

# ONE OF OURS

By WILLA CATHER.

(Continued From Wednesday Bee.)

**Synopsis.**  
Claude Wheeler, living on a Nebraska ranch with his parents, and a younger brother, Ralph, attend a circus at Frankfort with his two friends, Ernest Havel, a Bohemian boy, and big Leonard Havel, a young farmer. On the way home, Ernest tells Claude of a one-sided fling encounter between himself and Baylis, Claude's other brother, who runs an implement store at Frankfort, over a remark the latter made about two girls. The father, Max Wheeler, is a jolly, easy-going man whose jokes are rather at Claude's sensibilities. The two hired men, Dan and Jerry, are disliked by Claude because of their coarseness and cruelty to animals. The time approaches for Claude to return to the small denominational college he has been attending. He wishes to change to the State university, but his mother objects because she believes the boy will be in better environment in the smaller institution.

That night Mr. Wheeler brought the subject up at supper, questioned Claude, and tried to get at the cause of his discontent. His manner was jocular, as usual, and Claude hated any public discussion of his personal affairs. He was afraid of his father's humor when it got too near him. Claude might have enjoyed the large and somewhat gross cartoons with which Mr. Wheeler enlivened daily life, had they been of any other authorship. But he unreasonably wanted his father to be the most dignified, as he was certainly the handsomest and most intelligent man in the community. Moreover, Claude couldn't bear ridicule very well. He squirmed before he was hit; saw it coming, invited it, Mr. Wheeler had observed this trait in him when he was a little chap, called it false

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his tin pall, jumped about howling and kicking the loose earth with his copper-toed shoes, until his mother was much more concerned for him than for the tree.  
"Son, son," she cried, "it's your father's tree. He has a perfect right to cut it down if he wants to. He's often said the trees were too thick in here. Maybe it will be better for the others."  
"Tain't so! He's a damn fool, damn fool!" Claude hollered, still hopping and kicking, almost choking with rage and hate.  
His mother dropped on her knees beside him. "Claude, stop! I'd rather have the whole orchard cut down than hear you say such things."

After she got him quieted they picked the cherries and went back to the house. Claude had promised her that he would say nothing, but his father must have noticed the little boy's angry eyes fixed upon him all through dinner, and his expression of scorn. Even then his eyelids were only too well adapted to hold the picture of that feeling. For days afterwards Claude went down to the orchard and watched the tree grow sicker, wilt away, and God would surely punish a man who could do that, he thought.  
A violent temper and physical restlessness were the most conspicuous things about Claude when he was a little boy. Ralph was docile, and had a precocious sagacity for keeping out of trouble. Quiet in manner, he was fertile in devising mischief, and was persuaded his older brother, who was always looking for something to do, to execute his plans. It was usually Claude who was caught red-handed. Sitting mild and contemplative on his quilt on the floor, Ralph would whisper to Claude that it might be amusing to climb up and take the clock from the shelf, or to operate the sewing-machine. When the older, and played out of doors, he had only to insinuate that Claude was afraid to make him try a frosted axe with his tongue, or jump from the shed roof.

The usual hardships of country boyhood were not enough for Claude; he imposed physical tests and penances upon himself. Whenever he burned his finger, he followed Ma-halley's advice and held his hand over the stove to "draw out the fire." One year he went to school all winter in his jacket, to make himself tough. His mother would button him up in his overcoat and put his dinner-pail in his hand and start him off. As soon as he got out of sight of the house, he pulled off his coat, rolled it under his arm, and scolded along the edge of the frozen fields, arriving at the frame school-house panting and shivering, but very well pleased with himself.

**CHAPTER V.**  
Claude waited for his elders to change their mind about where he should go to school, but no one seemed much concerned, not even his mother.

Two years ago, the young man whom Mrs. Wheeler called "Brother Weldon" had come out from Lincoln, preaching in little towns and country churches, and recruiting students for the institution at which he taught in the winter. He had convinced Mrs. Wheeler that his college was the safest possible place for a boy who was leaving home for the first time. Claude's mother was not discriminating about preachers. She believed them all chosen and sanctified, and was never happier than when she had one in the house to cook for and wait upon. She made young Mr. Weldon so comfortable that he remained under her roof for several weeks, occupying the spare room, where he spent the mornings in study and meditation. He appeared at mealtime to ask a blessing upon the food and to sit with devout, down-cast eyes while the chicken was being dismembered. His top-shaped head hung a little to one side, the thin hair was parted precisely over his high forehead and brushed in little ripples. He was soft-spoken and apologetic in manner and took up as little room as possible. His meekness amused Mr. Wheeler, who liked to ply him with food and never failed to ask him gravely "what part

of the chicken he would prefer," in order to hear him murmur, "A little of the white meat, if you please," while he drew his elbows close, as if he were adroitly sliding over a dangerous place. In the afternoon Brother Weldon usually put on a fresh lawn necktie and a hard, glistering straw hat which left a red streak across his forehead, tucked his Bible under his arm, and went out to make calls. If he went far, Ralph took him in the automobile. Claude disliked this young man from the moment he first met him, and could scarcely answer him civilly. Mrs. Wheeler, always absent-minded, and now absorbed in her cherishing care of the visitor, did not notice Claude's scornful silences until Ma-halley, whom such things never escaped, whispered to her over the stove one day: "Mr. Claude, he don't like the preacher. He just ain't got no use for him, but don't you let on."  
As a result of Brother Weldon's sojourn at the farm, Claude was sent to the Temple college. Claude had come to believe that the things and people he most disliked were the ones that were to shape his destiny.

**(To Be Continued Friday.)**

## Buehler Bros.' Markets

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Choice Boiling Beef, per lb. . . . . 5c  
Cudahy's Lean Breakfast Bacon, lb. . . 22c

## Seventeenth and Dodge Site for Reserve Bank

The structure which will house the new Omaha Federal Reserve bank will be heavy and ornamental and will be erected in the near future on the southwest corner of Seventeenth and Dodge streets, it was announced yesterday by T. C. Byrne, a director of the Omaha branch.  
Four stories will rise above the basement and the entire building, with ground and equipment, will cost between \$600,000 and \$700,000, according to Mr. Byrne, who said also that the deal was practically closed Tuesday during the visit of W. J. Bailey, governor of the Federal Reserve bank at Kansas City.  
Governor Bailey and Director Byrne both emphasized the need of a safe, modern home for the Omaha branch. The lot on which the structure is to be built is 66 by 152 feet.

## To "Discuss" Rural Credits.

Edward Dougherty, attorney for the Federal Land bank, will address the Omaha Association of Credit Men at its meeting tonight at the Chamber of Commerce on "Rural Credits." The Concord club male quartet will sing.



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## Four Taken With Booze.

James Thomas and Jerry Richardson were arrested last night in a raid on 2412 Lake street by agents of U.

## Threshermen Call Meeting.

The Nebraska Brotherhood of Threshermen will hold their thirteenth annual convention in Lincoln, March 13, 14 and 15.

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More than one third of all raw materials required to manufacture portland cement vanishes in the manufacturing process. This is exclusive of the vast fuel consumption, which averages about 200 pounds of coal, or its equivalent, to the barrel.

Last year cement plants in the United States produced 113,870,000 barrels of cement. This output required the quarrying or mining and transportation, drying, grinding and burning of 35,000,000 tons of raw materials. Of this huge total, 13,500,000 tons which started on their journey through the mills never reached the cement sack.

Many conservation methods and devices are in use in the industry. Yet the inevitable losses, due to transformation of materials under the intense heat in the kilns, total well over a third of all raw materials that go into the plant.

A cement plant covers acres of ground. It includes large buildings full of crushing, grinding, elevating and conveying machinery and huge storage bins for raw materials and finished cement.

But it is in the burning zone of the great rotary kilns—a space 30 to 40 feet long by 7 to 9 feet in diameter—that the greater portion of these millions of tons is lost.

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