

Prairieland Talk—

In Calico Gown and Sunbonnet

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

LINCOLN — Twilight has come; darkness gathers where sunlight glowed and night spreads the dark robe at the end of day. The old year dies and draws a curtain over the days and nights of one more step left behind.

As we look upon the record of our lives written upon the scroll of time of days now gone and out of the treasured store, we quaff a little deeper of "memory's mellow wine." And now in memory out of its treasured store there appears a pioneer woman on the prairie of Holt county clothed in calico gown and sunbonnet. She works outdoors, she skims the cream and churns the butter, gathers the eggs and prepares the meals, keeps the homestead abode in order, hangs out the washing, works with needle and thread.



Romaine Saunders

At the close of a hot summer day, she goes to the well, draws water and steps over to her little flower garden and pours the water over those blooming plants; stands for a few minutes looking at the scene of blue and red and yellow beauty at her feet, turns away and as darkness settles across the land bows a knee in prayer with her family in her home on quiet, peaceful prairieland, retires for a night's rest.

That pioneer woman here on the prairies of Holt county was my mother. It is from such as she that this generation of prairieland dwellers have their heritage!

Another democratic landslide reported—Christmas week the cost of living soared to another high level. Of course, our new democratic governor had nothing to do with that! And it is just another thing that along the national highway that comes and goes irrespective of what political group sets in the swivel chairs at the statehouse and in the congressional halls down at Washington.

From the Fryrear household west of Amelia came a bit of interesting news along with seasons greetings to this former resident of that grass-robbed beauty spot of Holt county. Among other activities engaged in by that competent ranch housewife, Mrs. Fryrear says she spent the summer in the hayfields, got stilled with her "sweep" in a water-washed hole and had to be pulled to higher terra firma by the boss on a tractor. It was a half-century or so back on the road of life, Mrs. Saunders was on the haystack, her man sweeping in the hay with a horse-drawn rig. Just as I pulled up to the stack with the last sweep load of hay out of that load shot a blue racer snake just before that hay was tossed up to Mrs. Saunders on the stack. A pitchfork took care of the snake. Maybe Mrs. Fryrear saw a blue racer while out haying.

From far distant places and from friends who have anchored for life on charming prairieland I have received gifts and holiday greetings. All reminders of the tie that binds us one to the other. But that which touched a tender chord in this aged breast of mine was the simplest gift of them all. Donnie and Dorothy, two little children from their home nearby, came to the door the night before

Christmas and handed me an envelope with something in it, announcing with childish glee, "Here's a handkerchief for you!" Yes a simple gift and a Christmas card from two little friends of the "candy man."

The latest issue of the Nebraska History magazine devotes a number of pages to a story by Wayne Gard dealing with the cattle trails on prairieland. One who had never sat in double cinch saddle and trotted his Mustang along the cow trails day-after-day, as the late John Addison (in company with this cowboy-printer-editor had done in the long ago) will enter into the realm of fiction as he writes. That, of course, is permissible. But Mr. Gard treats his subject very well. Nebraska is still the great cattle state, but we are not trailing them to Nebraska grass lands from Arizona and Texas deserts today. The trucks have taken over. Maybe next we will fly them by airplane.

Sixty-four years ago today, the day this is written, at a public sale in what was then known as the Minneola country, four coming yearlings out of a small herd of cattle sold for \$1.25 per head. The rest of the stock and equipment went at that rate into the hands of the few bidders or for nothing at all. And that family pulled out for Missouri, but within a few years were back on prairieland. Fruitful seasons followed, a change in the national administration that brought to an end the Coxie army tramping the country over, bread lines and free soup counters replaced by the "full dinner pail" and work at the reopened factories. Maybe it is well to call to mind at times what has been, look out across the prairie where now you see \$100 yearlings browse where 64 years ago a coming yearling sold for two bits.

A daughter of the late Billy Hagerty family of O'Neill writes me from Columbus of her interest still in her girlhood home community with which she keeps in touch by reading The Frontier. Now a housewife presiding over her pleasant home in the countyseat of Platte county, she still cherishes memories of friends and the good and bad times of her girlhood days. Thank you, Mary Hagerty Lawson, for writing!

First of the spoils of political victory goes to a one-time governor of Nebraska, Roy Cochran, a 72-year-old who has been now revived by the newly-installed governor. The first to go out the window was the state engineer. Now Mr. Cochran comes in to take on the job he was at when elected governor in 1934. As state engineer he directed the construction of highway 11 running south out of Atkinson. I do not know what he might know about highway building but that good lifelong democrat of Holt county would have been this republican's preference for that job at the statehouse, namely, Walter O'Malley. Certainly Walt could adorn a statehouse department with the best of them.

It was during Mr. Cochran's last term as governor that the late "Jessie" James and Prairieland Talker went to Lincoln and appealed to the governor for the release from the state prison of Alva Baker, convicted and sentenced for being, as the late Judge Dickson expressed it, "caught in bad company." Our mission was successful and Alva was soon released.

When You and I Were Young . . .

Charity Britnell Watch Party Hostess Hershiser Invests in Cuban Land

50 Years Ago
Deaths: The two-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Mike Johnson died at home of pneumonia, which he had three days; Mrs. Effie Gunn, 46, the mother of several small children, died of blood poisoning; Jacob Maring, 45, of apoplexy. . . . Miss Charity Britnell entertained friends at her home as they watched the old year die. . . . J. L. Hershiser left for Cuba to invest in real estate. . . . John and Mary Hanley spent the holidays with their brother in Omaha. . . . Henry Lamb and Miss Marion Goodfellow, both of Blackbird, were married; Owen Critchfield and Mabel McCutchan, a teacher in Spencer, were married at Fairfax, SD. Her father is County Attorney G. A. McCutchan.

20 Years Ago
Ray Pinkerman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Pinkerman of Redbird, killed a large bob cat on the property of Albert Carson. . . . Clara M. Cole celebrated her 86th birthday anniversary at a dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. W. McGinnis of Emmet. . . . Little Jimmy Ernst, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Ernst, died of pneumonia. . . . Miss Frances Polly of Chicago is a houseguest of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Froelich. . . . There will be a coyote hunt January 8 starting one mile south and one mile west of Midway at the Benson school extending four miles west to Eagle Creek, and four miles south to Floyd Johnson's place, four miles east to Mat Ernst's and four miles north back to the Benson schoolhouse. The captains are to have their men on their line ready to start promptly at two o'clock.

10 Years Ago
Fresh blizzard grips region, roads blocked, many communities isolated by one of worst winter storms in history. Those words the headlines this week that were of much interest to residents of North Central Nebraska. James Michael Beha, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew G. Beha of O'Neill, won the first baby contest. . . . State Sen. Frank Nelson, prominent O'Neill farmer and the newly-elected senator from the Twenty-eighth legislative district, was seated as the 1949 session of Nebraska's famed unicameral law-making body convened. . . . Forty-one Holt county mothers received Gold Star lapel buttons. . . . O'Neill's city council met in emergency special session to discuss the snow situation. Arrangements were made to lease a combination maintenance-snowplow outfit. An option to buy may be written into the agreement if rotary plans are abandoned. The Frontier's Jack and Jill Corner this week presented Ben Asher or "little Ben" as he's called and Roberta (Bertie) Ann Asher, children of Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Asher of Page.

One Year Ago
Roger Bennett, formerly of Ewing, is the new Copoco agent at O'Neill, succeeding James Storms, who has returned to his hometown of Winner, S.D. . . . Cynthia Marie Syffe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Syffe, jr., of O'Neill, became Holt county's first born of the new year. . . . Death: Rev. Egon Kirschman, 34, former pastor of the Assembly of God church. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Paul Chihlar held an open-house celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. . . . Ernie C. Weller, owner-operator of the Atkinson Livestock Market for the past 25 years, announced he sold the firm to Roy Aten & Associates.

Ziska Participates in NATO Maneuver
ATKINSON — Army Sp-4 Edward R. Ziska, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ziska of Atkinson, recently participated in a NATO maneuver in the mountainous region of northern Italy, while serving with the Southern European Task Force in Vicenza.

Rural Road Accidents
(By Bill Cox in Pierce County Leader)
It is an absolute impossibility for the Nebraska highway patrol to add all county roads to their present "beat" of all state highways to seek out speeders and reckless drivers.

College Set Returns to Respective Schools
RIVERSIDE — Russell Napier and Larry Larson left Sunday for Sterling college in Kansas after completing holiday visits. Sandra Strader returned to Wayne for teachers college; Irene Ahlers to Concordia Lutheran college at Seward; Ronnie Mott and Wayne Turner departed for McPherson, Kans., and Paul Gunter went back to Norfolk Junior college.

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS
WD—Linus J. Conklin, et al. to Millie Hendrick 11-21-58 \$10,400. So 20 ft lot 9 & All lot 10 Blk 42, Riggs Add—O'Neill.
WD—Ralph S. Campbell to Raymond C. Taylor & wife 12-2-58 \$14,400—S 1/4 21-28-Range 10.

Ponton Insurance
Insurance of All Kinds and Bonds
FLORENCE PONTON, Prop.
Phone 106 Golden Bldg.

BEAUTYLAND Beauty Salon
Phone 565 for appointment Located across street from bakery. Closed every Monday morning.



Plans Spring Rite
Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Stelling of Orchard announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Yvonne (above) to James Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Cooper of Orchard. A spring wedding is planned.

Polio Benefit Band Concert Scheduled

INMAN — The fifth annual polio benefit band concert will be held at the Inman public school auditorium Monday, January 12, at 8 p.m. Freewill gifts will be accepted. Lunch will be served by the Band Mothers club.

Dinner Guest
Dinner guests at the Francis Curran home new year's day were Mr. and Mrs. Bob Oswald and family of West Point, Mrs.

Rueben Schantz of Pender, Mrs. Willard Schweitzer of Lebanon Ore.; Alvin Ott and three children and Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Ott all of O'Neill. Mr. Oswald, Mrs. Schantz and Mrs. Schweitzer are a nephew and niece of Mrs. L. A. Ott.

NOTICE

Merchants and other persons hereafter promoting merchandising schemes involving drawings, prizes and other violations of the lottery laws are advised that the same are unlawful and violators will be prosecuted. Publication or advertising information of such schemes is also forbidden by law.

WILLIAM W. GRIFFIN,
County Attorney

LEO S. TOMJACK
Sheriff.

County Treasurer's Semi-Annual Statement

HOLT COUNTY, NEBRASKA

FUNDS	Balances	Receipts	Transfers	Transfers	Disburs.	Balances
	July 1 1958	7-1-58 to 12-31-58	from other Funds	to other Funds	7-1-58 to 12-31-58	12-31-58
STATE FUNDS:						
General	\$ 9,023.87	\$102,791.71			91,251.41	\$20,564.17
Intangible	35.53	3,664.03			3,339.16	360.40
Spec. Bldg.	939.61	117,772.66			10,333.00	2,379.27
Service Annuity	659.16	7,764.84			6,844.26	1,579.74
Med. Coll. Bldg.	329.60	3,882.44			3,422.17	789.87
School Lands	10,653.16	28,980.39			30,198.70	9,434.85
Univ. Lands	217.40	2,356.70			1,853.90	720.20
Highway Superv.	43.99	232.14			258.48	17.65
Highway Maint.	686.19	3,595.38			4,006.21	275.36
75% Overload Fines	637.50	2,186.25			2,703.75	120.00
Drivers Licenses	61.00	1,285.30			1,311.20	35.10
Old Age Tax	93.53	6,043.22			4,653.05	1,483.70
Spec. Bee Tax	2.75	140.65				143.40
INSTITUTION FUNDS:						
Univ. Hosp.	106.38	1,383.90			1,179.60	310.68
Care Insane	2,334.34	27,585.37			24,264.54	5,675.17
Care F. Minded	557.81	6,371.59			5,661.60	1,267.80
STATE & FED. FUNDS:						
Old Age Assist.	3,001.50	90,887.83			87,693.98	6,195.35
Aid, Dep. Children	777.94	19,557.96		119.29	19,281.65	934.96
Aid, Blind	167.66	11,251.01			10,757.27	661.40
Aid, Disabled	107.61	11,233.14		119.29	11,008.19	451.85
Adm. Expense	320.87	9,078.21			9,377.32	21.76
COUNTY FUNDS:						
General	90,069.47	54,104.19	11,536.56		72,038.58	83,671.64
Bridge	47,896.28	32,042.99			32,056.23	47,883.04
Road	43,261.78	40,751.31	20,000.00		73,469.85	30,543.24
Road-Bridge	14,629.98	14,653.59			7,912.97	21,370.60
Mail Route	25,234.56	43,544.80			47,446.82	21,332.54
Solds-Sailors	1,822.65	147.16				1,969.81
Unemployment Relief	9,173.51	1,780.06	1,072.12		2,077.74	9,947.95
Medical & Hospital	15,408.85	8,653.51			6,594.92	17,467.44
Fair	2,206.52	2,849.26			2,400.00	2,655.78
Mother's Pensions	1,072.12			1,072.12		
Delinquent Tax Fund	29.91			29.91		
Inheritance Tax	27,589.99	10,691.09			13.38	18,267.70
Miscellaneous Fees		204.20		204.20		
Drivers License		102.70		102.70		
Partial Payment	1,585.50	317.28			1,207.21	695.57
Interest on Investment	25,127.77	2,415.00		10,000.00		17,542.77
Tax Sale Foreclosure	3,305.52					3,305.52
Noxious Weed	586.85	1.11				587.96
Tax Sale Redemption	9.70	3,879.69			3,291.58	597.81
25% Overload Fines		728.75		728.75		
Grain Tax, Undist.		4,828.51				4,828.51
Advertising		471.00		471.00		
PRECINCT FUNDS:						
General	61,411.74	43,921.38	2,303.72		50,332.75	57,304.09
Library	2,315.43	3,345.20			3,298.00	2,362.63
Poll Tax		2,303.72		2,303.72		
Fire Districts	7,025.82	9,951.09			11,502.00	5,474.91
SCHOOL FUNDS:						
General	214,853.81	270,094.71	5,182.77		275,694.03	214,437.26
Band	28,011.77	30,993.64			38,136.75	20,868.66
Free High	63,392.60	88,153.26				151,545.86
State Apportionment		3,818.92			3,818.92	
Fines and Licenses		1,363.85			1,363.85	
Miscellaneous						
Blanket School	17.76					17.76
VILLAGE FUNDS:						
General	42,244.45	41,823.39	6,810.11		43,889.05	46,988.90
Water Bond	3,419.48	2,338.18			2,793.52	2,793.52
Sewer Bond	11,273.48	5,777.68		106.32	11,345.43	5,599.41
Atkinson Ball Park	912.44	273.24			1,013.83	171.85
Atkinson Municipal Bldg.	2,779.73	1,037.16			1,210.00	2,606.89
O'Neill Swimming Pool	1,194.06	447.36				1,641.42
O'Neill Park	1,328.43	1,932.53			1,260.00	2,000.96
O'Neill District Paving	3,623.70	6,390.82			4,426.72	5,587.80
O'Neill Intersection Paving	24,837.62	4,469.79			703.00	28,604.41
O'Neill Street Widening	2,963.01	25.46				2,988.47
O'Neill Armory	1,427.91	1,322.40			2,500.00	250.31
Gas Tax		5,022.90			5,022.90	
Poll Tax		936.70			936.70	
Auto License		744.19			744.19	
Stuart Electric		605.00			605.00	
Evung Rev. Water		800.00			825.00	*od 25.00
July 1, 1958 Balance	\$812,801.60	\$1,102,104.49	47,024.57	\$47,024.57	\$1,027,596.42	887,309.67
December 24, 1958 Balance		812,801.60			887,309.67	
		\$1,914,906.09			\$1,914,906.09	

Unallowed Claims on File in Clerk's Office December 15:

Gen.	8,078.83	Medical	920.53
Bridge	82.79	Unemp.	
Road	3,623.38	Relief	59.00
Rd.-Bridge	267.90		

STATE OF NEBRASKA, }
COUNTY OF HOLT } SS.
I, J. ED HANCOCK, County Treasurer of Holt County, Nebraska, do solemnly swear that the foregoing statement is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2nd day of January, 1959.
(SEAL) J. ED. HANCOCK, County Treasurer
KENNETH WARING, County Clerk

Editorial—

Difficult Session Ahead

State Sen. Frank Nelson of O'Neill, departing early Monday for the 59th session of the Nebraska legislature, predicts a "rather tough session". The 75-year-old O'Neill farmer, who sees all the fine print and knows what it says even though he has no use for spectacles, predicts the session is capable of being longer than any other in the history of the state.

"All departments are asking for more funds except the highway department," the 10-year veteran solon told The Frontier. "The highway department apparently has the funds it needs at present time. However, we're in a period of inflation—a cheapened dollar—and the state will be getting less and less for its dollar. It's a vicious situation."

"At this time I have not heard enough evidence in the recount controversy to declare myself. However, I hope to have detailed information in that controversy within a short time after my arrival at the statehouse."

"The work load at Lincoln this session will be such that I will be unable to make as many week-end trips home as in past sessions. But I most certainly will welcome the thinking of my constituents in the Twenty-eighth district if they will keep me advised either by mail or in person."

Fire Department Needs Overhaul

We're wondering if O'Neill hasn't reached the point where a new look at the fire department isn't in order?

The capital investment of fire-fighting apparatus now runs into thousands of dollars and we are questioning whether or not full benefit is being derived from that investment which includes three fire truck units—two of them spanking new.

Equipment malfunctions in recent weeks have been with regularity—in part due to extremely cold weather.

It occurs to us that one full-time fireman could be kept on duty at the fire station at all times. This could be accomplished with three men working in shifts plus a substitute. Equipment could be checked several times daily and the firemen could be kept busy mending broken water meters and performing other maintenance and perhaps administrative services for the city's water and sewer departments.

City employees, therefore, could answer the small, routine alarms (which constitute nine out of 10 calls). When volunteer help is needed, the fire siren could summon the multiple calls are not uncommon during a single 24 hour period. Firemen receive \$2 for each alarm answered in the city.

The sounding of the alarm—even if it's a battery burning for a guy from Muskegon—costs the city at least \$35. In autumn months when gas fires sometimes require services of firemen several times a day the city's costs run into money.

O'Neill's fire district has been greatly increased with the formation of the rural fire protection district, now encompassing several hundred square miles. It is further justification for a new look at the fire-fighting organization with a view towards at least one full-time fireman on hand at all times with full authority to proceed and direct the assault.

On the morning of the state oil truck explosion firemen wrestled for 10 minutes after arriving on the scene getting gear into action. Saturday morning at the Schwisow farm there was delay due to fireman malfunction. Saturday night at the Alden Breiner place the also was costly delay. Page firemen said the dwelling might have been saved had O'Neill's

trucks not encountered operational trouble (or had O'Neill's help been called earlier).

This situation is not a reflection on any of the fine staff of volunteer firemen. It is a situation in which capital investment has increased many times in recent years, the area served is vastly greater than heretofore and this is a growing city.

The present fire department is patterned along village organization lines of yesterday.

Further, in the slam-bang race for the fire station, with volunteer firemen converging from all sections of the city to answer an alarm, somebody is going to be killed. And the loss of a life or a limb is in no way comparable to the average run of the mill fire losses.

We think the reorganization could be effected in such way as to insure better fire protection, better use of capital investment, and with no increase in cost to the city's taxpayers.

THE FRONTIER

Box 330 — O'Neill, Nebr.
CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

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