have 325 ft. frontage with 3 entrances, the large front sign has flower box, lovely trees and shrubbery and grassed parking make this a very attractive place. Adjacent is a 24 hour service station and fine restaurant to accommodate the Motel guests. Terms: 20% cash day of sale, purchaser may assume a loan balance of approximately \$78,000 as of June 1st, with easy monthly payments if desired. Write or call Auctioneers for sale bill. WAGNER & CUTTELL 727 So. 11th St., Lincoln, Nebraska—THE AUCTIONEERS J. R. Frost, Ring Man

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