

Prairieland Talk . . .

Up Thermostat and Relax

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS

LINCOLN—A healthy winter storm seems to be an event for this generation—old stuff to their dads and mothers who expected a three-day blizzard once or twice a month when winter set in. The only voice then heard coming on the wings of the air was the howling of the wind and snow beating at the window panes and before calm settled again across prairieland windows and doors and homes of the prairie dwellers were wrapped in a winding sheet. Friends down by Amelia have written to me casually mentioning the February blizzard. They had experienced many such under less favorable conditions than now surround them.



Romain Saunders

Today as I write there is the sighing of the wind through the nude arms of the trees and snow is piling across the landscape. I have no urge to get out in the open and face the wild blast from boreal realms as in other years, so turn up the thermostat a few degrees and recline at ease, hoping The Frontier's George Hammond doesn't make it too tough during March's first blizzard.

A resolution directing the governor to have the Bryan statue removed from the north entrance to the capitol building to the east or south entrance may or may not get consideration by the legislative committee. To a man up a tree this looks like sheer nonsense. If it is to remain a feature of the statehouse picture why move it at considerable expense?

Another has gone the way of all the earth. It is allotted to but few to have a place on the highway of life the many years Sam Barnard rounded out. Sam was essentially a frontiersman. Born in Grand Island when it was little more than a trading post on the Platte, Nebraska and Wyoming had been to him home for nearly a century. He came to O'Neill in the long ago and his first job was in the Barney Ryan grocery store, located where the Golden hotel now is. Others may have been out of employment, but not Sam. He filled places of responsibility, including county positions, was friendly with all and I knew of no one who ever felt otherwise toward him.

Delegate to a group of fellows the authority to enact laws and you may look for most anything to come up for a spot on the statutes. Again it was proposed to lower the age for young Nebraskans to vote. Inspired no doubt by the feeling if a guy is old enough to become a soldier he is old enough to vote. Seems logical. But let's raise the age limit for army service and let the young fellows be kids while they may.

An Iowa man was killed in a bus-car crash in Nebraska, a West Point man met a like fate in a traffic crash, a Nebraskan was straightened for the grave along a Wyoming highway, a dozen others were killed or sent to hospitals by reason of trying to make their way somewhere on snow-bound or ice-encrusted highways. Just a sample of the weekly reports from traffic crackups. The pitiful thing is that most of those who are killed or injured are of themselves in no way responsible for the blow that brings death or mutilation. And oddly enough the one who might have avoided the smashup often escapes without a scratch.

All I know about the old age assistance for the care of those who have passed the productive period of life and find their resources gone is what an oldtimer who is thus sustained tells me. His monthly "assistance" check comes to him the 22nd of the month and he hustles over to the bank and gets \$110 in cash. One hundred of that goes to the nursing home folks where he finds a good home, \$10 being ample for his "spending money" each month.

The weather lion spent its wrath the first day of March. This morning the deep blue above the city glows with radiant sunlight and we can see to the Kansas border. But with a heavy blanket of snow there is a chill that we creatures of earth can escape only by sticking around where the heating equipment is functioning. This late blaket of snow, as the white-collar farmers in their swivel chairs down town have "pointed out," is worth a million a few times over to the wide sweep of prairieland. Snow gives to the earth both moisture and fertilizing elements. Where no snow falls there lie endless miles of desert waste. "God thundereth marvelously with His voice; great things doeth He, which we cannot comprehend, for He saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth." Again to quote from an ancient prophet, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow."

The state senator from down in Harlan county is incensed because the names of the senators who voted to kill a certain measure in committee have been made public by a radio announcer at Lexington. He wants the session to take "drastic action" against this patriot who had the authority to let us know how the honored gents in the unicam vote. Whether the "drastic action" is to be anything short of being shot at sunrise I haven't taken the trouble to find out. Since when has it become a disgrace for a state senator to vote the way he thinks best or to feel that he does not want it known how he votes as a member of the committee considering proposed measures? As the radio commentator who made the disclosures in this instance says, it raises the question as to whether the people have a right to know how their representatives in the legislature vote on killing bills in committee.

A lady comes to town from Nebraska's next to largest county, mostly grass country and sand with Broken Bow the county seat, to tell her big sisters how to doll up their homes with fussy decorations, but has no advice to offer how to perpetuate that early dream of romance along with the mixture of six or eight youngsters. . . Insurance people say 88 million of us now have life insurance. Providing for that coveted security. A life's sentence to the pen will secure you that. . . The Nebraska university has been asked again to have off-campus class work in the Panama Canal zone. This was done in 1949 and a class of freshmen got going. Now there is need for class work for seniors. . . The state liquor commission reports receipts of \$162,164 in February, an increase of \$20,000 over the month previous. . . Former Governor Peterson has been appointed administrator of the federal civil defense commission, at a yearly stipend of \$17,500.

A dame from movieland recently was granted a divorce from her fourth husband after a 10-minute hearing in a Nevada court. That is nothing new to come out of either Hollywood or Nevada. When at the marriage gaiety in 1948 the bridegroom had slipped a ring upon her finger this same dame whispered, "This is forever." Four years later "mental cruelty" brought "forever" to an end. It is regrettable that the country's group of entertainers have so little sense of moral principles if not common decency. Of course, the show people must cater to popular demand and whatever draws the crowds to the exhibitions and what will be dishd up. The public taste feeds upon the racy. Performers living in such an atmosphere build their lives accordingly.

When the mistress of the home has morning callers from the sisters along her street before she is out of her pajamas her popularity rates above the average.

Letters to Editor

Lincoln 6, Nebr.
4127 So. 48th St.
March 8, 1953

Dear Sir: Mr. Saunders is my neighbor around the corner. He has on occasion permitted me to peruse your paper. Must say each occasion is a pleasure. He is such a fine old man I have written a little tribute to him. I am sure he would be pleased if you would feel disposed to print it in your paper. Your issue of the '53 blizzard is outstanding. Good coverage and well done throughout.

ROMAIN SAUNDERS
Aged prairie patriarch. In newspaper he has made his mark. Journeyman printer, he excels as former experiences he tells. Writer. You read his words in your Frontier—Words writ without bias or fear. Cheerful old philosopher. Depressing moments he'll defer. Neighbor kind with cheery greeting. Friendship deepens at every meeting. Christian, bearing not a single grudge. Yet on principle he'll not budge. Romain Saunders — one of the best.
Produced on prairies of the West.
—CHESTER BUDD

Lynch, Nebr.
March 3, 1953

Voice of The Frontier,
Dear George: I saw in the issue of February 22 of The Frontier that a lot of people don't believe the snow banks were that high. I certainly say they were! Because we had a snowbank by our house that was at least 20 feet high. I live a ways from O'Neill so I'm sure they were 18 feet high around O'Neill. The bulldozers had a time getting through in places.

I'm sure if the people could see these banks, they would believe you. I am just one of your readers. You may print my letter but please don't print my name.
JUST A READER
AND LISTENER

4639 Tonopah, Avenue,
San Diego 10, Calif.

Dear Sir: Just a line to tell you how much I enjoy The Frontier. My mother, Mrs. Vannie Newman, and my sister, Mrs. Jerry Babi-

have sent the paper to me as a gift.

I especially want to thank you for the very nice write-up you gave to my husband who is an amateur songwriter. I received The Frontier yesterday and brought it to work with me today at Conair to show some of the people I work with the snow pictures. Many of them had never witnessed such a snow storm and were quite appalled by the drifts. However, I was there during the blizzard of 1948 so I know pretty much what the storm was like.

Thank you again for such a nice local paper and all of the very fine pictures.
MRS. JIM MORRIS

The National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis, Inc.
Nebraska State Headquarters for The March of Dimes
Lincoln 8, Nebr.
March 5, 1953

Dear Editor: Thank you and your staff for valuable public service in furthering the fight against polio during the 1953 march of dimes. Nebraskans everywhere expressed with renewed vigor their determination to whip this disease, which during 1952 brought so much suffering and heartache to people.

Gratefully yours,
TED R. HUGHES
State Chairman

Kirsch Rites Held—
ATKINSON — Mrs. Dwight Kirsch, 60, the former Truby Kelly, died suddenly Monday evening, February 23, at the Methodist hospital in Des Moines, Ia. Funeral services were conducted Thursday, February 26, at Des Moines. Survivors include: Husband, son—John of Des Moines; brothers—Eric T. Kelly of Pueblo, Colo.; Ralph J. Kelly of Atkinson and Taber W. Kelly of St. Charles, Ill.

Don Calkins Enrolls in Navy Photo School—
Attending a 14-weeks course in basic photography at the naval air training unit at Pensacola, Fla., is Donald L. Calkins, airman, USN, son of Mrs. Chet Calkins of O'Neill and the late Police Chief Chet Calkins. He entered the navy in August, 1952, and received recruit training at the U.S. naval training center, San Diego, Calif.

The course offers basic training in the technical phases of photography including optics, operation and maintenance of various types of equipment employed throughout the navy. Upon completion of the schooling, some students are selected for additional training in aerial photography.

TRIPLET CALVES
Bernard Pongratz, who resides near Emmet, was surprised and quite disappointed last week when he went to feed his stock cows, to find one of his cows had given birth to triplet calves. But they were all dead. This is very rare in cattle. Three years ago the same cow gave birth to identical twin heifers, which lived.

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O'NEILL LOCALS
A/3c Wally Shelhamer arrived home last Thursday from McGuire AFB, Trenton, N.J., to spend a 30-day furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Shelhamer. After his furlough he will report to Camp Stoneman, Calif., to be assigned to foreign duty. Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Clauson were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. R. Mounts at the Town House Sunday. Mrs. Blanche Kryger of Neigh spent the weekend in the

L. A. Burgess home. Mrs. Blanche Kryger of Neigh was a Sunday evening visitor in the D. H. Clauson home. Mr. and Mrs. Bert DeGross spent Saturday in Chambers visiting Mrs. Carl Lambert. Frontier for printing! Mr. and Mrs. Otto Lorenz and Mrs. John Dick and daughter, Esther, were Thursday evening callers in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Cone. Mr. Lorenz and Mr. Cone attended the basketball game.

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Editorial . . .

For Others Only

"Everybody wants government spending reduced—except when it cuts into his own pet project." So says an article in Nation's Business, written by George Cline.

Farmers, business men, labor groups, veterans, state and local government officials and organizations—all are for strict economy as a general principle. But, more often than not, when some proposed reduction in federal spending will cut into what they think is their share of the pie, they howl to high heaven.

A case in point was the reaction when the report of the Hoover commission was made public. Everybody was for all the recommendations in general but when it came to putting those recommendations into actual practice opposition came from every quarter. As a result most of the most-needed reforms are still on the books.

The federal tax bill for each and every American family is \$1,389 and that family's share of the national debt is \$5,650.

Economy must begin at home. It must begin with a demand for economy regardless of whose ox is gored — regardless of selfish interests and special privileges.

UMT Is Gaining Favor

In view of the fact that surveys and public opinion polls show that 74 percent of the general public favor universal military training, it is interesting that the measure still is voted down in congress.

The manpower pool is getting lower by the month, and this is understandable when quotas for draft calls are set at over 50,000 a month for the next three months.

There are some glaring inequalities in the present setup—and it is understandable that the public favors an equalized policy, namely UMT. Various pressure groups can oppose the law, but until they face facts that men are continuously being drafted for military duty, their arguments opposing the issue do not seem too logical.

Obviously for years ahead, we must maintain a strong defensive corps of trained men. The time is past due when it should be accomplished in the fairest and most efficient manner. The Frontier, however, believes an overhaul of the draft setup is the answer — not UMT.

A swimming pool for O'Neill has been talked down through the years and, at last, something is going to be done about it. Voters will have an opportunity to register favor for or against the pool in the annual municipal election on April 7. A 50-thousand-dollar bond issue for park purposes will be the issue.

Senator Carpenter is at least injecting some life into the legislative session if nothing more.

An army engineers officer bets his bottom dollar there won't be a flood on the Missouri river this spring. No one comes boldly forward to speculate on O'Neill blizzards.

Your Red Cross

Disaster strikes in Arkansas and immediately the nation-wide resources of the Red Cross are mobilized for aid to the victims.

A Nebraska serviceman in Korea needs advice and help with a problem at home and gets it from a Red Cross field director attached to his unit.

Every day throughout the nation and the world the Red Cross contribution you make here at home is at work—in your behalf—to relieve distress, save a life, comfort the stricken. Your dollars make Red Cross service possible wherever and whenever it is needed.

That is why the Red Cross emblem should be on your lapel—a sign that you have given—a symbol to be worn proudly. It will be your mark of personal identification with a great humanitarian cause. It means that you care enough about your neighbor—across the street or across the nation—to extend him a helping hand in his hour of need.

It is also a vivid reminder to others to share in this spirit of giving so that no call for help need go unanswered, no matter where or when it rises. This year more than ever in a still troubled world, wear your Red Cross emblem to remind others—that there is need and that they may share in meeting it as you have.

Holt county's fund drive started March 1 and continues through March 31. The national budget is \$93,000,000. Holt county's portion of this budget has been set at \$3,098.

There were six boys in the family, Peter, James, Thomas, George, Sam and Will. The parents bought the food for all six, but clothes only for Pete, the oldest.

Authorities are no closer today to the solution of the murder of O'Neill's Chief Chet Calkins than they were immediately after the sadistic slaying was discovered. The Frontier feels the crime will be solved in due course.

THE FRONTIER

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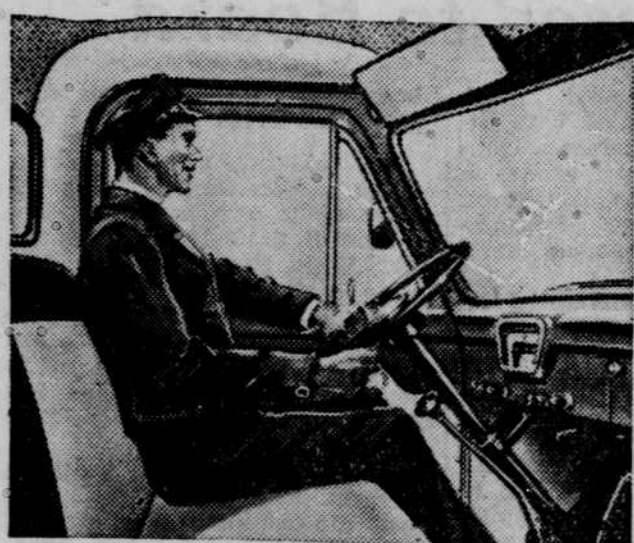
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