

PrairieTalk—

Used to Be Called 'Hard Times'

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

LINCOLN—How's your recession? Back in the 1890's we had it neck deep, only then it was "hard times". The Frontier, Biglins, the O'Neill National and First National banks are the only survivors in the community that were doing business "at the old stand" in those tough times and still are here. The public must have the news, so this newspaper goes on forever; there are forevers dead to be buried, so Biglins kept it; there may be others like the late Cliff Davis who had a twenty spot in the bank and looked up every time he passed that way to see if the bank was still there; Ed Kelly of the First National cashed the first check I ever received and gave me a sour look and calling down for not putting my youthful name on the back of that check; but I falteringly explained that I could not write it because I had no pencil. Believe if it had been a guy like Edward Mann Gallagher or Ed Campbell he would have handed out that five with a smile without that check being endorsed. I got my last ten from the O'Neill National a hot day in dust blown 1894 summer and took off for Sioux City, came back next spring with pockets stuffed with gold and silver coins, long since melted away.



Romaine Saunders

A recent issue of The Frontier gave the readers the story of another native of the community who has achieved success and a post of prominence in professional life. Nadene Coyne, an O'Neill girl now a doctor on the staff of a hospital of an eastern city, recently appeared before a notable gathering of doctors in Montreal, Canada, and addressed the assembled group of doctors. Among the fathers and mothers in O'Neill or who had formerly lived there and who take pride in the achievements of their sons and daughters is the household of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Coyne. Dad Hugh has built up a large business from nothing much to start with and Doctor Nadene's mother made a home for her husband and daughters that reflects the devotion of wife and mother as others have in the O'Neill community.

Westward rolls your car over the highway. Turn in and stop at west Holt county's first settlement where John Wertz started the Stuart Ledger to promote in convincing and scholarly bits of editorial gems the interests of that community, and where some years later Billy Davis started another paper to promote the interests of a political group at the county seat. But tarry not over long in the charming village with the hospitable citizens of Stuart. Head south and roll leisurely down Green Valley, a charming region robed in summer green along the western limits of the prairie empire we call Holt. Of the many beauty spots on farflung prairie land Green Valley is one of the most delightful. Nature going that way spread the green robed landscape all along and floated down Green Valley to sing a love song!

Peon—a Mexican who toils in the fields with his hands. Add just one letter, "y", and you have peony, the most lovely and the largest of the early summer floral display. But a few steps from my door a peony bush hangs heavy today with white and pink and a touch of red full blooming flowers. On Memorial day when we place the floral tribute at the resting place of our dead the peony is the choicest of them all. It has been said that the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world. The hand that formed the peony, the rose, the goldenrod, is the Hand that guards forever the bivouac of our dead.

We are told that the representatives of the State Game and Fish setup "caught" 100 tons of fish on their recent fishing trip to Swan lake down in southwest Holt. Don't know how they did it. I have stood at that lake for a half day, cast in and didn't get a bite. But at a smaller lake down in Swan precinct I caught the game fish one day as fast as they could be hauled out, until the guy with me upset our canoe and dumped us out in the chilly depths of Long Lake.

The bright blue of the summer skies, flowers and birds, growing things and grass robed lands where are seen this beef state's herds. May we take to the open where wildings roam far out and away from the haunts men call home. Stroll near the brink of stream and lake and begrudge not at all the time you take, for life in the open, the green beneath and the blue above counts not the moments as they pass when amidst the scenes we love. No more by the brink of lake and stream stands a stalwart figure with moccasined feet, but the birds, the wildings of the prairie are there and to be among these you call it a treat.

As this is being typed out that young killer, Starkweather, awaits his end in death row at the state prison. Wherein did the homelife of that boy as he grew to young manhood, or his contact with society of which you and I are personal elements, so shape the inner emotions of that lad that in this civilized day on prairie land he must go to the death chair as a confessed and convicted murderer. Could you shed a tear over his lifeless form straightened for the grave. No. But a prayer that your son will shun the evil ways that lead to destruction and ever climb the ladder of life that leads to worthy achievement.

Just over the way at the next human abode a group of little girls have taken over the back yard where they romp and play, childish laughter and happy shouts. Night comes on and the joyous shouts of children are stilled. Father and mother and grandfather sit out there in the gathering gloom and their voices are heard philosophizing on life's ups and downs—the joyous shouts of childhood turned to the groans of advancing age.

Election Will Bob Up Soon

With the sun bearing down from a clear blue sky most people are probably not giving much thought today to November.

But that month this year will be quite a bit more than just another time for a change of seasons. The days will be getting shorter then, to be sure, and the leaves will be showing their last touch of green.

But on November 4 the good people of the state will be going to the polls for an important election.

There will be voting on house and senate offices, the governor, state legislature, all other state offices and some county offices.

And by the time election rolls around, even more issues might find their way to the voting booths.

Editorial—

A note last week from the author of PrairieTalk advised that he would not be making his annual pilgrimage to O'Neill memorial day; instead would be traveling the highways during the weekend headed for Indiana for a "tribal gathering". . . Next on the city's agenda is dollar days, then O'Neill's big two-day rodeo. . . It remains to be seen if DeGaulle's demand for sweeping powers will do much for decadent France. The nation which has had 26 governmental reorganizations since the end of World War II has problems that may prove insurmountable.

THE FRONTIER

CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

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When You & I Were Young . . .

Goldie Martin Is Top OHS Scholar

Judge Roberts' Stiff Finger Noted

50 Years Ago

The program of O'Neill high school graduation consisted of: Overture, the orchestra; vocal trio, "Summer Sun Shine"; Misses Meredith, Craig and Roberts; oration, "Crossing the Rubicon"; Fred F. Finger oration, "America as a World Power"; Bernard S. Mullen; piano solo, "Murmuring Zephyrs"; Miss Loretta Sullivan; oration, "Education"; John P. Murphy; vocal solo, "Belong to Love Song"; D. V. Grosvendor; valedictory, Miss Goldie Martin; address and presentation of diplomas, Guy W. Wadsworth, president of Bellevue college; chorus, "Good Night"; high school orchestra. After these exercises, the 11th grade tendered a banquet to the graduates at the K. C. club rooms. . . Bob Starr is manager of the Chambers ball club. . . Mrs. Mary Foster, 52, a sister of Mrs. P. H. McNichols, died at the McNichols home two miles west of town.

20 Years Ago

Mrs. Frank Oberle and her niece, Miss Beatrice Oberle, escaped serious injuries when their car picked up a spike and caused a blowout. The car turned completely over and Judge Romaine Saunders writes in "Southwest Breezes": "Judge Roberts was a character of an earlier day in O'Neill. Those remembering him will recall he was unable to bend the first finger of his right hand. That stiff finger is the occasion for writing this paragraph. At a social function one night at the McClure home I had been honored with a place on the program. My number was a selection pointing to the evil of intemperance. Judge Roberts was among the guests and if there was anything that interested the judge, it was such a subject. In dramatic cadency I was reeling off line upon line when my eye caught the finger of the judge sitting directly in front and that stiff finger aimed straight at me. Instantly I was struck speechless, forgetting the remainder of the story and in utter mortification, humiliation and distress, dove for an open door. That finger, pointing in steady aim, haunted me thru a sleepless night."

10 Years Ago

Mrs. J. P. Gallagher, 76, a widow of a pioneer O'Neill merchant, was buried. . . During a two week period 7.30 inches of rain fell. . . Dale Kersenbrock, Jack Hartly and Homer Mullen have charge of the fireworks at the Country club.

One Year Ago

Two couples celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries. They were: Mr. and Mrs. Wood Jarman of Chambers and Mr. and Mrs. Vac Jedlicka of Lynch. . . Deaths: Charles W. Hamilton, 107, of Port Angeles, Wash., former Holt county sheriff in 1892; Mrs. John (Julia) Hayes, 90, of Arlington, Calif., a former resident of O'Neill and mother of Mrs. H. D. Grady and Mrs. H. J. Harte, both of O'Neill; Albert Babutze, 89, of O'Neill. . . First Presbyterian church of Atkinson celebrated its 75th anniversary.

Joe McLeish Is 10—Joe McLeish, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe McLeish, celebrated his 10th birthday anniversary Tuesday at a small party for a few friends.

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Family Gathering at Fremont

Mrs. Pat Sullivan accompanied her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. William Jansen, to Fremont Friday where Mrs. Sullivan joined her family for a get-together at the home of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. James Morrow. Others present were Mr. and Mrs. Bob Morrow and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Sullivan and family and Mr. and Mrs. John McGill, all of Omaha; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Barrett and family of Council Bluffs, Ia.; Mrs. Pat Barrett and her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Broveleit, all of Sioux Falls, S. D.

Mr. and Mrs. Jansen and family went on to Omaha with the McGills and spent the weekend with them. Enroute home they reunited with Mrs. Sullivan at Fremont and arrived home Sunday evening.

Star News

Earl Miller left last week for Ft. Eustis, Va., by car after spending a leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller, and his brothers, Harold and Melvin.

Mr. and Mrs. Nels Linquist and Vicki visited with Mrs. Rebecca Butterfield in Orchard one day last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Johnson, Wyn and Larry, Mrs. Ewalt Miller and Mrs. Hattie Boelter attended the vacation Bible school picnic at the Venus Lutheran church last Thursday. Wyn and Larry were among those students attending school there.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Miller spent Friday with relatives at Gregory, S.D.

Mrs. Melvin Kurtz of California is visiting her mother, Mrs. Awalt Spangler, and other relatives in the community.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewalt Miller, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Miller and Harold Miller and Mrs. Richard Miller and family, Mrs. Hulda Miller and Dora, Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Johnson and family, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Johnson and family were among the guests observing the silver wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. George Mott, Jr., at Verdigre. Mrs. Mott is the former Laura Miller, daughter of Mrs. Hulda Miller and the late E. A. Miller.

Mr. and Mrs. James Carney of Burwell divided the memorial weekend between relatives and friends at Bassett and O'Neill.

SD—Leo S Tomjack, Sheriff to Holt Co. 5-14-58 \$31.43—East 50 ft. lot 2 Blk 3—Inman.

Origin of Star Carriers Retold

Veteran Officers Are Re-elected

Nearly one hundred persons coming from all sections of the state and including several out-of-state visitors Sunday attended the annual meeting of the Nebraska branch of the National Star Route Mail Carriers association. The sessions were held at the Golden Hotel.

Veteran officers were re-elected: Miller Adkisson of Lincoln, president; Eslie Sparks of Newport, vice-president; Loren Hatfield of Broken Bow, secretary-treasurer. The trio was chosen as delegates to the national convention and Broken Bow was selected for the 1959 meeting.

The group heard remarks from Carl N. Christensen of Wichita, Kans., postal transportation officer in the three-state (Oklahoma, Kansas, Nebraska) postal district. Christensen rode Chicago & North Western train 13 to O'Neill and said the postal department is watching closely the court fate of C&NW trains 13 and 14. Membership in the branch during 1956 was 171 and the 1957 membership totaled 165. Hatfield reported. The organization's new year began with election of officers.

Christensen clarified some new postal regulations for the star carriers (many of whom are women). Raymond Eby, president of the Chamber of Commerce here, welcomed the group. Christensen said the star routes were originally intended to supply mail through contract carriers to towns left "inland" when passenger-mail-express trains were withdrawn.

Gradually the star carriers began servicing on route box patrons.

Chief problem facing the convention was increasing membership. There are two hundred star contractors in the state.

Adison has been a carrier 30 years and is now in his 11th year as branch president. Hatfield and Sparks have held their posts longer.

The national association was founded at O'Neill 25 years ago by E. J. Velder, who later moved from here to Bonesteel, S. D. Velder was unable to attend the convention, having recently submitted to major surgery at St. Catherine's hospital in Omaha. He now resides in Omaha.

ASSEMBLY OF GOD (O'Neill)

Rev. Robert A. Paul, pastor Sunday, June 8; Sunday-school, 10 a.m., classes for all ages; worship, 11 a.m., children's day services; junior church, 7 p.m.; postal regulations for the star carriers (many of whom are women). Raymond Eby, president of the Chamber of Commerce here, welcomed the group.

June 9-13 will be the dates of daily vacation Bible school. Vacation Bible school will begin at 9 each morning, and at 1 in the afternoon. Children ages 4 through 15 are invited.

Memorial day guests of Mr. and Mrs. Dermot J. Erington and family were his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Erington, sr., and Alvin Mach, all of Burwell.

Gary Waller arrived home from Wayne college Wednesday, May 28. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Waller.

Mrs. William Bowker and family of Omaha were Tuesday guests of Mrs. Louis Reimer, jr.

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JUNE 15th

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is SUNDAY

JUNE 15th

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