

PrairieLand Talk

"Smile For Everyone"

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

I drink again the memory's mellow wine, and there he is dressed in the fashions of seventy-five years ago, walking up the street and a smile for all he met. Three buildings remain on that street today that Jim Triggs walked by in the long ago—the Holt County Bank building and two frame buildings down the street, the Guinn and Gibbons buildings. Jim Triggs, his brother, George and their father and mother built and lived in pioneer days the house that still stands just east of the lumber yard on lower Fourth street. The Triggs family came here from Indiana and Jim could tell you of the Chicago fire as he was with a company of firemen that fought that great fire. So in O'Neill Jim was always about the first to do something if a fire broke out about town. He could play baseball, hang wall paper and paint, read but little, was always there when anything was to be seen and heard at the old Skating Rink opera house, but never darkened the door to a church. A character that everybody knew if they didn't love him. And after being away from the community some 15 years I run onto Jim here in the 1930 tough times, he then a withered little old man, now dead.



Romaine Saunders

This now is the month of May. And there it hangs where I can see it day by day, a little May Day token prepared by childish hands, the hands of my little friends whose home is nearby, a May basket brought to me by two young friends who have stored in their childish minds a loving thought for others.

A writer writes of the glories of messing around with a hoe in a garden or walking distances for physical exercise. Somehow the soft cushioned easy chair has to many a greater appeal than digging in the dirt to raise a bit of garden products. And as my son says, why dig in the hard earth to raise an onion or tomato when for a few cents you get all sorts of fresh garden stuff at the store.

All is lovely the country over as we come now to another presidential election time, no tariff issue, no free silver, no problems of state, business or employment to wrangle about. So it looks now that this coming presidential campaign Yankee land may hark back to the 15th century and go over it all again and support or oppose the one candidate because of his religion. No political issues but we must have something to enliven a presidential campaign, so get loaded with your campaign thunder.

Editorial

Valley Taxpayers Apathetic

Ord Quiz

Most folks will agree that Fred A. Herrington, former Nebraska State Tax Commissioner, knows the tax situation as well or better than any other Nebraskan.

Mr. Herrington is quoted in the Clay County News at Sutton as predicting the Nebraska tax load will almost double in the next 10 years.

He expects an increase by 1969 of 137-million dollars over and above the 161-million dollars levied in 1959. Uncle Sam will donate 40 per cent of the increase, but the state is liable for the other 60 per cent.

The extra money, Herrington says, will be needed for highways, health, and natural resources. Federal aid to education, if it comes, would mean further state spending.

The regrettable thing about all of this is the apathetic manner in which Nebraska taxpayers are viewing the problem, Herrington said.

He predicted there will be hearings on budgets at all levels of government, but "not more than 20 voices will be raised against the increased spending." Herrington said he has attended literally hundreds of budget hearings at all levels while in office.

"And," he added, "I have never seen or heard a private citizen take a stand against increased spending. Silently, Mr. Taxpayer has sat and watched local taxes rise from 69-million in 1940, to 155-million in 1950 and 216-million in 1959, an increase of 213 per cent."

There was a vivid example of what Mr. Herrington was talking about in Ord about a month ago. Don Clement, new farm representative for the First National Bank, announced a meeting to discuss formation of a Valley County branch of the Fair Tax Association.

The meeting was well advertised through the Quiz and by postcards and phone calls by Mr. Clement.

Only three persons showed up, Mr. Clement and two others.

After waiting around for an hour Mr. Clement announced: "I guess they are not interested in fair taxes. I'm through."

With an active campaign for additional forms of taxation, such as sales and income taxes, going on, it behooves Nebraskans in all walks of life to take a greater interest in their government, especially in the taxing situation.

Changed Policies

Nebraska Signal — Geneva

The April issue of The Nebraska Newspaper, official publication of the Nebraska Press Association, carried the opinions of several Nebraska weekly newspaper publishers on the question of publishing or not publishing names and facts about juveniles who get in trouble with the law.

Most of the publishers, including The Signal's Tyler Edgecombe, pointed out that several years ago they withheld names of juvenile offenders on the theory the transgressions may have been a first offense and that one brush with the law might end the lawlessness. All of the publishers, however, pointed out they have changed their policy. They now feel when such cases become court records they should be reported, including names and with the facts as brought out in court given in full.

A Gentleman of the Cloth announces to the public that the recently discovered ruins at the bottom of the Dead Sea over there in the Middle East is the wreckage of Sodom and Gomorrah. Moses, who lived some five thousand years nearer the time of the destruction of those ancient Synagogues of Satan tells us that "brimstone and fire from God out of Heaven fell upon those cities and burned them up."

Their father is in the state prison, their mother a she devil who with her "boy friend" were found by authorities beating and abusing her children, at mealtime giving them dog biscuits to eat. Lincoln's capable police woman stepped in, jailed two adult demons and put those starving, neglected and beaten children in Cedars Home, just a mile or so out of the city where such as they are cared for. Father a criminal mother of the synagogue of Satan—what a start in life those two little ones have had and how could even one prairie land mother turn so against her offspring!

She came to see me an evening recently, my granddaughter. Her school teacher had asked those in the history class if any of them had ancestors who fought in the war in the '60's to come next day to class and tell about it. Yes, I told granddaughter, her great grandfather, my father was in that war and was with General Grant's army when the last of the southern army laid down their arms and the war was over. One incident in my father's war experience granddaughter would tell her teacher and class. Her great grandfather stood in battle line loading and firing at the enemy when his captain ordered him to the rear. Father then discovered he had been shot. His company captain was Captain Freese who came to O'Neill later and went into the lumber business with Barnett, they later selling their lumber and coal business to O. O. Snyder.

Cut out the property tax and give us sales and income tax, is the demand of some and have gone about with petitions for any and all to sign to put the proposition up to voters. Income tax, we have it now. May we never have in this state a sales tax.

A little excitement down in Madison county, a county official down there being charged with pocketing something over \$4,000 of county funds. Holt county has had some of that in days now gone and the last official of Holt county so involved was hung for doing in a small way what the late President FDR did in a big way and was regarded as a benefactor of mankind.

The sky is blue, the landscape is robed in summer green. And we walk abroad and look with pleasure upon the scene.

It might be mentioned that the public sometimes fails to distinguish between brushes with the law in which nothing is filed and there is no court action with cases in which records are made. Most newspapers refuse to print gossip or second hand information, also results of investigations which do not become matters of record.

We feel sure the publishers quoted in the article and others over the country who have changed their policy about juvenile misdoings have done so reluctantly. We might say they have been forced to make their change because of the general failure of the youths, their homes and society as a whole to "learn the lesson." They are now trying the other approach in which full publicity will help steer the juveniles away from crime.

Those who live in communities where juvenile delinquency is only a minor problem may forget the problem really is national and that statistics show juvenile offenders may come from all types of homes and all communities.

J. Edgar Hoover, director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, seems to support the views of Nebraska editors who would turn the light of publicity on juveniles along with older lawbreakers. In an address in Chicago recently, reported in The Christian Science Monitor, Mr. Hoover made several enlightening statements, including the following.

"For many years we have seen the advocates of soft justice, the coddling of youthful criminals, and easy clemency gain more and more control in high places. Now we can see where they have brought us—to an avalanche of crime and terror which threatens decent citizens everywhere."

The FBI director also said "No generation has ever before witnessed such extreme sadism, sacrilege, and senseless brutality as that practiced by the young thugs who have turned their backs on God to join the surging juvenile underworld."

These statements, backed up by convincing statistics, and the views of Nebraska weekly newspaper publishers should give all of us something to think about. They should move us to take steps as families and communities to remove the causes of juvenile misdeeds. Also, they should make readers understand why publishers will, in most cases, insist on publishing the record when youngsters are brought into court and will reject the pleas of those who would have the publishers "keep this out of the paper."



JAMES CHAMPION, Editor and Co-Publisher

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Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

F. W. Schroeder has closed his cigar factory here and will leave next week for Nevada, Mo., where he will open a cigar factory. Mr. Schroeder has been doing a splendid business here but he believes there is a better opportunity to spread out in the Missouri town, as it contains 12,000 people, and is without a cigar factory, than there is in O'Neill. . . The barn and granery of M. J. O'Neill in the rear of his residence was destroyed by fire last Sunday afternoon. Loss about \$350. The barn was quite close to the Burlington tracks and an engine was switching, making up the evening freight train, and it is supposed that a spark from the engine started the fire. . . C. E. Burch has been awarded the contract of carrying the mail for the Golden Hotel and on the Dorsey and Turner routes. He receives \$1,598 per year for the Dorsey route and \$1,488 per year for the Turner route.

25 YEARS AGO

Plans have been completed for adding additional rooms to the Golden Hotel and work will start thereon the first of the month. . . Last Monday night thieves got away with two four-month old calves from the pasture of Den Murphy, a mile and a half north and a mile west of the town of O'Neill. Mr. Murphy missed the calves Tuesday morning from the pasture upon investigation saw where they were taken through the fence and loaded in a truck or a car on the highway, a little north and west of the town. . . According to the daily press, representatives of the government are insisting that the first highways to be improved with hard surfacing in the state, with the assistance of federal money, are to be those that will be available for use in case of military movement of troops. Among the roads listed for improvement for this purpose is 281.

10 YEARS AGO

Justin "Grandma" Zakrzewski visited here from Friday until Tuesday. Saturday a lunch was given in her honor at the Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Zakrzewski home. Saturday evening the family had dinner at Mr. and Mrs. Paul Zakrzewski. . . Over 60 relatives, friends and neighbors attended the 90th birthday anniversary of Mrs. Mattie Johnson, known affectionately to the rural residents north of O'Neill as "Grandma" Johnson. . . A host of friends and neighbors Sunday surprised Mrs. Charlotte Honeywell on her 83rd birthday anniversary. . . A party of 40 friends and relatives surprised Mr. and Mrs. James Dobias Sunday on their 25th wedding anniversary near Atkinson. . . George McCarthy, veteran route 1 O'Neill mailcarrier, Monday evening was elected secretary of the Nebraska Knights of Columbus at the conclusion of a 2-day session at Norfolk.

5 YEARS AGO

The voters in a special election in Atkinson Tuesday approved a 155-thousand-dollar bond issue for the construction of a new elementary grade school building. The count: 322 costs "for" the proposal; 219 "against". . . A former Holt county sheriff who substituted good will for the Smith and Wesson revolver during a dark and critical era in frontier history on Tuesday, May 10, celebrated his 105th birthday anniversary. Charles W. Hamilton quietly noted the anniversary at the home of his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Rafe King, at Port Angeles, Wash. . . Expecting to entertain in this Thursday Evening Bridge club and having to cancel that in favor of a relative's

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Messrs W. R. Bell and John Anderson were in town Monday and while on their way home the horse took fright at some children and corks and tipped the wagon over breaking the shafts out. The gentlemen were unhurt except a severe shaking. Mrs. G. O. Disney and children and Mrs. Ernest Majors and son started Monday for their new home at Rocky Point, Wyo. George Majors accompanied them to look over the country. . . John Bogart informs us that parties have been appropriating some of his property that he left on the farm when he moved to town, he says that unless it is returned at once he will convince the parties that he knows where it went. . . Mr. and Mrs. Fred Butler started yesterday for Walnut Grove on a visit of a few days. . . Wade Grubb moved last week into the house just vacated by Arthur Fluckey.

25 YEARS AGO

Arnold Sorensen broke his arm last Saturday, while pole vaulting. The pole broke throwing him to the ground breaking his left arm just above the wrist. The accident happened at the Geane Lambert home where the 4-H club was holding a meeting. . . The windows in the Chambers Bakery have been artistically decorated the past week. . . Born to Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Ross, a daughter at the O'Neill hospital last Sunday, May 12. . . A number of friends and schoolmates gathered at the Ruben Peltzer home Wednesday night and pleasantly surprised his son, Bobbie on his tenth birthday. They spent the evening playing games. . . Word comes from Emmet of the death of Eugene Lumber, 38, a former resident of Chambers, who died last Saturday at his farm 4 miles south of Emmet, as a result of an accident. He apparently was thrown from his saddle horse as the animal bolted when lightning struck near by.

A Poem

From Mrs. Eby . . .

—OUR MOTHER—

From out the misty somewhere as soft as the coming night, There came a call from the Master dear and we know it must be right. The call was for Mother, who had been our stay through sad and happy years, Though we know it's God's will, our faces are wet with burning, scalding tears.

For this little pioneer mother of ours was one of those rugged souls, Reassuring all in her gentle way, "Oh well it ain't so bad."

For her simple faith had gripped the throne; She believed God's plan was best. Helping others she smiled right through no matter how hard the test.

As years rolled on better times had come but she never laid down the load. Whether working at home or for the church she loved, or the stranger beside the road.

Always unselfishly doing her best, she endeared herself to all, Doing the tasks no one else liked

to do. Humbly counting them small, Through failing health her spirit was strong and her hands were never still. Doing the things she still could do—trying her place to fill. So the Master's call "come up higher with me" you have faithfully finished your task. Your mansion is ready, furnished complete "with deeds that eternally last." Our loss is her gain and we're looking away to that bright land above. When again we will meet around the throne the one we so tenderly love. (Della Stuart Eby)

Smoke from "Brandin' Iron" Crick

By J. C. Fudd

It was a dinger folks! Every citizen along the Brandin' Iron made it to the wedding. Even Old Man Chinn, who always claims he wouldn't go across the road to see Nikita Khrushchev wrangle a bear, was there laughin' and scratchin' and kissin' the bride.

Mrs. Alex Gory sat in the entry in a blue hatching jacket and registered the guests. Miss Savus played the organ in a green dress with pink dots. Otty Camber, all done up in a new tweed suit, boiled shirt and striped tie, sang "I Love You Truly" and "Because."

The bride was led in by Abe Gory. In the absence of her father (Contrary old squirt wouldn't come.) She wore a lacy top dress over some kind of shiny stuff (Lena says, "Nylon taffeta, Dummy!") and a veil that hung smack dab over her face and dribbled down her back clean to the floor. She carried a bouquet of pink roses that weren't tied together good. (Lena again, "Cascade bouquet. They're supposed to look that way. Stupid!") Even had white satin slippers on.

Mrs. Alex Gory stood up with her in a long yellow gown that she couldn't have sat down in and carried the same kind of a thing as the bride only the roses were white. Little Mindy Gory was flower girl. She started out to be a blue one but fell into the mud and got all messed up so they had to hold up the procession while they rushed her to Kells to get cleaned up and borrow Debbie's pink Easter outfit.

Martin Gory carried the rings on Mrs. Bundy's heart shaped satin pin cushion. He only dropped them twice.

Art was decked out in a \$150 western style suit and hand tooled boots. (Bet they nicked him plenty for them.)

Alex Gory was best man. Rev. Peebles whose sinus has reached the hacking, snuffing stage,

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