

Prairieland Talk . . .

Scattering Smiles, Sunshine Pays

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Frontier Editor

LINCOLN—It costs only a penny for a bit of candy to make a little child happy. Toss a puppy a scrap of your leftover dinner—he wiggles all over with puppy gratitude.

Out of work, out of money, homeless and, as he thought, friendless in a strange place, a man of clean countenance sat in a railroad station where I awaited the arrival of a midnight train. He planned to spend the night there away from the outside winter cold. He had no money. What would the morning bring? Handed sufficient funds to supply his hunger needs his eye lighted with the flame of gratitude voice could not express. You may hand a hungry man a crust of bread but nothing revives hope, inspires to renewed effort like the feel of real cash. A new pair of shoes brought a thrill of happiness to the one receiving them and to the giver. A cup of cold water brought to a mother whose crying child in her arms was thus soon put to sleep. All of which costs a little in effort and money—but so little! Then "scatter smiles and sunshine all along your way; cheer and brighten every passing day!"



Romaine Saunders

In the election of November, 1902, M. P. Kincaid of O'Neill was elected a member of congress, the first republican to be elected in the Sixth Nebraska congressional district, now the Fourth. . . Jack Meals, was shaping his affairs to move his family to Valdez, Alaska. . . At a 6 o'clock ceremony the morning of November 19, 1902, George Shoemaker and Miss Nellie Joyce were married by Rev. M. F. Cassidy. . . Another wedding was that on November 25 that year when Harvey Stocking and Miss Kittie Bright were married, the ceremony taking place at the home of Miss Bright's brother, C. L. Bright, a minister from Norfolk officiating. . . Mr. and Mrs. T. F. Birmingham and Mr. and Mrs. D. Clem Deaver formed a group of O'Neill citizens who went to Neligh to spend the day with the B. J. Ryans, formerly of O'Neill. . . December 17, that year, two of O'Neill's prominent housewives died, Mrs. M. M. Sullivan, wife of a prominent merchant, and Mrs. G. W. Smith, wife of the Short Line agent. School dismissed and district court adjourned for the funerals.

A home and family life are not for the patriot who has been drawn into the army. And home and family life are the American's heritage because of those who left home and family life to fight to establish a nation of free people.

It may be a case of "must," but is it necessary or merely one man's idea who desires to exercise his authority? The streets of O'Neill were wide enough for the array of covered wagons, for the bucking horses plunging high, wide and handsome and the clutter of automobiles and trucks racing through town. That routing highways has anything to do with reducing highway accidents is questionable. If the changes suggested for O'Neill are made, who pays all the expenses thus involved—the hapless property owner? The streets of O'Neill are much wider than the streets found at Grand Island and other cities through which many overland buses and much heavy traffic moves and which are ample for present day needs.

Editorial . . .

More of the Same?

Inauguration a few months ago of 12 strategically located truck weighing stations on the Nebraska highway system is producing some interesting reactions. The stations are doing a land-office business and the penalty money is pouring into school coffers in the counties in which the stations are located. On any given day the Nebraska highway patrol elects to open a weighing station, all truck traffic on the routes on which the station is situated is obligated to stop for weight checking.

For years the behemoths of the highway have been getting away with murder, overloading their outfits to the hilt. The Nebraska legislature has ordered a "get tough" policy and the carriers guilty of overloading are being nabbed right-and-left and frequently are ordered to reduce their cargo before proceeding.

Some of the national truck lines vary in their approach to the problem when their drivers are detained. In one instance a roving peacemaker comes along periodically, graciously pays the accumulated fines and costs and moves to the next county in which his boys have been in weight station trouble. On the other hand, another national concern turns out a team of gobbledegook with the idea their legal beagles will wear down the hick county officers and charges will be dropped. One truck line operating through O'Neill has had one of its drivers found guilty of overloading six times at the station located east of Inman at the junction of U.S. highways 20 and 275.

The weighing stations are distributed throughout Nebraska without particular regard to population but with the interception idea in mind, making it difficult for any truck driver to willfully bypass a check point while a weighing seige is in progress.

Of course, oncoming drivers sometimes get signals from others who have been through the mill. The oncoming guy thereupon pulls off to the side of the road for a snooze or sweats it out in a town for the duration, resuming his trip a few hours behind schedule. And, occasionally, patrolmen are not outfoxed by this and simply work overtime to finish the job.

But the real point we wish to make is this: Counties (like Holt) are now enjoying an advantage over counties without stations (there are 81 in the latter category). As we've stated before, the big portion of the fines collected goes to the schools in the counties in which the charges are pressed. Already a substantial sum has found its way into Holt county schools—perhaps \$5,000.

Many persons and some state legislators are now aware of this situation and already are licking their chops and devising ways and means of a more equitable distribution of weighing station spoils. North-central and western Nebraska people, who have been close to the school land lease issue for years are not shedding tears for eastern Nebraskans, who all of a sudden are squawking for weight station revenue. Eastern Nebraska school land long since has been sold and placed on the local tax rolls. In the north-central and

It was immediately following the world tragedy occasioned by the ambitions of Kaiser Wilhelm that frightening tales were circulated warning us of deadly things science had introduced to wipe out the earth's living. We are still here. Now it's the H-bomb that's going to do it. Val Peterson of the civil defense office is going to exhibit pictures of what the latest cargo of destruction can do, not to frighten but to inform. And being informed, if you are of normal human makeup you are also frightened. A mob may wipe out any city any minute, is the warning. If so, you can't do a thing about it when blown to atoms. Ancient Ninevah had 40 days warning that a celestial bomb would fall on that great city if the inhabitants did not mend their ways. The mayor of the city started a reform movement and Jonah was disappointed that the Ninevites were spared. Not that Val would be disappointed if neither an enemy nor a bungling patriot get around to blow up some of us.

The GOP in Nebraska will probably neither gain nor lose prestige as a result of bringing that fighting Irishman from Wisconsin, Senator Joe McCarthy, into the state for the preprimary keynoter. But he will at least be entertaining as he has not only the gift of gab but an originality that sets him apart from the mill run of political spellbinders.

March slunk away leaving a bit of melting snow, in came April on a big blow, the sun marked off the hours in flaming grandeur and tints the west at eventide with a flash of gold of departed day. With the gathering shadows the wind goes to rest. April is on its way down the pathway of time and introduces to prairieland another season of wind and rain necessary to the fulfillment of human hopes forever anchored to the soil. Wind and sunshine and showers wipe away the picture drawn by winter's frosts upon the window pane and bring to life another season's flowing robes of green and crowns of gold. And so in our lives, the winds of adversity blow away the dust of time and the showers of countless blessings wash away life's shadows and let the sunshine in, so at the dawn of each new day you awaken to get out and do your stuff for another eight hours.

Whether Gov. Robert Crosby's varied taxation proposals would be any improvement over the present setup is anybody's guess. What we have today is certainly no advance step from the old way of precinct assessors going the rounds from citizen to citizen and listing the property, which for the most part meant an honest return of goods and chattels. But this is a day of big ideas and we will have something to chew the rag about.

Governor Crosby is kept busy explaining his "taxable" ideas. It is something like 50 years ago Governor Savage was busy explaining why he paroled Joe Bartley, judicially assigned to the pen because of a half-million dollar shortage as state treasurer.

The county attorney of Lancaster county joins the chorus of those who think the world's problems can be settled by a special session of the legislature.

It is harder to be poor without complaining than to be rich without boasting.—Chinese Proverb.

When You and I Were Young . . .

Gets Idaho Post at \$60 Per Month

Lillie Galleher Is Leaving Stuart

50 Years Ago For want of a better place to go, Dan Cashman returned to O'Neill after extensive traveling over the United States. . . A new soda fountain has been installed at the Gilligan & Stout drug store. . . Miss Lillie Galleher will resign from her teaching position in Stuart to go to the Cour d'Alene public school at a salary of \$60 per month.

20 Years Ago A furnace explosion in the Scott building caused property damage estimated at close to \$1,000. . . Six inches of snow blanketed O'Neill the latter part of the week with more on the way, according to predictions of the weatherman. . . C. E. Melena began work on Mrs. Margaret Clauson's beauty shop building. . . F. M. Reese of Valentine arrived in O'Neill to assume the duties of agriculture agent, a position made vacant by the resignation of James W. Rooney.

10 Years Ago Margaret Hammond, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hammond, and Lt. W. H. Bowker of Neligh were married at St. John's Catholic church in Omaha. . . Constance Golden left for Hunter college, N.Y., to begin her training in the WAVES. . . A former O'Neillite, Gerald Cross, is campaigning for city councilman in Denver, Colo.

One Year Ago The air force research center has selected a location north and east of O'Neill for the site of the largest and most exhaustive wind research field tests ever attempted in meteorological history. . . Miss Carolyn Watson will be presented in a recital by Mrs. Charles B. Houser at the St. Mary's auditorium. . . The junior American Legion auxiliary held an Easter egg hunt in the American Legion auditorium. . . Fourteen children were present. . . George Hammond, "Voice of the Frontier" announcer, preached for two minutes on sane and safe driving over the Easter holiday—a result of a hair raising trip from Sioux City to O'Neill made by the Hammond family. . . Many travelers depend upon the same-ness of others for their own safety on the highways.

'Dish Washing' to Be Demonstrated—The Evergreen 4-H club held its sixth meeting with all but one member present. At the

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session, Pat Wabs and Anita Doty demonstrated setting the table and serving a meal. Sharon True demonstrated how to make a potheroler. Other members judged potherolers made by older members. The next meeting will be April 20 with roll call a safety slogan and a picture to match the slogan. A shoulder cover or laundry bag is to be made by the older members for the meeting.

Mike Wabs and Shirley Storchmann will demonstrate how to make a shoulder cover. Susan Margitz and Linda Storchmann will demonstrate how to wash dishes. — By Bonna Margitz, news reporter.

Balantyne and Faye Irene were hostesses to the girls Monday, March 22. Record books and project lessons were given to the members. Marlene Frahn and Diane Cork were guests of the girls. Diane decided to join the club. Songs led by Donna and Janis Crumly opened the meeting. Games were led by Faye Irene Ballantyne. A lunch of jell-o, cake and cocoa was served.—By Connie Riege, news reporter.

To Minnesota—Rev. and Mrs. Wayne A. Hall departed Monday for Earth, Minn., where they will visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Hall, formerly of O'Neill.

DR. H. L. BENNETT VETERINARIAN Phones 316 and 304

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