

Prairie Land Talk

# With Saw, Hammer, Square

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

With saw, hammer and square in hand, he has traveled the path of life for four-score years. He informs this writer that the union carpenters of this Beef State's Capital City draw \$3 an hour when at work. Three dollars an hour, \$24 a day means to build a six-room house—the homemaker must dig up about \$1,500 to pay the classical gents with saw and hammer and square, probably more than his lumber costs him. But first he must dig up a thousand dollars for a few feet of "city lot" on which his six-room castle for wife and kiddies is to rest. The sodhouse pioneer put less than \$50 into floors and windows and floor for his homestead abode where he was "happy as a clam in this land of Uncle Sam" and was not at all alarmed when he heard the "hungry prairie wolf come sneaking up through the grass." The operator of a clean, orderly place where I sometimes get a meal, pays \$125 a month rent for the quarters his business place occupies—which means he must serve 125 dollar dinners to just pay the rent. The saw and hammer and square gents here in the Capital City pull down three dollars an hour. Reminds Prairie Land Talker of a carpenter in O'Neill in the long ago who was growing a bit over working at his trade for three dollars a day instead of five that he got when out in a Pacific coast city. But being reminded that he was faring better here on three dollars a day than he did out there when he received five a day, he decided to spend the rest of his saw and hammer and square days right here in O'Neill. So now the bones of Alex Boyds lay up on the hill in the abode of the dead.



Romaine Saunders

She had arrived at her rooming place at 2:30 this morning after a night's work at one of the city's leading public dining halls. Three hours' rest and up at work again at another public eating place, on the job until 5 o'clock, then back down town for another night's work. Slow up, that is over doing it, she was told. Have to, she replied, to earn the money to pay the lawyer. Why a lawyer to pay? The lady is the mother of two young boys. Life with her husband, the father of those two boys, and a designing mother-in-law in the background became no longer endurable—a legal separation, and oddly enough, the boys were taken from their mother. Now a lawyer is on the job seeking court decrees to restore the custody of those two young boys to their mother. So a mother's love keeps that woman on the go night and day to earn the cash needed to "buy" back her boys. Foreign aid, Honorable the? How about a handfull of it for a needy one of our own?

Editorial

## Jacob's Journey Revisited

Just 50 years ago a dream of the Rev. M. F. Cassidy came true. A cornerstone of the present St. Patrick's Catholic church was laid. Even then, 50 years ago, the parish had come a long way. A long way from the little sod shanty where a missionary priest, Father Bedard, said the first mass in Holt county. A long way, too, from that time when the parishioners were fortunate enough even to have the priest come at two or three month intervals from Frenchtown. The Rt. Rev. J. J. Keane of the diocese of Cheyenne, Wyo., a gifted and well known orator of the day "held his audience spellbound", as was reported in The Frontier at that time. Few words could be more fitting than those he spoke at 3:30 on that afternoon: He took his text from the first book of Moses in Geneses, where Jacob sacrificed his time during that noted journey in the desert, on his way to Mesopotamia, by piling stones in honor and to the glory of his God—when Jacob immortalized himself by saying: "God was in this place and I knew it not." The Rev. J. J. Keane then went on: "What Jacob did in the desert was more than done here today," he said. "For while Jacob sacrificed his time in his poverty, you have consecrated the cornerstone of this future temple of divine worship in the sacrifice of your small means and time, embalmed in the endurance of your unyielding faith in the great Jehovah and in His only begotten Son. "Faith is the greatest of all motive powers when we are prompted by natural instincts to build churches because of the supernatural grace of God," he said.

### Justice - Two Heads?

From the O'Neill Gazette  
We wish someone would ask us to describe Justice in Western terms and that we could base our description on current events in Central Nebraska law enforcement circles. If asked we could say: "Justice is a two gaited nag that moves at either a dead run or slow walk—either gait seemingly dependent on the prestige of her riders." EXHIBIT A: Five or six weeks ago here an unfortunate young man was released from a state institution where he had been confined for law infractions. Driving back to O'Neill his car stopped. The stoppage occurred near a used car lot. An examination by the young man indicated the car's battery was flat. So he walked over to the lot, picked up a battery from a car there, and had just about moved back to his car when the police drove up. Justice moved with astonishing speed. Twenty-four hours after the young man had picked up the battery he was back in jail, his parole revoked, the rest of his sentence to do. EXHIBIT B: May 13 the State Banking Department of Nebraska closed the Bartlett State Bank at Bartlett saying there had been irregularities. Within the next two months, until July 13, the

The honored gentlemen who serve at our State House to adjust (raise but never lower) farm values for taxation, have decided to get more tax money out of farms in counties up this way. May we suggest that equalization board members go to the hills of Wheeler and Garfield counties and try their equalization skill as farm clothoppers for a season or two.

A kindly letter comes to me from Esther M. Reka, once a citizen of O'Neill, now caught in the net of southern California charms, her home being in lovely Glendale where no human with black skin may appear on the streets after sundown. Esther writes in glowing words of the pleasure The Frontier's Prairie Land Talk brings to her each passing week. As we all do, she notes with regret that so many we had known have come to the end of life's journey. And out there is another one who would, and maybe does, in fancy step away from the centers of crowded human haunts to stand once more where the green-robed prairie reaches to the distant horizon and looks again up to the deep blue sky above—our wide, extended prairie-land touched by nature's artist hand. The lady enclosed a bit of poetic humor she found in a Los Angeles paper that is very pleasing to read. Glad to hear from you, friend Esther, and I am glad you find my Prairie Land Talk of interest to you.

It is estimated that the population of the United States is increasing at the rate of three million a year, mostly in the centers of industry and manufacturing.

As it appeared in a recent number of The Frontier, pioneer homesteader Smith got five dollars for his load of hay when he pulled up at DeYarman's barn at Fifth and Douglas streets. How the intelligent compositor could make "five" out of "TWO", is anybody's guess. Five dollars for a hay-rack load of hay 70 years ago? No—a dollar and a half and two dollars for a load of hay those days.

Nothing can stop the hurrying throng as it goes rushing on. Nothing can remove the loafer as he sits there looking on.

As I sat today in the shade of a tree a few feet from the concrete foot path where human feet are on the go, a young girl of about 13 years of life's experiences came to me and asked if I knew how and where she could earn money. Thus, early in life she was out looking for a job. After a few words as to employment, the young miss went on her way. By now she may have become a money earner, and thus another child of fate reaches a hand for that which is needed to get the things that sustain life.

# Frontiers Ago

### 50 Years Ago

August 4, 1909 the cornerstone for the new St. Patrick's Catholic church was laid by the Right Rev. J. J. Keane, bishop of Cheyenne, Wyo., assisted by 25 other clergymen. . . . Elijah Jacobs, attending school at Parkville, Mo., visited his father, Rev. Jacobs, of Meek. . . . Hay McClure was up from Ewing and made this office a short business call. . . . John J. Kelley and daughter, Miss Agnes, returned from a six week visit in southern California. . . . Seattle, Wash., and Butte, Mont. . . . C. E. Hall and William Froelich, president and secretary of the Holt County Fair association, went to Norfolk to interview several of the horsemen there in the interest of the race meet to be held. . . . A. T. Potter Harder of Valentine was appointed district sales manager for the Federal Land Bank, succeeding the late O. A. Witchen. . . . Mr. and Mrs. William Derickson celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. . . . Married: Miss Frances Jane Cleary and Clinton E. Cronin, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Cronin. . . . L. C. Walling was elected vice president of the Interstate Power Company of Nebraska. He previously was District manager at O'Neill for 10 years. . . . Fire of unknown origin destroyed the contents of the Boy Allen home at Emmet. . . . A pre-nuptial shower was held by the S. S. ladies at the Paul Nelson home in honor of Miss Margaretha Nelson. . . . Mrs. Helen Simar, Mrs. Creola Carney and Mrs. Lyle Jackson went to Kansas City where they purchased merchandise which they will move to their new store building. . . . Death: Miss Catherine Hynes, 80, at the home of Mrs. Alice Minton at O'Neill.

### 20 Years Ago

Miss Neva Wolfe, Lynch, who was a teacher in the O'Neill public school for nine years, teaching the seventh grade, turned in her resignation to the school. . . . Dwight Harder of Valentine was appointed district sales manager for the Federal Land Bank, succeeding the late O. A. Witchen. . . . Mr. and Mrs. William Derickson celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. . . . Married: Miss Frances Jane Cleary and Clinton E. Cronin, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Cronin. . . . L. C. Walling was elected vice president of the Interstate Power Company of Nebraska. He previously was District manager at O'Neill for 10 years. . . . Fire of unknown origin destroyed the contents of the Boy Allen home at Emmet. . . . A pre-nuptial shower was held by the S. S. ladies at the Paul Nelson home in honor of Miss Margaretha Nelson. . . . Mrs. Helen Simar, Mrs. Creola Carney and Mrs. Lyle Jackson went to Kansas City where they purchased merchandise which they will move to their new store building. . . . Death: Miss Catherine Hynes, 80, at the home of Mrs. Alice Minton at O'Neill.

### 10 Years Ago

Sister M. Rosalie of St. Mary's academy celebrated her silver anniversary as a nun in the Roman Catholic St. Francis order. . . . Dr. C. M. Eason, formerly of Chambers, announced the opening of a dental office in O'Neill. . . . Married: Phyllis Jean Parks, O'Neill, and Eugene Leo Gesirich, Atkinson, at O'Neill; Miss Inez Determan and Charles Weichman, both of Atkinson. . . . Miss Raquel Otero of Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico visited O'Neill with her college classmate, Kathleen Flood. . . . Atkinson made plans for its annual Hay Days celebration held in August. . . . At a family dinner, little "Corky" Farr celebrated his second birthday anniversary. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Farr. . . . The two Rutherford children, Mildred, 15, and George, 13, of Ewing died as a result of an automobile accident. . . . The Diamond Jubilee committee of the Chamber of Commerce met to discuss plans for the celebration in October. . . . A Connor place near Emmet involved a Mr. Myers of Lincoln and Lewis Prussa of Atkinson. No one was injured.

### Five Years Ago

Consumers Public Power District celebrated their 15th anniversary. A. J. (Andy) Ramold began his new duties as operator of the Standard Oil Company's bulk delivery products at O'Neill. . . . The O'Neill Bank made plans to prepare for their appearance at the Burwell Rodeo. . . . General Motors announced that Robert Krotter has been appointed to serve as G.M. community relations chairman for O'Neill and vicinity. . . . The size of quarters or a little larger fell at the Mark Hendricks home 16 miles north of Atkinson. It did very little damage. . . . Robert E. McNichols, 26, O'Neill, escaped with bruises and shock when the semi-trailer truck which he was driving rolled down a 20 foot embankment in a heavy rain, four miles west of Plainview. . . . Deaths: George E. Park, 61, Page died suddenly while putting up hay at the Buxton farm near Page; Mrs. Thomas J. Donohoe, 82, O'Neill farm woman died at her home six miles northwest of O'Neill; Mrs. Mattie M. Johnson, 94, known as "Grandma" Johnson, died at the Atkinson Memorial hospital; Mrs. Frank Dailey, 76, at her home in Jerome, Ida. Michael F. O'Sullivan, 65, Phoenix, Ariz., former O'Neill resident.

### O'Neill Locals

#### CROWDED OUT LAST WEEK

Ms. J. L. McManamy, Albuquerque, N.Mex., left for her home Saturday after spending a few weeks with her mother, Mrs. Susan Kubichek, and at the homes of her sisters, Mrs. Kieth Abart and Mrs. Ed Hancock and families. . . . Mrs. Wayne Fox, Sherry and Rex of Emmet spent Thursday at the J. C. Bazelman home. . . . Rev. and Mrs. Kennicott returned last Friday from two and one-half weeks vacation in Minnesota in which they combined fishing and visiting with relatives. The first week was spent on Round Lake in northern Minnesota, near Park Rapids. The Kennicotts spent this week in the company of Mr. and Mrs. Reed Herley and daughters, Christine and Sally of O'Neill. At the close of the week the Herley family returned to O'Neill and the Kennicotts drove down to southern Minnesota and spent most of the remaining time at Elmore, Mrs. Kennicott's home town, with her parents. A few days were spent in Iowa visiting relatives. The Kennicotts report an enjoyable vacation with plenty of fish to eat. The weather was cool and pleasant and the state of Minnesota was beautiful with sufficient rainfall and crops well along. . . . Eleven members of the Birthday club entertained for Mrs. O. W. French in her home for her birthday July 10. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cronin and Cassie Stevens attended a Safeway employee's picnic at Columbus Sunday. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Rossman and Delbert of Atkinson were guests Monday evening at the Harold Milnar home. . . . Lorna Marcellus and Carol Johnson spent the weekend here from Lincoln. . . . Mrs. Paul Tallon, Mike and Pat of Omaha visited last week at the home of her mother, Mrs. O. W. French. Mike stayed on for a two week visit with his grandmother. . . . Guests at a picnic at the Bud Krugman home July 25 honoring the Eric Krugman family of Delmar, New York, were Mrs. Laura Eiders of Bloomfield and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Krugman. The Harold, Fred and Paul Krugman families called later in the evening. . . . Mrs. Sam Jeffries was here from Burwell July 21 at the home of

her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dermot Erington. . . . Mrs. Guy Cole returned Sunday from a week at Merville, Ia. . . . Weekend guests at the Bud Krugman home were S-Sgt. and Mrs. Armin Kumm, Jim and Rita from Lincoln. . . . Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Layton of Mountclair, California, and Mrs. and Mrs. D. N. Loy were visiting in Grand Island Saturday and in York Sunday for the wedding of their grandson. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Louis Pishna and family of Burwell were guests Sunday at the Dermot Erington home. . . . Mrs. Pat Hartly and Miss Bernadette Brennan returned Friday from a three week trip which took them to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where they visited Mr. and Mrs. Edward B. Donohoe, to Gettysburg, Wheeling, W. Va., Milwaukee, Wis., and Neenah, Wis., where they visited the Thomas Hartys and Joseph F. Ryans, and to Evanston, Ill., where they visited with Mrs. E. A. Doyle. . . . Mrs. Carl Waugh of Sioux City visited last week at the home of her daughter and family, Dr. and Mrs. George Carstens, Mrs. Carstens entertained at a coffee for her mother Saturday morning. . . . Steven and Roy Fox of Emmet were dinner guests Sunday of their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Fox. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Bud Krugman and Mr. and Mrs. Walt Timmerman of Creighton returned Thursday for a week's fishing trip to Clitheral, Minn. Enroute home they visited at the Clem Cleary home at Sleepy Eye, Minn., and the Charles Ardusers home at Madelia, Minn. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Harold Milnar and girls were in Atkinson Sunday for a picnic at the Bernard Rossman home honoring the Rossman's son, Delbert, who is home on leave from his Air Force base at El Paso, Tex. . . . Mrs. Bennett Gillespie and Diane and Mrs. E. J. Eby were in Omaha last week at the Robert Eby home. . . . Mrs. Ike Van Every and boys of Perry, Ia., returned to their home Saturday after visiting the George Van Every and H. G. Kruses. . . . Gene and Jim Chase of North Platte returned home Monday after several day's visit with Mrs. H. J. Hammond. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Charles J. Klein and Gretchen of Harlan, Ia., were here Sunday and Monday where they visited with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Alm and her brother, the Bill Alm family at Lynch, Mo. . . . Miss Clara Alm, Mrs. H. V. Rosenkrans of Lynch, the Don Maws, the Bill Alms and the Kleins were all guests Sunday evening at the Arthur Alm home. . . . Kim Marie Binkerd celebrated her third birthday last Sunday evening. Those attending were Mr. and Mrs. John Fiala, Joe, Frank and Mary. Ice cream and sandwiches were enjoyed by the group. . . . Mrs. M. B. Marcellus and Lorna visited Saturday at the R. F. Gaskill home. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Manuel Crosser and son of Tekamah, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Morsbach and Mary of Inman, Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Brittell and daughters of Atkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Dickie Fernau and girls of Valentine, Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Brittell, Mr. and Mrs. Arnie Mace and son and Mrs. Etta Brittell picnicked at the park here Sunday. . . . Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Layton of Mountclair, Calif., are visiting here with her parents, the D. N. Lays.

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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.  
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.  
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**O'Neill DRIVE IN THEATRE**  
FRI.-SAT. AUG. 7-4  
Double Bill  
"Hopppy Goes to Town"  
Full Length Feature Cartoon  
Songs by Hoagy Carmichael  
Technicolor  
"Bambuti"  
The Award Winning Jungle Epic  
Technicolor  
Cartoon  
SUN.-MON.-TUES. AUG. 9-10-11  
The Picture you have waited for  
Russ Tamblin, June Thorburn,  
Alan Young in  
"Tom Thumb"  
In Color  
Tom and Jerry Cartoon  
WED.-THURS. AUG. 12-13  
BUCK NIGHT  
"Thunder Road"  
With Robert Mitchell, Gene Barry  
Cartoon