

Prairieland Talk

# "The Blacksmith Is Gone"

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

In his recently published stories of "Yesterday's Trails" Will H. Spindler pays tribute to the memory of that sturdy chap in every community, the Village Blacksmith, now no more. A relative of Doctor Spindler with hammer in hand stood at his anvil in his shop out on the Blackbird in the days now gone. Yes, "Under the spreading chestnut tree the village blacksmith stands" now no more. The first of O'Neill's several blacksmith shops in the early 1880's was a little shack where a small building now stands south of the courthouse on courthouse grounds, the blacksmith shop of Mike Turney. When we finally got a courthouse the village blacksmith set up business about where the city bakery is now located. At one time there were blacksmith shops on Douglas street just west of Third street, one on the north side of the street, the other on the south side of the street. Two or three different smithies at their anvils on east Douglas street east of Fifth street. A blacksmith shop at one time where the lumber yard now is on south Fourth street, and also a blacksmith shop a block south of that at one time. Emil Sniggs was one of the last of the blacksmiths in O'Neill and was considered the best in the business at horse shoeing. He had an eye for shoeing horses and still at the end of his trail had a vast number of horse shoes in stock. Some 30 or more years ago my son, Glenn, was managing things at The Frontier and came out one week with a story of Sniggs' vast stock of horse shoes. Without giving The Frontier credit for the information the press of the country took it up and the last I heard of it was a story from the Philippine islands. As I left The Frontier and went to my quiet prairieland home in Swan precinct I had Blacksmith Sniggs make me a sod cutter, one of his last jobs at the anvil.



Romaine Saunders

July. Nature's Master Artist touches now our prairieland with a robe of green. Tree and bush in velvet leaf, roses in bloom and flowers adorn the scene with a touch of blue and red beauty. Rivers and flowing brooks and inland lakes fresh and clear—all a scene of beauty, a joy forever leading us on to the dawn of that eternal day aglow with light and scenes of immortal beauty.

No, I can not reach my hand to yon distant star, nor paint the sky a richer blue. But I can hold out a helping hand to some needy fellow traveler along the highway of life.

After many weeks on "strike" union carpenters in Lincoln take up saw and hammer again and go to work. What they gained by so long on strike is not apparent to any and many of them long ago wished to return to work.

Men's trousers that come out of the clothing stores today have no watch pocket, the manufacturers unmindful of the old gents who have their pocket time-piece, not one on the arm just above the hand. Years ago a new pair of pants from the store was taken to the tailor to have the folds pressed out. Now we can take the new britches to a tailor to have a watch pocket added to them.

O happy day when I came by that day, looked into a window and there she sat, looked up at me and smiled. Some 50 years of smiles and happy days as we traveled life's highway together. Now I go alone until that happy day when we join hands again to travel together the never-ending days of eternity.

The wagon road angled from the northeast limits of the O'Neill of the 1880's on into town is now no more. Much traffic rolls into town on rubber tired wheels from the east, west, south and north. Ah, where now is the Jim MacTagert family that came to town out northeast and traveled that angling road from Cronin's homestead corner to McCafferty's hardware where now the bus depot stands. And Dan Barnes, George Lathrop, Agnes and Flo Bentley, Huntly and the Toohills; and there was Mark Murphy who walked in the three miles every school day to go to school. The Michiganders are they all gone too? And among them was Montana Jack Sullivan's dad who came in morning by morning to do his bit at the courthouse. And the Middle Branch and Haynesville homesteaders traveled that angling road into town. One gent I recall walked from seven miles out morning after morning to do a day's work in town with saw and hammer—that was Mr. Boyd. Is there a citizen of the O'Neill community who will walk a block or two to do his day's duties? Hardly—the rubber-tired wheels take him to the job.

War with Russians yet this year to determine who is who and what is to be the future of Berlin, says one who is supposed to know all about such things. . . . And here it comes out of Pennsylvania, the home of my ancestors. Former President Ike to become a U. S. senator from that state. . . . Some in our dying state legislature, educationally crazy, pile up millions of your tax money to build great centers of learning for the prairieland youth of today.—"The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau."

Editorial

### Farm Plan Bogged

Christian Science Monitor

The Kennedy administration's omnibus bill for rewriting agricultural controls commodity by commodity is in trouble. It runs into congressional prerogatives. In committees of both houses Democratic leaders are trying to rescue it by modifying or dropping the key provision—permitting committees of producers to write regulations for their respective crops.

It is true, of course, that the kind of program needed for a surplus crop like wheat would not fit the requirements of a short crop like wool. And Congress has long left certain discretionary powers in the hands of the Secretary of Agriculture. Also growers of specific products have decided in referendum whether or not they would accept acreage controls in order to get price supports. But the Kennedy plan would have left with Congress only the right to veto legislation framed by commodity committees set up and guided by the Secretary of Agriculture.

Consumers appear to have become accustomed to having little voice in price-fixing legislation but apparently many congressmen object to surrendering so much of their right to initiate and shape laws. Washington dispatches indicate that the real battle now is developing over efforts to retain in the bill authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to issue marketing orders.

We hope this provision also will be rigorously questioned. For it puts the government into much the same kind of price fixing and restraint of trade for which it jails people in other business. We can understand the frustration Congress feels in face of conflicting pressures and the unsatisfactory hodgepodge of farm programs it has created. But it cannot dodge responsibility. It should seek the answer in fewer rather than more controls.

### Won't We Ever Learn?

A spokesman for the National Live Stock Producers Association—a cooperative serving some 500,000 livestock producers and feeders—recently testified before the House Agricultural Committee on the proposed new farm bill. Some of the things he said deserve the widest possible understanding.

This bill, in his words, ". . . represents control legislation which would pass to the Secretary of Agriculture and the executive branch of government almost unlimited authority to undertake, subject to Congressional veto and farmer referendum, any type of production adjustment or control program and to apply any method or means of supporting farm income at any level of price support he may determine up to 90 per cent of parity. . . ."

He then pointed out that the livestock industry and the meat industry has developed a production and distribution system which is unequalled elsewhere. He continued: "This production and distribution plant developed for the most part in a free economy. Our livestock producers desire to maintain, insofar as possible, this freedom in the operation of their production and marketing program. . . . A controlled economy takes from the individual the desire and drive needed for advancement."

Certainly, after the incredibly costly failures of the postwar years, we should now be seeking a farm program that will gradually return all of agriculture to a free market economy. A program which would make the controls ever more rigid—and which would subject to government dictation producers who have so far been free—would be the worst possible step.

# Frontiers Ago

**50 YEARS AGO**  
There will be a Biplane flight by the Savidge Bros. in the July 4th celebration at Ewing. . . . Contracts have been entered into by the State Fair association with the Wright Company of New York for two aeroplanes and two aviators to make two flights each day of the Fair September 4 to 8. . . . By falling from a ladder while painting his house last Monday Tom Donlin received a broken collar bone and will be laid up five or six weeks. . . . A prominent O'Neill attorney has recently become the owner of an automobile, after having driven a horse for several years, and when driving the machine attempts to stop it by hollering whoa.

**25 YEARS AGO**  
Mrs. Agnes Sullivan, acting postmaster of this city for several months, received word Wednesday night that she had been appointed for a full 4-year term. . . . Holt county leads the state on the number of turkeys on hand. . . . Stanley Soukup, O'Neill, is medalist of golf tournament with a score of 71. . . . Household goods of Dick Stearns are burned up when truck catches fire while bringing goods to O'Neill. . . . Fire of indetermined origin destroyed the large barn on the Karl Keyes farm near Inman Tuesday evening. . . . Horace Rouse of Meek had the misfortune to lose the best horse he had.

**10 YEARS AGO**  
North Platte funeral rites held June 14 for Mrs. Gene James, 28, the former Elizabeth Ann McNally. . . . Doug Dale, Ord, cap-

tures top honors in 27th annual O'Neill golf tourney. . . . Clearwater youth Harold A. Schueth, 18, is drowning victim in the upper Elkhorn basin. . . . Miss Mary L. Harrison, 46, dies June 17 at her home. . . . Spanish American War Veteran John Slaymaker, 79, Atkinson, succumbs June 16. . . . Dewey C. Schaffer is elected vice president of the Nebraska Stock Grower's association. . . . Francis Gilg is elected grand knight of the Knights of Columbus. . . . Morgan family of Page holds family reunion.

west of Chambers. . . . The First Methodist church in O'Neill is setting for wedding of Vera Jean Ernst and Craig Connell. . . . Mr. and Mrs. John Deming of Anoka celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary.

# The Long Ago At Chambers

**50 YEARS AGO**  
Born to Mr. and Mrs. James McPharlin of Kola June 16, a son. . . . Inman is making elaborate preparations for a big celebration July 4. . . . There will be three services at the tabernacle next Sunday morning. Come and bring a well filled basket for yourself and some stranger that

may be there. . . . About 50 of the friends of Mr. and Mrs. Hiram Hubbard met at their home Tuesday evening and rendered them good old fashioned charity. . . . Last Thursday about noon William Sackett, who was tending the livery barn of Charles & Graham, died suddenly. . . . It is surprising how little hard coal has been consumed this month.

**25 YEARS AGO**  
A birthday dinner was tendered Mrs. Addie Kiltz Sunday in honor of her 78th milestone. . . . Gordon Watson met with a painful accident Monday of last week while stretching barbed wire. . . . A piece of wire struck him in the right eye. The eye has fully recovered. . . . Mrs. Vernie Cooper returned Tuesday to work in the W. A. Smith general store after a recent illness. . . . Jimmy, little son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Anderson was unfortunate in falling

Phone Your News To  
The Frontier—  
Phone 788

**Paul Shierk**  
INSURANCE AGENCY  
O'NEILL, NEBR.  
Insurance of All  
Kinds

**LOWEST PRICE EVER!**

**Genie GAS Lite**  
Now enjoy constant, dusk-to-dawn, soft-as-moonlight illumination which does not attract bugs. Low operating cost, dependable light that never fails. . . . parts last indefinitely.

**Only \$100**  
per month on your gas bill with no down payment, no carrying charge. Full price of \$36.00 includes installation.

KANSAS-NEBRASKA  
For Dependable GAS Service

**ELECTRICITY**

"Electricity" . . . the responsibility of Consumers Public Power District to Nebraska and its people

Consumers Public Power District's responsibility—plenty of dependable, low-cost ELECTRICITY for a growing Nebraska. ELECTRICITY is always standing by to serve! Maybe it's to melt steel scrap . . . or operate a mill. To light a store, manufacturing plant or office building. To bring the comforts and conveniences of Electrical Living into homes. These services—plus many more—are available through ELECTRICITY. Our aim is to make certain that you get all the ELECTRICITY you need, when and where you need it, and at the lowest possible cost. And we're ready . . . thanks to a never-ending program of planning and building. Yes, ELECTRICITY is ready to help Nebraska grow!

**MARKING DEVICES**

TAGS AND PLATES  
CREIGHTON Blue Jays  
RECEIVED MAY 28 1949 SHIPPING DEPT.  
RUBBER STAMPS  
THESE ITEMS SOLD AT  
**THE FRONTIER**  
Phone 788  
O'Neill, Nebr. 114 N. Fourth St.

**Enduring styling**

Cadillac styling has always been styling with a purpose. Even Cadillacs of 5, 6, or 7 years ago are instantly recognized and respected as Cadillacs. This continuity of styling—rather than change for change itself—has been an important factor in maintaining Cadillac's famed resale value. The 1961 Cadillac is designed to enhance Cadillac's fashion leadership among the world's fine cars . . . and to protect your investment for years to come.

VISIT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED **Cadillac** DEALER  
**VAN VLECK MOTORS, INC.**  
127 NORTH FOURTH ST., O'NEILL