

Prairieland Talk

"Another Blizzard of '88"

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

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Hancock, former residents of O'Neill but for the past 20 years living in southern California, left their Los Angeles apartment early in June to visit relatives and friends in Nebraska. While in Lincoln, guests at the home of Dr. and Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Johnson being a sister of Mrs. Hancock, they with the doctor came to visit daughter and I. And it was a pleasure to again see them. They were planning to visit others in Nebraska before returning home and may have been to O'Neill by now, a son of theirs being county treasurer of Holt county. Mr. and Mrs. Hancock both at one time lived in Inman, came to O'Neill some 60 years ago, Claude being connected with the O'Neill National bank for some years. They come from pioneer families of the prairies of Holt county, retaining treasured memories of life on prairieland. Claude was with the noted Lockheed Airplane concern for some 15 years but now stays at home out there in L. A. and steps around to the orders of Mrs. Hancock. And their Nebraska friends are always happy to see them.



Romaine Saunders

The sun shines in golden glory this another morning along the march of time. It is the month of June and about another step to July and the 4th of that month no longer what it once was when we heard the "100 guns at sunrise," but all is well in green robed prairieland, with its citizens dwelling together in peace and plenty.

A number of ranch men from out in the state who have the white face Herefords grazing on their lands were in our Capital City recently—one of the group said to have one hundred thousand acres of sandhills ranch land. While in Lincoln they each had a bite of their roast beef at a public eating place and dug up \$2 for it after dinner. The Hereford and the Shorthorn breeds of cattle replaced the Longhorns of early times that grazed on our prairies. Other breeds of cattle are becoming popular today, but the Herefords are still one of the leading breeds on prairieland farms and ranches.

Three men killed when their air floating apparatus burned or plunged to earth just out west of Lincoln; and four in another rig of some sort near by met their death. Seven widowed wives and a number of fatherless children. So it is from day to day, not at war but at peace and here the death blow falls.

Editorial

Congratulations

We would like to add our congratulations to the O'Neill Rodeo association for a job well done.

It is a pleasure to observe an organization in action with congeniality and an absence of conflict of any kind. The result—one of the finest rodeos presented with approximately 5,000 persons in attendance.

This is the type of spirit that is sorely needed in any town. The ability to work together with a common aim in view—getting out-of-town people to O'Neill.

There is no better sight than seeing our streets filled with visitors and shoppers. Folks who are enjoying themselves, who feel welcomed here. This can only be done through cooperation of everyone. Perhaps this event didn't put any money in your pocket but if it can help your town or your business neighbor it stands to reason that it will in some way aid you.

We can all learn a lesson from the O'Neill Rodeo officials and the Lions club members by considering the amount of work that went into this project and the number of people who helped to make it a success.

The next time you are asked to lend a hand, do it with willingness. Cheerfulness and cooperation are always rewarded.

Once again—a verbal bouquet to the O'Neill Rodeo association, the Lions club and all helpers during the top-notch O'Neill Rodeo.

Mother's Day, Father's Day. Where might the dad be that received the attention and gifts that sons and daughters bestowed upon Daddy Prairieland Talker this 18th day of June—Father's Day.

Son and his good wife out in the Los Angeles community sent me a book. And as I read on the outside cover the title "Blizzard of 1888" I thought here it is, the story of that great winter storm of January 12, 1888 that swept across prairieland. But no, the little volume has the story of a rain storm in March of that year that hit New York to turn into a blizzard and rage along the Atlantic seacoast states, pictures of buildings and scenery in that part of the country. No picture of Grandma Chapman as she sat frozen to death, her team by a haystack, the morning after, 20 miles out of Stuart. Not a picture of that brother of my friend, Wallace Johnson; no picture of him as he crawled out from under his bobbed box the morning after; nor a picture of the Chambers druggist who crawled out from a pig pen to find he was about two miles from home. No, this nice little volume tells not the story of Nebraska's great blizzard, but we learn from it that we not alone have stormy times.

Val Petersen, our one time capable governor and later in federal service over in Denmark, we learn is back to the States again, a Democrat having taken over the job in Denmark, and Val doing something as an officer at a military air base in a southern state. Come, Val, back to Prairieland and tell us about it in a newspaper you should get going.

Be not deceived; God is not mocked. What so ever a man soweth that shall he also reap."

P. J. McManus came to O'Neill from southern Wisconsin in 1885 and went to work as a clerk in the J. P. Mann store. Sometime later Pat's two brothers and sisters came to oin him here. Started as a clerk in a store at about \$20 a month. By the year 1900 Mr. McManus was owner and manager of the community's leading merchandising establishment, his store in his own building on South 4th street, groceries in the commodious basement room, dry goods, ladies' clothing, shoes and general merchandise on the main floor and up what Pat called his "knee action elevator" to the men's clothing department—Tim Hanley, his clerk upstairs. Pat started as a store clerk and became the town's leading merchant, gave his brother, John, a hardware store and made a home for sisters. Both Pat and Tim now are up on the hill in the abode of the dead.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

In the 1900 Holt county census, there were 12,224 persons here, and in 1910, the population was 15,545. . . . Edward Adams, Chambers banker, was in the city last Thursday to renew his Frontier subscription which he first took out 25 years ago. . . . Fred Cronk reports a good soaking rain last Friday in Verdigris neighborhood and that crops in the eastern portion of the county were never better than now. . . . C. P. Hancock purchased three lots on Douglas and Ninth streets and will build a modern cottage, estimated cost of \$2,000. . . . Holt county personal property valuation will be about \$50,000 less than last year.

25 YEARS AGO

About 100 friends and relatives gathered at the Dorsey post office June 12 to help James Wiley and wife celebrate their 35th wedding anniversary. . . . Funeral services were held Wednesday for Mrs. John A. Robertson, 66. . . . The amount of bonus money paid to war veterans in this county is about \$198,000. . . . John J. Hancock of Casper, formerly of O'Neill, is vacationing from his law practice at Casper and is visiting friends here. . . . Mrs. R. R. Dickson, Mrs. J. F. O'Donnell and Miss Anna O'Donnell entertained 50 guests at a dinner party Monday evening at the Golden hotel honoring their sisters, Mrs. Jay J. Simpson, Leavenworth, Wash., and Mrs. Clarence Campbell, Omaha.

10 YEARS AGO

Ralph Gray, superintendent of the Inman Consolidated school for the past six years, will lead Blue Hill school. . . . D. D. DeBolt, manager of the Wm. Kroter Co., is elected president of the Chamber of Commerce. . . . The Babi family gathered Sunday for a biennial reunion in the Knights of Columbus hall in Atkinson. . . . Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Stout celebrates golden wedding and their two sons-in-law and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Birmingham and Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Froelich celebrate their 25th anniversary. . . . Heavy rains cause damages to highway leading north of Lynch. . . . Miss Elzene Thomas becomes bride of Roy Lundgren June 9.

5 YEARS AGO

Don Becker became the new distributor for Hamm and Goetz beers here when he purchases O'Neill Beverage company from Mr. John Stilling. . . . Dr. Rex W. Wilson and Mrs. William C. Artus post low scores in mixed tournament at Country club. . . . Jeri Southern will sing at the Community club meeting in Royal. . . . Joe Bellin was hired Tuesday as new superintendent of water department. . . . Mrs. Perry Saiser of Ewing drowns when boat upsets at Fort Randall.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

A pleasant surprise was held at the J. E. Harris home June 12, the occasion being the birthday of Mrs. Harris. Monday as Charley Graham was breaking a bronco, it kicked him just above the knee, leaving a sore bruise as a memento of the day's sport. . . . Last week E. E. Perris shipped 9,600 pounds of cream from this station to the Fairmont Creamery of Omaha. . . . Thomas Higging moved into his new house east of town Tuesday. . . . Dr. Hardy and daughter, Miss Pearl Hardy were in Chambers Tuesday on their way to O'Neill to prove up on their claims. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Charley Tangeman started Tuesday morning for a visit to her sister, Mrs. Norman Johnson, who lives west of Swan. . . . Born to Mr. and Mrs. Gus Hoppe of Francis June 15, a son.

25 YEARS AGO
Mr. and Mrs. George Kelly are the proud parents of a baby daughter, Joyce Darlene, born June 15. . . . Mr. and Mrs. John Boettger had several loads of building material hauled the past week to their farm south of Chambers. . . . Mrs. Craig Baker enjoyed an overnight visit from her mother and sister, Mrs. Art Johnson and Lois VanLom of Stuart. . . . Auctioneer Cooper informs us that there were 50 carloads of drought cattle from the western part of Dakota, Wyoming and Montana on the Sioux City Market Monday. . . . June Jarman and Philip Sengpiel celebrated their birthdays June 14 with a party. . . . Assistance Directors association for Northeast Nebraska met at the Golden hotel June 11 with 10 counties reporting.

Mrs. Grace Smyth of Denver, Colo., were present. The members tied three quilts. Hostesses for the afternoon were Jewel Drayton and Mira Fletcher.

Naper News

By Mrs. John Schonebaum

Last weeks news

Mrs. Carl Vogt accompanied her brothers, Alfred and Andrew Carlson, Wednesday to Deadwood, S. D. where they attended the funeral of their uncle, Anton Carlson. They also visited with relatives at Belle Fouché, returning home Saturday evening. . . . Mrs. Louise are spending from Sunday until Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bennett. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lutz and family of Selby, S. D. arrived last Sunday to spend two weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Stahlecker and Riney, and visit in the Fred Barling home. . . . Mr. and Mrs. August Ahlers went to Springfield Saturday where they met their grandson, LeRoy Ahlers of Denver, Colo., who will spend the summer vacation with relatives. . . . Mrs. Christina Windmeyer, Sandra and Maxine, and Carolyn Honke took Donna Windmeyer to Wimer, S. D. Sunday afternoon from there she rode to Wisconsin to a resort camp to work for the summer. She will enter college at New Ulm again this fall. . . . Mrs. Tillie London of Bell, Calif., and Mr. and Mrs. Reime Kahler and family of Lodi, Calif., arrived Sunday to spend several days vacation with relatives. . . . Mr. and Mrs. John Stahlecker, Lou Ann and Greg, and Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Stahlecker and daughters of Omaha were Sunday evening visitors in the Hap Gentele home. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Ertzner of Omaha visited Thursday until Saturday with Mr. and Mrs. August Ahlers. On Friday both families visited in the Wayne and Walter Ahlers homes. . . . A picnic dinner was enjoyed at the Kenneth Stoltenberg home Sunday to help him celebrate his birthday. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Schoenefeld and sons, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Stoltenberg and son, Mr. and Mrs. Don Bentz, Fairfax, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Schoenefeld and Bruce, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wentz of Atkinson and LeRoy Ahlers of Denver. . . . Afternoon visitors and luncheon guests were A. J. Schoenefeld of Burke, Mr. and Mrs. Claus Sieh, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Besmer and Arlene and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Besmer and family. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Allpress and sons and Howard Allpress went to Springfield Sunday and were dinner guests in the Tom Rinehart home. Other dinner and luncheon guests were Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Sandall and family of Bassett. . . . A recent picnic dinner was enjoyed at the Andy Blum home Sunday. Present were Jacob Blum, Mr. and Mrs. August Eilers and family of Spencer, Mr. and Mrs. Leo Blum and Joyce, Mr. and Mrs. William Martin and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Schmitz and John and Bernita. Afternoon

Orchard News

By Mrs. Wilbur Mahood
Phone TW 3-3185

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wyant of California were Tuesday visitors in the Gurney Drayton home. The Wyants are former Orchard residents. He was manager of the St. Anthony and Dak. Lumber Yard, now the Great Plains Supply Company during the 1930's. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Drayton were Sunday visitors in the Henry Drayton home. . . . Roger Cleveland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vern Cleveland underwent an emergency operation for appendicitis at Our Lady of Lourdes hospital in Norfolk last Monday. . . . The ninth Hill reunion was held June 18 at the Orchard City park with 48 members present. Mrs. Janell Goelzer, president, presided at the meeting. There were four births, one marriage and three deaths during the past year. The 1962 Reunion will be held at Valentine. . . . Mrs. Grace Smyth of Denver, Colo., has been a guest in the J. W. Mahood home the past week. Thelma Drayton, Mrs. Henry Drayton, Mrs. Smyth and Mrs. Mahood visited in Plainview and Creighton recently and Mrs. Smyth and Mrs. Millie Mahood visited in St. Edward and Genoa Friday and Saturday. . . . Mrs. Smyth, Mrs. VanBearing and Mrs. Hannah Johnson were dinner guests Sunday in the J. W. Mahood home. . . . Mrs. Harvey Holbrook sr. returned home Friday from Lincoln, where she was a patient in the Memorial hospital. . . . R. A. Willats returned Tuesday where he was a patient for a few days for medical treatment. . . . Joe George and sons, Tim and Mark, spent last weekend visiting his mother, Mrs. Jennie George. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Harry Williamson and children of Wray, Colo., spent last weekend in the James Clifton home. . . . John Stelling returned home from the Plainview hospital Friday where he has been receiving treatment for three broken ribs and a cracked pelvis which he received when he fell from the roof of a building he was shingling on the farm occupied by George Bonge. . . . Members of the Bridgette club met Tuesday night with Mrs. H. O. Hill. Mrs. Tony Pruss was a guest. Mrs. Lyle Schlessener and Mrs. Clifford Erb won prizes. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Gale Orr and family of Lebanon, Ore., are visiting in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Robertson. . . . Dr. and Mrs. Henry Nagel and Randy of Washington, Kan, spent last weekend with Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Nagel. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Marion Shipman spent the past 10 days visiting in Iowa, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan. They visited their sons, Keith and family at Chariton, Ia., and Darrel and family at Muncie, Ind. . . . Dr. and Mrs. F. A. Keitler and son, Jeff, left Monday morning for Los Angeles, Calif., after visiting in the Walter LaFrenz home the past week. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Rodney Clifton and son, Brad, left Omaha Monday morning for their home in Pittsburg Penn., after visiting two weeks with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bonde of Calloway and Mr. and Mrs. James Clifton. . . . Past Matron's club met at the Masonic Temple June 21. Fourteen members and one visitor,

visitors were Mrs. Schwaller of Bonesteel and her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Anderson of Mitchell, S. D. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ed Stoltenberg and Mrs. Harlan Reber and son of Stuart were Sunday evening visitors in the Paul Stoltenberg home. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sieh and Lois of Herrick, S. D., Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Schoenefeld and sons and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stahlecker and Laura were Sunday evening visitors in the Claus Sieh home. . . . Mr. and Mrs. William Fuhrer of Butte and Mr. and Mrs. Don Vogt and sons were Sunday dinner guests in the Clarence Beem home. Evening visitors were Mr. and Mrs. John Schonebaum. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Gust Wetzler and Arthur went to Stanton Sunday and were guests in the Dick Porter home. Their granddaughter, Renee, accompanied them back here for several weeks vacation. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Dave Fischer moved this past week from their farm home to the William Schock residence in town. . . . M. M. Jeffords underwent surgery at the Burke hospital Monday.

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