

PrairieLand Talk

No, Not A Scrap

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

A calm weekend afternoon in the middle of June, out of the crowded human haunts of a southern California city, there came to my door Mr. and Mrs. Claude Hancock, accompanied by a brother-in-law of Mrs. Hancock, Dr. Johnson of our own Capital City, a sister of Mrs. Hancock being the doctor's wife. It is a thrill to clasp the hands of former O'Neill citizens; Claude, having been connected with the banking interests in O'Neill, and he, as well as his life's companion and also Dr. Johnson, having once known Inman as their home. Mrs. Hancock said that with 50 years now on life's highway with Claude they have yet the first husband and wife scrap to pull off. Well, those who went through pioneer experiences on the prairies of Holt county learned to put up with a great deal. The Hancocks spent a few days in Lincoln, then were planning to stop at Norfolk enroute to O'Neill where they have a son serving as county treasurer and where treasured memories linger.

she stood by a tree in the Garden of Eden. I saw her today—a twentieth century daughter of Mother Eve, and she lay straightened for the grave. The fundamental fact of life is its end—death. Then what? "Many that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt."

He is a city prisoner of fate, home and office in the overcrowded human haunts in our Capital City. In company with his life's companion, he has seen the outdoors in its summer robe of green. He told me today that they had crossed Holt county from west to east, pausing along the way to view the scene of outdoor beauty that nature has clothed in velvet green and where herds of cattle graze and human life is at its best. He swung a foot up on his desk as I talked with him and leaned back in his swivel chair with a longing glint in his eye.

A hot June day in the Capital City, the sun moving in shining splendor above the blue over head and the green under foot. Some miles to the east in the region of corn and wheat fields rain came in cooling and refreshing torrents. Great trees reach their leaf adorned limbs heavenward, birds hop from bough to bough and sing of the charms of nature all about, flowers bloom and gardens grow, eager hands pluck the ripened fruit in berry patches. City dwellers have been on the go another day and evening comes, the glow of sunset with its touch of gold as we move on into the gathering shadows of another night.

Another "stay" for that young killer Starkweather. From the pockets of some comes the money to appeal to all the courts, now to the court of last resort at the nation's capital. . . . PrairieLand Talker's "handsome" face and "stalwart" figure were in the front page of a recent issue of this family journal and letters have come to me expressing their pleasure over what they saw and read. . . . One thing to be on the agenda for Old Nebraska by our historical society this month will be Chicory Production in Nebraska. O'Neill was in on that with a large chicory factory just west of town. . . . Nebraska is to have a 27-bushel per acre wheat crop this year, according to the Ag experts there on the banks of the Potomac where stands our great national capital. . . . Sticking it out these hot June days at the State House the legislative bunch of boys—and one lady—have had a "cooler" installed at the legislative chamber.

Where O'Neill's merchant prince, the late John Mann, held forth from early days until the turn of the century there is now a drug store. Where Pat McManus held forth on lower Fourth street with a stock of first class merchandise, there is now a booze joint. Where John Smoot, the town's first tonsorial artist, had a barber shop there, is now a religious sanctuary to impart spiritual life where once barber shop loafers drew "inspiration" from the Police Gazette. The old Commercial Hotel, where the cowboy got a punch in the jaw by Hotel Clerk Rosco when the booted and spurred gent got into Rosco's room instead of the soiled lady's quarters whom he met downstairs, still stands.

July 4, 1776—you all know what was born that day to become our national heritage. And today we rear our banner of freedom that waves across the continent and is the envy and jealousy of the world leaders everywhere. Does the 4th mean to this generation what it meant to Frank Mann, Homer Campbell, Pete Saunders and other kids of a vanishing generation? One hundred and thirty-one years ago today the parade of horseback riders came trotting from east to west along O'Neill's principal street, Charley Hall riding ahead, little flags adorning the bridles on the horses. And then the drum and fife corps following in the rear. A bowery at Fourth and Douglas, Col. Towle the orator of the day and Anna O'Donnell reading the Declaration of Independence. Games, sports, ice cream and peanuts all afternoon and fireworks at night. That shot fired 184 years ago and heard around the world meant something to the pioneers in O'Neill—what does it mean to you today?



Romaine Saunders

They seek to persuade you to become patrons of theirs by the alluring appeal of "Heritage of Freedom." Down their dope from day to day and you know not freedom but enslavement.

The lone lady, who holds down well a seat in our state legislature, once just a barefoot kid on the prairies of Holt county, tells me she "loves it". Whether it is having her say in the affairs of our great beef state as promulgated at the Statehouse or just to be the object of admiring eyes on all sides, I am told by others serving in the legislature that Senator Fern Hubbard Orme is doing a good job of it. Who doesn't if they got their start in life on the prairies of Holt county?

The poet declares "there is no death," and puts it in jingling verse. "Ye shall not surely die" was the first lie spoken to the mother of mankind us

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

A special meeting of the city council was held when a contract was entered into with David W. Pyle, Lincoln for scraping and painting the standpipe. . . . Pat Donohoe resigned from his position with O. O. Snyder and accepted a position in Gordon. . . . John J. Kelly and daughter, Miss Agnes, left for a visit to the Alaska-Yukon exposition in Seattle. . . . Margaret Grady spent a couple of weeks visiting the exposition in Seattle, Wash. . . . P. C. Corrigan was up from Omaha to spend a few days looking after business matters and visiting old-time friends. . . . M. J. Sullivan submitted a resignation from his position as your catcher. . . . W. J. O'Connor left for his old home at Wilkesbarre, Pa., where he planned to spend a month visiting relatives and friends. . . . Kola Item: Better look a little into "Jim" in the future as your catcher, for old ladies with clubs might be watching behind fence posts as well as puppets.

20 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Soukup purchased the buick building on the south corner of Douglas and third street from P. C. Marcellus, Atkinson. At this time it is occupied by the Dew Drop Inn and Dick Tomlinson's Liquor store. . . . Max Golden, O'Neill won the 1939 golf championship at the annual golf tournament at O'Neill. . . . Chicken growers in the country were warned by Sheriff Stanley to keep an eye on their flocks—chicken stealers were getting quite numerous in the county. . . . A boy scout troop was organized in O'Neill with Patrolman Lawrence Russell as Scoutmaster. . . . Miss Ruth H. Hertz and Stanley went to music camp at Lake Okiboji. . . . Miss Mary Joan Finley, Chicago is spending her vacation here visiting her father, Dr. W. F. Finley and her sister, Katherine. . . . John Robert Gallagher is spending his vacation from Creighton University here with his parents. . . . William Cook returned home after receiving medical treatment at the Veterans hospital. . . . Deaths: Harry W. Starlin, 70, O'Neill; Wilbur A. Hertel, 85, former met; Winfield Haynes, 70, Page; Mrs. Sarah Haynes, 86, Page.

10 YEARS AGO

Officials of the PTA saw their drive for funds for playground equipment reach the half way mark. Solicitors turned in \$521.60 for a week canvassing. . . . Homer Stearns, 38, and his son, Stanley, 15, received treatment for injuries at a Norfolk hospital received in a plane crash. . . . Miss Patricia O'Donnell getting ready for her tour of at least 6 European countries. . . . William B. Stannard, native of O'Neill, was elected a vice president of Occidental Life Insurance Co. of California. . . . The Frontier announced its diamond jubilee edition to be June 30. . . . St. Anthony's hospital fund reached \$75,000 in date. . . . Kermit Mortenson, Albion is the 1949 king of the O'Neill golf tournament. . . . Married: Miss Connie Lou Williams, O'Neill to Harold McNally, Ainsworth; Donna Rae Baumman to Wayne Harmon, O'Neill. . . . Miss Thelma Underwood was honored at a miscellaneous bridal shower. . . . Mrs. Victor J. Johnson entertained two cousins from California whom she hasn't seen in 61 years. . . . Deaths: Judson A. Hertel, 87, years old Holt county homesteader; Chambers; Mrs. Alvan A. Post, 80, Atkinson; Louis F. Schacht, 74, Page; Michael E. Mullen, 58, Enamet; Conrad Schaffer, 54, World War I veteran, O'Neill.

FIVE YEARS AGO

A man-size veranda hotscooped across the southeastern corner of Holt county, demolishing a number of buildings but no one was hurt. . . . Hugh McKenna was elected vice president of the U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce. . . . Rev. Kenneth Carl, assistant pastor at St. Patrick's Catholic church in O'Neill for the past three years went to his parish at Leigh. . . . Ben E. Vidrickson was appointed manager of Hardings Creamery here. . . . Ralya IGA store and Kershenbrock Meat Market closed out their stocks. . . . Dates for the 1954 Holt county fair were set for August 16 through 19. . . . Rev. Samuel Lee, pastor of the First Presbyterian church at O'Neill and Bethany Presbyterian church near Chambers, delivered his farewell sermons in Holt county pulpits on June 27. . . . Deaths: Former District Judge J. J. Harrington, 85, O'Neill, who in 1899 at the age of 31 became the youngest judge ever to serve the Fifteenth Judicial district; Mrs. Samuel Barnard, over 90, former resident here. . . . Frederick H. Wagener, Lincoln, Lancaster county attorney and candidate for the republican nomination for governor visited O'Neill.

Money To Loan!
Household Goods, Personal Property, Cars, Trucks, Farm Equipment
HARRINGTON
Loan and Investment Company
Low Rates

Legislature Winds up Its Longest Session

CAPITAL NEWS

By Melvin Paul
Statehouse Correspondent
The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN—The Nebraska Legislature is winding up the longest session in history of the Unicameral, and two men are particularly glad. The two men who have carried a heavy load during the entire six calendar months during which the lawmakers have been convened are Lt. Gov. Dwight Burney of Hartington and Speaker Harry Pizer of North Platte.

They alternate at presiding over the debate of senators. This is an exacting and difficult job. By law, the lieutenant governor is the presiding officer of the Legislature.

The speaker is elected by members and this is a high honor among state senators. He relieves the presiding officer in governing. Long-time observers and state senators agree that Pizer has been one of the finest speakers in the Unicameral. Some lawmakers have been temporarily irked when Pizer made them follow legislative rules.

These include one that a solon must be in his seat when a bill is up for final passage. Pizer upon objection from a lawmaker, will tell him that if he does not like the ruling of the chair, he should change the rules. Both Burney and Pizer time and time again have gavelled to get a senator back on speaking about the motion before the house.

Day after day the chore of keeping order in the Unicameral becomes exceedingly heavy. The most difficult part comes in the final weeks and days of the session when senators, under the strain of debate and pressure, begin sniping at each other and there are many personality clashes.

Both men have been state senators for many years and know the parliamentary tricks and moods of the Unicameral which come in handy during complicated floor maneuvers by one or more lawmakers.

There has been general agreement among observers that the overall caliber of the Legislature this session has been high, with some especially fine new members.

Budget Clears Hurdle
Fighting over the state spending level for 1959-61 was of somewhat more intensity than had been expected. Lawmakers scrapped over the budget for two days and preliminary skirmishing on how they were going to debate the measure consumed about as much time.

After the smoke had cleared, the senators sent the bill on its route through the legislative mill, thus paving the way for adjournment.

The bill calls for expenditure during the next two years of \$75.9 million from the general fund, 60 percent of which is composed of money raised through the state property tax.

Of the general fund figure, the budget committee estimated about \$43.5 would have to be raised through property taxes. The remainder comes from miscellaneous fees, licenses and charges.

Study Approved
The Legislature approved 26-6 a study by the Legislative Council of all higher education in Nebraska. Under terms of the resolution authorizing the study, experts would be employed to aid a 7-member committee composed of state senators. Main introducer of the resolution was Sen. Richard Marvel of Hastings.

He said such educational information could help serve as a guide to future sessions of the Legislature in determining financial and other needs of the University of Nebraska, teachers colleges at Wayne, Chadron, Peru and Kearney and the four junior colleges at Norfolk, Scottsbluff, Fairbury and McCook.

There was strong support for the resolution in floor debate. It was pointed out that educational problems occupy much of the time during a legislative session and the problem will worsen in coming years. Estimated cost of hiring experts to aid in the study has been set at about \$30,000. The budget of the Legislative Council was increased \$35,000 to take care of additional expense that may be created by the study and others where technical assistance is required.

Legislation Cost
Because of the length of the current session of the Legislature, a bill had to be introduced in final days appropriating \$25,000 to pay expenses of operating until adjournment.

Sen. Otto Liebers of Lincoln, chairman of the budget committee, said original estimates on cost of the session were too low and "we're now \$25,000 in the red."

Sen. Don Thompson of McCook, chairman of the Legislative Council, said it has been calculated that it costs \$4.90 per minute to keep the Legislature in session.

GLEANINGS from our Heritage of Freedom

"There is America which at this day serves for little more than to amuse you with stories of savage men and uncouth manners, yet shall, before you taste of death show itself equal to the whole of the commerce which attracts the envy of the world." — Edmund Burke.

One of the friendliest ways to say welcome to your guests is by serving frosty glasses of golden beer. It is the congenial beverage always in good taste. Enjoy it often!

NEBRASKA DIVISION
United States Brewers Foundation
412 First Nat'l Bank Bldg., Lincoln

Charter No. 5770 Reserve District No. 10
Report of the condition of the

O'Neill National Bank

JUNE 10, 1959.

Published in response to call made by Comptroller of the Currency, under Section 5211, U. S. Revised Statutes

ASSETS	
Cash, balances with other banks, including reserve balance and cash items in process of collection	\$ 751,124.79
United States Government obligations, direct and guaranteed	2,068,268.75
Obligations of States and political subdivisions	411,717.43
Corporate stocks (including \$6,000.00 stock of Federal Reserve Bank)	6,000.00
Loans and discounts (including \$1,380.15 overdrafts)	857,507.27
Bank premises owned	3,000.00
Other assets	41.30
Total Assets	\$4,097,659.54
LIABILITIES	
Demand deposits of individuals, partnerships, and corporations	\$3,170,667.99
Deposits of United States Government (including postal savings)	43,012.00
Deposits of States and political subdivisions	276,305.04
Deposits of banks	217,850.41
Total Liabilities	\$3,707,835.44
CAPITAL ACCOUNTS	
Capital Stock:	
Common Stock, total par \$50,000.00	50,000.00
Surplus	150,000.00
Undivided profits	189,824.10
Total Capital Accounts	389,824.10
Total Liabilities and Capital Accounts	\$4,097,659.54
MEMORANDA	
Assets pledged or assigned to secure liabilities and for other purposes	\$ 600,000.00

I, O. D. French, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

O. D. FRENCH, Cashier

Correct-Attest: F. N. Cronin, J. B. Grady, Julius D. Cronin, Directors.

STATE OF NEBRASKA, COUNTY OF HOLT, ss:
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of June, 1959, and I hereby certify that I am not an officer or director of this bank.
DOROTHY ENRIGHT, Notary Public.
(SEAL) My commission expires March 7, 1961.

Editorial

A Town To Pot ?

Not long ago a young economics student at the University of Nebraska asked his professor a question—one that the professor was not ready for. "Just why does a little town 'go to pot'?"

The professor didn't have a beard to stroke or he would probably have stroked it. The group had been discussing the economic conditions of a town in relation to the number and types of businesses. It was highly theoretical. The simple, but practical question caught the entire class off balance.

The professor, after telling the students this was the entire point of the semester's course of study, evaded the question for the moment.

But it cannot be avoided for ever.

We think the editor of the Rock County Leader wrote a fine editorial recently. It's too bad he couldn't have been the professor that day. Here is what he had to say:

Recently we have heard several people say that our fair city is "going to pot."

We suppose they base their reasoning on the fact that Bassett has recently lost a dentist and this week a grocery store.

Loss of these businesses is not to be taken lightly, but as for the town going to pot we don't believe it. The city has too many assets to come apart at the seams that easily.

There is a good possibility that a dentist will come in to replace Dr. Seale.

As for the grocery store it seems to be the policy of many of the food chains to operate only in the larger cities. The trend is also apparent in some of the main clothing and variety stores.

It is something with which small communities will have to learn to live. It is happening here and in many other places. Undoubtedly it will happen again in still other communities.

Bassett is fortunate in having two fine grocery markets which are adequately equipped and staffed to absorb the trade which Council Oak has given up.

The biggest asset the people of a small community can have is an attitude of optimism. With such an attitude needs can be seen, and constructive action taken to correct or alleviate the condition.

An attitude of pessimism breeds more pessimism and prevents people from doing the things they know need to be done. A defeatist attitude leads only to defeat.

We believe the business men of Bassett and the citizens have an attitude of confidence in the future of the area. We hope our rancher friends share that feeling and will continue to trade here.

Bassett, we have been told, is above average in many ways for a city of its size. We believe one of the reasons that is true is that its citizens have always been confident of the future. The city has not grown as rapidly as some, but it has made progress.

It has constructed a new grade school building, a new swimming pool, two new churches and several homes. Another new church is on the planning

board. If the town was doomed these things would not have been done.

A town goes to pot only because its business men and citizens allow it to do so for want of foresight and lack of aggressiveness. These things are not apparent in Bassett.

That Policy Again

At the risk of being repetitive to the point of being almost ridiculous, it appears that it is again necessary for us to mention our police and court docket policy.

We have said it before, and we must say it again. We will continue to print the names of those who have been charged and fined in court.

This will be done whether or not subscriptions might be cancelled, advertising volume threatened or any other persuasion attempted.

If the child is, say 13 or 14, is a first offender, the editor discusses it with the judge and the parents. Beyond this, no concession can be made. It is a responsibility and trust which we must hold for the community. It is their right to know. We believe, further, that the community has a responsibility to review the action of their courts.

Well Done!

It was gratifying to see the increased number of floats in the annual pre-deer parade. And not only were there more floats, there were much better ones according to officials. This is indicative of the basic good-will there is between the Rodeo Association and the businesses of O'Neill.

Family memberships were never better. Many of these were also bought by businesses.

The time has come to "pat" them on the back. Let's let these business men and non-profit organizations know how we feel next time we see them.

THE FRONTIER
JAMES CHAMPTON, Co-Publisher
JERRY FETSCHÉ, Editor

Entered at the postoffice in O'Neill, Holt county, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. This newspaper is a member of the Nebraska Press Association, National Editorial Association and the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Terms of Subscription: In Nebraska, \$2.50 per year; elsewhere in the United States, \$3 per year; rates abroad provided upon request. All subscriptions payable in advance.

NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION



You'll get the best deal right now during Buick Bargain Days

- FINEST DEALS**—Now is the time to see your Quality Buick Dealer. You'll find the best buys of the year during Buick Bargain Days, the big sales event going on right now. And now is the time to buy.
- BIGGEST SELECTION**—Our Big Bargain Days stock of '59 Buicks means an unusually wide choice of models and colors. Take your pick from among Electras, Invictas, and LeSabres, with a wide choice of optional and accessory equipment.
- FASTEST DELIVERY**—You needn't wait to start enjoying the pleasure of driving a '59 Buick. You can take delivery right away from our Big Buick Bargain Days vacation stock. Come on in and look 'em over.
- NEW award-winning clean-winged style**
NEW exclusive aluminum brakes
NEW Jet-Smooth Turbine Transmissions
NEW higher gasoline mileage (Owners report 15-18 m.p.g.)
NEW Easy Power Steering
NEW high torque Wildcat Engines
NEW Safety PLATE Glass in every window
NEW Magic Mirror Finish
LUXURY Ride of all-coil springs

SEE YOUR BUICK DEALER TODAY AND SAVE.....

YOUR QUALITY BUICK DEALER IN O'NEILL IS: **OSCAR'S BUICK SALES - 125 W. Douglas**