

Prairieland Talk

"Monument for Gen. O'Neill"

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

O'Neill's jolly postmaster writes me a cheering note, enclosing a letter he had received from one in an eastern state asking about the gone and forgotten General John O'Neill who brought a colony of Irish settlers here and founded the town that bears his name.



Romaine Saunders

The sun glows in golden glory out of yon distant blue sky this late October morning, and the wind sweeps across prairieland out of the south to scatter dead leaves of autumn over the ground.

At a sale of bulls a day in October this year, one of those gentleman chunks of beef sold for one thousand dollars. It was a public farm sale a day in October, 1894, the last to be offered by the auctioneer at that sale being four coming yearlings, two bulls and two heifers.

Very little interest in the November election here in the Capital City. About all Candidate Senator Fern Hubbard Orme did was to go to the polls election day and help by one vote on her re-election.

Editorial

The Case of The Goal Posts

The O'Neill, Neligh football game two weeks ago provided not only copy for the sports writers but a topic for editorial writers also. Editors of both Neligh papers expressed their opinions in their columns last week and the sports editor of the Norfolk Daily News expressed his views in his personal column. We now pass their views on to you.

Neligh Leader

Some goal posts were torn down. Neligh had won its eighth straight game of the season and had knocked off unbeaten O'Neill to do it. Excitement over the win, a little encouragement from the wrong sources, and down came O'Neill's goal posts.

The cost involved wasn't great, O'Neill citizens apparently aren't too irate over the loss, and no one was injured. Not by any means an earth shattering incident.

A mountain should not be made over a mole hill. But there are some rather negative factors that creep into every such unthinking action.

Who should pay for the loss? Certainly not O'Neill. The doers would be difficult to identify without missing many. Probably it will be up to the Neligh school board to replace the posts if friendly relations are to continue. This means each taxpayer in the Neligh school district will share the cost. Few of them enjoyed the pleasure of the action.

What happens when O'Neill wins at Neligh next time? It would seem only fair they would feel free to reciprocate. We could hardly withhold a privilege we considered ours. And then we would be equally justified in returning the compliment at O'Neill when next we win.

And was it really any great tribute to the players? They have conducted themselves well this year both on and off the field. They have been a credit to both their school and their town. It's a pity the report of their sweetest victory must include the item that "Neligh rowdies tore down the goal posts."

It wasn't such a terrible deed. But it was unnecessary.

Neligh News

You can call it rowdiness or whatever you like, but we feel Neligh was justified in pushing over the goal posts following the O'Neill-Neligh game.

Because of the win, Neligh has gained a slot among the top ten in state football as rated by Gregg McBride.

Throughout the entire game enthusiasm was at the highest pitch ever witnessed at a ball game by yours truly. We feel it is only right to dispose of this excitement by participating in the age old custom of removing the goal posts. It has been done for generations and will continue in the future when the contests warrant such action.

If we buy—we will gladly contribute.

The Norfolk News

Do some fans have an urge to gain a form of victory other than that won on the playing field? Do they lack the humility that is a quality of good sportsmanship, or are they just plain jealous?

These are questions that arise from observing spectators at a sports contest usually built up greatly by rivalry and/or the expectation of a close game. This was the setting for the meeting of Neligh and O'Neill, two unbeaten teams.

Some Neligh fans were using Jerry Kilcoin, O'Neill's outstanding halfback, as the primary target for a verbal bombing.

The dinner hour was about at hand. I stepped up to the back door of the hotel where I was staying some fifty years ago, the hotel door or two east of where the K. C. hall now stands. Opened that door to step into the hotel kitchen, greeted Kate, the cook, whom I knew well, asked her if she could and would fry me some onions for dinner? "Yes," Kate replied. I thanked her, stepped out and around to the front entrance to await the call to dinner. Seated at the dinner table with the others my dish of fried onions was brought to me. Others saw it, raised up in their seats and burst out, "Give me some, I want some." But I durned that dish of cooked onions. Want to launch into a lively business? Go down on lower Fourth street where John Smoot had his barber shop and get into the fried onion business. You will have to get onions by the truck load.

In the beginning God created. Then man took over, and for six thousand years human hands have made a mess of it. And for six thousand years other human hands have endeavored to clear up the mess, and are still at it.

Long dark nights touched by a frosty hand. So now along the prairie trails the beautiful golden rod, the pink tinted roses are no more. The sweet song of the meadow lark we hear not now. Floral blooming beauties and birds awing gone once more. Yet out on prairieland the wolf trots here and there, jack rabbits sniff the evening air and a lone eagle soars aloft on spread wing. The seasons come and go, bring us a Thanksgiving day, a Christmas season and the grass robed prairieland blanketed under pure white snow. Then we can write it 1962.

I wonder how it was this year the morning of November 1 here on the streets of O'Neill. Today here in the Capital City active lads and happy girls come to house doors, "Treat or trick." A half century or more ago kids and men blocked the main business street Fourth and Douglas in the county seat town of Holt county with wagons, plows, machines and rubbish. The night of October 31, Halloween, and the morning after we had the evidence of what fools we mortals be.

Priests and preachers, public officials, men and women in all walks of life are concerned as they contemplate world conditions today. Does it mean the ending of human history, many are wondering? Two Heavenly Beings spoke to the little group who watched as the One who had risen from death on that rugged cross to leave this earth and those Heavenly Beings said He will come again and close the pages of human history. If that is it, then why not in our day rather than the distant future.

I wonder how one of these same fans would combat the situation if it were to occur to themselves or someone close to them? Neligh's excellent football team won the battle on the field, 18-6. But the sportsmanship shown by some of its followers left a sour flavor to outsiders.

An overwrought football fan got a lesson in Nebraska philosophy from Jack Lowe, editor of the Sidney Telegraph.

Lowe, who is not noted for understatement, says he received a phone call after the NU-Oklahoma State football game from an irate friend who insisted that he open up shop and print him some petition forms so he could start circulating removal proceedings against Bill Jennings and the entire Nebraska University football staff. Lowe invited him over and explained the facts of Nebraska football life to him. This is the way Lowe sees it:

"Nebraska University football is like everything else in Nebraska—conventional, conservative and un-spectacular. . . . If Jennings and his assistants were to introduce a razzle dazzle brand of play, accompanied by the unexpected and the unorthodox, he would be violating a form of provincial thinking which has prevailed across the great prairies and rolling hills since Nebraskaland became a state.

"It says in our Constitution that we are not allowed to take any chances. We can't go in debt, we can't win a free box of groceries at the neighborhood supermarket, we can't clip box tops or send in jingles because it is considered to be an immoral and un-Christian example among the multitudes.

"Furthermore, no matter how desperate our conditions may become, we are forbidden by law to change our tax structure or to dream up new ways of meeting our honest government debts. We are told that our Constitution—most of which was written prior to the turn of the century—is our salvation. It is our safeguard against our own follies. We may want but we can't have because wiser men have decreed in the dim past that we are irresponsible children who will spend next week's allowance before we get it if we don't watch out. . . .

"Meanwhile, other states with more sense and less scruples are taking our money and spending it like mad on interstate highways and public buildings and parks and sewers and every imaginable public works. This, we are told, is a policy which is leading America down the road to bankruptcy and total collapse. When we get there we'll all be in the same fix, but our neighbors will have had a lot more fun making the trip. . . .

"Jennings probably would like to have one of his quarterbacks carry the ball on the 4th down with two to go, or pass with his hindside to his own goal posts, but this would be unthinkable—not to Jennings, perhaps, but to Nebraskans in general. We don't do things like that. The world has become a great vast forest of speculators and chance takers, but we are poor innocent souls who have lost our way. Baa! Baa! Baa!

"How could we possibly sustain our reputation as the White Spot of the nation if we permitted our boys to think for themselves without first referring to the dusty pages of history?

"So don't get mad at Jennings. Like the piano player in the bar he's doing his best. He's the victim of a system which has decided that failure is preferable to success if one has to compromise the principles of his forefathers. Take pride instead of sorrow in the great White Spot. X marks the White Spot where the parade went by."

Seore a bull's-eye for Native Son Lowe!

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

R. R. Dickson is elected judge with a majority of 87 votes in the district. . . . George E. Van Every and Miss Matilda Bradley, Inman, were united in marriage by County Judge Malone at the county court room last Wednesday. . . . Mrs. W. H. Bedford died at her home in this city Tuesday morning after an illness of over a year. . . . Chris Timmerman, Stuart, died from the effect of injuries he sustained in a fall from his wagon. He was 35 years of age. . . . Mrs. Martha McCutcheon, Inman, left Friday for Wray, Colo., to spend the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Owen Critchfield.

25 YEARS AGO

Robert R. Dickson wins over James J. Harrington for district judge in election. . . . One of the pretty and interesting weddings of the season was that of Miss Elenore M. Fuchs of Odebolt, Ia., and Mr. Ivan J. Pruss, O'Neill, October 7. . . . J. D. Cronin attends Creighton Homecoming at Omaha this week. . . . Miss Betty McNally entertained 14 of her friends at a Halloween party at her home last Saturday evening. . . . Probably in no election in this city was their greater activity in hauling voters to the polls than was evident in the election Tuesday. . . . Romaine Saunders

and his southwest Holt neighbor, Jesse James, came up from Swan Wednesday to bring the returns of their precinct.

10 YEARS AGO

A 30-year-old Chambers rancher, John Sladek, died early Friday at a Norfolk hospital following surgery. . . . Jerry Brennan, 28, son of Mr. and Mrs. Neil P. Brennan, has reported finding considerable uranium in the Black Hills. . . . Donald Donohoe and Carolyn Lee are crowned Homecoming king and queen at St. Mary's academy November 7. . . . Mr. and Mrs. William C. Kelley sr., Inman, will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary November 11. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Joe Stutz entertained a group of guests on Halloween night at which time the evening was spent playing games and dancing. . . . An estimated 240 teenagers from the O'Neill community Wednesday attended a special Halloween party-dance at the Legion hall.

5 YEARS AGO

The Rev. Francis Price, pastor of the Church of Epiphany at Emmet, has returned from a six week's tour of Europe. . . . Robert Young and Mardelle Johnson were crowned king and queen at OHS Homecoming festivities Friday evening. . . . State Senator Frank Nelson, O'Neill farmer, was successful in his bid for reelection in Tuesday's general election. . . . Mr. and Mrs. William C. Kelley will observe their 60th wedding anniversary in Inman. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Hull, Star community, celebrate their 57th wedding anniversary. . . . Milton Grimes, son of Mrs. Lovena Grimes, Chambers, was named to the cast of the University of Nebraska annual production to be given November 16-17.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

A shadow social will be held at the home of Charles Tange-man three miles south and four miles east of Chambers Saturday evening for the benefit of the Harold school. . . . Some new cross walks are being put in by Charles Graham which are a decided improvement over the old mud holes. . . . A large shipment of books by the best authors has been received at the Smith Bros. store. . . . F. D. Smith, local agent for the Economy Gas Plant company, has just installed a complete system of gas lights for Smith Bros. . . . Born to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Coppoc at their home in Harold November 1, a daughter. . . . On Saturday the gas engine formerly used on the grader will be sold at public auction in Chambers.

25 YEARS AGO

Bob Starr and Hylas Farrier have narrow escape from death while becoming lost when hunting wild animals and deer in Wyoming. . . . The annual meeting of the South Fork Holt County Agriculture society was held Saturday at which time Glee Grimes, Van Robertson and Vern Sageser were elected as three-year directors. . . . Mrs. Jean Nissen is erecting a fine large new barn on her farm three miles south of Chambers. . . . Ira Liermanns purchased a new oil stove, radio and model A roadster this week. . . . Coyote hunt attended by many carloads of hunters with these results: one coyote killed and the Ladies auxiliary got lost with the lunch.

Celia News

Mrs. Merrill Anderson

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Hendricks entertained the teacher, Mrs. Emil Colfack, the patrons, and the pupils of their school at a Halloween party at their home Tuesday evening. The majority of guests came attired in costume. The welcoming committee were characters from "Spooksville" and inside the house balloons and cartoons dangled from the walls and ceiling. Corn fodder and grotesque figures filled the corners and autumn leaves littered the floor. Mrs. Emil Colfack had charge of the entertainment. Prizes were awarded to the most frightening costumes. Refreshments were served. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Anderson, Mrs. Leonard Chaffin and Linda, Mrs. Colfack and the pupils returned the following day to help put the house back in order.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Heiser, Jer-ald and Sharon, visited at the Duane Beck home Friday evening.

Herman Meyer helped Merrill Anderson with butchering Monday and was a dinner guest there.

Dorothy Scott was a supper guest Wednesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Beck. Mrs. Victor Frickel and children called later in the evening.

Pvt. Donald Frickel, son of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Frickel, completed eight weeks of basic training with the army at Ft. Ord, California. Following a 14-day leave he will return to Ft. Ord for eight weeks of advanced army training. Mrs. Frickel

is teaching in San Leandro, Calif. Because of the distance involved the couple is not planning a trip home at this time.

Victor Frickel, Frank Kilmurry and Duane Beck attended the Hereford Bull sale at Alliance Saturday. The bulls sold for \$10,000 and more. Mrs. Victor Frickel, Vicki, Bonnie, Beverly, Rodney, Glen and Bethene spent the weekend at Valentine visiting Mrs. Frickel's sister, Mrs. Jerry Henderson and family.

The Celia 4-H club enjoyed a roller skating party at the Roller Rink in Atkinson Friday evening. Refreshments were served. Bill Kretschman and a party of five were dinner guests Saturday at the Robert Hendricks home. They came to load out cattle which Robert had pastured for Mr. Kretschman this summer and take them to the Bob Pierson ranch at Davenport. Present for dinner were, Bill Kretschman, George Mathis, Butch Mathis, Harlan Kibart, all of Atkinson, and Wally Gates and Bob Pierson, Davenport.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meyer visited at the Neal Mewhirter home at Stuart Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meyer jr. attended a Sunday school class party Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Walters, north of O'Neill.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hendricks and family were supper guests Monday evening at Mark Hendricks.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy Hoffman and sons visited at the Thilo Poes-snecker home Sunday evening. Mrs. Hoffman, teacher at the Pioneer school, had a Halloween program at the school Monday evening. Lunch was served.

See the Frontier Want Ads.



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