

Prairieland Talk

Spare That Church Bell!

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Editor The Frontier

MARION, IND.—Again a destroying hand is raised to violate the memory of the pioneers and tear from its roots another landmark in O'Neill's Memories of Editor James H. Riggs, of Doctor Corbett, of Mrs. Waldo Adams, of Mrs. Wes Evans, and others of a bygone day who gathered weekly to bow the knee in their consecrated shrine at what is now known as Everett and Second streets.

Marching down the avenues of time comes another generation to lay a ruthless hand upon the Presbyterian church, read it apart and let the memories of more than 70 years be buried with the remains. This generation of disciples of John Knox sees the need of a new edifice to replace the old. That may be symbolic of all that religion means—destroy the old life of sin and put on the robe of righteousness to walk in newness of life.



Romaine Saunders

And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars forever and ever.

I am not a Presbyterian. That is not important—but just one of the millions of earth who anchor their souls on the Rock of Ages. Destroying hand, spare that bell that hangs in the tower!

It was presented as a gift to the church by one of the original Gen. John O'Neill colonists, Col. Neil Brennan. Nor was he a Presbyterian!

A DeKalb county farmer reports a yield of 241 bushels of corn to the acre from a five-acre field, which seems to be the extent of a corn field in the Hoosier state.

Indiana has a town known as Brazil. That town has a Pentecostal place of worship. One gent went to the temple not to worship, but wanting a fight. In court he was fined \$1,003 and stowed away for 60 days on a charge of being drunk and punching the preacher in the nose as he stood in the pulpit.

Indiana is a stronghold of the GOP. However, the democrats have reached into this stronghold and selected a party patriot, Paul Butler, to head their national committee.

In the neighborhood of this Indiana city where Prairieland Talker is enjoying life for the moment there are a dozen or so new houses in the process of being put together. I say put together as that seems to be it. The house is brought in sections by great trucks from a distant Indiana city and signs on the trucks also convey the information that the concern turning out the prefab houses has a setup at a place known as Horseheads, N.Y. One such house across on another lot was reared on the scene yesterday. Another nearby was unloaded this morning and by noon was ready for the roof. I see out the window an arm of a great crane swinging back and forth, busily making over the earth for the planting of another fabricated home.

The day is cold. It is the time of snow and ice, when hoar frost weaves a lace pattern on window panes, when old men sit by the firelight or as the moderns have it, by a hole in the floor, while outside boys on their sleds scoot down the hill. The blush and bloom of autumn colors now lie dead under an undefiled blanket of white where it has escaped the defilement of tramping feet and busy traffic.

The mayor of Erie, Pa., one of 36 indicted, has been convicted of connection with a gambling gang that has been pulling official legs.

The outburst of an Alabama state senator gives a picture of the Negro question in the deep South. Blood will flow, he says, if a colored student tries to enter a public school of the whites, defies the United States government and the military forces of the nation. And he goes the limit when he says the goal of the National Association for the Advancement of the colored people "is to open the bedroom door of white women to Negro men."

The problem of what to do about Santa Claus is an old one and its history can shed much light upon the present debate. A study of the history of the question shows others during the past few centuries have attempted to expose the Santa Claus myth but as far as we can tell the old gentleman is in better standing today than at any time since he was invented.

Since the question cannot be affected by legislation or public polls there probably is little point in taking up the arguments on both sides of the question. Besides, logic has nothing to do with it.

The second helping of toast and eggs for breakfast will soon be available. The authority on such things down at Washington, D.C., has given out some secrets the nation's hens are up to. Egg production for January is set at five billion 720 million. . . . A circuit judge at South Bend rules that Indiana justices of the peace have no authority to act in matters involving traffic violations. . . . Another provision of Indiana law permits a female of the gutter to have guy fined and sent to jail on a charge of rape. . . . Printers usually get what they go after, but this one didn't—instead he landed in court on a charge of "disturbing the peace." The peace disturbed was that of a fair young lady reporter on the La Porte paper where the printer worked. He had sought the lady's hand in an ungalant way and was rejected.

One of the city's many large churches was inadequate to hold the crowd that came out on a gloomy Sunday evening to hear and see community singers render that popular yuletide musical drama, "Messiah." My daughter-in-law being in the oratorio group was an added incentive for us to attend and after standing out in the cold for some time we found places in the basement rooms where the singers could be heard.

Ladies old McCook may have their six-shooters loaded and are in waiting for the Nebraska legislature to convene when they plan to march in at the statehouse and demand at gun point—nothing more formidable than camera snapshots—that we have another law, something about a road down there in Red Willow. The men and women who established communities on prairieland in the long ago as well as in more recent times, rolled up their sleeves and went at it with bare hands. "There ought to be a law" is the demand now. Committees, associations, conservation and watershed groups, societies, leagues, and what have you have become a pain in the neck—all holding out capacious paws for a dip in the public money bag. Are you getting yours? Good luck to the matrons from McCook!

Just rite and tell me what you like to no & I'll see if the naybers & I can't come up with sum news. The whether has finly chaged for ghood. Shees rained & snowed heer.

THE boys bidding on the Garrison, N.D., engineering project apparently had the decimal point in the wrong place—their bid was a one-million-dollar error and all bids were called off. . . . O'Neill merchants have been very much pleased with the yule business. . . . A phone call the other day inquired about the next Community Concert: Samuel Sorin, pianist, Thursday, February 3. . . . Many ordering is the best way to buy automobile license plates to avoid those long queues at the county treasurer's office: Be sure to enclose three copies of motor vehicle tax notices (to be received in mail), 1954 registration certificate, your check covering taxes, plates and 23 cents postage. . . . Merry Christmas, everyone!

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Since the question cannot be affected by legislation or public polls there probably is little point in taking up the arguments on both sides of the question. Besides, logic has nothing to do with it.

We suspect many children discover the facts about Santa long before they take the final step to adulthood by admitting they don't believe in him anymore, indicating children aren't likely to become cynical when they find they have been betrayed, as some psychologists have suggested.

Also, we suspect many adults enjoy keeping up the myth just as much as the children enjoy it and that between such adults and their offspring it's going to take more than one clergyman and a few serious minded psychologists to set the world "right" on this important matter.

In the meantime, we'll join the majority by making preparations to assist Santa Claus when he visits our community between now and Christmas day. We hope we do nothing that will lead an innocent child to question the authenticity of every Santa Claus he sees between now and then. We'll let someone else enjoy the thrills of telling him "there ain't no Santa Claus."

THE FRONTIER

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News, Views and Gossip

BY THE EDITOR

Gobbledygook

Our policy is to file in the handiest wastebasket all unsigned letters to the editor.

Dear Cal: You want news and I, get news. It rained & snowed heer for 3 moths we been dry heer. Mabey not so dry as down in Texas. Whar I heer the pore people haf to wash ther own Cadilaks, but not water to wash in, but dry just the same. It got so bad, finen even ther water wuz dry. Efen last winter the snow wuz so dry they pushed it off the streets in town and burnt it.

I bin haling water from town to my cins for over 2 moths, and lotely culdnt get enuf water to 'em by haling day & night. I sent a sampul uv the water to the state. Aund thy ansert rite bac. The sampul wuz under 20% noisichur. No wonder the cows wuz giving powdter milk. Got so cud milk lot of times in a paper sak.

If you wonder why yure getting a letter from me heer at Orchard, well my brothur works in them masheery places. He took a copy of yors paper, then I get 'em Red yors paper so long, I feel like yore wuz wun uv us. My brothur says he been wunding if sometimes you want the yusirs slant on mascheery & we can shure giv it heer. You never have seen useder masheery than thar is around this nayburhood.

Just rite and tell me what you like to no & I'll see if the naybers & I can't come up with sum news. The whether has finly chaged for ghood. Shees rained & snowed heer.

HANK

Miscellany

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—CAL STEWART

Nativity Scene Is Used at Meeting

PAGE — Last Thursday was guest day when the Woman's Society of Christian Service met at the Methodist church parlors. About 40 were present. A short meeting was conducted by Mrs. Elmer Trowbridge. After a prelude of Christmas music, Mrs. Herbert Steinberg led the devotions. She used the characters of the nativity scene when she gave the lesson. "The Christmas Story" The group singing with Mrs. John Lamason as accompanist, when the first verses of several Christmas songs were sung. Mrs. Steinberg, Mrs. Edgar Stauffer and Mrs. Harry Harper gave a one-act play, "Keeping Christ the Christmas." A reading, "The Herald Angels Sing" was given by Mrs. J. R. Russell. Mrs. Raymond Heiss and Mrs. Harriet Carson were hostesses. Christmas decorations were used for the tables. The next meeting will be an all-day session with a covered dish luncheon at noon.

Miss Mary Kathryn Coyne of San Francisco, Calif., Dr. Nadine Coyne of Rochester, Minn., and Miss Veronica Coyne of Chicago, Ill., plan to arrive Friday to spend the Christmas holidays with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Coyne.

MILLER THEATER

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GIG YOUNG-JEAN HAGEN in COLOR

— also —

PIECE OF LAUGHTER! JUDY CANOVA

THE UNFATHOMED HEIRESS

Sun.-Mon.-Tues. Dec. 26-27-28

DEAN MARVIN and JERRY LEMIS LIVING IT UP with JANEY LIVEN

— also —

ELIZABETH TAYLOR in RAPSAODY

Wed.-Thurs. Dec. 29-30

THEIR NEWEST SCREEN ROCKING LAUGHING BUST!

ELIZABETH TAYLOR in RAPSAODY

— also —

McGreevy to Face Embezzlement Trial

50 Years Ago

Sheriff Hall went to Lincoln to secure requisition papers for Bernard McGreevy. He will return McGreevy to O'Neill to stand trial on the charges of embezzlement. McGreevy was arrested last week in Phoenix, Ariz. . . . It is reported that a vigilance committee has been organized in eastern Keya Paha, which, if true, will probably bring old Keya Paha to the front again as the "dark and bloody ground" of the border. . . . Ernest Elkins and Miss Maggie Fauquier were united in marriage at the home of the bride's parents. . . . Will Young accidentally shot himself in the hand when he set his gun down on returning home from duck hunting.

20 Years Ago

James M. Stevens, 94, the last of Holt county's Civil War veterans, died at his home in Page. . . . The body of Frank McNichols was found in Elliot Bay, Seattle, Wash. The body showed marks of violence other than the bullet wound. No other clues as to the identity of the assailant were found. It is presumed robbery was the motive. . . . Very Rev. John G. McNamara has received from His Holiness Pope Pius XI the title and elevation to right reverend monsignor. . . . The county drought committee called a meeting to set up an organization to have other forms of roughness shipped into the county, as a recent survey showed farmers are short of feed for their livestock.

10 Years Ago

Miss Betsy Lou Markland and Lt. Francis Soukup were united in marriage at Ft. Knox, Ky. . . . Lyndle R. Stout, who has served as county agent of Holt county seven years, resigned last week to accept the position of distributing manager for the Moorman Manufacturing company. . . . Bill Serck was appointed by the board of supervisors to serve as county clerk until next election. . . . The number of men between the ages of 18-37 to be drafted has been increased, according to a directive announced from Washington by Brig.-Gen. Guy N. Henninger.

One Year Ago

Mother M. Muriel of Minot, N.D., is the new superior at St. Mary's academy, succeeding the late Mother M. Erica, who died in October. . . . Marine 2/Lt. Richard Hungerford received his

wings at the navy flight training school at Pensacola, Fla. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Hungerford of Bassett and he is a former O'Neill high athletic great. . . . Ray Eby announced inauguration of the O'Neill taxi service. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Doolittle marked their golden wedding anniversary at an open-house at the ranch home of their son, Tommy, near Amelia. . . . Mrs. Ruby Holcomb, rural school teacher in district 156 near Chambers, has been chosen as a master teacher representative for the Holt County Rural Teachers' association.

CCC Loan Deadlines Five Weeks Away

Farmers who have postponed taking out a price-support loan or purchase agreement on 1954 crops of wheat, rye, barley, oats and grain sorghums is January 31, 1955. Loans and purchase agreements on 1954 crop corn are available through May 31, 1955.

As of December 13, farmers in the county had covered the following amounts of their 1954 crops under the price support program:

Barley	\$ 2,354.12
Rye	7,764.40
Oats	10,125.60
Wheat	7,442.19
Corn	51,321.22

Mr. Ressel reminds farmers that adequate storage is essential to the operation of the loan program.

Townsend to Spend Winter Away

PAGE — Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Townsend plan to leave this week for Norfolk where they will spend the rest of the winter at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Chmeler. Their son, Alva of Columbus, will come and take them to Norfolk. A Christmas dinner will be held at the Chmeler home and others who plan to be present are Mr. and Mrs. Alva Townsend

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128 W. Douglas St., O'Neill
Phone 138

and their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Blocker, and family, all of Columbus. The Chmelers' three daughters, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Gilmore and family of Sioux Falls, S.D., Mr. and Mrs. Tom Doover of Madison and Miss Julie Chmeler of Lincoln, Mr. and Mrs. Alva Townsend's son, Gene, and family of Omaha will not be present. John O'Neill, student at Creighton university, Omaha, visited Wednesday with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Blocker, and family, all of Columbus. Miss Mae D. Hammond of Washington, D.C., arrived Monday morning to visit her brother-in-law and sister, Mrs. and Mrs. Ira Moss, and other relatives over the holidays. Guest Here— Miss Ann Waters of Omaha arrived Monday to visit her sisters, Mrs. William Biglin and Mrs. Margaret Boler, over the holidays.



- Gift Packages of Wine
- Gift Decanters
- Sparkling Burgundy
- Champagne

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Greetings OF THE SEASON!

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Your old storm door is worth \$10.00 as trade-in!

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Greetings at Christmas

With warmest thanks we wish to send greetings for the Yuletide and the New Year to all of our friends . . . our customers. It's been a pleasure to please you and may we continue to do so throughout

WM. KROTTER CO.

WEST O'NEILL & DOWNTOWN STORES

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You Can Tell Him!

(Guest editorial from The Nebraska Signal, Geneva) Those who wondered what public issue would arise to take the place of debate and discussion of the McCarthy censure motion didn't have to wait long to find out. The eastern clergyman who announced he was going to tell youngsters in his