

The Best of . . .

# "Prairieland Talk"

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS

Reprinted from June 3, 1948

At the age of one full century a Nebraska woman tells of getting a meal in a hurry for Jesse James at her early home down in Missouri. The incentive to haste was a word from the outlaw and a glimpse at the artillery he was equipped with. Other Nebraska women served meals to outlaws.

The April sun pointed to the hour of noon a day in the early 1880s. Three men came riding out of the gulches of the Niobrara river basin in northern Holt county—Homer, Rene and Orlander Dutcher, a trio of brothers but little removed from the barbaric Lake Jesse James that came riding up to the Missouri woman's home and demanded something to eat, these three men dismounted at the cabin of a settler and ordered dinner and feed for their horses. The settler will be mentioned by the name of Ragan, though that is not the true name. The husband and father had started that morning for O'Neill 30 miles away to get a few supplies. Jimmy, the younger of three boys, remained with his mother while the two older boys took care of the horses.

Mrs. Ragan prepared a pitiful meal. Her eyes wet with tears under pressure of a headache because of crushing poverty and so little to set before these men whom she recognized as the terrible Dutchers.

They ate, or pretended to, went out, remounted and started back over the trail in the direction from whence they came instead of proceeding on toward town as they had said they would do. Within a quarter of an hour there was heard at the settler's home a rifle shot. Presently back came the three men with a deer slung across the horse of one of the riders. The men skinned the deer, dressed and cleaned the carcass and left it for the family to feed on fresh venison. They then proceeded on the journey to town. The next day they returned with flour, sugar and other food supplies for a desperately needy family of settlers who had shown a willingness to share their little.

This was one way frontier "bad men" had of hunting out needy settlers.

Probably the most cheerful gent you can encounter is one who is boring through dirt, sand, rock and gravel in search of a pool of oil. Out there in the vicinity of the Spencer dam, on the Holt county side of the Niobrara, a township was included in the scheme for a search for oil. Drilling had gone well under way with that stuff they call oil shale showing up in the subterranean specimens coming out of the hole. The last story told was on November 1, 1945, when the boss of the works called at The Frontier and informed us he was on a hunt for additional pipe. Said he was heading South. I don't know what resulted from the hunt or if my friend of the oil industry ever got back to Holt county.



Romain Saunders

The heads of the Ford automobile industry are the first to have the courage to ask their 100 thousand or more employees to agree to wage reductions. And they throw out the warning of a period of unemployment if the demand for increased pay continues.

With head raised in an attitude that suggests he might be scanning the Nebraska heavens for a sign of rain, a new faculty member of the state university is pictured in state papers. The gentleman with a doctor's degree comes from Iowa to direct the university chemistry project. This is supposed to be, as Webster defines it, the application of a scientific knowledge of chemistry to the cultivation of the soil, to secure from it not only food, but clothing, shelter, heat, power and other undefined possibilities. What Nebraska farm tractor drivers are getting out of all this has never been made known. But maybe we had better cancel the order. Here comes a candidate for president who if elected would pull up every other row of corn, and he is another Iowa gentleman.

The proposed draft for military service would be O.K. if the age feature was set at from 60 to 80.

Now comes a rabble rouser to the capital city preaching "political reform." Maybe the best political reform would be to cut off the stream flowing from the U. S. treasury to a large group of citizens and a return to the old fashioned American conception of survival through the medium of root hog or die.

Had Governor Dewey taken him on in Nebraska as challenged, the Dewey-Stassen bid for votes here might have resulted as it did in Oregon. Don't invite a gent who is on the tricks of the court room into a debate if you wish to avoid a trap.

Another Memorial day was allotted to the living. Out of the tragedy of battle field has come a beautiful service. Memories subduing the thought of material things on Memorial day with the floral tributes are no longer meant alone for the soldier.

"On fame's eternal camping ground Their silent tents are spread; And glory guards in solemn round The bivouac of the dead."

At the head of the graves of the Grand Army soldiers is placed the American flag they fought to preserve as the emblem of a united nation. Almost to the last man they have turned to the dust of earth from whence mankind came. Other men of other battle fields rest in cemeteries at home and abroad.

There are none among the living of any community who have not been touched by the poignant sorrow of a desolated home. And as we have gone again to lay a wreath upon the graves of our dead that simple service has been an expression of the best in our lives.

# Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

M. P. Clinton and Miss Margaret McDermott were married Wednesday morning, leaving on the 10 o'clock Northwestern train for their honeymoon which will include a visit to various cities throughout the west. A concrete curb is being put in around the courthouse grounds. Iron rings have been set in the curb on the west side for the accommodation of C. A. Smith, Burlington, agent here for the past two years has been transferred to the Omaha offices, O. W. West supplying the point here for the present. Col. Barney Stewart came up from Page Monday night to help with the coroner's inquest on the body of the colonel, who is a perpetual Nebraska booster and authority on all subjects, says the country looks best this summer.

25 YEARS AGO

Marriage rites were performed at the Lutheran parsonage at Walnut, Nebr., Wednesday morning, May 25, when Harvey Krugman took as his bride, Emma Berglund of Opportunity. Howard Bauman moved his beer parlor Wednesday to the new building a few doors west, just erected by Mrs. W. H. Stein and sister, and will be open for business Friday. Dr. O. W. French and family moved from Page to the city Wednesday and are now located in the Riley home in the newer part of the city. O'Neill friends have received word that Harlan Agnes, formerly a resident of O'Neill, but now living in Sioux City, is to be married to Katherine King of Sioux City. Lyndie R. Stout, Holt county agricultural agent, left Sunday for Lincoln taking with him a group of 4-H club members and they will attend a statewide 4-H club meeting.

10 YEARS AGO

A "Miss O'Neill" beauty contest will be sponsored Tuesday evening, June 9, at the American Legion auditorium. Simonson post 93 is searching for a lovely to represent the city in statewide competition. The office of Miss Alice French, Holt county superintendent of public instruction, has been designated a center for channeling housing provisions with the Air Force wind test to be held here later this summer. Donald Godel son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Godel of O'Neill arrived Saturday, May 17 to spend a leave here. He was accompanied by Raymond Harmon, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Harmon. They had been at San Diego where they completed boot training. Mr. and Mrs. Will Conner of Ewing will be the honored guests at open house held for them at the Loren Jeffries home southwest of Clearwater, Sunday, June 7.

5 YEARS AGO

Howard Manson was elected president of the Lions club. Bert Harding, 76, a former Holt deputy sheriff under Charlie Hall, arrived last Thursday from San Jose, Calif., to visit relatives including his brother, Charles Harding and Mrs. Guy Cole. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Keyes, Inman will observe their golden wedding anniversary, June 1. Janice Myers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Myers of Stuart, was presented as valedictorian of the class of 1958 of Stuart high school. Dr. William H. Ross was installed as minister of the Ewing Presbyterian church at ceremonies conducted at Ewing Sunday by a commission of the Nebraska Presbytery. Mr. Ross has served as minister of the church for some time on a supply basis.

## The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

At the regular session of the IOOF Lodge Tuesday evening the following officers were elected for the ensuing term: O. Dorothy N. G., Hiram Hubbard V. G. The same officers held over for Secretary and Treasurer. Rev. Hunter will occupy the pulpit in the Baptist church Sunday evening, June 1. Everybody welcome. Lucy Hayes and her associate players gave a performance at the opera house last Friday and Saturday afternoon. Dr. Gill

reports the birth of a fine baby boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Green of Bliss last Thursday night. Everybody doing fine. Walt Tibbitts arrived Tuesday from New Mexico where his folks are living. He will remain here all summer.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Robinson (nee Dorothy Wilkinson) of Woodruff, Kan., are the proud parents of a 9 1/4 pound boy, born to them on May 25. Sixteen of Emil Lieswald Jr.'s neighbors helped him to re-angle his barn, the latter part of last week, it having been un-roofed by the tornado of May 17. Miss Mildred Waldo and Miss Bessie Doolittle were recipients of a miscellaneous shower held in the Amelia Hall on the afternoon of May 28. The girls have been friends since grade school days and it seemed proper and fitting to shower them together with gifts and best wishes. Mrs. Adaline Richart returned home Tuesday morning from Cozy where she had spent the previous month with her sister, Mrs. Milton Thompson. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson are the proud parents of a ten pound son, born May 13.

## Pages Past

40 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Lee Hunter left for Wyoming Tuesday. The telephone company is putting up a new set of poles in town. The infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Givens is quite sick. John Balyntyne is building an addition to his house on Smith street. Miss Genevieve Kennedy is home from Lincoln for a month's vacation. The R. N. A. Kensington met with Mrs. Edmister at Middle Branch on Wednesday. The schools of Holt County have organized an Athletic Association and will hold a baseball, track and field meet at O'Neill May 18. The baseball game will be played with Stuart, champion of the west and the champion of the east for the championship of Holt county. In the afternoon will be foot races, jumps, pole vaults and weight throwing. The school receiving the largest number of points will receive a large loving cup which will be the property of the school. A large banner will be given to the champions of the county. Each winner will receive a ribbon showing whether they took a first, second or third place in the contests. Schools participating will be Page, Stuart, O'Neill, Atkinson, Ewing, Chambers, Inman and a number of rural schools.

50 YEARS AGO

R. K. Stevens sold a span of horses the first of the week. Roy Waring and family visited with the former's family Sunday. C. M. Stevens and wife visited at the George Frase home Sunday. Mrs. Will Sholes has been very sick with measles and other complications. J. S. Walker of Sioux City is visiting his daughter, Mrs. George Hartford and wife of Hay Point and Warren Weaver and wife of Montana visited with Charles Manning Saturday. Last Thursday while herding cattle on the school section Branch Bryan Stevens saw an old wolf among the cattle. He chased it with his pony but failed to scare it away. Thinking it might have young ones near by, the next morning his two brothers took a spade and gun and went out there. They succeeded in digging out and capturing eight young ones but failed to see the old one.

## Riverside News

By Mrs. Lionel Gunter

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fink, Mrs. Edna Loquest and Mrs. Fern Pollock attended Mrs. Oscar Broadbrook's funeral services in Colome, S. D. Thursday. Susan Napier visited Sheila Fry Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. William Loquest and family visited at the Charles Rotherham home Tuesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. John Napier and family were in Lincoln Wednesday for the twins dental appointment and visited at the Ed Cady home.

Mr. and Mrs. Ora Switzer and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Miller and family were guests Tuesday evening for ice cream and cake at the Wendell Switzer home in honor of Wendell's Birthday.

Mrs. John Napier and children visited at the Ed Walters home in Chambers last Monday afternoon.

Mrs. Robert Hobbs and children of Omaha spent Thursday



REDBIRD SCHOOL PUPILS toured the Frontier printing plant Friday. Shown here watching Gary Richardson, Frontier printer, are Susan Wells, Negr. Hull, Nancy Wells, Roger Bessert,

Rita Wells, Cathy Bessert, Albert Wells, Gaylene Hull, Cheryl Wells and Donnie Wells. Lila Hull is the teacher.

and were overnight guests at the Dewitt Hoke home. They attended the commencement in Ewing public school Thursday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Nelson and Jimmy. Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Hord, Mrs. George Montgomery, Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Fry and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Shrader and Gordon, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Shrader, Sandra and David, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Miller and family, Mrs. Dale Napier, Mrs. Z. H. Fry, Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Schlotman and Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Gunter were also guests Thursday evening after commencement at the Dewitt Hoke home in honor of Clayton's graduation.

Mrs. Keith Biddlecome and Mrs. George Montgomery were supper guests at the Rolland Hord home Wednesday. Mrs. Montgomery spent a couple days at the Hord home.

Mrs. Keith Biddlecome called on Mr. and Mrs. Will Conner Wednesday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Ahlers visited at the Earl Pierson home Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Earl Pierson and Mrs. Keith Biddlecome visited Mrs. George Montgomery Tuesday afternoon. Wednesday afternoon Mrs. Keith Biddlecome took Mrs. George Montgomery to the doctor and called on George Montgomery in the Neigh hospital.

Mrs. Dale Napier, Mrs. Lynn Fry and Sheila, Mrs. Melvin Napier and Carol, Mrs. John Napier and children, Mrs. Web Napier, and Mrs. Ralph Munn were guests Thursday morning for coffee at the Richard Napier home in honor of Mrs. Richard Napier's birthday.

Mrs. Maude Gunter, Mrs. Althea Peterson and Mrs. R. A. Hord were dinner guests Wednesday at the Lionel Gunter home.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Nelson and Jimmy and Mrs. Maude Gunter were guests last Sunday at the Dewitt Hoke home.

The Verl Gunter family visited Alice Shrader last Sunday evening.

Mrs. Wayne Fry had a major operation last Tuesday at the

Tilden hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Davis William and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miller were supper guests Thursday at the Walker Millers and dinner guests Friday at the Leo Millers. The CVG group met Friday evening at the Riverside Free Methodist church and Rev. William Ross gave them a Missionary talk.

The Riverside Missionary Society met with Mrs. Melvin Napier Thursday afternoon. Mrs. Dewitt Hoke and Mrs. Wilbur Bennett attended the Eastern Star Kensington Friday afternoon at the James Pruden home.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pierson visited at the Lionel Gunter home last Monday evening.

The Art Busshardt family visited at the Dave Pollock home Thursday evening. They are now vacationing in Florida.

Wayne Fry and family and Vern Buschcamp were dinner guests Saturday at the William Loquest home.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis Williams, Salem, Ore., are visiting her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. David Bosell and son came Sunday to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miller and other relatives.

Mrs. Dale Napier and Mrs. Z. H. Fry visited Mrs. Wayne Fry in the Tilden hospital and George Montgomery in the Neigh hospital Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Napier attended the court of honor for the boy scouts Friday evening. Leroy received his first class badge.

School district 173 had their picnic dinner at the school house Wednesday. The teacher, Miss Nila Cary has been rehired for another year.

Rev. and Mrs. Paul Andre and family and Charles Dickau were dinner guests last Sunday at the Grant Mott home.

Mr. and Mrs. Web Napier and the Richard Napier family left Saturday morning for Haysville,

Kan., to spend the weekend at the Russel Napier home. They plan to return home Monday. Clayton Hoke accompanied Mrs. Robert Hobbs and children as far as Norfolk Friday morning. Rev. and Mrs. George Frances and family, Grandma Frances, Mrs. Esthermae Barnhart and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Mott and Charles Dickau were guests Thursday evening after the commencement exercises at the Ewing school house, for lunch at the Grant Mott home.

The Frontier

**GAS-TOONS**

—BY—

**Fritz Bazelman**

"I see your wife is still visiting her mother, Ed!"

You won't have a worry in the world when we service your car.

**Bazelman**

**Mobil Service**

SINCE 1929

Phone 355

Hwy 20 East

Editorial

## School Land Problem

Dale Payne, State Senator from District 3 at Papillion, has come up with a novel solution to the state school land problem. According to a letter from Senator Payne he has inquired of the Attorney General of Nebraska if it would be possible for the state to use the school lands (now leased to individuals) to conduct and manage ranching and farming operations.

Senator Payne says and we quote "There appears to be mixed emotions among those participating in legislative decisions relative to the dividing line between a free enterprise system and state management of businesses. Usually the latter is referred to as 'socialism'."

Mr. Payne continues in his letter, "While I am adamant about protecting the traditions of the free enterprise system I would point out that the idea of having the State of Nebraska directly participating in the ranching and farming business could be justified since it would be conducted on lands that are already owned by the state. This is not as extreme as other proposals whereby a legitimate business would be destroyed by legislative action with the excuse that said destruction of private business is justified because additional revenue would be realized."

"The potential increased income to the State of Nebraska under this proposal would produce much more revenue than is now realized from the rental system. This would appear to be in the public interest."

All we can say is that if state management of

businesses is usually referred to as "socialism" we can see no reason to call it otherwise in this case. Karl Marx may have fancier words and explanations for the same system but it still boils down to the same thing.

BUT WAIT! HOLD THE PHONE! Now comes another letter from Senator Payne, dated two days later. Seems another Senator is investigating the feasibility of putting the State of Nebraska in the trading stamp business.

Mr. Payne seems to have changed his views. We quote from his second letter: "Putting the state into business is dangerous and socialistic." "Around and around it goes and where it stops nobody knows." "If a bill to have the state conduct a trading stamp business is prompted by this Senator, (who remains nameless) it opens the door to all types of State of Nebraska-operated businesses."

"Certainly this type of legislation would give support to the growing idea that the state can make more money in raising cattle and farming on public school lands than it can from leasing the land to individuals. I believe the state would lose money in operating any business enterprise including the trading stamp business." Senator Payne underlines his next statement, "I am opposed to the state being in any business. Private business pays taxes and helps support government."

Looks to us like Senator Payne is out to prove that there are two sides to any question and he's going to be on both of them.

## Farming is Big Gamble

Gambling is a practice, or vice that is universally condemned. Laws are passed to protect the stupid who do not see its viscious futlity or dishonesty. However, there will always be those who delight in playing the long odds and among them the most notorious of these is the farmer. The time is at hand just now for him to draw his cards in a game to be decided late next fall.

His move now is to plant crops, buy feeds, stock his pasture and feedlots, throw in months of hard work, keep an eye on the elements and play the markets by ear.

His whole family will sit in on the game and with an uncertain hand to play against an unknown and unpredictable adversary, it would look to the kibitzer like a smart idea to just sit out this round. Don't suggest such a thing though, because again and again the Nebraska farmer has raked in a good stack of chips to say nothing of the excitement of the game.

The first hand this spring brought a floundering market for livestock, and the second an unheard of hard freeze so late in May. The second play will be to take any necessary steps to combat the damage; cut the blackened alfalfa and replant frozen corn, give needed care to late corn, watch out for cutworms and never forget that the jack is wild, meaning that it may be hail, wind or drought that can really throw the game.

We are all watching because we've all laid our bets and late next fall we'll tally the points—then a few weeks to plan new strategy, clear the board and a new deal is on. May the best man win.



BILL RICHARDSON, Publisher  
BRUCE J. REHBERG, Editor

Terms of Subscription: In Nebraska, \$3.50 per year; elsewhere in the United States, \$4 per year, rate abroad provided upon request. All subscriptions payable in advance.

Entered at the postoffice in O'Neill, Holt county, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. This newspaper is a member of the Nebraska Press Association, National Editorial Association and the Audit Bureau of Circulations.



## Hospitalization at its Finest

The Most Complete, Guaranteed Hospital, Surgical Medical Plan

## New Superior Plan

Sickness or Accident

For as low as \$1.60 per month we pay \$300 Per Month, For \$3.50 per month we pay \$750

For Free Details Return This Coupon to

Fritz Bill  
**Klusman & Park Insurance Agy.**  
O'Neill, Nebr. Phone 635

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

It's the unity in a community that gets the job done

In Creighton... THE LARGEN MANUFACTURING COMPANY



Another home grown industry that is helping Nebraska communities gain a sound industrial reputation is the Largen Manufacturing Company in Creighton. Founded more than 50 years ago, this firm manufactures the Flavor-Crisp pressure fryer for institutional and trade consumption. Largen Manufacturing employs 15 people and has a complete machine shop and foundry.

Helping local industry with efficient, low-cost electric power is another benefit accruing to Nebraskans through Consumers' service.

