

Prairieland Talk

"Prairieland Nellie"

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

Nellie Morse was a child of three years of age that day in April 1880 and in her mother's arms as the two got on the train to leave for ever their Chicago home. They got off that train at Niobrara, Nebraska, some two days later. And there they were met by Nellie's father who pressed a kiss on Nellie's childish cheek as he took them both, mother and daughter in his arms. He had come to Nebraska some time before and had located on land near the Keya Paha river some 30 miles north and west of the then pioneer village of Atkinson. After four days travel in a wagon the little family reached their pioneer home near the Keya Paha. That region is the scene of a recently published story in book form, "Nellie's Prairie". It is the story of her life on the open prairie in pioneer times, and stories of pioneer experiences never fail to interest readers. O'Neill, Atkinson, Stuart are some of the Holt county communities mentioned in the book. At the little town of Cedaredge on the western slope of the Colorado Rockies lives a little old lady where she can look out upon the nearby Indian reservation and dream again of her years of childhood and young womanhood back here near the Keya Paha and the Sioux Indians. That old lady is Nellie Morse Wright, the Nellie of our prairieland.



Romaine Saunders

death this year, some precious pearl of new born human life will come into a troubled world. And so the earthly scene moves on. Holiday greetings from my esteemed friend Walt O'Mally in which I see a tear drop in Walt's eye at the memory of the passing of Montana Jack, that warm hearted son of a Sullivan household of this community who traveled his last mile on life's journey the past year. And then I catch a gleam of childish delight as I look upon the greetings from Trudy out there on the Eagle. Life is before her; Jack is gone. Another year for the living, cherished memories for the dead.

A block away from where I am is a desolated home, the man of that household straightened for the grave. I see a neighborhood housewife bundle up to step out into the cold and snow to take to that desolated home a quantity of food, a clergyman visits that bereaved wife in her saddened home, others come to see and console her and steps are taken to serve dinner to those who will be at that desolated home the day of burial. Human hearts are touched by the sorrow of others and human hands are reached out to help. There are other desolated homes today in this great city, in other cities and rural communities. The sorrows of others cast a shadow over you and I and may we ever be inspired to extend a helping hand, a consoling word.

Two patriots of the grass robed regions of Holt county have their hats in the ring as candidates for the state legislature. We hope to see Senator Frank Nelson in the classic halls at the State House at the next legislative session but voters in the four counties may conclude that Frank has been at it long enough and should have a rest. I do not recall having met the gentleman from the cow country north of Stuart, but should he win out we will welcome him to a seat in our Unicam.

There they stood—editor, cashier, proof reader, printers, pressmen. The force that turns out The Frontier from week to week pictured for us in the Christmas week edition of this 80-year-old newspaper. Gracious of them to stand there and smile and thus give many readers their first opportunity to see the cultured group that produces this household journal.

It is cloudy, gloomy and stormy. Above the clouds the sun still shines. We can not step up above the clouds, but we may go and lay down until the clouds are no more. So it is as we travel life's highway.

Recently it was noted in this department of The Frontier that only in O'Neill could be found such notables as the four or five listed. Maybe some Old Timer may ask where but in O'Neill could be found a Net Mitchell, a Clara Wrede, a Silver Triggs and a Tracy Gwin!

of the declining standards of moral behavior in the United States, that twinge in the national belly that warns of deep-seated malignancy in the body politic. And those declining standards, it goes on, can be found in some form and in some degree virtually everywhere—in schools, professions, the labor unions, business and the government.

So much for the indictments. There is a bright side. It is found in the fact that more and more people, in public and private discussion, are talking about the problem, thinking about it, worrying about it. An English observer of the American scene observed that the television mess may prove to be of enormous benefit—by awakening the American people to the extent and character of moral decay, and removing the blinders from their eyes. The American people have been awakened to many kinds of dangers in the past, and have met them with wrath, with courage and with understanding.

And that is the hope—that there will be a moral revival in this country, a cleaning of dirty houses. Failing that, everything else is doomed to fail.

Fewer Use More . . . Blair Enterprise

It's an odd fact of the revolution in agriculture that while the number of families on farms declines, purchases of farm equipment, automobiles and trucks reached new highs. This is revealed in studying the Balance Sheet of Agriculture, 1959, a publication of the USDA, treating the assets and liabilities of the nation's agriculture as one huge enterprise.

Purchases of machinery and motor vehicles increased 23 percent in 1958 over 1957, with farmers spending \$3.6 billion. This figure is exceeded only by buying in 1949, 1950 and 1951.

On January 1, 1959, farm machinery and motor vehicles were valued at \$18.4 billion—six percent more than a year earlier. Farmers are estimated to have bought 188 thousand tractors, 45 thousand combines, 60 thousand pickup balers and 22 thousand field forage harvesters in 1958.

Depreciation of farm machinery, and motor vehicles is now a major farm expense—figured at \$3.5 billion of the \$20.6 billion farm production costs in 1958, exclusive of wages, rent and interest on mortgages.

A million and a half tractors were on farms in 1940. This jumped to 3.4 million in 1950; and 4.75 million in 1959. Farm trucks totalled a million plus in 1940; 2.2 million in 1950; and three million in 1959.

Farmers owned 190 thousand combines in 1940; 714 thousand in 1950; and just over a million by 1959. There were 110 thousand corn pickers in 1940; slightly less than half a million in 1950; and 750 thousand by 1959.

Pickup balers and forage harvesters were not listed in 1940, but by 1950 there were 196 thousand pickup balers and 81 thousand forage harvesters on farms; and by 1959, 610 thousand and 264 thousand, respectively.

Fewer farmers on fewer farms of larger acreage per farm (and fewer acres in field crops) have produced more food and fiber than the nation is able to use.

Farm trucks, automobiles and equipment use an amount of steel annually equal to all passenger

car production; and enough rubber to equal a set of four tires on all passenger cars produced.

Farming overall is still the most important industry to this nation. No other single industry approaches it for value of its production; or buying power.

THE FRONTIER

JAMES CHAMPION, Editor and Co-Publisher

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.



Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

The most disastrous fire that Stuart has had since the great fire of 1887, occurred Monday afternoon. The fire of 1887 swept out a block. This fire left a half block just across the street a mass of smouldering ruins. The buildings burned constituted the south half of block 5, which is bounded on the south by First street and on the east by Main street. . . . Marriage licenses: Myrleen Bader of Mineola and Lulu Pillen of Mineola; Edward L. Smith of Sterling and Elizabeth Edwards of Green Valley; Edwin Ross of Blackbird and Rena E. Allen of Redard; Edward L. Brush of Atkinson and Bertha Stillson of Atkinson; Amor L. Shannon of Ewing and Mrs. Mable Jenkins of Ewing; Frank Ratcliff of Atkinson and Francis E. Boyd of Atkinson; Frank J. Duncan of Atkinson and Edith B. Burke of Atkinson. . . . Death: John McGreevy, 83, one of the pioneer settlers of this county.

25 YEARS AGO

Wednesday night at 11:55 a call was received here for assistance in battling flames that broke out in the two story frame public school building in Inman. One of the most violent winds started blowing from the north an hour or more before, and when the call came the storm was at its zenith. The building was completely destroyed. . . . Marilyn, one year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ernst, on Friday mounted an overturned bucket and desperately tried to insert one of her feet in a paper bag. She tumbled off the bucket and was taken to a doctor. He found his young patient suffered a broken shoulder bone. . . . Several people drove to Paddock to charivari Mr. and Mrs. Ray Prouty. Upon reaching the place they discovered the newly weds were not there, so they proceeded on to Spencer, where they found the young couple at the home of Ray's father, Harry Prouty. . . . Marriage licenses: Gordon Harper, Page and Marie Beekleat, Orchard; Robert Freed, Atkinson and Irene Zahradnick, Atkinson; George Stanek, Amelia, and Mary Malloy, Atkinson, Theima Riley, O'Neill and James Cronk, Page.

10 YEARS AGO

Miss Janice Jarman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Jarman,

of Chambers, recently appeared as a hostess on the Coffee Counter television program over WOW-TV in Omaha. . . . Around 75 friends and neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Hans Lauridsen, who were married recently, gathered at the Harm Damero home, Friday evening where the Lauridsens were supper guests. . . . Five of the small fry, feeling spring in the air, Sunday went down the Elk-horn river to cook their supper. The young adventurers were: George Fuller, Betty and Frank Fetrow, John O'Sullivan and Cheri Ann Knepper. . . . Snow, borne by a strong Northwest wind, whipped across the O'Neill region Monday and Tuesday and sent the mercury tumbling to a new low for the winter. Lowest temperature—22 degrees below zero—was recorded early Wednesday morning.

5 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Bennett A. ("Doc") Sorey of Atkinson on Sunday, December 26, celebrated their 61st wedding anniversary. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Alex CoConnell of Emmet, on Tuesday, December 28, marked their golden wedding anniversary. . . . Five generations were represented Sunday at a dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Siders at the south edge of Inman. Mrs. Anna Taylor, 86, of Chandler, Ariz., heads the five-generation group. She is the mother of 11 children—nine of whom are living. She counts 56 grandchildren and 96 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. The others are Mrs. Siders, Mrs. Charles Russell, Mrs. Duane Sukup, and Lynda Jo Sukup. . . . Mr. and Mrs. John Kenny observed open-house Sunday, January 2, in honor of their 54th wedding anniversary. . . . 2nd Lt. Robert Berigan, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Berigan of Atkinson and a former St. Joseph's hall basketball great, is serving as squadron communications officer with the air force at a base in Japan.

Letters to the Editor

December 1959

Editor The Frontier O'Neill, Nebr. Dear Sir: Please discontinue my subscription to your excellent paper which I have been receiving for the past years. I was raised there but have been away for forty-two years. Practically all of those years I've lived in Seattle, Wash. The only reason I want the paper discontinued is that I do

not know anyone who appears in the news. Only once in awhile do I see a familiar name. I realize that forty-two years is too long, much too long, to stay away from your old home town. Changes occur gradually to those there and new friends are made who are total strangers to those of us who, through one reason or another, have failed to keep in touch.

However, I've never forgotten the people I used to know. In fact, I have continued to keep a special place for them in my memory garden "among the roses."

I would greatly appreciate it if you will when time and opportunity permits, to say "Hello" for me to the following: Martina Dishner, Pete Morgan, Jack McManus, Leo Mullen, Homer Mullen, Tom Nolan, John Quig, Mrs. John Melvin, Florence McCafferty, the Meredith family, Miggie Kane, Frank and Bill Froelich, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Campbell, Ed Gallagher, John Gallagher, Paddy (Shawnon) Sullivan, Hugh Birmingham, Julius Cronin, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hartly, Hugh, Billy and Marty Coyne, Mr. and Mrs. Pat Hartly, Neil Brennan, Pete "the baker" and Herb Hammond.

Thank you very much.

Ferd M. Ward, 328 Bellevue, No. 2, Seattle 1, Wash.



John R. Cooper

Cooper Files for Governor State Senator John R. Cooper, 48, of Humboldt recently filed for Governor of Nebraska. He is a Republican. The filing was done at the Richardson County clerk's office in Falls City. Cooper later made his filing at the Secretary of state's office in Lincoln.

Cooper is presently serving in the Nebraska Unicameral from the First District. Humboldt is his home town. Cooper's filing confirms speculation of several months that he would be a candidate for Governor.

The Humboldt native has long been prominent in Republican circles and is currently chairman of its Finance and Budget Committee. A veteran of World War II, he has been active in American Legion circles and served his home town post as commander in 1952-53 and was commander of the Nebraska Department in 1956-57.

Senator Cooper lives on the farm he owns and operates near Humboldt, and is an officer in the flour and feed mill concern that has been in the Cooper family for 80 years. Married, he and Mrs. Cooper have two children, a married daughter 29, and a son 27. The family belongs to the Episcopal church.

He has been a town councilman of Humboldt, president of the Humboldt Chamber of Commerce, president of the Humboldt Rotary Club, active in Richardson County Red Cross, Selective Service, and March of Dimes. In making his announcement, Cooper stated "The first answer to our tax problems is efficiency in government." On more industry for Nebraska: "The chambers of commerce, councils, mayors, development corporations will receive a type of cooperation they had never before dreamed of if I

am nominated and elected." On agriculture: "Because of my background in farming and feeding, I know the problems first hand. I want Nebraska to stand for premium quality." On public power: "Because I know the power problems of Nebraska I know that counsel and direction will lead it from the present temporary problem. . . . a governor should speak softly but carry a big stick."

"If I become Governor it will be as a man of modest means who will live on the salary I am paid. As a fourth generation Nebraskan, with grandchildren in the state, I will serve with humility and vigor, but with honesty and integrity in a way that will, to the best of my ability, reflect honor on the generations that have preceded, and that have followed me," Cooper concluded.

O'Neill Locals

Pfc. Merle Jones called his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Preston Jones, Sunday from Bamberg, Germany. Ed Gatz and Jeanne Gurnett, both of Omaha visited last week with Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Gatz. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Gatz and Jaquie of Omaha spent Christmas with their parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Gatz.

Mr. and Mrs. Weston Whitwer, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Humrich, Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Wortman and Mr. and Mrs. Raymon Schuchmann were guests of Rev. and Mrs. John Hart on New Year's eve. Mr. and Mrs. Don Calkins and daughter of Lincoln visited their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Johnson and Mrs. Hazel Calkins over the Christmas holidays. Guy Johnson has been visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Johnson

the last few days. Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Johnson were Sunday guests of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roth of Atkinson. Mr. and Mrs. Don Anderson and family of Vinton, Ia., left Friday after spending the Christmas holidays with her mother, Mrs. C. E. Jones.

Ivan Kaiser returned Sunday to Wayne State Teachers' College after spending the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Kaiser. Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Klingler plan to leave today for California. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Krugman and Mr. and Mrs. August Kumm of Norfolk visited at the Edwin Krugman home Sunday, December 27. Mr. and Mrs. Owen Parkinson, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Minar and girls and LaMonte Miller and Tommy surprised Mrs. Edwin Krugman on her birthday Tuesday evening, December 29.

Mr. and Mrs. William Luben, Mr. and Mrs. Louie Luben and son of Atkinson and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Bowen of Page were Christmas dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Roger Bowen of Page.

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

TRY IT FOR 30 DAYS FREE Make The All-New ROPER AUTOMATIC Gas-Dryer Your Best Buy Yet Unsurpassed quality . . . backed by the maker of "AMERICA'S FINEST GAS RANGE" . . . Prices Start at Only \$199.50 INSTALLED * Terms to fit Any Budget Try it Free in Your Own Home Choose your Roper . . . TRY IT FOR 30 DAYS . . . NO CHARGE . . . NO OBLIGATION KANSAS-NEBRASKA Natural Gas Company Inc. For Dependable GAS Service

Editorial

"Age of The Shoddy"

Wahoo Newspaper — Darrel Ludi, editor

"This was the era, domestically, when everything was half done; the era, in foreign affairs, when nothing was done right because nobody seemed to care enough to exercise the foresight and take the pains to see that it was done right. This was the time when the job on the car was always half finished, the yardwork was overpriced and underdone, the bright new gadget broke down a week after you got it home, the prices climbed higher and higher as the quality got less and less, and the old-fashioned rule of a fair bargain for a fair price was indeed old-fashioned, for it never applied to anything. The great Age of the Shoddy came upon America after the war, and Everybody Wants His became the guiding principle for far too many."

Thus Allen Drury describes this postwar era, in his novel "Advise and Consent" — a work in which he uses fiction to present an extraordinarily revealing picture of Washington's political, diplomatic and social worlds.

The accuracy of his indictment is undeniable. Yet, in the immediate postwar years, it was possible to find seemingly valid excuses. The relaxation of war tensions resulted, naturally enough, in emotional and financial excesses. An attitude of "live for today and never mind tomorrow" became general. On the purely material side, the lifting of wartime restrictions on industrial production created an eager and apparently insatiable market for almost anything, no matter how poor the quality or exorbitant the price.

Had this sorry situation spent itself in a reasonable time there would have been small cause for worry. But who can honestly deny that the dark picture Mr. Drury paints is still — in the fundamentals, if not all the details — the picture that remains in this country?

The problem, of course, is a normal problem. The Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Michigan, the Rt. Reverend Richard Emrich, speaks for churchmen of all the denominations when he says: "Everywhere I travel I hear arguments, but I never hear a moral argument, with someone saying, 'this is wrong, or unjust, or dishonest, and I will have nothing to do with it.' I think we are floundering as a people."

And there lies the tragedy. For the basic strength of any nation is its moral strength. All the weapons, all the productive capacity, all the money on earth, cannot save a people from ultimate destruction if their moral fiber decays, their national character rots, and they sink into an abyss of material indifference, selfishness, avarice, greed.

A short time ago the television scandals, centering around rigged quiz shows, captured the national headlines and were publicized the world around. The Saturday Evening Post has devoted a full-page editorial to the matter in which it makes a big and often overlooked point. It offers no excuses for the deceit—"those who have been damned by the revelations deserved to be damned." But, the Post also says ". . . we believe that the importance of their guilt has been wildly exaggerated, the significance of their guilt almost wholly overlooked. . . . What is important is that we recognize the television scandals for what they are—a symptom

Elegance



Never has a motor car been endowed with as many facets of elegance as the Cadillac for 1960. You immediately see it in the fluent symmetry of its styling . . . in the distinction and excellence of its Fleetwood interiors . . . in the technical perfection of its coach-crafting . . . and you quickly sense it in the ease and rhythm of the car in motion. Stop in at your authorized Cadillac dealership for a personal inspection and demonstration. You'll discover that now is a wonderful time to order your Cadillac.

VISIT YOUR LOCAL AUTHORIZED Cadillac DEALER A. MARCELLUS CHEVROLET CO., 127 No. 4th St., O'Neill, Nebr.