

PrairieLand Talk—

Talker Reaches His 88th

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

LINCOLN—I stand at the window and look out upon the scene this bleak December day. Snow has fallen, skies are overcast, a haze hangs over the city.

I see no one walking past the window, a neighbor steps in his car out in front, grips the steering wheel and rolls away headed for the temple of learning where two young girls have spent the day in school and will rejoice to see the car roll up that will take them home.

I have neither poultry nor livestock in these crowded abodes of men to call me out to do the chores. I look out upon the winter scene, turn away in gratitude for the shelter of home and the heat from the roaring furnace when the snows of the north come to prairie-land.

So I park again at my typewriter to talk with friends through the medium of The Frontier.

In early December, I reached another milestone on life's journey, having reached the 88th, and enjoy good health and the capacity of a prairie-land pioneer to eat and rejoice that a Guiding Hand from above leads on.

Christmas and new year's once more have brought their joys.

And we who saw it that terrible day of January 12, 1888, will gather again at the Blizzard club banquet board here in our Capital City.

Down south they have the plantation where they raise cotton and tobacco. Up north they have the farm where they raise grain and vegetables. To the west on prairie-land it is the ranch where they raise cattle—and sometimes a fuss. Take your choice—pick cotton, husk an ear of corn, or rope and brand a steer!

Eleanor Roosevelt, our one time Lady of the White House and a notable personage, is safe again on American terra firma after a visit to Russia. She heard no laughter over there, saw tear dimmed eyes, caught the sound of sighing and crying. . . . A husband and father in a southern California city has tear-dimmed eyes and a sorrowing heart—he came home from his day's work to find his wife and four children had been murdered, the work of a teenager they had taken to their home off the streets. . . . A greeting card from the Ray Bly ranch household, eight miles west of Amelia, tells me they had been, Ray and Mrs. Bly, to Canada the past summer to visit their daughter who we knew back in the late 30's as a charming little prairie maid passing our gate on a horse on her way to the Berry school. Ray will have for two months rest now if Mrs. Bly doesn't find jobs for him, and then at it again assessing a sizable slice of southwest Holt.

Fred Gatz took advantage of the first cold spell and cut ice. That was in late December in 1901. . . . A few cases of smallpox in the Dorsey community. . . . Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Weeks spent Christmas with her people at Tekamah. . . . J. P. Mann came out from Chicago, Ill., for the holidays, being greeted by his many O'Neill friends. . . . Mrs. Wes Evans entertained a group of her lady friends at the Evans hotel parlors. . . . M. D. Long received an invitation to attend the annual meeting in New York City of the American-Irish society.

Not with the roll of the beaten drum, not with the trumpet that blows a stirring blast—just in a freezing voice he tells his radio listeners zero weather is coming. Turn on the heat.

Editorial—

What Manner of Men Are These?

The Nebraska state board of education has defied the mandate of a recent informal poll of local boards of education in the state and has ignored resolutions adopted by the 1937 state legislature in its closing business.

A majority of local boards polled said "no thanks" to the proposition of whether or not schools these local boards represent would participate in federal aid to education under the national defense education act.

The last session of the Nebraska legislature in resolutions said, in effect, "no thanks" in a blanket statement that would cover education and other areas of federal aid.

But State Education Commissioner Freeman Decker and his puppets (state board) have gone ahead anyway and requested federal aid for Nebraska schools with certain reservations.

Clyde Widman of Amelia, vice-president of the Nebraska School Improvement association, raises several pointed questions:

1. What manner of men are on the state board who would proceed with a scheme when a majority of local boards said they wanted no part of it?

2. On what constitutional grounds can the state board proceed to request federal aid when the state's law-making group—the state legislature—in resolutions turned a deaf ear to federal aid?

3. How can the state board morally appeal to a bankrupt federal government for financial aid when a debt-free state government is in far better position to take care of its own needs?

To Widman's question number 1: The amendment that created the state board and state commissioner (to replace an elective state superintendent) was deft and effective. The state board members are elected on a staggered basis and can get away with murder for about 10 years because it'd take that long for voters to catch up with techniques and change the composition of the board. Moreover, the state board can fix Decker's salary at any figure it pleases. The legislature has little control over Decker et al except that it can anticipate moves and plug the holes by enacting a law. Other than that, the Decker crowd is on its own and goes on the premise that "we know what's good for you and yours; you don't". Occasionally a band of individualists, like the Amelia school patrons, take matters to court, but generally there is free-wheeling.

Question number 2: Our guess is the national education act is broadly written; certainly the powers of the state board and commissioner are broad. Decker & Co. very likely are within constitutional bounds.

Question number 3: We agree with Widman. The whole show is immoral. Merry Christmas, Clyde!

Let's Employ Sense of Feel Guest editorial from the Pierce County Leader The observance and more particularly the non-

Dear Friend: Again we come to the grandest, happiest and most unselfish season of the year, when the Christ consciousness is being renewed universally.

We told you in our last letter that our property on 8th ave. was in the path of the freeway being built. Well the state bought our place and we are now in our new home; this came at just the right time for us, Dave was ready to retire from the business life.

We felt that we're getting pretty well frayed in the dizzy modernity's merry-go-round, and were getting lost in a multitude of "things", so we thought this a good time to unload a lot of excess. We have reached the place in life where we want to travel light, so we discarded a lot of unnecessary accumulation.

We are now living in a rural setting, out away from the hurry and bustle, high tension and we love it. Out here life flows a more leisurely tempo, here we have time for homely, simple things, time to add to our bank account of stored-up strength and simple philosophy and sturdy faith in God.

The air is so fresh out here and even the drinking water is better. We have several fruit trees on our place, there is a winter apple tree close to our kitchen window. Dave picked all we wanted and left some for the birds. It is a beautiful sight to see all those little birds enjoying the apples.

On clear days we can see the majestic summit of Mt. Rainier from our front room; it is a beautiful and awe-inspiring sight, seeing the sunrise and sunset on the serene and lofty crest.

We get a newscast from Omaha via TV, and we hear the "Back to the Bible" broadcast on the radio—this gives us a near feeling to our beloved Nebraska.

The seasons work their wonders, as we move along life's winding lane, and each day brings it's own manna, but believe we should call December the happiness month! It's a very important month, the turning point of night and day, of time and history, and man's experience, it's a time of deeply stirred emotion.

At this time the silent snowfall whitens the ground in many places. Yes, nature is in her winter dress and silence of rest, laying up new strength for the coming spring. This beautiful month brings the turn of the day, soon the day begins to win against the night and we are on our way to spring and summer again. This month the Christ of Christmas comes, bringing us the message of the resurrection of life. Yes this is the month of happiness!

We wish you a happy Christmas, and may God bless you and yours in the "New Year", every step of the way. From your Seattle friends, MR. and MRS. DAVE SEGELMAN

The compiler of PrairieLand Talk would have counted it a pleasure to have joined that family night group in Ewing when members and friends of two of the village churches got together. Of course, John Trommerhauser, Clarence Selah and other pioneers I had known in my youth would not have been there nor the unforgettable Hay McClure would not come riding up on his choice mount and give us a wave of the hand as he leaped by the door. But this day's citizens of the metropolis of eastern Holt county were there to welcome any visitors. Such gatherings bring friends together in human fellowship where you clasp a friendly hand, look into smiling faces and enter into social relations, to the clatter of neighborly talk. Out of the adventures of pioneer days, Ewing emerges today as the business, cultural and religious center of a charming section of prairie-land stretching down to the shores of Goose lake and beyond.

Life's pleasures are brief; holidays with its joy of giving and receiving over again. Now up and down the well-worn path from home to workshop.

Merry Christmas from Cigar Factory

Reka's Firm Extends Greetings

50 Years Ago

C. C. Reka of the O'Neill Cigar Factory wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy new year on the front page of The Frontier. . . . Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Murphy and family of Atkinson, left for Minneapolis, Minn., where they will reside. Mr. Murphy has been a resident of Atkinson and vicinity for the past 24 years and has been head of the Atkinson Milling company. . . . O'Neill Lodge A. O. U. W. elected the following officers: D. H. Cronin, master workman; S. F. McNichols, foreman; Neil Brennan, overseer; A. P. Brooks, finisher; John Brennan, recorder; Frank Campbell, receiver; Sam Barnard, guide; T. V. Golden, inside watch; John Hosiasky, outside watch; J. A. Golden, trustee. . . . John Hayes was down from Atkinson to visit his daughter, Mrs. Henry Grady. . . . Robert Gallagher died in Page of Bright's disease. Among those attending the funeral from here were W. P. Simar, Judge Malone, J. A. Golden, P. J. McManus, Joe Mann and Ed. F. Gallagher.

20 Years Ago

Deaths: Mrs. Wilhelmina Thierolf, 84, who lived in Nebraska 22 years before it was admitted to the union, died at Creighton; Mrs. Clara Martha Kiplinger, 21, died in an Omaha hospital; Mrs. Lucie Fountaine, 38, of Bright's disease. . . . Mrs. Bee Merz, 79, who came to Holt county in the fall of 1878. . . . Lawrence Chapman of Omaha; known here, is moving to New York. . . . Phyllis baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Martin Conrad of Inman, was badly burned on her face and one hand when she fell on the hot cook stove.

10 Years Ago

Rev. and Mrs. Vernon Harley and their three small children have arrived in this country from South America where Reverend Harley, a graduate of Atkinson high school, completed eight years of missionary work for the Lutheran church. He will spend a one year furlough here. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Casper Harley of Stuart. . . . Two Page couples, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Michelson and Mr. and Mrs. Wallace French, are celebrating their golden wedding anniversaries this week. The couples were married on the same day, December 28, 1888. The Michelsons were married in Plainview and the Frenches were married four miles east of Page. . . . Deaths: John F. Hanley, 68, a lifelong resident of O'Neill; Mrs. John McCaffrey, 86, of Pittsburg, Pa.

One Year Ago

Two prominent Boyd county citizens have died. They are Dr. R. E. Kriz, 65, of Lynch and L. W. Gibson, 54, of Bristow. Other deaths: Gustav E. Remter, 87, of Bristow; Merwin Zepher, 47, of Creighton; Shorty Lee Steele, 44, of O'Neill. . . . Miss Cecelia Ann Arbutnot, a senior at St. Mary's academy, has been named a semifinalist in the national scholarship competition. . . . In the American legion-sponsored church league basketball games, the Chambers Methodists defeated the Chambers Lutherans, 56 - 20, and the Amelia Methodists defeated the Chambers Baptists, 52 - 32.

Valley Center School Presents Program

CHAMBERS—Over one hundred persons gathered at the school in Valley Center district 107, Wednesday evening, December 17, for the Christmas program.

The 23 pupils, with Mrs. Kenneth Adams and Mrs. Kathleen Renter teachers, presentation of a Christmas play with singing by the group.

Gifts were distributed and lunch was served.

Why not consider a gift subscription for THAT family this Christmas?

ROYAL THEATER O'NEILL

Thurs.-Fri.Sat. Dec. 25-26-27 IN LOVE AND WAR

Three maymes at home and at the front—are here given an extensive, generally interesting examination. Frankie (Robert Wagner) is just a big boy dying to learn what makes his big girl (Sheree North) tick. Nico (Jeffrey Hunter) has already learned and is marrying his girl (Hope Lange) just in time. Alan (Bradford Dillman) is disgusted by his loose-living fiancée (Dana Wynter) prefers the company of modest, unspoiled France Nuyen. All children unless in arms must have ticket. Thurs. not family nite.

Sun.-Mon.-Tues. Dec. 28-29-30 THE BIG COUNTRY

Gregory Peck, Jean Simmons, Carroll Baker, Charlton Heston, Burl Ives. William Wyler's production in Technicolor and Technirama. Co-starring Charles Bickford, with Chuck Connors, Alfonso Bedoya, Donald Hamilton. This is the story of the giants who bridled the untamed land. . . . the wilderness that rolled down from snow country to sun country, and sprawled sea-to-sea. It is the story of more than conquering giants. It is fired and fleshed with the women who shared their path-blazing, their power —yes, and their passions, too.

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Merry Christmas!

Boxes Delivered to Ewing Shutins

EWING—Boxes for shutins were packed at the all-day meeting Thursday of the Women's Missionary society of the United Presbyterian church. Members met at the home of Mrs. Thomas Hutton. These were delivered later in the afternoon.

"The Unchanging Evangel", was the theme of the lesson with Mrs. Ora Switzer as leader. Topics on the subject were given by Mrs. William Ross, Mrs. Ralph Shrader, Mrs. Leo Miller, Mrs. Willie Shrader, Mrs. Richard Napier and Alice Shrader.

Mrs. Wilbur Bennett presided at the business session. An election of officers for 1939 was held, resulting in the reelection of the present officials. They are: Mrs. Bennett, president; Mrs. Archie Johnston, vice-president; Mrs. Lionel Gunter, treasurer; Mrs. Ralph Shrader is the alternate for any of the above officers. Other officials will be appointed at the January meeting.

The ladies also voted to save Nash coffee coupons for a coffee maker and Betty Crocker coupons for other articles for their kitchen. Nearly all their equipment was destroyed by the recent fire in their church.

The society served a no-host dinner at noon. Guests were Miss Laura McLachlan, missionary from Pakistan, and her mother, Mrs. Robert McLachlan of Atkinson.

Miss Laura McLachlan of Atkinson gave each one present a gift, which she had brought from Pakistan.

Other Ewing Notice

Mr. and Mrs. Willis Rockey and children left Thursday night after the grade school opera for a holiday vacation with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Rockey, and also his sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Buford Carlson and son, Danny, all of West Palm Beach, Fla.

Another family in the Ewing community planning to spend the Christmas vacation in the Southeast are Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Hoke and son, Clayton, where they will be guests of their daughter and son-in-law, Pfc. and Mrs. Robert Hobb, stationed in North Carolina. They will be accompanied by his sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Nelson of Plainview.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Olson attended a family gathering Sunday at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wilson near Elgin. A turkey dinner with all the trimmings was served at 1 o'clock. The afternoon hours were spent informally. There was an exchange of gifts which were piled around the Christmas tree. Others present were Mr. and Mrs. Greer Clark and family.

of Stanton, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rasmussen of Fremont, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Blair and son of Elgin, Mr. and Mrs. Merwin Olson and family of Clearwater, and Mr. and Mrs. Albion Doezal and son of Lincoln.

Mrs. Kittie Fry of Ewing will join the members of her family at a Christmas eve party at the home of her son and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Lee Fink and sons at Page. There will be a six o'clock dinner followed by an exchange of gifts. Others from the Ewing community in attendance will be Mr. and Mrs. Willie Shrader and children, and Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Fry and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Davis and Marie will spend Christmas eve at the home of her sister and husband, Mr. and Mrs. Home Barton at Orchard, where other members of the family will gather for an informal evening and exchange of gifts. Others present will be Mrs. Louise Beal of Orchard, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Austin and family of Plainview and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Barton and family of Columbus.

Archie Tuttle and family of Ewing and Mrs. Louise Beal of Orchard were dinner guests Tuesday, December 16, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Waldo Davis.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Hobbs will be hosts at a family gathering at their home Christmas day. Dinner will be served and the afternoon hours spent informally. Expected guests are Mr. and Mrs. John Turay and family, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Yellia and family, Mr. and Mrs. Mick Hobbs and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dorrence Hobbs and family and Pete Roudsush, all of Ewing, and Mr. and Mrs. Dwaine Hobbs of Milford.

Mrs. Ethel Trumbull of Allen, S. D., arrived in Ewing Thursday, to spend the holiday with her mother, Mrs. Caroline Sanders and other relatives. She was brought to Ewing by Mrs. John Trumbull and daughter, Martha, who remained overnight and attended the grade school opera at the Ewing public school. Friday, they continued on their way to Springfield, S. D., to get a daughter, who returned to Allen with them.

Many Ewingites who are planning Christmas or holiday vacation trips are keeping an eye on the weather and hoping the good weather may continue for a few more days.

Evening Dinner Is Feature of Meeting

EWING—The parlors of First Methodist church were gaily decorated for the annual Christmas party of the Women's Society of Christian Service, Wednesday evening, December 17. A 6:30 o'clock covered dish dinner was served.

ner was served. Candlebra bearing tall red candles surrounded by Christmas greens and glittering ornaments was the centerpiece used by the committee in charge. Miss Hazel Ruby and Mrs. Anna Pollock.

During the evening, the ladies sipped treats for the Sunday

school Christmas program. After an informal hour, gifts were exchanged.

Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Gunter of Odebolt, Ia. Thursday visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Gunter. Mrs. Anna Pollock accompanied them home to spend the holidays.



The beauty of the oft-told Christmas story has been an inspiration to many for many centuries. . . . may this Christmas bring all of us closer to the hopeful message. . . . Peace On Earth, Good Will Toward Men!

MEADOW GOLD PRODUCTS Local Route Dealers: Bill Perry Wayne Harmon Joe Sivesind Owen Parkinson



SPELTS-RAY LUMBER COMPANY Phone 74 — O'NEILL

Advertisement for Penney's featuring 'YEAR-END BARGAINS' with a list of clothing items and prices: Women's Better WINTER COATS (19.00 - 25.00), Women's WINTER JACKETS (9.00 - 12.00), Women's WINTER MILLINERY (2.00), Girls' WINTER COATS (6.00 - 8.00), Girls' WINTER JACKETS (5.00), Mens' SPORT SHIRTS (2.00), Boys' BETTER PARKAS (5.00 - 9.95 - 11.00), Infants' Better 2-PC. SLEEPERS (1.29). A MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL . . . !

Advertisement for Motor Parts, Inc. featuring 'MERRY CHRISTMAS GREETINGS' and 'Hello It's Christmas'. Includes text: 'In the sincere spirit of Christmas we extend to you our greetings and a fervent hope that you have near those we know you hold so dear from the staff . . . MOTOR PARTS, Inc. Please accept this expression of our appreciation together with our best wishes for a joyous Christmas and a prosperous New Year. FRANK A MURRAY P.O. Box 401 O'NEILL Tel. 279-J May we extend to you our warmest wishes for a Merry Yuletide and a Happy New Year . . . may every hour be filled with good cheer! DICK'S BAR Merry Christmas!