

Prairieland Talk . . .

# Southern Cal Land o' Big Things

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, Retired, Former Frontier Editor

(Editor's note: Mr. Saunders prepared this column in Burbank, Calif., where he is spending a portion of the winter.)

BURBANK, CALIF.—Down here in southern California, as elsewhere, there is concern because of weather conditions—it is dry. The California climate is the highway to happiness for frost-bitten patriots from the northern plains region and with other "big things" loyal citizens out here have to boast about, Los Angeles discovered last week that it has the "biggest family"—the Louis Breaud household, 19 strong. The 17th baby was born January 5. The mother is quoted as saying as she looked upon the little one by her side in the hospital bed, "We will gladly accept all the babies God sends us."



Romaine Saunders

The blue above today is aglow with sunlight. Flowers and plants strain to a prairie wolf and lawn adorn in velvet loveliness the quiet street of the homes of the thrifty citizens where Prairieland Talker has cast anchor for the winter in the home of his daughter and son-in-law, so "our lines are cast in pleasant places." Upon my arrival I found a message from Will McNichols, a native of O'Neill who now lives in Hollywood where he also has law offices. His message expressed the good old hospitality you always experience among O'Neills. Mr. McNichols said he had been called to Wisconsin to assist in the trial of a criminal case and would contact me later.

There are not many O'Neills on the map. Neither are there many communities that have been the equal of O'Neill either in enterprise or people of more than ordinary ability. The name comes from old Ireland and reaches back to a family of the fifth century known as Niall, one of whom became king and begot 14 sons, one of which group, Owen, took the name of O'Neill, and from then on for a few centuries the Con and Hugh and John O'Neills were running things pretty much to their liking throughout the Emerald Isle. This community has had the John and Hugh and Mike O'Neills and you knew they were here. Perhaps the most noteworthy was General John O'Neill, who got things started at O'Neill and also down at Spalding. His son, John, was an early day ornament in the drug business where Pat Donohoe now has his typewriter. Another John O'Neill conducted a hotel in the building still standing at Fourth and Everett streets. And the rugged rock of them all was the Sage of Chelsea, two-fisted and big hearted Hugh, who could trave his pedigree back to kings.

Son and family having returned from a holiday visit with friends in California and New Mexico, dad was relieved from guarding the household and has taken off to spend the winter under what he hoped would be sunny skies in Southern California. But his prediction was Nebraska would have an "open winter."

Death Valley Scotty, who may be seen the last of the picturesque California characters, was buried the other day in his beloved Death Valley, a desolate region bordering the California and Nevada boundary line, made famous by the multimillion dollar castle that was the home of Scotty, who gathered gold out of the hills by the bucket full. Walter E. Scott was left an orphan at the age of eight in a Nevada town and his life is something of a legend. And O'Neill entertained the noted "desert rat" at one time, he coming to look us over during the registration for the drawing of the Rosebud Indian lands.

First the antelope disappeared from prairie-land, then the prairie chickens. Now we're after those comical little prairie dogs to make room for another planting of corn.

Los Angeles, Hollywood, Glendale and Burbank, with some others, are so closely knit together that a stranger does not know when he passes from one into another. Industrial activities appear to be normal and millions are racing the streets and highways in good cars. Did you know that the Hebrew prophet Nahum told the generation living in 700 B.C. what would be seen in southern California in 1954 A.D.? Listen: "The chariots shall rage in the streets, they shall justle one against another in the broad ways; they shall seem like torches, they shall run like lightnings."

Representatives of agriculture and stock raising interests have spoken so they could be heard opposing support of farm products prices. The National Association of Manufacturers calls upon the government to bring to an end subsidies to business. Retirement of the gray train will leave the country's free trade to expand unhampered by federal bureaus.

Worries cast a shadow over the serenity and charm of life most everywhere. Authorities are sifting out the reds in schools and the moving picture industry. This vast community has every "ism" under the sun, political, religious, social and scientific, but only the communists are the avowed enemy of the American way of life. The reds are a choice morsel for the news hounds who play it up under 60-point headlines.

Two notables within their sphere of usefulness or folly were married recently, the event receiving attention in newspapers across the land. The bride had already been messed over by four guys she had called husband and now her fifth was making his fourth try at marriage.

Some commentators we know get so involved in the background of the news they neglect to give their readers the real news of the day.

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Burbank, Calif.

When You and I Were Young . . .

## Ft. Niobrara Band to Present Concert

### Doctor Pursues Two Burglars

50 Years Ago  
James Kearney departed for Chicago, Ill., to be gone for a month or six weeks. . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lorge and children arrived in this city from Adrian, Minn., for a visit at the home of Mr. Lorge's sister, Mrs. D. H. Cronin. . . A representative of the 25th infantry band of Ft. Niobrara was in the city making arrangements for a concert which will be held here. . . Two men may have escaped successfully but it is not known the eye and fleet foot of Dr. Berry, an O'Neill dentist. Thinking they looked suspicious, he chased and held them till Sheriff Hall arrived and found they had stolen five pairs of pants out of Mann's store.

20 Years Ago  
John Kersenbrock and family escaped fatal injury as their car was demolished in a collision with a truck 20 miles south of O'Neill. . . Ray Lawrence struck and mangled finger on his left hand while he and his brother, Charles, were blasting giant cottonwood trees apart for use as fuel. . . Mrs. O. F. Biglin, Mrs. J. P. O'Donnell and Mrs. J. J. McCafferty were entertained at a tea by the hostesses, Anna O'Donnell, Genevieve Biglin, Mrs. F. N. Cronin and Mrs. R. E. Gallagher. . . Norbert Uhl was stricken with appendicitis and was taken to an Omaha hospital for the operation.

10 Years Ago  
Charles E. Hubby, formerly a Holt county resident, died at his home in Bellingham, Wash. . . The members of the O'Neill Producers' association held their 10th anniversary annual meeting in the O'Neill high school auditorium January 12. . . Cpl. Merrill C. Hicks was graduated from the air force flexible gunnery school at Laredo field, Laredo, Tex. . . The Brown-McDonald employees had a dinner party honoring Miss Vera Alm, who goes to New York City to report for active duty in the WAVES.

One Year Ago  
Miss Katharine Sheila Gregory, 17, arrived in O'Neill from a tiny farm near Kilcoole, County Wicklow, Ireland. She will stay with Mrs. Mary Donlin and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sullivan. . . Nathan Manford Ross died in his home at the age of 90. He had been in failing health for several years. Henry Loflin arrived in O'Neill to replace Burl Munsell as manager of the company-owned Gamble store. . . Miss Mary Janelle Hynes and Louis A. Genereux were united in marriage January 20. . . Mrs. Mabel Gatz, long ill, died in St. Anthony's hospital where she had been a patient for about 10 weeks. . . The O'Neill region was battered by an 18-hour storm during which gusts of wind raged up to 50-miles-per-hour.

### Kelly with 'Heavy Hauler' Outfit

Marine Pfc. James R. Kelly, son of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Kelly of O'Neill, has arrived at an air base in Korea for duty with marine aircraft group 12, the "heavy haulers" of the first marine aircraft wing. . . Until the truce became effective, the flying leathernecks of this group dropped 39,500 tons of bombs in flying more than 93,000 sorties. . . Its squadrons, such as the Wolftriders, Deathrattlers, Devilcats, Black Patch and others, are well-known to the United Nations line troops for the thousands of missions flown in all types of weather.

Church Group to Entertain—  
The O'Neill Woman's club will hold the January meeting in the Methodist church basement Wednesday evening, January 27, at 8 o'clock. Entertainment will be furnished by the young adult group of the Methodist church.

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Admission: Adults 50c; children 12c; tax incl. Matinee Sun. 2:30. All children under 12 arms must have tickets.

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### Completes Course

Dale L. Strong, 19 (above), son of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Strong, 702 East Adams st., is completing his air force basic indoctrination course at Lackland air force base, near San Antonio, Tex. He will be assigned to a technical training school for specialized work.

### Goldfuss Promoted to Corporal

PAGE — Gerald F. Goldfuss, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oswald Goldfuss of Page, recently was promoted to corporal while serving with the 96th anti-aircraft artillery battalion at Ft. Richardson, Alaska. . . Army units stationed in Alaska undergo intensive field training while guarding the northern approaches to the U.S. and Canada. . . Corporal Goldfuss entered the army in January, 1952.

### Butler Says He's Opposed to Hike

U.S. Sen. Hugh Butler (R-Nebr.) has announced that he is opposed to the increase in the social security tax from 1 1/2 percent to 2 percent, and that he would favor returning to the lower rate. Under legislation enacted in 1950, the higher levy on both employees and employers went automatically into effect on January 1, 1954.

Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Roland Weychert went to Omaha to see their month-old daughter, who is a patient in the Children's Memorial hospital there. Judy, their older daughter, remained in Stanton with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Leland Spry.

## Randall Power Starts Next Month

### 'Big Dam 75 Percent Completed'—Potter

The U.S. army engineers have presented a year-end report of Missouri river basin activities in South Dakota during 1953, Gov. Sigurd Andersen reported last week.

Brig.-Gen. W. E. Potter of the Missouri river division of the engineers said Ft. Randall dam is 75 percent complete with initial production of power in February this year. In 1954, he said, the dam will "perform an important flood control and water conservation job."

Water was impounded behind the big dam last year and will continue at a moderate rate in 1954, Potter said.

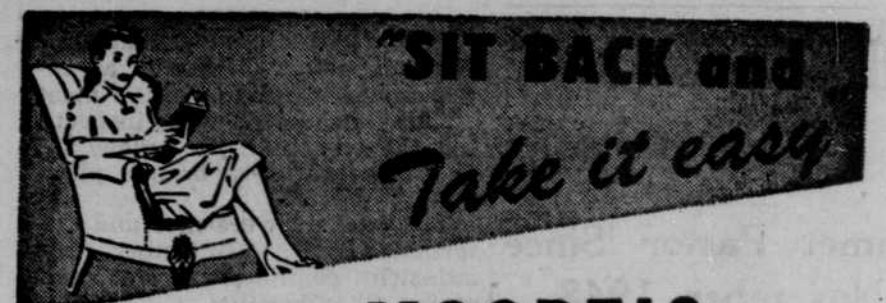
Gavin's point dam near Yankton, S.D., was 20 percent complete by the first of this year, Potter said. Contracts for earthwork, powerhouse superstructure and spillway are approximately 30 percent complete.

At Oahe dam, near Pierre, contracts have been awarded for intake and upstream tunnels and this year, contracts are to be awarded for downstream tunnels, control shafts and stilling basins as well as contracts for relocations of U.S. highways 12 and 212.

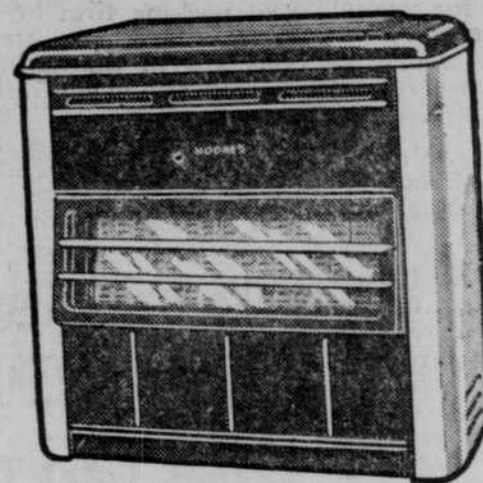
The big Ft. Randall dam is situated about 43 air miles north and slightly east of O'Neill. Power which has been used during the dam's construction has been transmitted from O'Neill

over a high tension line to the dam site. When Randall power is generated some of the current will flow in the reverse direction and be available for distribution through the Nebraska public power network.

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Editorial . . .

## Humility Lesson for Glassford

There's been a big hassle at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln with Football Coach William J. ("Bill") Glassford in the center of the controversy. It was a bloody show and the ramifications won't be known 'til next autumn.

Considerable dissatisfaction with Glassford has been brewing for many months. Finally a group of players (including freshmen who hope to graduate to the varsity next season) petitioned the university's athletic board and board of regents for Glassford's removal as head coach. The wheels, then, asked for Glassford's resignation in the face of an \$87,500 piece of paper (Glassford has two more years to go under his present contract with an option on five more years at \$12,500 per year).

Unfortunately, Glassford was out of Lincoln when the ruckus broke out into the open; the athletic board has no power, hence could not be expected to publish its action until after it was confirmed by the chancellor and board of regents; and the university has no chancellor—instead an acting one who inherited a tough situation.

The metropolitan press, generally, has aligned with Brother Glassford, which testifies to this gentleman's ability to keep his press and radio fences well mended, and most of the metro reporters have been inclined to ridicule the football players.

We're some two hundred miles from the heat of the controversy and emotional outbursts, but the reverberations are plainly audible. Lots of people don't like the treatment handed Mr. Glassford, which amounted to a trial of a sort without defense. Others are clamoring aboard the Glassford bandwagon for no particular reason except he might be considered the underdog.

The university athletic department suddenly finds itself with a host of new-found friends—people who have a lot to say about something they know little about. Of course, as taxpayers they certainly are entitled to have their say.

Within a relatively few months after Mr. Glassford arrived on the scene, he came up with a winning squad including such performers as Bobby Reynolds (nation's highest scorer), Charley Toogood, Fran Nagel, et al. The regents, slightly intoxicated after 10 dismal years, recklessly entered into a long term pact with the new coach. Of course, Oklahoma got hasty in its dealings with Bud Wilkinson. But there is this distinction: Oklahoma was winning then and has been winning ever since.

There's no question about the validity of the \$87,500 piece of paper, and there's no doubt the university would be wrong and shameful in insisting upon Bill's neck. But something can be said for the Nebraska boys who've had their belly full of Glassford. You must remember a fairly decent ghost team has taken leave under Glassford with plenty of eligibility left—to our thinking an abnormally large number of quitters. Each time a player was dropped we had misgivings about what appeared in the daily press.

Over the years, we've observed Nebraska kids at work on distant playing fields and global war fields and they're not mutineers at heart. They're not "cry babies" and we resent anyone saying they are. There must be some extraordinary reasons why so many capable boys have dropped football and why so many affixed their names to such a petition.

Those long rides home from Lincoln after a football game provide settings for "postmortems" and outstate football fans have not been exuberant in their praise for Glassford. The element of luck has won quite a few games for Brother Glassford and, at the same time, cost him a few. Big time football coaching is a hazardous pro-

fession and Mr. Glassford now realizes this, even though he hasn't proved himself as a big time coach.

If Mr. Glassford can take a lesson in humility from all of this; if the players can be sporting about it and realize the mutiny didn't work although their efforts were not all in vain; if the university moguls can call in a good doctor or two (athletic director and chancellor) to mend the wounds, some glorious days lie ahead in the finest Cornhusker tradition.

If soreheads have their way and Glassford isn't tempered a bit, and some of the fair-haired boys elect to pick up their marbles and go home, then a lot of fine tradition dear to the hearts of thousands of Nebraskans is being swept down the river.

It'd help, too, if the daily sports scribes would take their work seriously and tell us exactly what's going on instead of swallowing publicity department handouts with the boys themselves having little chance to state their cases.

It'd further help to have some practical people on the board of regents instead of impulsive freshmen.

### Color TV Next

The committee which represents the television industry informs the federal communications commission (and the public) its new color television transmitting system is ready.

The system being tested is an electronic tube system. The color transmissions of this system are receivable on all present-day sets, though they will be reproduced in black and white only unless one's set is adapted for color reception, or one of the newer sets equipped with a color reception device.

The FCC has indicated that if the tests prove satisfactory, it will sanction the beginning of color transmissions. Television manufacturers have estimated it would take them only a few months to put color sets on the market. Estimates place the cost near \$800.

It may take some time for television stations to install color transmission equipment and the cost might delay many from doing so in the immediate future. Nevertheless, it appears that color television is just around the corner.

Migration of 117,600 from Europe is set for 1954. Makes one wonder in the face of growing unemployment rolls.

It's been a pleasant winter, really.

## THE FRONTIER

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