

Prairieland Talk

Irrigation Hang Over

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

Some of the moderns now stepping about on the prairies of Holt county propose to wet the growing corn and beans by pumping water. The Irrigation idea is a hang over or revival from the past. The first citizens of this section of prairieland thought irrigation was the making of the country and had plans to open an irrigation ditch from the lakes in Cherry county on down across Holt. Heavy rains dampened the idea. Grass robed as the prairie is, it was discovered that this is cow country. A forgotten generation aspired to great things—artesian wells, factories, brick yards, packing plants, flour mills, and even coal mines. Pat Bibbons, who had holed up with his family where The Frontier editor now parks to perform his editorial duties, had started to dig in his back yard. Coal mines were in the talk of the day, so some joker stumped chunks of coal where Gibbons had been digging and covered the coal with dirt while Pat slept. Then when he went out and began to dig again he struck the coal, raised up and shouted to his wife. "We are rich; we have a coal mine." But somewhat depressed later, Pat returned to his job as section hand down on the railroad.

It was a hot week in July 58 years ago. The Sunday schools of Holt county sent delegates to their annual convention held in O'Neill. Some few over forty delegates were present but others interested in Sunday Schools listened in and looked on. Rev. Mr. Rominger gave the opening address. Delegates reported interest and progress in their communities in Sunday school work. Officers of the county association of Sunday Schools were elected, T. A. Moss of Amelia president, Charles Phelps, Page, vice president, secretary Blanche Adams of O'Neill, and treasurer E. H. Benedict of O'Neill. Mrs. Lena Peck of Atkinson and A. T. Carson of Ewing were selected to supervise certain features of Sunday School work.

Mrs. Orme assures me that she will be a candidate for another term in the state legislature. She will no doubt be re-elected. Senator Frank Nelson is back home again in overalls pulling weeds and bringing in the wood for Mrs. Nelson. But Frank, too, doubtless will try another swing at the Statehouse job and I shall look for him at the next session. But for now he may look out upon the green-robed landscape at his ranch in picturesque northern Holt county and when the Old Settlers picnic comes off next month, join in pretending to be one of them. I don't know how many of the 400 new laws to regulate the conduct of Nebraskans Senator Frank or Senator Fern helped to put through, or opposed, but trust they both have conscience clear and void of offense.

The death of John Kennedy lays another in the abode of the dead who had served with this writer on the election board down in Swan precinct. Two others that served as judge of election down there in Swan preceded Mr. Kennedy in death, Jessie James and Rafe Shaw, and two remain down there that were on the election board in my day, Howard Berry and Art Doolittle. And Mr. Moss, another pioneer of southern Holt county, has been laid away in the graveyard. The aged pass away, babies are born to continue this march from the cradle to the grave.

Four score years had left their wrinkles on his brow and touched the auburn hair above that brow with the marks of time, slowed his manly stride. But soul and mind, for young, expand and grow to absorb the things most enduring.

The automobile was then something of an experiment. We rolled along the prairie trail gayly with a self-satisfied attitude toward the world about as much as to say, Look at us! Then boastful pride and exalted self-achievement received a jolt—we were stuck in a little puddle of water and mud. Along came a cowpuncher his gay belding on the cow-horse trot. The rider tossed us the end of his lasso rope which we tied to a front bumper. The puncher snubbed his end of the lasso to his saddle horn, and out of the mud and water rolled our outfit plumed to dry "terra firma" by the lone cowboy's moult.

I have seen the ocean waves as they beat upon the shore. I have stood where mountain peaks rise high where eagles soar. But these are not robed in beauty as is the open prairie when day begins to dawn and holds the admiring eye until the shades of the night are drawn.

He was said to be the richest man in Kansas, his name Garvey and at the age of 66 met his end on the trails of travel. Highways are no respectors of persons—aged, youth, childhood, rich or the have-notings have all the same chance of crack-up or safety on our highways. The ancients incased themselves in armor when on the hunt or warpath. Maybe some sort of armor can be made to crawl into when taking off on the highways and land you safely at journey's end.

September 26 is some distance away. We may not travel that far; but if so, the annual gathering of our State Historical Society members at Hotel Cornhusker in Lincoln holds a lure. Prof. John Hicks of the University of California will be present to address the gathering.

Yes we can all smile and be pleasant, as life moves on with a song. But some one has said that the fellow worth while is the one who can smile when everything goes dead wrong.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

John Horiskey was Uncle Sam's mail bag to and from the station and "talking as much as ever" between trains. An item appearing in the July 15, 1909 issue of The Frontier, in the Kola items read as follows: "By the time these items reach the press we will be greeting our neighbors and saying 'Hello' over the phone. Miss Bea McCafferty went to Butte, Mont. where she spent a couple months visiting relatives. Col. Neil Brennan's new residence progressed rapidly under the active swing of saws and hammers. Jas. B. Ryan and William Froelich attended a horse sale in Omaha. Shady O'Neill, Hugh McKenna's fast little pacer, won first place money in the 2:12 race at Auburn. The purse was \$400. The following is a Redbird item as seen in the Lynch Journal in 1909: J. A. Pinkerman won first place in the foot race at Dorsey the 4th. S. J. Halstead, second. This was the old man's race, anyone over 90 years eligible to enter. J. A.'s early experience in Holt County stood the test. Death: I. R. Smith died on the Black Hills train near Long Pine.

20 YEARS AGO

The District 4-H club held at Hidden Paradise in Long Pine planned at attendance of at least 25 boys and girls, members of the Holt county 4-H clubs. Warren Hall, Burwell, was in O'Neill visiting his mother, Mrs. Georgia Raelley. Little Genevieve Jones fell and broke both bones in her arm. Will Harvey finished plastering the new house on the Will Kaczor place and also rebuilt the chimney on the old house. Births: A son to Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Borg at the O'Neill General Hospital; A daughter, Mary Stigman, to Mr. and Mrs. James McNally. John Lee Baker entertained sixteen of his young friends at a birthday party at his home. Married: Francis Curran and Miss Dorothy O'Leis at the new Catholic station here. Erected by Ed Chudomelka on the highway northwest of Inman is rapidly nearing completion. Mr. Chudomelka will handle the Standard products and do all kind of repairing. Margaret Raymond visited a few days in Omaha before going to Denver, Colo. where they planned to spend two weeks visiting their aunts, Misses Mayme, Kathryn and Rose Grady. Deaths: Joe David Barnes, 2 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Barnes; O. W. Wittchen, drowned in Criss' Lake northwest of Stuart when the boat he was in capsized throwing him into the water.

10 YEARS AGO

Last minute preparations were made in readiness of the St. Anthony's hospital benefit ball game to be played here. Mrs. Anna Davidson, O'Neill was selected as the "Nebraska Auxiliary Mother of 1949". Among the newly elected directors of the Nebraska river basin project from the O'Neill region were John F. Dick, O'Neill, Walter Ries, Atkinson and Carroll (Cal) Stewart, O'Neill. Mr. and Mrs. James Boyle celebrated their silver wedding anniversary. Fourteen Holt county veterans made applications for on the farm training. James (Jim) Hartly, 34 was appointed manager of Osborne's Shoe Store here. Mrs. J. W. Walter was re-elected president of the Chamber of Commerce. Married: Mary Joan Jarman, Chambers and James Anthony Ringel, Omaha. Chester J. Staples, 18 year-old Butte youth, drowned in the lake at the state recreation park west of Atkinson. Elgin Ray, manager of the Speltz Ray Lumber Company here, was elected commander of Simonson post 93, American Legion, succeeding John C. Watson. Deaths: Miss Hyldred Joyce McKim, 31. O'Neill died following several years of illness; Mrs. Hannah Idela Dalton, 88, O'Neill, died after a 12 year illness; Mrs. Elsie Mary Karr, 83, retired Atkinson farm woman; William J. Harris, 88, Ewing.

Why Not, Indeed? (Ord Quiz)

Why not do it in Valley county? Why not establish turkey raising and processing in our region? That's the question occurring to me while reading about the marvellously successful growth of turkey marketing in Minnesota; (only California does more with turkeys).

Beginning a few years ago, Minnesota turkey factories are now a big money business, and new processes are putting on the menu such unusual treats as turkeyburgers, turkey sausage, meat loaf, and balcony made of turkey, quarter-turkey roasts, turkey soup, in addition to all the commonly frozen types of turkey-to-use birds.

The turkey steaks are served nearly every day in restaurants in this state, a thick, inviting cut of white meat about a third of an inch thick. Since they are high in protein, low in fat, and easy for troubled stomachs to digest, as well as simple to prepare, the welcome for them is great.

But nearly 80 percent of the market continues to be found between Christmas and New Year's, and the turkey growers want to teach housewives to think of turkey for meals throughout all 12 months. Women have shown that they do not wish to buy the whole bird, necessarily, and the cut-up fryers are selling faster and faster. Gone are the days when turkey meant only a large, whole roasted bird, as the easy-to-fix pieces of a small six or eight pound bird prove to be tender and easy and quick to fry.

Turkeys like quiet. They like the open spaces. They spook easy, so it is best to raise them several hundred yards from roads and residences. They use a shelter or perch at night. Heck, I don't know about them. . . but don't they sound like a crop we could concentrate on to our own advantage?

If we don't get a shot in the arm here, with some new interests, we may fold up and blow away!

In 18 Minnesota towns turkeys have brought \$60,000,000 worth of processing business. Hatching and all the allied lines mean a \$100,000,000 business in this state. Nebraska could use this kind of money.

In the modern processing not a thing is wasted. The heads and feet and viscera go into mink food. Even the feathers are processed into a protein food supplement.

Editorial

Water--A Yardstick

In the Stuart Advocate last week there was included an observation of the newspaper's fine editor-publisher on the short supply of water in O'Neill and the abundance of it in Stuart.

By cutting the water rates in half in Stuart, the council has a right to expect to see greener lawns, more beautiful flowers and all the community pride and satisfaction that goes with them.

Whether or not this will be the result (all other factors eliminated) will depend upon how much personal effort the townspeople will exert since making water available at half the cost doesn't make people more energetic and willing to drag hoses unless they believed the water rates were too high in the first place.

Another particularly one community is contrasted with—but before our where civic improvement is concerned—you must realize that the shortage of these facilities is a far more healthy sign than the abundance of them in most cases.

Growth is the magic word. And the use of water is, according to the best statisticians, one of the best indicators of population growth. As communities increase in size, so does the retail level, and the economic health. And if you do not have these increases, you will never have those many green lawns and pretty flowers that become so important to a community.

We do not wish to imply that people alone makes the green lawn. But the kind of people who have the leisure time to make certain their lawns are something to be proud of, will, more often than not, be the same people who are the most concerned with the economic and social health of their community.

In other words, we believe—taking the average home owner—those who have the greenest lawns also buy the most shoes, the most new suits, the most new cars, the most retail goods. There are exceptions, of course.

Sure, O'Neill has a water shortage. O'Neill is growing and has a growing pains.

And so what if we do need a new well and a new pump? The improvements will pay for themselves in ways that we cannot now even imagine. Every

time one new family moves to town an increase of tens of thousands of gallons of water will be consumed.

Every time a new air-conditioner—also a good economic health indicator—is introduced in town, thousands more gallons will be used.

Every time a new business moves to town more water is used. As our way-of-life is made better, the more water we use.

It is far better for a community to be short of water and be doing something about it than to have an abundance of it and with no particular reason to believe that the day to day supply will not diminish—the indicator of social and economic growth.

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CAPITOL NEWS

Lively Politics Expected

By Melvin Paul Statehouse Correspondent The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN—Nebraskans can look to some lively politicking between now and the 1960 elections.

From the preliminaries, which began the minute Gov. Ralph G. Brooks—first Democratic governor in 18 years in Nebraska—stepped into the chief executive's suite in the Capitol, the game will be rough.

It may well be a year of the roughest mud-slinging in many a moon in the Cornhusker state.

Stinging exchanges have taken place between Sen. Terry Carpenter of Scottsbluff and Brooks. Neither is at a loss for words, even when not engaged in political maneuvers.

Carpenter has been considered a prime Republican candidate for governor and even many long-time GOP members say Carpenter will be tough to beat in the party primary.

Fussing in Nebraska, once again a two-party state after 18 years, may not quit with the general election in 1960.

If the Democrats hang on to their foothold in the statehouse, or spread into new areas, the Republicans will be hard at them with renewed vigor.

On the other hand, if the GOP gets back into the Capitol, the Democrats will go sailing out of statehouse posts like the Republicans are being booted out now.

Some observers look for a renewed drive in the counties to get more Democrats to run for the Legislature, even though legislators are elected on non-political tickets.

There were 31 Republicans out of the 43 senators serving in the 1959 session—the most political in the 22-year history of the non-partisan Unicameral.

In 1958, the Republicans made a determined effort to elect party members to the senate. Some of those elected were designed to cut down Carpenter on the floor but this job was not done very effectively.

Brooks was hampered in the Legislature on major programs by the Republican bloc.

The governor did not miss the opportunity to "lay it on the line" in his final message to the lawmakers before they adjourned.

Said the chief executive: "There were many divergent expressions of opinion in the painstaking procedure of providing constructive legislation for our people."

Some of these, conceded the governor, were the result of diverse philosophies.

But, he added, others were on the "sole ground of partisan politics." And, in cases where politics were involved, the "best interests" of the people of the state were submerged, the governor concluded.

As a result of the renewed status of two-party politics in Nebraska the usual "summertime lull" in the Capitol may not be present.

Instead, the summer heat may be accentuated by that from the potential office seekers.

Oratory Preserved They are going to preserve for posterity the oratory of state senators in floor speeches.

That is, if the next session of the Legislature decides to adopt rules put into effect by the last group of lawmakers.

A rules change was approved calling for recording all debates on the floor. Now, this is not done, and senators argued that the fact debate is not taken down has hampered courts in determining intent of the Legislature where ambiguous bills are concerned.

Clerk Hugo Srb will have the job of finding out exactly what method should be employed.

There are microphones in the legislative chamber and Srb is toying with the idea of hooking a tape recorder to the speaking system, thus doing away with the necessity of a shorthand reporter taking down the millions of spoken words.

It was suggested that a tape recorder would be less expensive than having a stenographer take shorthand, then type up a transcript of proceedings.

Srb says he is going to carry the problem to a national meeting of clerks of the Legislature throughout the country and see what they can come up with.

Senators emphasized they did not want an elaborate setup like the Congressional Record where debate is printed at considerable expense.

Srb says he will use discretion in coming up with a suggestion for the next Legislature.

Blood Type A step is going to be taken by Al Scissors, State Motor Vehicle Director, that could save lives of those involved in automobile accidents.

Scissors states a space will be made on drivers' licenses where motorists can write down their blood type.

This could be used in an emergency for giving of blood to seriously injured persons.

The suggestion was made by State Sen. A. A. Fenske of Sunol.

New Tillage Tool Seen in Midwest

The land leveler—a tillage tool imported from the irrigated fields of the West—is literally carving a name for itself in Midwestern farming.

terways, and improves surface drainage.

The secret of the leveler is that its working blade puts clods into a churning motion, grinding them together and working them down. The fine dirt sifts to the bottom, and is discharged under the blade, and the remaining clods keep turning until worked fine.

Deposit of fine dirt in this manner is possible because of the machine's principle of operation according to the magazine. The main weight is carried by the front and rear so that the blade pressure and cutting depth can be adjusted to do the desired job. When adjusted for working down ground, the blade carries enough earth to work clods continuously, then deposit fine dirt.

TIPS ON FREEZING

Your "winter garden" from the freezer can give fresh summer flavor if you take steps to maintain the original quality of the vegetables.

An article in the July issue of Successful Farming magazine says to blanch, chill rapidly, and package your vegetables for best quality in freezing.

Handle asparagus, snap beans, lima beans, and peas quickly from the garden to freezer. Discard tough, overmature, or damaged parts, and snap or shell before freezing. Blanch 1½ minutes in boiling water, or 3 minutes in live steam. Plunge the vegetables into ice water; cool, and package.

For sweet cut corn, first husk, silk, wash, and trim the ears, then blanch on the cob for 1½ minutes. Cut then cool the corn. For sweet corn-on-the-cob, follow the same steps, extending the blanching time to 6 to 8 minutes, and omit cutting, the magazine says.

Blind Intersections Major Accident Cause

Blind intersections on rural roads are the major cause of automobile and truck accidents, according to an article in July Successful Farming magazine. About one out of ten deaths on highways occur at rural intersections on secondary roads, and about half are during the growing months, July through October. Cornfields, weeds, brush, and trees all contribute to the high accident rate on secondary roads.

Key problem at these intersections is rapidly growing corn, says the magazine. When fields are planted up to corners, motorists cannot see approaching vehicles from other roads in the intersection.

"Topping" corn at the corners of these fields has been a major solution in one state. Stalks were

clipped 100 to 175 feet back from the corners on each field, for visibility on all four sides.

Agronomists agree there is little loss in production from "topping." As soon as the stalks form ears, they can be clipped off a few inches above the ears. This provides an open view on intersections, yet lets the ears complete near-to-normal development.

In some areas, farmers are being urged to plant smaller crops in the corner of fields, and to clear trees and brush, says the magazine.

COOLS HOGS QUICKLY

Contrary to the old wolf stories,

a straw house is just the thing for pigs these days.

Successful Farming magazine reports that a straw roof is ideal for keeping hogs cool and in good appetite during the hot summer months.

Tests at the University of California reveal that straw-shaded pigs gain was about 1.33 to 1.75 pounds a day, substantially more than gains for the next best shelter material.

Straw shades can be built in any width, and length, says the magazine. Stretch chicken wire across 2-by-3-inch cross boards, within the framework of the shelter. Stack straw about one foot deep, covering with another layer of wire.

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