

Prairieland Talk

# "We're Happy as a Lamb"

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

Sixty, seventy or more years ago you met a Mullen at every street corner in O'Neill. Where are they now? Well, on the south side of O'Neill's main drag between fourth and fifth streets is parked Leo day after day. In California is another of the Mullen family who recently wrote me a cheering letter from which I also gather that Wallie has memories of life back here. Who does not who got started on the highway of life in the O'Neill community where all knew and loved and respected their neighbors. Mr. Mullen sends me copies of the Los Angeles Times which seems to be for the late Republican candidate for president, Mr. Nixon, for governor of that great Pacific coast state. Glad to hear from you friend Mullen and I assure you that I continue to cherish the memory of you and your once numerous tribe in and around O'Neill.



Romaine Saunders

The citizens of earth in many lands are in trouble under the dictates of ruthless rulers. And here we are enjoying peace and plenty, happy as a lamb in this land of Uncle Sam!

Saunders county just to the northeast of our Capital City leads the state this year in corn production. Will Holt county have the most turkeys this Thanksgiving season?

Their home was at Blair by the river that runs between Iowa and Nebraska. Husband, wife and five children killed in a highway crack-up, a little lad the one survivor of that family.

A few more than 400 families moved into Lincoln during September, probably coming to our Capital City for educational advantages the university and colleges afford.

Friends who sent me papers and publications to read should now be thanked and told that after 91 years along the highway of life I have but one eye and my vision so poor I do not read, my daughter reading to me the letters and messages that come from friends. I am still able to see the typewriter keys and so can typewrite my Prairieland Talk.

No more the circus tents down by the railroads, no more the traveling show troupes at the old rink such as the Kickapoo Indian Sagawaw outfit and no more the happy roller skating parties.

A gloomy sunless day. No smiling face is near, from out stretched hand to wipe away the tear. Then from out of the distance comes a voice: Keep going on the run! Tomorrow you will have some fun!

Mrs. Witherwax of Spencer writes me a good cheering letter from which I learn that she was born near Scottville in northern Holt county and was related to that unfortunate Barret Scott, who was waylaid by Vigilantes on his way home to O'Neill from a trip out north, taken to the Whitting bridge and hung, his body dropped into the icy waters of the Niobrara river a cold day in December, 1894. Mrs. Witherwax seems to have spent her childhood in the Scottville community, married and settled in Boyd county and has memories of life as it was and is today on Prairieland. Another good letter comes to me from Mrs. Mary Haggerty Lawson of Columbus, she being a native of O'Neill, a daughter of the Billy Haggerty family, and recalls with pleasure the ups and downs of life in the days now gone, expresses her sympathy over my recent tumble and breaths a prayer for my recovery, as did many others, and here I am on the go again. Mrs. Lawson identifies herself as "your Scotch-Irish friend." Her dad was Irish, her mother Scotch, but Mary is a Prairieland patriot, a citizen and native of Nebraska.

After some sixty years out on the grass robed beauty land of southwest Holt county, Howard Berry and his guarding angel, Mrs. Berry, now make their home in O'Neill. I hope to see them when footsteps again may carry me along the streets of the good old home town of my youth. I had understood Mr. and Mrs. Berry had looked over the desert sand lands of states to the southwest of us but concluded that Prairieland was the best for a home for them as they have come to retirement age so here they are in O'Neill where from time to time they can go to the open country.

That young Miss who killed mother and dad over in Cedar county because they would not consent to her going out on "dates" is now in the state prison for such as she to serve out a thirty year sentence. No dates now only such as direct the lives of convicted crime doers.

My son, Glenn, came out from Ohio recently to spend a few days with his father, sister, brother and friends. Glenn and his wife Florence now live in Dayton, Ohio. Their son, who was born in O'Neill, as was his father, is in educational work, an instructor in a college in a Michigan city. In the 1930's Glenn was the linotype operator in The Frontier print shop. He and Florence and their little son went to a New England state where they lived for some year. And my son Romaine flew in from a New England state to spend two nights and a day with us. His home is in the Los Angeles, Calif., community and he travels by air for the corporation he is identified with. Breakfast in Lincoln, dinner in Los Angeles. Glenn gets here and back home on rubber tires.

## Frontiers Ago

### 50 YEARS AGO

O. O. Snyder went to Lincoln last Tuesday to attend the annual meeting of the IOOF Grand Lodge. Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Donohoe returned last Thursday evening from their wedding trip to the Pacific coast and were met at the train by a dozen automobile loads of young people who escorted them to the home of Mr. Donohoe's mother for an informal reception. W. L. Shoemaker returned from Douglas, Wyo., last Monday where he had been following the Black Hill circuit with his pace, Doctor Jim P. C. A. Smith arrived in the city from South Omaha last Thursday the Burlington depot here at 4 night and will take charge of the Burlington depot here as agent.

### 25 YEARS AGO

O'Neill high school football team met the Bassett high school team last Monday afternoon and the locals took the boys into camp for the first time in five years with a score of 6-0. Arthur F. Melcher, Atkinson, and Miss Bernice Trese, Orchard, were granted a marriage license in county court last Monday. Former Page minister, the Rev. M. E. Galdi, died at Pacific Junction, Ia., the forepart of the week.

The first of the school dances at St. Mary's academy was held last Monday evening. Mr. and Mrs. J. K. Ernst celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary Sunday.

### 10 YEARS AGO

O'Neill Municipal band, composed of music students from both O'Neill public school and St. Mary's academy, will participate in band day activities October 20 at Wayne State Teachers college. Gene Cantlon, manager of Gambles store since August, 1947, will leave Friday for Oxford where he has purchased a dealer-owned store. George McCarthy, O'Neill, is re-named secretary of the Nebraska Knights of Columbus. Sgt. Edwin C. Hansen, son of Mrs. Mary Hansen, has received the bronze star for meritorious service in overseas combat. Mrs. Anna M. Brown, 93, Holt county resident since 1881, died October 17 at her home in Chambers.

### 5 YEARS AGO

A caterpillar tractor and 11 stacks of hay were destroyed by fire Monday on the Dewey Schaffer ranch 1 1/2 miles south of O'Neill. Vincent Thiele, Ewing, Mervyn French Jr., Page, and Dave Keidel, Stuart, nominated for awards in the Sioux City three-state soil conservation program, have been declared Nebraska winners in the competition. Rites are held October 13 at Ewing St. John Catholic church for Gottlieb A. Bauer, 73, who died October 12 at his home south of Ewing. Darrel Dexter, son of Mrs. Olive Dexter, O'Neill, has been president of his class for four successive years.

## The Long Ago At Chambers

### 50 YEARS AGO

About 25 friends of Miss Gladys Baker surprised her Saturday evening, a pleasant time was spent by all present. Rev. T. H. Evans is holding a revival meeting near Bartlett at the Sandstone schoolhouse and he is having grand success. W. Calkins, Jas. Grimes and F. D. Smith are attending IOOF Grand Lodge in Lincoln this week. Presbyterian Aid met today with Mrs. Fred Kiltz. M. Beaty and A. P. Noble went to Elgin last week returning home Saturday with a load of apples. B. G. Hanna contemplates building a new house. Ten of the little schoolmates of Violet Smith, and her teacher, Miss Adams, surprised her with a party at her home Monday to bid her goodby before her departure for Lincoln where she will take medical treatment.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Miss Wilma Wilson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Wilson of Chambers and Mr. Harvey Brandon of Esbon, Kan., were married in Gering August 17. Tuesday evening about 100 of the friends and neighbors of Mrs. Luella A. Parker went in on her at her home north of town to help her celebrate her birthday. Monday 40 Chambers men went to the Brotherton ranch

and killed 1000 crows which were scared into the trees by a plane so the men could shoot them. One of the small daughters of Mr. and Mrs. Austin Anderson suffered painful cuts and bruises when she fell out of a moving trailer. Wednesday evening fire broke out around the chimney on the roof of the summer kitchen at the Charley Fauquier Jr. home, causing roof damage.

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# The Frontier

Editorial

## He Hasn't Lost Yet!

Jack Paar, the cube of the tube, whose frantic antics are beamed into the livingrooms of millions of American homes each week is at war with the press. This in itself is nothing new for Mr. Paar has been jousting with the newspapers through most of his hectic career. King Arthur's Knights could have taken lessons from Mr. Paar for he has yet to come out second best in any of his tilts. We can't help thinking that the free publicity awarded to the Tonight show has been a major factor in increasing its popularity. Those viewers who have been "unlucky" enough to miss one of Mr. Paar's exhibitions are always able to read a full account of it in their morning papers.

And if Mr. Paar feels a particularly sterling performance coming on all he has to do is hint to the press that he has something up his sleeve and they jump at the chance to alert the public that Jack is at it again.

Jack's latest tirade seems to center on the premise that newspapers in general are warmongering, libelous and untruthful and are corrupting the nation's morals by accepting ads picturing girdles and Maidenform bras. It is comforting to know that Mr. Paar is watching out for us and has discovered just what the cause is of the nation's moral decay.

It is also interesting to note that the television broadcasters can point to their charts and say that fifty million people spend between five and six hours a day watching television and yet maintain that television is not in part responsible for what the American people are like today.

If fifty million people spend that much time watching so much television and it has no significant effect, that incredible waste of human time is the most damning indictment that could be made. It would mean that those fifty million may just as well have visions of sugarplums dancing in their heads and that they don't have the emotional response of fifty million tadpoles.

It is comforting to know that five nights each week we can turn on the tube and invite Comedian Jack Paar into our home and give us the lowdown on Dorothy Kilgallen and the American press. And, oh, yes, Jockey shorts — B. J. R.

## They're Tough Questions

### Nebraska Signal

We were among those who received questionnaires from Senator Carl Curtis asking how much federal income taxes people in the various income brackets should expect to pay. We note several newspaper editors have answered the questions in their columns, giving some very interesting angles and views on the questions.

Our first reaction was similar to the editor who stated he did not plan to answer the questions and that he didn't think he should be expected to do so. Rather, it was his position that he expected Senator Curtis and our other representatives to use their judgement in deciding how much we should pay.

Another editor expressed the opinion we should expect to pay all we have to pay in order to meet our obligations to ourselves and to the peoples of the world who seem to be dependent upon us for leadership and a certain amount of financial assistance.

We will confess frankly we have not as yet filled in our questionnaire and we don't believe we will be able to do so unless we can get more information than we now have upon which to base our answers. The trouble is families in the same income bracket may have different expenses because of such factors as illness and perhaps because of the difference in local tax rates affecting people living in various communities. Of course, the tax laws attempt to allow for this but it still is difficult to say that people with certain incomes should pay so much in taxes.

We don't know what Senator Curtis had in mind when he sent out the questionnaires. He certainly doesn't plan to use our answers to help him start a campaign to fix tax rates based upon our desires. If he does it would seem the government may be short of funds even sooner than it is expected to be under present rates.

We suggest the senator might have asked two other questions we believe we can answer. He could have asked how much taxes we would like to pay. Most of us would answer none. He also might have asked how much taxes we are willing to pay to keep what we have and preserve world peace. We believe most of us would answer we refuse to place a limit on what we will pay for those purposes.

We don't believe the above remarks will be much help to Senator Curtis but we might comment we think the questionnaire has been of value to all of us. It has served to make us see that fixing tax rates is a mighty complicated and delicate proposition. We appreciate what our representatives are up against and we wish them well.

Ralph T. Moore writes, in Oregon Voter: "The subject of increased federal aid to education is the present source of much controversy in the Congress. And, few people stop to consider that the phrase itself is both fallacy and lacking in basic logic. For what is contemplated is actually a diffusion of public school costs that takes from certain States and gives to others in accord with the proposed formula. It is essentially a money matter, with education only incidental and wholly dependent upon the presumption that the bigger the spending the more the education, a pure fallacy too obvious to admit of argument."



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