

Prairieland Talk

"A Good Wholesome Dinner"

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

Some 10 to 12 miles out in the country away from the crowded human haunts of our Capital City he lives the farm life with wife, their two sons and his mother. Corn and wheat are the produce of the farm. We were there yesterday at that beautiful and commodious and modern country home which has a basement furnace, hot and cold water, electric lights, bathroom and toilet as we have in the city. But what we don't have in the City a good, wholesome and abundant country dinner when we spent about an hour feasting and visiting.



Romaine Saunders

Herds of cattle have taken over those five sections of land some five or six miles out from O'Neill, where in the 1880's were families of homesteaders. One of those families returned to their former home in Iowa, another couple moved to one of the counties to the west, another settled in Colfax county, another went to Missouri, and two of those homestead families moved into O'Neill, but now are no more all but one of them asleep in death. That one parks at his typewriter today to tell Prairieland Talk readers about it. So out there seven families were part of the prairie picture 75 years ago, no one living now.

The pleasures of life are short. The daily grind goes on until you are too old to turn the grindstone.

Are we to understand that Printer-Editor-Captain Stewart and family are to move from O'Neill to Lincoln, and we then may be neighbors? I had hoped to learn Cal was a candidate for a county office in Holt county, would be elected and serve at a desk in the court house. But he seems to be permanently anchored to newspaper traditions. I think of others who lived in O'Neill that were likewise newspaper minded but turned to other things. Doc Matthews started The Frontier in 1880 and was a gifted writer, sold The Frontier to Jim Riggs, then started the Free Press which he published for a short time and then to other interests. Clyde King was a good printer and gifted writer, ended his days in the lumber and coal business. D. H. Cronin stayed by his early training longer than any of them, but he too served for a time as postmaster in O'Neill, was elected to the state legislature and served for a time as a United States Marshall living then in Omaha, but at last back to his beloved newspaper. Mr. Stewart has been out of it now for some time and he too hears the call of the press, so come on Cal and we will extend the glad hand.

When he learned of my recent fall, my good friend Lew Nissen came to see me. Like myself Lew came from Holt county to Lincoln to live. Lew was at one time our mail carrier on Star Route out of Atkinson to Amelia and back to Atkinson, about a 30 mile daily trip and I could set my time clock by the arrival of the mail carrier at my mail box out by the road 22 miles south of Atkinson. Here in the city the mail carrier comes to our door anytime of day, mid forenoon or mid afternoon.

A generous hearted and open handed friend out there on the Pacific Coast sends me a Los Angeles paper which I am unable to read because of poor vision. I write this because I am still able to see the typewriter keys. But turning to a newspaper the best I can do is make out some of the headlines. Who sends me that paper? Oh his name is Mullen and he too once lived in O'Neill. So thank you, kind friend, but you had better have that Times sent to some friend that can read it.

About a year ago my long time friend, Lloyd Gillespie, met up with his death blow on the highway, after traveling life's highway for more than 80 years. Lloyd was a Methodist, an Odd Fellow, a Mason and a Republican, choices of organizations to belong to in Yankee land have. I belonged to the political party Gillespie did but not to his secret orders or church. Yes, we can be friends in this fair land of ours without subscribing to all the other fellow does. Gillespie spent most of his life in O'Neill and when the U. S. Land Office functioned here Lloyd became a land office lawyer and practiced before that body of officials, and wrote insurance also. A spot on South First street that had been his home from 1888 until 1910 became the home of Lloyd and his devoted life companion about 1920 until their deaths. Mrs. Gillespie closing her eyes there one night a few months before Lloyd was killed to open her eyes no more in this troubled world. They both rest today in the abode of the dead, leaving the community their son, Bennet and family, to carry on the family name, and their son, Ben, is one of O'Neill's businessmen and good citizens. Rest in peace, Lloyd and Bertha, until called for on the resurrection morning!

Kate was the oldest of the three Mann sisters and was an early day school teacher even before there was a schoolhouse where now stands the city's public school buildings just north of the courthouse. Miss Mann left the school room to join her brother, John, in O'Neill's best merchandise sales headquarters. Her two sisters married and became mothers but Kate went to her grave as she had lived—Kate Mann.

Frontiers Ago

25 YEARS AGO Earl Hatton sustains severe cut on his foot while cutting down willows. County votes Democratic ticket for President Roosevelt and Governor Griswold. Miss Delma Cady and Mr. Lloyd Hoerle to live in Chambers after their marriage in McCook October 19. Hobe Smith is unloading a car of cotton cake in O'Neill this week and trucking it into Chambers. The Van Robertson's new house is almost completed. Ellenne O'Malley, Chambers freshman at Wayne State Teachers college, will appear in a drama to be presented at the college auditorium Thursday. Ralph Ingles is hunting coyotes near Stuart this week and reports he has caught 15 of them so far this season with his hounds.

Celia News

Mrs. Merrill Anderson "Spooks" in Vacant House Provide Food

The Youth Society of the Atkinson Methodist church held a Halloween party Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Chaffin. Highlights of the evening featured a hayride to a "haunted" house. Upon investigation the "spooks" proved to be Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hendricks. Refreshments were served. Approximately 14 guests were present.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Edwards and son and Norman Anderson were Sunday supper guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Smith. Mr. Edwards and Mr. Anderson are coaches at the Atkinson high school.

Mr. and Mrs. John Sicheneder and family, accompanied by Phyllis Lewis, were Norfolk visitors Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Smith were business visitors in Sioux City, Ia., October 19.

Rodney Dobias and Doyle Focken spent Friday evening at the home of Doyle's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Focken.

Ten members of the YWNB of the Wesleyan Methodist church in Atkinson enjoyed a Halloween party at the home of their president, Mrs. Leonard Chaffin, Thursday evening. Mrs. Vivian Thurgood and Gerald O'Connell were guests, having furnished transportation for the youths. Refreshments were served following singing and the playing of games.

Mr. and Mrs. Clair Anderson, Long Pine, visited at the Merrill Anderson home Thursday evening.

A number of Celia residents attended the services at the Atkinson Wesleyan Methodist church Tuesday evening. Miss Leora Stroppe showed slides relative to missionary work in Haiti.

The Celia Homemakers Extension club met Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Victor Frickel with Mrs. Beryl Beck presiding. Seventeen members and two guests answered roll call with a suggestion for "Quick Meals." A group of club members presented a musical skit led by Mrs. Mark Hendricks. Participating were Meses. Marjorie McKathnie, Ruth Chaffin, Marilyn Hendricks, Helen Beck and Helen Anderson. Mrs. Hans Lauridsen and Mrs. Duane Beck presented the lesson. A book report, "America the Beautiful," an article appearing in the Reader's Digest, was given by Mrs. Merrill Smith. The group sang the birthday song to honor members celebrating birthdays in October. Meses. Milton McKathnie, Victor Frickel, Mark Hendricks and Helen Beck. Each received a gift from their mystery sister. Four persons were listed to be remembered with cards of cheer. Lunch was served by the hostesses, Mrs. Victor Frickel and Mrs. Ray Pease. The next meeting will be November 29 at the home of Mrs. Milton McKathnie, Mrs. Leonard Chaffin, co-hostesses.

Frances Chaffin entertained Phyllis Lewis and the pupils of the school at a Halloween party at her school Thursday. Activities included bobbing for apples and various games. Miss Chaffin served refreshments.

Clarence Focken Jr., Bristow, called by for Merrill Anderson this week. Mrs. Focken and the children accompanied him Friday and spent the day with Clarence's mother.

Teachers attending the meeting at the new District 89 Monday included Mrs. Emil Colfack, Mrs. LeRoy Hoffman, Mrs. Orville Orr, Mrs. Floyd Birge, Mrs. Theresa Iverson, Miss Phyllis Lewis, Miss Frances Chaffin and Larry Haynes. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Focken, who have been living at Norfolk, moved this week to Wakefield where Mr. Focken has employment. Paul's mother were making preparations to care for the baby while they moved. Mr. and Mrs. Focken were overnight guests Thursday at the home of his parents. Mrs. Herman Meyer sr., Mrs. Herman Meyer jr., and Mrs. Raymond Dobias attended the services at St. John's Lutheran church Sunday at which time the Rev. and Mrs. Wayne Hall, pastor of the Assembly of God Church, Broken Bow, showed slides taken while in the Holy Land.

Orchard News

Mrs. Wilbur Mahood Phone TW 3-3185 Auxiliary Plans Chicken Supper

The American Legion auxiliary met October 16 at the Legion hall with 12 members present. A report on the District 2 convention at Pierce was given. A total of \$30 was realized from the bake sale. Plans were made for the Veterans Day chicken supper to be held November 11. Mrs. Glen Miller and Mrs. John Auman jr. made a membership drive. Lunch was served by Mrs. Maxine Bjornsen, Jeanne Classen and Veda Knapp.

Sunset chapter No. 300 Order of the Eastern Star met Thursday evening at a stated meeting in the Masonic Temple. Mrs. Henry Drayton, worthy patron, presided over the meeting. A cash gift was sent to the Eastern Star children's home, Fremont, and to the Masonic home, Plattsmouth. A report of the grand officers meeting at Atkinson was given by several members attending. At this meeting it was voted to entertain Ewing and O'Neill at the regular meeting in November. The char-

ter was draped for Mrs. Anna Kuhn and Alma Willis, members of the chapter. The HYOA club met with Mrs. Roy Robertson Thursday afternoon with 14 members and one visitor. Mrs. Louise Pruss, president. The afternoon's project was quilting. The third Thursday of November meeting will be with Mrs. Frieda Schlessener. The pitch club met with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Drayton Sunday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Drayton, O'Neill, were guests. Prizes were won by Mrs. Ted Berry, Allen Hill, Mrs. Jim Clifton and Alfred Drayton.

Kenneth Anderson, superintendent of Orchard school, bagged a deer last Saturday with a bow and arrow.

Mrs. Fred Spar returned home Saturday from the Immanuel hospital in Omaha. Over 500 attended the turkey dinner and bazaar Tuesday evening at the EUB church in Orchard. It was sponsored by the WSW. Mrs. Harold Mitchell is president. Mrs. Duane Lenz headed the serving committee. Host and hostesses were the Rev. Duane Lenz, Mrs. Millie Mahood and Mrs. Glen Miller. Mrs. Lester Withee headed the ticket committee and handled the cashier duties. Mrs. Carol Clifton was in charge of the supper. Bazaar chairman were Mrs. D. L. Fletcher, Mrs. Olive Everhart and Mrs. Bertha Grove.

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Editorial

A Satisfying Feeling

Vern Scofield, secretary of the Nebraska Press Association with headquarters in Lincoln, would like to see teachers (in elementary and high schools alike), give more assignments that would train the memory of our youngsters. Here's what he recently wrote:

"I'd certainly like to see teachers in Nebraska schools go back to giving memory assignments. In the 'good old days' at Neligh we had memory assignments in most every grade—from kindergarten on through high school.

"There were always poems to memorize, and it gave a person a real satisfying feeling to master the selection—comma-for-comma, word-for-word—and be able to recite it before the class.

"Maybe, today some teachers regularly assign poems to commit to memory, but I'll bet the practice isn't as widespread as it used to be. Could be that there are more modern ways of training a young mind in memory—I don't know.

"I wasn't particularly joyous to get such an assignment, and neither were the other kids—but it was sort of a contest to see who could memorize the assignment first, and with the least number of errors. Mayme Housh, the West Ward teacher in Neligh for so many years, was great on assigning poems to memorize. . . . and I can say that as a seventh grade pupil I thought that when we were required to memorize 'The Pied Piper of Hamelin' she had indeed played a dirty trick on us.

"Course, I thought the same thing of Flo Sherman when, in high school, she required memorizing of most of 'Lady of the Lake.'

"Not until years later did I realize they were good teachers and took this means of molding our impressionable minds.

"As I look around the beautiful Nebraska countryside in the fall of the year I can't help but remember the beautiful James Whitcomb Riley poem that many of you (if you're past 40) memorized sometime along the way back in school days. Remember?"

When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock And you hear the kyouck and gobble of the struttin' turkey-cock And the clackin' of the guineys and cluckin' of the hens And the rooster's hallylooyer as he tiptoes on the fence O' it's then the time a feller is a-feelin' at his best With the risin' sun to greet him from a night of peaceful rest As he leaves the house, bare-headed, and goes out to feed the stock When the frost is on the punkin and the fodder's in the shock.

—JAMES WHITCOMB RILEY

"Beautiful, isn't it? Gives you kindofa refreshing feeling after reading about the troubled world."



BILL RICHARDSON, Publisher BRUCE J. REHBERG, Editor

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The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO The Virginia Warblers, singing old negro melodies and plantation songs, will delight their hearts at the Chambers Band Hall November 16. All are thorough musicians. . . . You can get a permit to smoke at either Woods or Jarman's. . . . The carpenters have commenced Bard Hanna's new house on his farm. . . . Funeral services were held in the Chambers Baptist church November 1 for George W. Gilman who died October 29 of a heart ailment. . . . The Halloween Festival held Tuesday evening by the Epworth League was well attended and \$23 was realized. . . . On Sunday the Rev. Light administered the Sacrament and baptized Neven Ickes and Evalena Johnson.



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