

Prairieland Talk

Letter from A Friend

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

An interesting letter comes to me from Fay A. Puckett, who from his boyhood days until recent years was part of our prairieland community, but as others here had done responded to the urge to move to the great state of Washington. Mr. Puckett writes at length telling of a prairie fire 61 years ago that brought much loss to his father's family who lived at that time some miles out to the southwest. The fire came from the south and burned over a wide stretch of country south of the Elkhorn river. I recall that fire and my home at that time was on First street in O'Neill, a half block or more from the railroad. A neighbor and I stepped over to the railroad, climbed onto a freight car that was on a side track and watched the fire which went out when reaching the river. Mr. Puckett recalls, he a boy of 7, of the family taking refuge in a plowed field and saw their home destroyed. Then sometime after that another loss by fire. Fay came with his father with a team and wagon to O'Neill, put up the team in the DeYarman barn at what is now fifth and Douglas streets, put themselves up at the Dewey hotel on the south side of Douglas street midway between Fourth and Fifth streets. The livery barn burned and the Puckett team was burned. Fay's father had money, if I and I didn't those days, bought horses and got reestablished out on the grass robed prairies they loved. Fay has a brother in the Atkinson community, so we trust Fay himself will return at least to see us if not to remain.



Romaine Saunders

During my recent sojourn in O'Neill where I went to have a last look at the lifeless form of a life long friend I did not have the heart to go to the old home where that friend had lived so long, where I had lived and where father and mother, grandfather and grandmother and a brother had breathed their last. Nor to step across the way to an empty home where a family had lived and died, and the last one in that home, Miss Ruth Harnish now taken away to a home where she can be cared for.

Mr. Bishop of the defunct Bartlett State Bank has been declared guilty in a district court trial of embezzlement and making false entries in the bank's books. He is reported to intend to take his conviction to the state Supreme Court. Action against the Bartlett bankers has for some time been pending and now the district court comes up with a verdict of guilty.

In radiant splendor the roses bloom among the thorns. I see her now on memory's throne as she walked life's highway amid its thorns and woes to shed a ray of sunshine across the shadows.

It is there, near a corner of the grass robed front lawn, a bush enshrouded in velvet green and bedecked with beautiful peonies in full bloom, the flower for Memorial Day adorned in snowy white with bits of color tinted about the blooming beauties. I pause in passing, look upon that lovely thing the hand of nature has given man to see.

Omaha, Prairieland's Big Town, is some short of having a half million citizens. The 1960 census takers report a population total of 456,478 of loyal patriotic Nebraskans. Some eastern cities have lost a few thousand citizens within the past ten years, said to account for it because of some moving from the city to the country. O'Neill, the county seat of the empire of Holt, has grown in the past ten years so as to require the fourth ward in place of just three as formerly.

May 30—Another Memorial Day. I did not stand by the graves of my beloved dead this day, but with the living we visited two of the extensive grounds of the dead in the Capital City. Many dead and many living who were there to place floral tributes upon the graves of their dead. We paused for a few minutes by the mausoleum where repose the remains of the first resident pastor of the Presbyterian church in O'Neill, Rev. N. S. Lowrie, with the remains of his life's companion and the mother of their sons and daughters, neither of whom stood today by the tomb. Many of the living out today to stand where their dead lay, to pay tribute to cherished memories, the tribute expressed in a cluster of flowers placed where the dead lay. "The living know that they shall die, but dead know not anything."

The count for 1960 has been made. There are 154,272 Nebraskans who call our Capital City their home. . . . The bus put the passenger train up the Elkhorn out of business. The family car may do the same for the bus, if that bus can pick up but one passenger between O'Neill and Norfolk. . . . It was 100 years ago in 1860 the roll of drums called the armies of the North and the South to the battle fields. Down in Mississippi the centennial will be observed by rebel patriots down there shouldering their guns and marching out to try it again. . . . June 12 the Nebraska State Historical Society has its summer gather in Kearney, and stories of pioneer experiences and Indian scalplings in that region and on out to Fort Laramie will be recounted. . . . I saw him at a bus station in an eastern Nebraska city. Our talk brought out from me that I had lived in O'Neill. Did you know J. P. Mann? A question that I could answer, sure I knew him. My questioner had been connected with a wholesale concern furnishing a line of goods for the Mann stores, the main one in O'Neill for over 30 years.

Harre, Smoot, Price—to name only three O'Neill barbers wielding the razor and shears in the days when a bearded gent could get a shave for ten cents, a hair cut two dimes and a nickle. Barbers who have come and gone. But for 45 years there has stood at his barber chair at the Golden Hotel a stalwart husky who says he hopes to stick it out a few years more then quit. But, Harry, a few minutes in your barber chair to step down and hand you a dollar—don't quit. And down the street a door south of the building that had been the home of The Frontier, stands at his barber chair these 30 years or more an accomplished tonsorial artist who has no thought of retiring as long as the dollars come his way. In the old Holt County Bank building at Fourth and Douglas streets a barber who neither hears nor talks has been on the job many years in that building that had recorded three bank failures six barbers now in O'Neill, while in the days of Fred Harre he was the only one.

Editorial

Rural Schools Fading Landmark

There is something about a public auction of anyone's private possessions that carries an overtone of sadness. If nothing else the fact remains that something once worth a struggle no longer has value for the owner.

Of late this feeling of nostalgia is being brought home to many of us as we see our old rural school houses being knocked off to the highest bidder to be used as brooder houses, shops or other extra farm buildings.

Memories of kind, understanding teachers, neighbor children who were nearly as close as brothers and sisters and the security of knowing that we were among friends and held a place of importance in the group will always be revived at the sight of these unpretentious little structures.

In place of a "foyer" was an entry with a water cooler and a row of hooks for hanging coats and caps. The "gym" was the whole school yard and a recess out there painted little faces as red as Missouri pippins.

Not a few of us have dreams of heading back to a little farm in time to put our children into a "country school" that is close enough to home to make it possible for us to have our kids at least part of the day, which seems only fair if we are to be held responsible for their honorable and upright behavior.

We of the "old school" would hate like sin to have the knowledge we gained from the hours of association with our parents wiped out of our consciousness as it would be if we had boarded a bus at day break only to return at the close of the day.

O Tempora! O mores!

We Must Decide Nebraska Signal

Recent debate in congress on the so-called depressed areas aid bill brought out many ideas on the subject and it certainly was made clear that geography has a lot to do with politics, something that probably does not need to be pointed out.

In this instance, it was interesting to note that some of the representatives from industrial states that are in trouble, such as textile communities in New England and coal mining regions in the east, made considerable out of the argument that we can't afford to permit any section of the country to disintegrate because of changes in industry over which the particular sections have no control.

The plight of coal mining regions and textile

communities has been brought about by new processes, movement of industry from traditional areas to other parts of the country and to active promotion by areas favored with certain advantages in climate. Legislation was proposed which is intended to help such depressed areas make a come-back by promoting new industries or reviving lagging industries.

We say this argument by certain representatives of depressed areas was interesting because some of these same representatives have made much out of the cost of present legislation which is intended to bolster agriculture, which has been in trouble because of lowering farm prices and increasing farm costs, brought about by so-called overproduction.

It is significant that those who argue we should not permit economic laws to run their course in certain areas, as they have been doing in the depressed areas, strongly favor the natural operation of the same laws when applied to agriculture in this part of the nation.

It seems to us the whole matter is a question of what should be saved and what areas should be preserved for future needs. It would have been futile, for instance, for this country to try to stop the decline of the livery stable business, the manufacture of horse buggies or the manufacture of kerosene lamps. Those businesses and industries could have been subsidized and saved for a time but probably not for long and any effort at all would have been foolish.

Whether or not it would be wise to try to preserve certain communities in the depressed areas which current legislation was supposed to help is a difficult question to answer. The administration apparently feels the plan suggested was not feasible and it was not convinced the matter is a national problem.

In this connection, and without attempting to answer the question with respect to the areas covered by the congressional bill, we would suggest the nation cannot afford to permit the disintegration of our agricultural economy. The main reason is that the nation some day may be badly in need of the products we now grow in surplus and that it might be more expensive to rehabilitate agriculture to meet the food needs of the nation than to keep it sound by expenditures that will keep farmers in business through equalizing costs and prices received.

It has been pointed out by many agricultural economists that because of our population explosion in this country and throughout the world the surpluses of today may become the shortages of tomorrow. And tomorrow may not be as far off as it appears on the surface.

THE FRONTIER

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Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

The contract for the addition to St. Mary's Academy was let last Saturday to B. J. Jobst of Omaha. The building is to be completed by April 1, 1911. . . . Wesley W. Conrad of Inman and Miss Elena Trowbridge of Page were united in marriage by Judge Malone Wednesday afternoon. . . . The Junior Normal opened in this city last Monday and will run eight weeks. About 150 teachers are registered to date. . . . Mr. and Mrs. O. F. Biglin returned from their eastern visit last Thursday. . . . The O'Neill post office drops from second to the third class on July 1. . . . Mrs. Dan O'Donnell of Stafford, one of the pioneers of this county, died at a hospital at Hot Springs, S. D., last Saturday.

25 YEARS AGO

L. G. Gillespie has decided to be a candidate for the legislature in the first session of the unicameral. . . . F. N. Shaner, Ainsworth, began work Tuesday morning in the new city well on the corner of Fourth and Fremont streets. . . . The O'Neill City Council extended the franchise of the Interstate Power company for twenty-five years. . . . Twelve seniors at St. Mary's Academy received diplomas on Friday, June 7, from Msgr. McNamara. . . . Deaths: Thomas McKenzie, 77, died Tuesday at a Norfolk hospital; Franz Freizen, 61, hung himself in the garage at his farm home north of O'Neill last Monday night.

10 YEARS AGO

A contract for the building of St. Anthony's 40-bed hospital will be let today subject to the approval of government hospital financing agencies. . . . William W. Griffin, Holt county attorney, was elected chairman of the Holt Republican committee in a Saturday meeting here. . . . Two O'Neill sisters, Madeline and Catherine Ullom, are now majors in the army nurses' corps. . . . The O'Neill Gun club is moving to its new location near the O'Neill airport. . . . St. Patrick's Catholic church Altar Society was reorganized Sunday at St. Mary's gym. Mrs. John Hickey was elected president. . . . Claude Hamilton, 54, O'Neill businessman died at his home Tuesday.

5 YEARS AGO

Large throngs are expected to attend the second annual O'Neill rodeo to be held Sunday and Monday, June 12 and 13. . . . The newly-formed O'Neill chapter of the Junior Chamber of Commerce received its charter Sunday. Dwayne Brog is the president. . . . The Rev. Glenn Kennicott of Cairo has been assigned to the O'Neill-Emmett Methodist churches. He succeeds Rev. Wallace B. Smith who is being transferred to churches at Henry and Lyman. . . . John Hansen, 28, of Amelia, is regaining his memory in an Atkinson hospital. It is believed he fell from his horse. . . . Dorothy Donohoe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Donohoe, graduated from St. Catherine's unit of Creighton University last week.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Willie Calkins yesterday installed a new Inman line phone in Smith Bros. store. . . . Rolo Munsinger while working on the A. T. ranch was badly injured by having a horse fall on him. Dr. Colman was called and at present the injured man is doing nicely. . . . There will be a two weeks camp meeting at Chambers beginning June 19. Those from a distance will find pasture and water for their teams near the camp ground. . . . Hazel Bell is home from Tilden where she has been teaching school the past year. . . . Thomas Higgin's new house is nearly finished and he expects to move in next week.

25 YEARS AGO

The Chambers Swimming club will hold a meeting at the Richards cafe, Friday evening. . . . Mrs. W. A. Smith and daughter Bernice, and son George, Myra Anderson and Mrs. C. M. Smith returned Friday from a months motor trip which took them to Wellsburg, Pa., Washington, D. C., and Niagara Falls. . . . Thomas Newhouse was reelected as a member of the school board for the coming year last Monday evening at the school meeting. \$2,500 was voted for school purposes. . . . Dr. O. M. Sanders hired pilot Next Holiday to fly him to Inman Tuesday to deliver a set of false teeth to Mrs. G. W. Killinger. Roads are practically impassible.

Try The Frontier Want Ads — It Pays!

job again. This time it was caused by a vacancy in the Move and Improve Project club she belongs to. The lady who had the office got miffed when a venture she was sponsoring fell flat, so she quit the thing cold and joined up with another outfit. This left the Move and Improvers an officer short. We went on and more campaign promises than the Republicans and Democrats put together were made by Lena's promotion slogan "Be a Doc. Skud with Fudd." was too much for the opposition and she came in winner by a nose. Lena says she knows how that saying about being "Often a bridesmaid, never a bride," got started. She belongs to about 17 different outfits and has been within spitting distance of the president's seat in pretty near all of them. (Keep telling her she ought to take a leaf out of Rockefeller's book and play hard to get for a change.)

Widow Essie Barker is going strong on the Diet and Improve Your Personality by Mail course. She hasn't been at it long but by Gravy! you can see she's shrinking already. About ready now to start on the second step where she bleaches her hair. Had to order another bottle of bleach. Then wild kids of hers poured the one she had on Old Shep. Sure changed his looks, sonally along with his looks. Can't get him to stir a hair to fetch in the cows—just wants to loll on the davenport and peer at his new blonde fur coat in the looking glass over the buffet.

Well, see you next week.

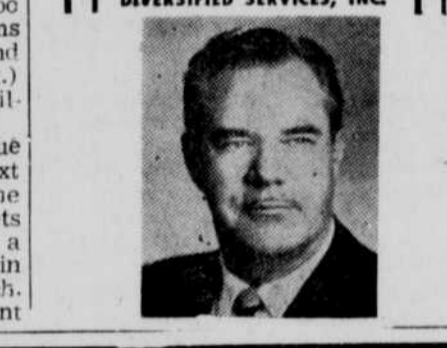
Homemakers Corner . . .

Sarah Michaelis No artist's work is so high, so noble, so important for all time as the making of character in a child—Cushman. A child from one to six goes through many changes, both physically and emotionally. A few of the emotions which parents first notice in their children may be anger and fear. Fear is an emotion in a child which may make his life very unpleasant. Sometimes this fear is acquired by a child because his mother may be afraid of storms, insects, meeting new people, of darkness, going places alone, fear of pain or animals. It is then up to the mother to try and work at losing these minor fears.

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Smoke from "Brandin' Iron" Crick By J. C. Fudd Weather's been hotter'n a two dollar pistol along the Crick this week. June sure is bustin' out all over, like that guy Shakespeare is always saying. Mrs. Willie Kell has frying chickens for sale, she reports, at a buck apiece. (They're not too big, folks, but Willie claims they're eating their heads off and they'll have to be thinned out.) She'll fix them ready for the skillet for two bits extra.

There will be a pink and blue shower for Mrs. Abe Gory next Tuesday at the Newt Bundy home unless it rains. (Newt's grade gets sicker than grass, comes a sprinkle on it.) If it does rain they'll have it at the Gory Ranch. Well, Lena got the vice-president



If a child can feel down in his heart that he has the supreme love and protection of his parents during these formative years there are fears in his life that will gradually leave him and trust will be substituted for fear.

A parents' love and protection should not be so deep that he is prevented from associating with other children. His entire life is built around the association with others. If he is not allowed to associate with other children in his pre-school days, his first year of school will be rather lonely. He will dislike school because his associations with other children are unpleasant. One of the reasons could be that he found it hard to meet and become acquainted with other children. Pre-school parties for children of this age helps a great deal to soften his first years at school.

Most of us are now watering our gardens to come up so we can enjoy fresh vegetables. There are some who like WILTED GREENS such as lettuce, spinach and other greens that may be found in our gardens. Here is a recipe that is good to fix these various greens:

WILTED GREENS Melt 2 tablespoons drippings in heavy pan. Add a little chopped

onion, and cook until soft and yellow. Stir in 1/4 cup vinegar, then add 1 quart leaf lettuce or other greens washed and cut. Cover and heat a few minutes until greens are wilted. Season with salt and pepper. Serve hot; 4 servings.

Canning time will soon be here with the strawberries looking so good and the rhubarb ready to use. There are three types of sugar syrups recommended in the USDA bulletin No. 8 which may be used according to your taste. To make this syrup mix sugar with water or with juice extracted from some of the fruit. Use thin, medium, or heavy syrup which suits the sweetness of the fruit and your taste.

Table with 3 columns: Sugar, Water or Juice, Yield of Syrup. Rows: Thin (2 cups sugar, 4 cups water, 5 cups syrup), Medium (3 cups sugar, 4 cups water, 5 1/2 cups syrup), Heavy (4 cups sugar, 3/4 cup water, 6 1/2 cups syrup). Note: Boil the sugar and water or fruit juice together for 5 minutes. Skim if necessary.

You homemakers who have been canning for many years have found good ideas which you would like to pass on to the readers send your ideas to me and I'll be glad to include them in this column. Write to Mrs. Sarah Michaelis, Inman,

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