

Prairieland Talk

Ah! This Is It!

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

Her home was in London, England, and there her husband lies in the abode of the dead. He left her plenty of this world's goods. So she took off to see relatives in America, one of whom lived in Chicago. But she could not stand it in that populace center of industry so took off for Los Angeles. And that was still worse, foggy and sunless. Then to Nebraska to the home of her sister and her brother-in-law in our Capital City at or near its southeast limits. Ah! this is it. Here I stay. Sold her home in London and is now a Prairieland visitor, going here and there to see it all. Her sister and brother-in-law are from England, tried it in Canada, in Pacific coast states and other parts of the country just to cast anchor and enjoy life in our great Prairieland state.



Romaine Saunders

O'Neill's first bakery was in a small shed-roofed building at the west side of the Gidding's building that stood in the 1880's at the corner of what is now Douglas and Third street. This little bake shop was the property of Mr. and Mrs. Dan Conoly, the Mrs. doing most of the work and Prairieland Talker in the days of youthful ambitions delivered bread for them each morning to about a dozen village homes. About that time another baker came to town and for a short time had a bake shop on south Fourth street next to the postoffice as it was then located. The next to venture into the bakery business was Barney Welton who had a little place east of where O'Neill's modern bakery now stands. The next to venture the bread and pie business was the Bentleys on east Douglas street near Fifth street. All food stores today sell bread the loaves in "water proof" paper wrapping. And I recall that the home of George Meals' parents in southeast O'Neill was one on my list to take bread to each morning. Doubtless where George now lives on their ranch south of Atkinson they bake their own bread. Pass the butter!

Mr. and Mrs. Lew Nissen, Capital City friends, spent a few days in late November in Lew's boyhood home community of southern Holt county, at the pleasant home of his sister and brother-in-law, the Pierces of the Amelia community. Everything lovely up that way Lew tells me, and tells me too that Frank and Mrs. Pierce talked of leaving their ranch for the winter and put up at Atkinson or O'Neill.

Recount—forget it. Soon the family from that New England state, mama and dad and little babe will move into the White House. What then—wait and see!

Editorial

Dangerous Distractions

The next administration will have to deal with two crucial responsibilities—national defense and foreign policy. It seems likely that the survival of the nation and of the free world will depend upon how successfully these responsibilities are met.

Defense and foreign policy are true national responsibilities, since they can not be handled by any branch of government below the federal level. Because of their importance, they both need the fullest and most skillful attention of both Congress and the Executive. Yet in dealing with them, the national government will be hampered by a surplus of "national" problems that are not truly national. Most of these problems can and should be handled at the state, county and city level where they originate.

Lack of local funds is most often given as the reason for not dealing locally with problems such as roads, schools and slums. Yet, except for import duties, the federal government has no access to funds that are not available to the state and local governments. The total of national wealth is no greater than the sum of local wealth in the nation.

Putting more and more burdens on the federal government is dangerously shortsighted. Every secondary duty that distracts the national government from its primary responsibility for foreign policy and defense increases the danger of war and disaster.

A Taxing Day in the Life of Henry Suburban

Henry Suburban reaches out at seven o'clock of a wintry morning to turn off the alarm clock (price: five dollars; tax, 50 cents). He pushes down the electric blanket (price: 28 dollars; tax, 84 cents), climbs sleepily out of bed. He walks across the bedroom floor of his house (price: 12 thousand dollars; annual property tax, 209 dollars) and switches on the electricity, lighting a bulb (price 33 cents; tax, two cents).

To music from a bedroom radio (price 30 dollars; tax, \$1.80) Henry shaves with his electric razor. As a radio newscaster reports that Henry's state is preparing to increase income taxes and impose a general sales tax on everything anyone buys, Henry slaps a handful of bay rum (price: \$1.30; tax, 13 cents) across his jowls.

He dresses quickly, hurriedly fastening cuff links (price: five dollars; tax, 50 cents) and tie clip (price three dollars; tax, 30 cents), puts on his Swiss wrist watch (price: 60 dollars; tax, six dollars), and rushes downstairs. Tucked under one arm is a leather briefcase (price: 25 dollars; tax, \$2.50) which carries papers from his real estate office including one deed (property valued at three thousand dollars; stamp tax, \$3.30).

In the kitchen he snatches two slices of bread (at least 151 hidden taxes) from the electric toaster (price: 16 dollars; tax, 48 cents), lifts his coffee from the gas stove (price 190 dollars; tax, 5.70), and grabs a glass of fruit juice from the refrigerator (price: three hundred dollars; tax, nine dollars).

A glance out of the window shows it's begun to snow, so he calls to his wife (marriage license: two dollars) to telephone (monthly telephone bill: 12 dollars; tax, \$1.20) for a taxi. Too many people want taxis on a snowy morning, so Henry gets out his own car (price 25 hundred dollars; total taxes 518 dollars) and drives (operator license: three dollars) to the railroad station.

Henry relaxes at the station with a cigaret (price per pack, 13 cents; tax 15 cents), lit by a

He makes his home on the land out a few miles from Lincoln, and is in the chicken and egg business in a big way. Comes to city homes with eggs fresh and good, tells me he gets from 1,100 to 1,200 eggs a day from his flock of hens. Today he gets about 3 cents for an egg, or 35 cents a dozen. An aged couple up the street retired long ago from farm life now recall the time when they got 3 cents a dozen for eggs. Prairieland Talker had three dozen laying hens at his home in O'Neill in the 1890s and Joe Horiskey in Pat McManus' basement grocery store gave me 5 cents a dozen for my fresh pullet eggs.

Rolling along the highways as you sit at the steering wheel, strong hands and clear vision takes you there. Traveling the lengthening highway of life from the cradle to the grave we reach the journey's end prepared for life beyond this region of highways and steering wheels if life has taught us to follow the "straight and narrow path that leads to joys untold."

The name of Mrs. Milton Andrus of Atkinson appears in a list of nearly fifty people to recently become members of our State Historical Society. A number from other states have joined the society, one in Maryland, two in Seattle, Wash., two in California cities, one in New York and one at Council Bluffs, Ia.

Rain at night, morning comes and with it a cold raging wind to blow away the mild autumn days of late November and make him glad who had stocked up on winter goods to sell. December—yes we always have it on Prairieland, the chill of frosty days and icy nights. That's why we keep on the go and welcome the falling snow. Thanksgiving is over again, and I, a winter babe have another birthday, the 90th and look now to the approaching Christmas time that will bring joy to old and young alike.

Our state legislature gets in action again this coming winter after two brief special sessions this year. Members of the legislature from Holt county did things for the state and the county from which they came to the State House. Frank Phillips I think his name was from out in the Star neighborhood fathered the measure adopted by the state lawmakers that brought an end to county division schemes. Dr. Gilligan of O'Neill put across when in the state senate the vital statistics measure so the state now has a record of births and deaths. State Senator Denny Cronin got state aid for building and maintaining county bridges and helped to retain the Library Commission. L. G. Gillespie secured a strip of highway for the village of Amelia. Senator Frank Nelson, among other things, has to his credit the paved and good open Highway 281. Senator Nelson will be on the job at the State House again this coming winter.

match (tax two cents per thousand). Aboard the train, he settled down to a hand of bridge with three cronies, using of course a deck of cards (price: 40 cents; tax, 13 cents).

In the city on the way to his office, Henry stops to buy a roll of film (price: 40 cents; tax, two cents) that he promises his son (registration of birth: one dollar) and the lipstick (price: one dollar; tax, 10 cents) he promised his wife. Because friends are coming to Henry's house in the evening he buys a bottle of whisky (price \$3.40; tax, \$2.10).

Arriving eventually at the office, Henry sighs (no tax) and settles down to a day's work (annual income: 75 hundred dollars); Federal and state income tax, 986 dollars). If he works hard for the rest of his life, he will be able to provide the Government with a handsome slice of inheritance tax.

And if he dies in a state that is fiscally tolerant, he can take comfort in the thought that his casket—provided it cost less than one hundred dollars—will be exempt from any sales tax.

Johnson Heads List Christian Science Monitor

The vast array of reports now flowing into Kennedy headquarters from brain trusts, from Harvard professors, from panels of mayors and governors, from study groups and congressional subcommittees, suggests the intellectual content which will help determine presidential policy. Those who criticized President Eisenhower for relying overmuch on the advice of the business community may now wonder if Mr. Kennedy will rely overmuch on "the professors."

But it is certain that Kennedy administration policy will be seasoned by the advice of many shrewd Democratic politicians, and the list is headed by Vice-President-elect Lyndon B. Johnson.

Make It Honest! Dakota County Star

The biennial campaign to broaden Nebraska's tax base already has begun, although the Legislature won't convene for another month.

The assault again this year will be to capture the two per cent sales tax.

We hope the sales tax is sold on the basis of its merits, and not hidden behind the easy claim of "replacement."

Every session the sales tax proposals are forwarded with the argument the income would replace taxes already on personal and real property. This argument is a fraud!

Nebraska is threatening to bust its budgetary seams because most divisions of state government want more money. Property taxes don't raise enough funds to carry out the type of government so many of us seem to think we must have today.

So if a sales tax comes, don't say it will replace our property tax when we know it won't. It might lower the property tax for a time because of an existing constitutional clause that prohibits the state from levying a property tax if a sales/income tax is adopted.

Even so, what little amount the state now collects from property taxes would soon be eaten up at other levels as officials see an opportunity to obtain more tax funds.

Call the sales tax the weapon to get more money for schools, for higher salaries, for the University of Nebraska, or for assistance. But let's not keep trying to kid the people of Nebraska.

Replacement in Nebraska's economy is another Dodo bird—it's extinct.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

Mrs. C. E. Hall had the misfortune to fall and break two bones in her wrist last Thursday night while down skating. Mrs. J. P. Mann who has been visiting relatives here the past two weeks left for her home in Chicago last Tuesday morning. E. S. Frost, who runs a store in the old Parker country, was in the city Monday on his way to Lincoln, where he will spend the holidays visiting home folks. Mr. Frost says they are going to have a new postoffice out in that section of the country, which will be in operation in about a week. The new office will be called Opportunity. The first snow of the season arrived last Saturday night, Monday morning the ground being covered to a depth of five or six inches.

25 YEARS AGO

Thirty-one new automobiles were registered in the office of the county treasurer during the month of November. The young folks of the county are notified that Santa Claus will make a personal appearance at the Community Christmas tree in this city on Monday afternoon, December 23, at 3 o'clock. John Kohlman, Stuart, was recently announced as the Holt County Pasture contest winner. Mrs. F. P. Hunter of Star won the Holt County Canning contest with her entry of one jar each of meat, carrots and peaches. While coming home from Atkinson last Monday night Lee Devereaux was forced by the blinding lights of an approaching car to go into the ditch. S. J. Weakes returned last Thursday night from his trip to Washington, D. C. where he had been called by the head of the Agricultural Credit Corporation for conference.

10 YEARS AGO

Wednesday afternoon at 4 p.m. the four Girl Scout Troops celebrated their fourth birthday anniversary at a party at the Methodist church basement. Bids for the reconstruction and relocation of more than 7 miles of U. S. highway 281 between Spencer and O'Neill will be taken at a letting December 21, according to an announcement by the state highway department. Two O'Neill girls, Miss Kathleen Flood, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Flood, and Nancy Beha, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Beha, appeared in a program commemorating the bicentennial of the death of Johann Sebastian Bach, presented by the department of music at the St. Mary college. Early Wednesday morning the mercury stood at 14-degrees below zero.

5 YEARS AGO

Nebraska's newest radio station is on the air at O'Neill. The studio and transmitter are located across the street west from Ford's park in west O'Neill. Station KVHC is under the management of Robert D. LaRue. "Community Christmas Chorale" is being presented Sunday by the O'Neill Civic Chorus. An economy sized snowstorm moved into the north-central Nebraska region Saturday and dumped eight inches of snow at O'Neill. Elsewhere in the region the fall measured up to 15 inches. O'Neill's ice skating rink bumped into obstacles this week and both involved Mother Nature. Flooding of the rink last Thursday was abandoned when water refused to linger on the porous surface. Harold Young, member of the Holt County Soil Conservation Service staff, was honored at a dinner held Thursday evening.

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Capitol News - State Government Costs to Rise; The Question Is, Just How Much

By Melvin Paul Statehouse Correspondent The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN—It is going to cost more to operate state government during the 1961-63 two-year period. This is no surprise in view of the upward trend of the past years. How much more is the question. Gov. Dwight Burney says he will recommend no more than a total hike of 10 percent in property taxes levied for support of state government. That would put the total at around \$60 million for the two years. It is always figured that the Legislature will add more to this. The result: more outlay from taxpayers for state government.

Burney also is expected to recommend adoption of a sales tax when he gives his budget message to the lawmakers. He has long advocated such a levy. There will be much argument over the sales tax in the coming session and apparently considerable support among the legislators for the broadened base.

In past sessions there has always been a hard core of senators in favor of a broadened base. Burney, as a legislator, nearly got a sales tax enacted, losing by three votes.

While there have been numerous senators favoring a broadened base they have not been able to get together on what should be exempted and other problems with the end result that a broadened tax proposal has been hitting the dust session after session. One thing is certain. Senators will be hard pressed to find the extra revenue needed to operate the state in the coming years.

Statehouse Maintenance Re-wiring of the state capitol will require expenditure of \$125,000 in the next two years. That's the report of James Delehant, superintendent of buildings and grounds for the state.

The re-wiring has been underway for several years to accommodate the flood of mechanical equipment in the building. An appropriation of \$85,000 was made by the 1959 Legislature to continue the re-wiring project. The extra money is needed the next two years, Delehant reports, because of higher labor and materials costs.

Special Session Nebraska's lawmakers will meet Dec. 12 in a special session to set pay of the solons. Gov. Dwight Burney formally fixed the date at Dec. 12 after this had been recommended as the time to start the session by the senators. The session is necessary in order that the Constitutional amendment approved Nov. 8 boosting pay from \$872 per year to a maximum of \$2,400 become effective in January.

As passed the amendment is who are enacting and needs legislation to fix the level of pay. There appears little doubt but what the senators will set the amount at \$200 per month—the maximum allowed. The session will include the proposal to boost the pay and a bill to pay session expenses, estimated at about \$5,000.

Glenny Reports Nebraska's higher education program is getting close scrutiny in a series of reports being readied for the 1961 Legislature. Coordinator of the project is Dr. Lyman Glenny, employed by the state to give a look at where higher education is going in Nebraska. It could well be that Glenny's conclusions and recommendations, to be made to the 1961 Legislature, may be controversial.

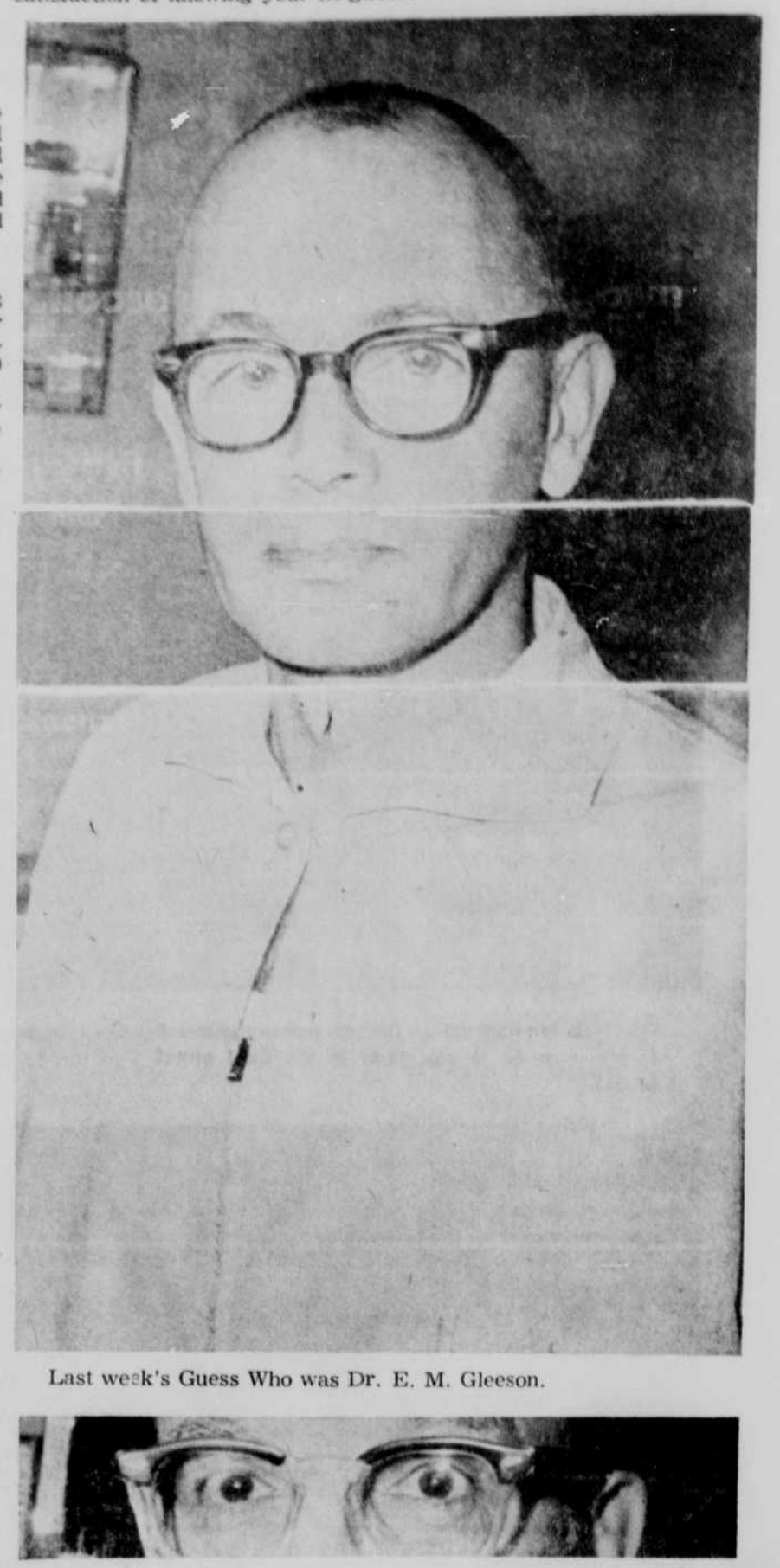
The plan so far has been coverage of areas with information put in detailed reports submitted to Glenny. These will be analyzed by the California educator and his conclusions made for the benefit of the state senators.

Reports have said: There appear to be too big a percentage of teachers in Nebraska's higher education institutions who were graduated from a Nebraska institution, thus tending to put a damper on new ideas.

Utilization of classroom space could be better. Future enrollments in higher education will be big.

The time may not be too far distant when the University of Ne-

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.



Last week's Guess Who was Dr. E. M. Gleeson.

This man is a prominent O'Neill businessman.

Orange Tea Cakes 1 cup light brown sugar 1/2 cup shortening 1/2 cup sweet milk 2 egg whites 1 egg yolk 2 cups flour 2 teaspoons baking powder 1/2 teaspoon salt 1 cup nut meats Cream shortening and sugar; add milk and egg whites and yolk well beaten. Stir in flour, baking powder and nuts well mixed and drop by teaspoonfuls on to a well oiled baking sheet, keeping them 1 1/2 inches apart. Bake in a moderate oven, Frost with powdered sugar, juice of one orange and orange rind.

Alice's Beauty Shop 3 Operators Open 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. 125 East Douglas Phone 263 O'Neill

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