

Prairie Land Talk

"How Long Can It Last?"

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, 4119 South 51st St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.

It was in the upper room of the old courthouse on north Fourth street. He stood before the assembled group of O'Neill patriots, a tall, cultured and friendly Canadian Irishman who became a citizen of the U. S. A. and had a hat full of ideas on government, first a Democrat, next a Pop and then a Teddy Roosevelt Republican. And who was that notable citizen and why those nightly gatherings at the courthouse? That was Mike Harrington who preached government ownership of the country's railroads. And I wonder—would there still be passenger trains rolling in and out of O'Neill if a railroad boss back in Washington was directing train traffic?



Romaine Saunders

He is 62 years of age. Has been a builder and speculator in real estate, starting penniless and now owning considerable resident property. But what's this, says he, Social Security at 62? I'm going after it, Ma and I can pull down two hundred a month, sit at ease in retirement and those carpenters can look elsewhere for their \$3.50 an hour jobs. Builders, farmers, speculators, hands out now at 62 for those monthly checks on the Federal treasury. How long can it continue.

An American in prison in Russia. A wife, a father, a mother in sorrow laden. Is it to be the forerunner of a battle cry and the slaying of thousands of the youth of both lands? No. Probably that American spy will be home in a year or two.

By the death of Billy Gatz another of a pioneer O'Neill family has come to the end of life's journey to be laid away in the abode of the dead. He had spent his life in the community where he was born 68 years ago. His father and mother were among the pioneers and made their home in the southwest part of town, the Gatz home when built being about the finest in the town. The senior Mr. Gatz became the owner of property in the business part of town and was about the first to open a meat market, or butcher shop as they were then called. And before the days of the household refrigerators some homes at least had an "ice box" and got their big cakes of ice at the Gatz ice house that stood back of the meat market. For a thin dime Fred Gatz would cut you off a slice of beef from the hind quarter. Cattle were then cheap—he gave me \$16 once for a twelve hundred pound three-year-old. Billy now joins his father and mother and other dear ones in the abode of the dead.

She had mothered and provided for two daughters and one son. Now at the age of more than four score years an old mother is too much of a burden for one son and two daughters, so she lives as best she can. He had fathered and provided for a family of six sons and daughters. Dad now is aged and six sons and daughters cannot or do not feed, cloth and shelter just one, their dad.

A hand leads along the highway of life, one from out the stars, one from the Lower Regions. May we ever clasp that hand that leads to the Better World on the star lighted highway.

An interesting letter came to me from Mrs. A. P. Nesbitt of Littleton, Colo., near Denver. We knew the Colorado lady fifty years ago in O'Neill as Josie Howe, one of that family who lived in the one time Weisgarber home south of the railroad as you go down what now is known as First street. Weisgarber was O'Neill's first "milk man," stopped his rig drawn by horses in front of the village homes and called you out with a bell. The Howe family lived there for sometime and Mr. Howe carried mail from the O'Neill postoffice to Turner and Phoenix out north and brought in the mail from those points. Josie, now a wife and mother and grandmother, recalls incidents in her girlhood days in O'Neill and tells me of seeing now from time to time the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Baret Scott, the Scotty who was hung by a mob in 1894.

One hundred bushels to the acre. Many fields in eastern Nebraska's corn belt now carrying the load of ripening grain. Prairieland responds this season to the bountiful gift of nature and field and garden and open prairie is stocked with the bounties of another growing season. Another large dose of what we Prairieland dwellers are delighted to have when we gather at the dining table. And above the green robed prairie spreads the blue sky out of which shines the summer sun. Another piece of the pumpkin pie please!

So your red-tinted rose is withered and gone, your little dog dead, your fondest hopes decayed. Walk on—red roses await your admiring eye down the highway of life and dogs still bark and bite.

She has stepped across the line into the fourth year of her travels down the highway of life. Met me this spring at the street crossing, took my hand in hers and in her childish hand I put a bit of candy. O, thank you. Do you have one for my brother—I would like to take him one. Yes, there was one for brother. A child with a loving thought for another, an interest in others beside her self. We elders can learn a lesson there.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

O. O. Snyder left for Omaha this morning where he will attend the banquet given by the citizens of that city to Theodore Roosevelt, tomorrow night. Mr. Snyder was honored by the committee on arrangements by being made one of the vice presidents of the committee to greet the famous ex-president. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Stout returned last Sunday evening from their visit with relatives and friends in Tekamah and Omaha. Mr. and Mrs. E. F. Gallagher and son Donald, left for Sioux City Monday morning where they will be joined by Mr. and Mrs. John McHugh and go on to Lake Okoboji. There was a light frost in some parts of the county last Thursday but as far as we can learn no damage was done. A good vacation crowd gathered at Snyder's grove last Friday to attend the old settlers picnic which was held there upon that date. Addresses were delivered by Col. Neil Brennan and Hugh Boyle of this city and each of them made a hit with the audience.

25 YEARS AGO

Within the next thirty days, a star route, with Omaha connections, will be started to carry mail from Fremont through Norfolk to O'Neill, according to information received here from J. F. Riordan, Omaha, chief clerk in the United States railway mail service. Jack Arbuthnot came home last Monday night from Washington, D. C. for a ten day vacation. He was with a number of his relatives here. A large group of relatives and friends gathered at the Scottsville hall to help John Addison of Opportunity to celebrate his 79th birthday. The O'Neill Public Schools opened Monday morning with a great vacation crowd. The number of pupils in the high school, 220 students in the high school. Kenneth Kimbrough of Geneva arrived in the city last Monday and on Tuesday morning took possession of the Medina & Son meat market which he operates with the future. Mrs. Katherine Velder of O'Neill was chairman at a meeting of the Montana Star Route Mail Carrier's Assoc.

10 YEARS AGO

M. J. (Max) Golden is again city golf champion, defeating A.P. Jaskowiak 2-1 in a hot 18 hole match Sunday. Livestock entries from every nook-and-cranity of Holt county overflowed the barns and pens Wednesday at the 58th annual county fair got underway. The city of O'Neill has filled out an application for a Federal government advance for the planning of non-Federal public works. The amount of advance applied for is \$8,400 which will cover the fees of the city's engineer. The total estimated cost of proposed public work is \$224 thousand-dollars. Only a handful of loyal party workers turned out last Thursday for the post-primary county conventions for the Republican and Democratic party organizations. Deaths, Marvin Gibson, 5, a former Holt county resident, died Friday, Aug 25, in Flint, Mich. as a result of injuries received that day in a truck collision. James N. Carson, 77, resident of Page and Redbird communities for 61 years died Sunday. Roy Bartlett, 50, of Stuart died Tuesday night in a Stuart hospital.

5 YEARS AGO

A 70-year old Rushville, Ind. woman, Mrs. Ernest Cofield, who was badly injured in a one-car accident near here Friday morning, died early Monday morning in an Indianapolis, Ind. hospital. The O'Neill city schools reported a total enrollment of 514 students for the 1955-56 term which started this week. The overall enrollment at St. Mary's academy shows a total of 426. Mr. and Mrs. Casper Larson of Ewing celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday, August 28, at the home of their son and daughter-in-law with 275 relatives and friends in attendance. Extensive remodeling of the Imman Methodist church which was rebuilt in 1906, was begun this week. Six hundred persons overflowed the new St. Joseph's Catholic church at Atkinson Tuesday morning, Aug. 30 for the dedicatory rites, formally opening the new 200-thousand-dollar Gothic-type structure.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

E. F. Porter finished painting the front of his carpenter shop Wednesday. Chambers is getting ready for the fair. Now let's get those new concrete walks before there is danger of freezing. Wilson Smith and wife visited at the C. M. Smith home Sunday. Mrs. Francis Craig Smith who has been in the missionary work in Calcutta, India for seventeen years is visiting her brother, A. Y. Craig on Dry Creek. Supervisor Grimes succeeded in getting the county board to appropriate over \$500 for our fair this year, this will place the fair in a good financial condition. Johnny Walters has returned from Holt Creek and is again at work in the Barnum shop.

25 YEARS AGO

The Chambers schools opened Monday with about the same enrollment as last year. Despite the fact that fifty per cent of the teaching force are new to the system this year, little difficulty was encountered in getting started and a pleasant school year is anticipated. Edward Adams and C. E. Tibbet drove to O'Neill on business Tuesday. Glenn Adams has gone to Bristow where he will look after the bank there during the absence of the cashier, Mr. Gibson who is away on a vacation. Mrs. Clyde Elkris died at her farm home 10 miles northeast of Chambers Tuesday morning.

"The EDITOR"

We knew all along it was coming. At last the tall man has gained recognition. News releases this week from both sides of the political fence are using the heights of their candidates and their backers as political drawing cards.

Ralph Horton, who hopes to swing Nebraskans onto the Kennedy bandwagon, is described in the news release as "Tall, debonaire and deadly serious." Henry Cabot Lodge, newspaperman, soldier and legislator, is described as being "A handsome six-foot-three figure".

Yours truly will probably never receive compliments such as these but we are looking forward to the day when we can walk down the midway at the county fair without being referred to as "Hey Slimm" by the carnival pitchmen.

If you're one of the persons who are walking around with your head tilted back at a 45 degree angle from looking for Echo I don't worry about it. Two more sky shows are scheduled this month. There will be a lunar eclipse on September 5 and a solar eclipse on September 20. The eclipse of the Moon will begin at 3:36 a.m. and will be entirely in the shadow from 4:38 to 6:06 a.m. The partial eclipse of the Sun will be visible to Nebraskans on September 20 at 5:15 p.m.

Speaking of missiles, we just heard that one of our new rockets will be named "Civil Service" because it can't be fired and won't work.

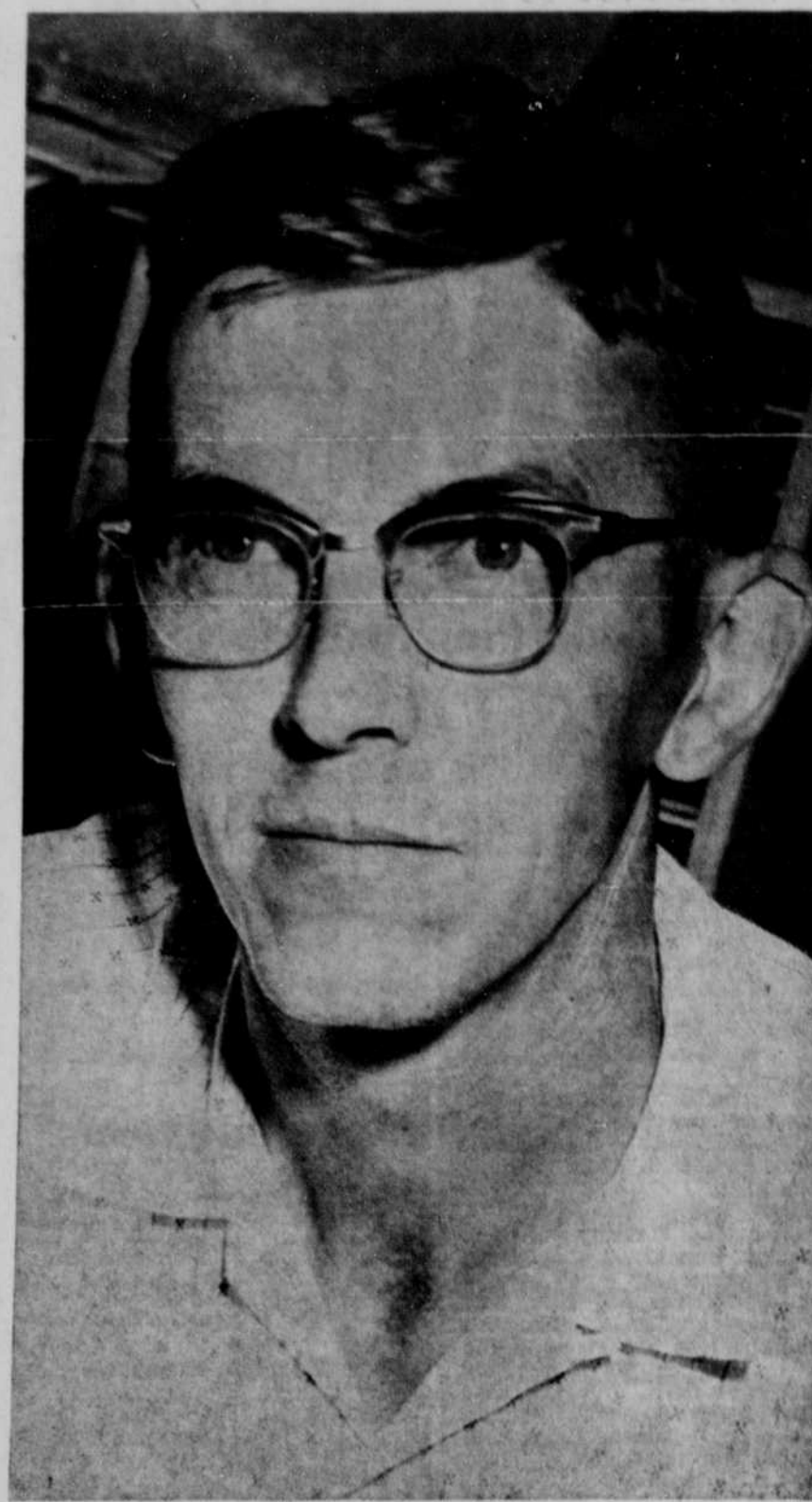
If you're one of the persons who need proof of age or birth to collect Social Security or retirement benefits and no birth certificate is available you may be able to get proof of age and birth from the U. S. Bureau of Census according to a late release. Since 1920 the Census Bureau has provided more than three and one-half million persons with copies of their Census record on age, place of birth, citizenship or kinship. Persons seeking such records of facts about themselves should write to the Personal Census Service Branch, Bureau of the Census, Pittsburgh, Kan. for a Census Records Search Application.

The census has had difficulty winding up its business because of the New York slums. It seems that folks who live in New York City's slums refused to give information, won't cooperate in returning forms and won't accept jobs of collecting data. What makes it worse, the Census Bureau can't find anyone outside the slums who will venture into them to take the census.

About all we gain from experience is not to make the same mistake again. Then we try a new way of getting into trouble.

Do You Know Your Neighbor?

"Know Your Neighbor" is not a contest. There are no prizes given for correctly identifying the person pictured. The only reward is the satisfaction of knowing your neighbor.



Wayne Spelts of the Spelts-Ray Lumber Company didn't stump too many of our experts last week.



Here's a hard one to guess but if you're a wary observer that should help.

Editorial

Please Be Careful!

School bells have chimed the opening of another session of school in O'Neill. And with the opening of school, an added stress is placed upon motorists.

The five and six-year-olds are hardly responsible for what they do—and dashing out into the street without looking is not above them. Therefore it is up to the motorist to keep an extra eye out for the school children.

Extreme care should be exercised during these times when motorists know school children are likely to be enroute to or from school.

O'Neill's safety record is one that local motorists can be proud of. We hope that it is maintained through the coming year.

Some Things Money Can't Buy

The Neligh Leader

The trial of Francis Powers is over. Convicted of spying on Russia for the United States, he received a sentence of 10 years of Soviet detention.

The conviction came as little surprise. Powers freely admitted he was spying. The United States, after some first-class fumbling, confessed they had sent Powers off in the sleek U-2.

No less of a surprise was the conduct of our hired spy, Mr. Powers. Throwing himself on the mercy of Russian fathers, Powers pleaded that he was only a pawn. That he knew little of what he was doing, and that what he did know about his job displeased him.

Undoubtedly Mr. Powers would, since he is now aware of what he was doing, be abhorred at taking the \$2,500 a month that he had received for doing a job he didn't even understand. And upon release he will undoubtedly return the nasty blood money he received from Uncle Sam for doing a job he so very strongly objects to. For certainly a man of such high principles as Mr. Powers would not knowingly sacrifice his standards for mere money.

That Powers didn't know why he was getting \$30,000 a year is ridiculous. This wasn't a case of a private in the army being assigned an unpleasant detail.

Mr. Powers volunteered for a big-paying job involving considerable risk. He willingly took the job and the money. He was less interested in assuming the responsibilities of the job.

The United States should now be aware of what the British discovered during our own Revolutionary War—You can't buy a Nathan Hale.

As source of information on current matters of all kinds, you can't beat the newspapers.

For instance, the student newspaper at the University of Kansas polled political science students to learn what they considered the most valuable source of information about this year's possible presidential candidates. From the results, a "popularity index" was made.

On this index, newspapers ranked up a score of 327, magazines 260, and television 150—well under half the newspaper figure. Radio scored a scant 107 and books 49.

Newspapers provide much more than news. They are a major force for popular education and understanding.

The educated individual, who ceases to study, soon becomes uneducated.

Something To Think About

The Christian Science Monitor, well-known for its fair, intelligent and fearless editorial policy recently made the following comment on the farm problem:

"The so-called farm problem really has two halves—the economic and social.

"On the economic side simple considerations of national welfare and strength require American agriculture to be as efficient as possible. Some federal research and counsel can help. But, as in most industries, free competition should be the main reliance, rewarding the most efficient production. This might accentuate present trends to use the best land, larger units and more machines. The main farm problem here is to get the government out of the way.

"The other, the social problem, really calls for humane consideration and welfare measures. Where the social values of farm life can be preserved and individuals want to stay on the farm they should be aided to become more efficient producers, either on the farm or in nearby factories. Others need temporary aid and retraining for jobs where they would be of more value to themselves and the nation."

If the above suggestions are to be answered to the farm problem we who live in communities that are almost entirely dependent upon our farmers as our basic source of wealth are certainly facing a dreary future. If they are to be followed we'd better get busy and get some of those "nearby industries" referred to by the Monitor; otherwise, we are going to see our rural communities and cities grow smaller and smaller, a process that will be hard to stop. It's something to think about, isn't it?

"America's first and greatest need is not greater armies; it is not a stronger navy; it is not a more efficient air force. America's primary need is more and better Sunday Schools."—General John J. Pershing.

Americans are great denouncers of the wrongs done by others and great proclaimers of their own virtues.



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