

PrairieLand Talk

"Grandma Hull Will Be 106"

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

Away now from the State House here in Lincoln and loafing around at his pleasant ranch home in northern Holt county—loafing around did I say? Yes, when not on the go at ranch duties, Frank Nelson writes me a good letter, reporting conditions weather wise good in Holt county and that in his community there will be a good corn yield this season. The Senator says they had hoped his grandson in army service now in a distant Asiatic country would be home by Christmas but recent word from the grandson is to the effect that he will be over there a year yet. Frank reminds us that Grandma Hull reaches her 106th year early in September, maybe the oldest woman in Nebraska today, the dear old lady still living at her home some 20 miles north of O'Neill where she went as a bride in the late 1870's and saw it all from frontier days until now. We hope to see Senator Frank at the State House again this winter.



Romaine Saunders

O'Neill merchants today take over full pages of The Frontier with their attractive advertising. Some seventy years ago it was not so, but in place of big store ads we at The Frontier would come out week by week with two full pages of legal notices in small type. Land notices and sheriff sales by the hundreds, so a number of newspapers got going here but The Frontier has seen the start and finish of seven other papers in O'Neill and today The Frontier is bigger and better than ever after 80 years at it. Now is the time to subscribe.

Lay down and sleep. As you thus rest you trouble no one and no one bumps into you along life's lengthening lane. If you don't snore and thus keep others from sleeping.

It is many days since PrairieLand Talker has had touch by letter with that former O'Neill couple, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Segelman, out at Seattle, Wash. Could it be that they have moved again and now are over in the new state of Alaska. I have a friend here in Lincoln who leaves soon for that great town in Washington and I may ask him to look you up, Dave.

Yes, I admit that I had been an outlaw. More than 50 years back over the track of the past a pal and I were down by the river southeast of town. Pal had a 22 rifle with which he took a shot from time to time and I reached into the water and got the fish Guy shot. Strung up about a dozen nice ones and headed for home, reaching there without meeting up with a game warden.

State Senator Fern Hubbard Orme is a member of a legislative committee making some investigation of purchases by some state officials. The senator feels it is more a political affair than an economy drive. In a recent visit by telephone with Senator Orme she mentioned having received a cheering letter from her friend Mrs. Dishner out at Phoenix, Ariz. Mrs. Dishner is a native of O'Neill, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. T. V. Golden, another to shake the dust of Holt county from her skirts and go to the picturesque and hot desert sands of the southwest. State Senator Orme was also a school girl in O'Neill when her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hubbard, were living and made O'Neill their home. Fern, too, left O'Neill, but she sticks by her prairieLand state, her nice home on Sheridan Boulevard in our Capital City.

Two hotels, the Golden and the Western, O'Neill's two banks in the hands of those whose parents were among the early settlers of the community. Likewise two stores on the west side of South 4th street are the property of descendants of pioneers, Ben Gillespie and the Stannard ladies. Newcomers have taken over the stores and workshops as the county seat city of good old Holt county continues to grow and prosper.

I sat where others sit at times to await an incoming city bus. A stranger crossed over the street and sat beside me. We exchanged a few words of greeting, then I asked him a simple question. "None of your business!" he snapped at me, got up and rushed away mad as a wet hen. It was midforenoon the next day while walking up the street that I met another man. We exchanged greetings, and then he said, "Wait a minute till I go get you a tomato for your dinner." He went to his garden a half block down the street to return with four large red ripe tomatoes which he gave me. Two kinds of fellow travelers we meet along the highway of life.

There are fields of corn this year in southeast Nebraska, the cornstalks eight feet tall and two ears of corn to the stalk.

I met up with him today the day this is written, a slant eyed Oriental from the land called China. He is in our Capital City attending college and at vacation time earns money holding down a job at the State hospital where the insane are in custody. The Chinaman has our language mastered sufficiently to make himself understood in conversation. What little he hears from his people in China convinces him that it is very bad over there, and he thinks America, and especially Nebraska is the best place to be nowadays. His education completed he may return to his home land to help his family tribe get to America.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

C. C. Millard returned Wednesday morning from a two months prospecting tour in the Wyoming hills. Born to Mr. and Mrs. Albert Roseler, a baby girl August 20. Several O'Neill people visited the Chataqua at Atkinson last week and report a splendid crowd in attendance. The Brass Restaurant has been reopened and will run a first class, neat, up to date restaurant. Fred Wingate and Tom Coyne went up to Newport Wednesday where they will open up a saloon which Mr. Wingate will manage. J. A. Donohoe has commenced the erection of a residence on the corner of First and Douglas streets.

25 YEARS AGO

Bert Powell had a sale Saturday of furniture and Tuesday he and his family started west to try their fortune in Oregon. Elmer M. Merriman passed away in his home last Monday at the age of 72 years, following a year of illness. D. H. Clauson received a message Wednesday informing him that Loren Richardson, former resident of O'Neill, had been killed in an auto accident in Spearman, Tex. P. J.

and James McManus, Charles McKenna and Henry Grady took a day out last week to look over the country to the south. Abe Saunio is arranging to make his home in Sioux City, having turned his store over to his boys. Attorney D. R. Mounis, Atkinson, was in the city Friday to visit friends.

10 YEARS AGO

R. F. Griffin and G. E. Morgan, Atkinson, and Sumner Downey and William F. Griffin, O'Neill, report excellent fishing on trip at Lac La Rouge, Canada. Ray B. Crellin, 64, retires as editor and publisher of the Ewing Advocate and Miss Thelma E. Drayton will be new owner. Charley W. Peterson, Holt county farmer, to test blank et tax law in court. John Thomas Brennan, 67, former O'Neill resident and businessman, dies at his home in Salt Lake City August 27. Eight inches of water in post office at Redbird following cloudburst.

5 YEARS AGO

J. F. Malena, 73, retired Amelia rancher, died August 24 following six weeks hospitalization. Eugene Van Every, former assistant manager at Gamble store, is succeeded by Dale Theifroff, Lynch. 175 students enroll in St. Mary's academy classes. James M. Whidden, 84, who lived in the Chambers and Spencer areas, died August 23 after lengthy illness. Funeral services held today for Mrs. David Stannard, 88, widow of a pioneer O'Neill businessman, who died August 23. Miss Sharon Bigelow, and Frank Hamik wed in ceremonies at St. Boniface church in Stuart August 25. In the Fitzsimmons army chapel in Denver, Miss Beverly Johnson and SP/3 David L. Eby were united in marriage August 24.

Mrs. Vina Nesbitt will sell her household goods at public auction next Saturday afternoon. Oscar Grim's house burned to the ground Wednesday afternoon with nearly all the contents. John Nelson, the automobile man from Atkinson, has purchased the Charley Robertson farm and will move on it soon.

25 YEARS AGO

Born to Mr. and Mrs. Harold Michel on August 21 an eight pound baby daughter, Marian Elizabeth. While having at the home at Ashland, Ore.

Charley Peterson ranch west of Amelia one of the truck sweeps set a fire south of the house, burning 35 stacks of hay. Leo Adams purchased five registered Brown Swiss milk cows at Colridge which gives him a herd of 12 cows. Chambers Commercial club agreed to close their places of business during the Fair from noon until 5:30 p.m. Ellsworth Tepner, who has been here since early in July looking after the sale of his hay, will leave the fore part of September for his home at Ashland, Ore.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Wednesday the Ewing Boosters in nine automobiles made a trip to Chambers and the reception was so royal it is still talked about. The six year year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Charley Blair had his foot frightfully mangled by getting in the knives of a mowing machine Tuesday.

Paul Shierk

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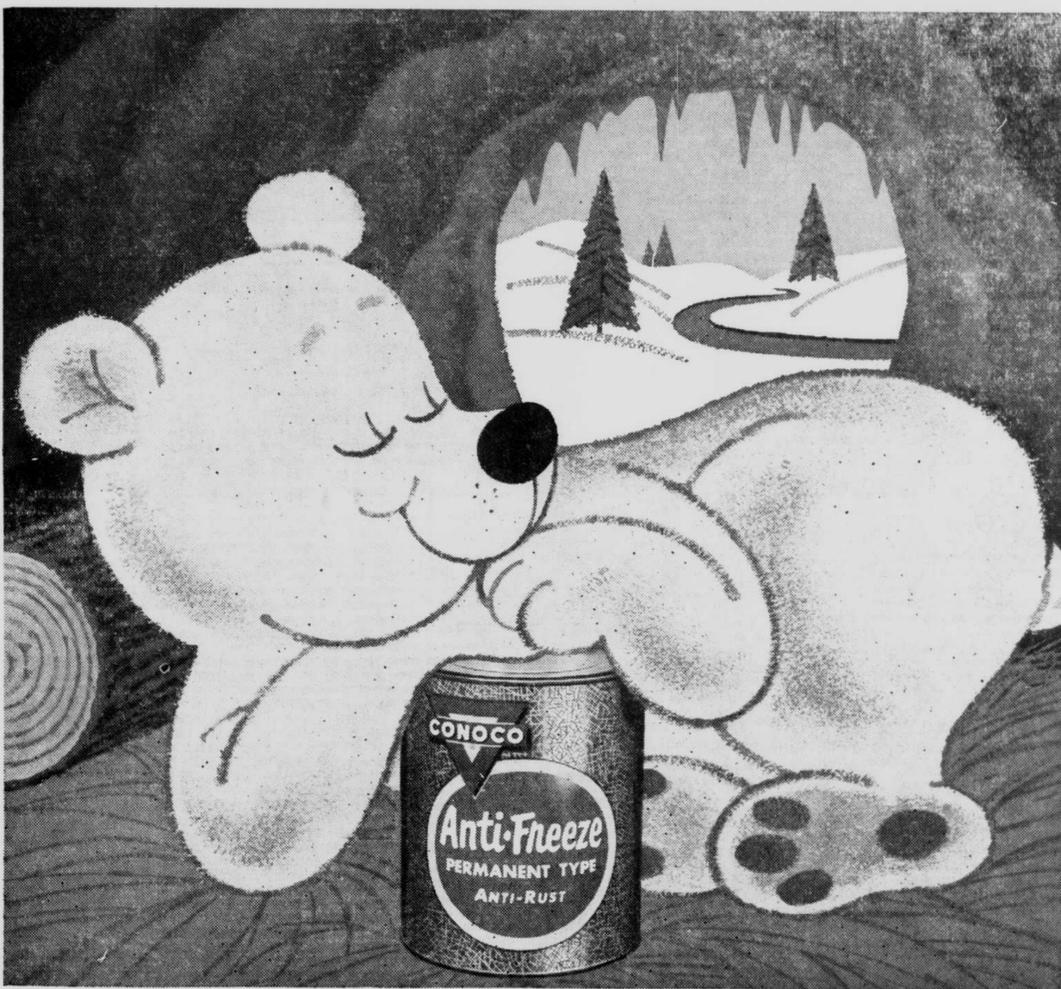
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Editorial

More Than Arithmetic

The federal aid to education controversy will be a lasting one, no matter what happens or doesn't happen to currently proposed bills. The issue, which always produces white heat on both sides, will be up in one form or another in Congress yet to come. It will be a factor in political contests on the Presidential as well as the Congressional levels. And whatever stand one may take—it is certainly one of the most important domestic issues, involving as it does federal intervention in a responsibility which heretofore has been delegated to local government and local people.

Arguments in favor of federal aid have been well publicized indeed—one reason for that being the Administration's strongly pro-aid position. The arguments against seem to have received less attention. An impressive anti-aid case has been written by Raymond Moley, and it appears in a recent issue of the Tax Foundation's Tax Review. Mr. Moley speaks from a varied background and experience. He has been a school teacher and superintendent, a university professor, and at one time was a close advisor to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. More recently, he has been a widely read commentator on public affairs of every nature.

In his view, "... whatever the outcome of the current debate, the drive for federal aid of the kind proposed is rooted not in financial considerations nor educational policy. It is rooted and nourished in politics." Then he makes a series of points, which can be briefly summarized as follows:

1. The federal plan rejects the principle of state and local responsibility in seeking ways and means to finance education, and "relies upon the quick but illusory propositions that the Federal income tax is inexhaustible."
2. It is non-selective—that is, it would give aid not only to states which may need it, but to states which demonstrably do not. This, Mr. Moley implies, is a rather cynical vote-seeking situation.
3. Organized pressure groups and lobbies— allied with a power-seeking federal bureaucracy—are the principal elements back of the proposals, rather than parents or those who are responsible for the schools in states and communities.
4. Aid to private schools is rejected, not for economic or related reasons, but on religious grounds.
5. The issue is being made into a "vote-bait," for use in Presidential elections.
6. As the alleged needs become less, the pressure grows. In his words, "It is a characteristic of political behavior that as a crisis fades, the efforts to give it importance increase."

He presents facts and figures which substantiate his statement that "in a magnificent and truly spectacular manner, the states themselves have provided for public education in the past decades." For instance, between the 1929-30 school year and that of 1960-61, public school enrollment has risen only 45 per cent—while public school expenditures have risen a whopping 611 per cent. Even making every allowance for the declining value of the dollar, that is a remarkable record.

Mr. Moley underlines another point that clearly needs much more understanding than it had had so far. He describes the federal aid plan as "tokenism"—for the reason that, in the version amended by the Senate, it would provide only 3 to 5 per cent of school costs, and leave the remaining 95 to 97 per cent to the states and communities.

So, as he puts it, the plan is "not a real assumption of the burden of the schools but a means of setting a precedent and establishing the principle that the Federal government has a responsibility for the nation's public schools."

This summary just touches some of the highlights of Mr. Moley's eloquent brief against federal aid to education and federal control of the schools. His stand is this: "It is better that a local school board, or a supervisory official, or a teacher may make honest mistakes and rue them, and correct them—than to be the creature, the mere agent, of a vast bureaucracy." And, near the end of his article, he quotes Edmund Burke's saying: "The government of human beings is something more than a problem of arithmetic."

PORT HURON, MICH., TIMES HERALD: "There are those who apparently feel that the way to further develop our free enterprise economy—the most successful economic system in the history of the world—is by abridging it through laws, breaking up its most successful components and taxing it of the lifeblood it must have to keep building anew."

CANTON, MASS., JOURNAL: "Some people think that just because a company is big, it has all the money it needs and can help support any cause, activity or government program that comes along. 'The money that keeps all these wheels turning doesn't grow on trees. It comes from human effort—human effort that is put to profitable use. We all depend on each other.'"

ANTIGO, WISC., DAILY JOURNAL: "Equal educational opportunity for all is an absolutely asinine statement," said Prof. John Guy Fowlkes, a former dean of the University of Wisconsin School of Education in a recent address to educators at Madison. He said this slogan should be replaced by 'equal educational opportunity for all in terms of ability and industriousness or application. Going to college is a privilege to be exercised, and not a right to be abused.'"



BILL RICHARDSON, Publisher
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