

Prairieland Talk

"Help at Cornpicking Time"

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

A mid November morning as I park at my typewriter to do a little Prairieland Talking. Winter comes early in the Capital City, six inches of snow this morning and cold. But the sun comes up in a cloudless sky and may warm us up by noon time. It was clear bright day in early November seventy-four years ago. Four prairieland patriots holding down homesteads four to six miles northeast of O'Neill came to our homestead farm home to help my mother and sister who were trying to gather in the corn crop. My father had died that summer and I, a 16-year-old became the "man of the house." At corn gathering time a crippled hand attached to my right arm and I could not husk corn. Mike Carrol, Jim McTaggart, Dan Barns and George Lathrup that November day came and did the job for mother and sister. A good crop of good corn, not the hybrid stuff they have today but the beautiful large white ears that sod corn growers raised in those days. We were moving into O'Neill that fall and so one room of our homestead house was taken over in which to store the corn. I hauled some of it into town and got 22 cents a bushel for it at the Too-hill flour, feed and grain market at what is now 5th and Douglas street where today stands that great building the Safeway store. A brother of one of those helpful gent's that gathered in our corn stole a wagon load of our husked up corn, killed our dog that remained home when the family moved to town.



Romaine Saunders

The hotel building at 4th and Everett streets, the old brick building at 4th and Douglas streets just across the street south of Hotel Golden and the building at the northeast corner of that same block, the Bentley store building, are the three buildings in O'Neill that have survived fire and floods the longest of any on our streets. The Bentley building was in the long ago the property of two whose ancestors came from the Bible land, ancient Palestine, those two the only Jews to ever live here and they left in the mid 1880's. The old brick building there on the corner was the town's first bank, the rooms above being the office and home of M. P. Kinkaid, lawyer, judge and congressman. The first I knew to have the hotel on south 4th street was a John O'Neill and Roscoe Conklon. Gatz meat market between 3rd and 4th streets and Neil Brennan's hardware just across the street from the Gatz meat market are next in point of years. Matthews who started The Frontier in 1880 had the first brick house in town, which still stands on "Kid Hill." I took Doc's share of the crop of corn we raised on his homestead land one year.

Thanksgiving comes once more and we may rejoice over the good things of life, grasp more firmly the Guiding Hand of that One who desires to lead us all the way.

Mr. Seaton of Hastings who served as director of a government department in Washington under President Eisenhower announces he will seek the Republican nomination for governor primary election day next May. Says he is definitely opposed to a sales tax. So am I and so are citizens in the states where they have the sales tax. Mr. Seaton has it, the itch for public office. Lets scratch him.

Four army officers died by a single blow, not on the field of battle in a distant land but here near our Capital City in the way many come to the end of life's trail these times, an airplane crashing to earth.

Winter has come at autumn time. Looking out of the window where I am seated there it is a blanket of white snow across the outdoor scene. I turn away, stretch out upon my bed, close eyes and vision again the summer sunshine, the flowers, the singing birds, the landscape robed in velvet green, and prairieland patriots hard at work. O, forget it! Go out and make snow balls with which to pelt passers by. It happened one time. A hated neighbor going by. Brother threw a snow ball that hit that passing gent's hat and as the hat flew from his head he spit a mouthful of tobacco stained spit right into his hat.

Referring to State Senator Orme being a candidate for re-election herein recently it was indicated that the election was this fall. The senatorial election comes up again next May.

A Rockefeller in divorce court. The rich, the great, have their family rows. The humbler citizens live in peace, happy with family ties unbroken.

McClure, Elwood, Potter, Blaben and the Spade and H. T. outfits in the cattle ranching game at one time now no more. But one survives down in the Amelia country that got going in the days of those mentioned, the Riley Bros. Shorthorn cattle ranch now carried on by Mr. and Mrs. Thomas T. Baker, the lady of the ranch being a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Will Riley, and her husband, Mr. Baker, a native of England who knows the cattle ranching game and how to manage it on the prairies of Holt county.

Editorial

O'Neill's Christmas Decorations

The next time you are driving through the business section of O'Neill, we would like to have you take a second look at the Christmas decorations hanging overhead. No doubt you have glanced at them but this time park your car, get out and really look. We think they are beautiful, especially with the sun sparkling on the foil or at night when the colored lights give a fairyland look to them.

Add recorded music to loud speakers and then think of the enjoyment the sight and sound would bring to young and old alike. Even one dollar from each family in this area would get the project off to a good start. How about it? Is there an organization or club that would undertake such a plan?

Few persons realize the expense of Christmas decorations. The Chamber of Commerce spent \$600 this year, as in the past, to add to the decorations already accumulated. All that amount purchased were the new aluminum foil strings used across the stop light intersection.

Each year the Chamber members contribute a generous amount but, as you can see, it is a slow process considering the cost of the material. The city furnishes the labor, assisted by Consumers Public Power crewmen, and also pays the current charges for the colored light bulbs.

There are still quite a few of the older decorations to be put up and when that is finished, in addition to the business establishments Christmas trim, the City of O'Neill will give a pleasing and festive holiday look to our many visitors. It would add to the beauty if homeowners went to extra trouble this year and really added the spirit of Yuletide to the residential area.

Anyone who has visited Minden at Christmas time is well aware of the business and visitors the decorations have brought to that city. It is written up all over the country and folks come hundreds of miles to view the lights.

What a pity that an O'Neill or county organization doesn't take over the courthouse building and make a decorating project of that. It is such a perfectly shaped building for the idea and would be a drawing card for miles around. If only one long string could be purchased this year, it could be wound around the top and be a show place even this Christmas. Four strings could go from the center top down each corner edge of the building.

Picture it in your mind—colored lights all over the building and in the shapely trees in the yard.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

Ray Dickerson, Atkinson, has accepted a position in the drug store of Gilligan & Stout to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of John Sullivan. Mrs. E. Krier, 59, of Meek died at her home near Meek last week. Judge Dickson will appoint C. B. Scott of this city as his stenographer when he enters upon his official duties as judge of the district court next January. Col. Neil Brennan and son Francis, left for Washington, D. C., Monday where Francis will enter school to prepare to take examination to the military academy at West Point.

25 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Ellen O'Donnell has cause for real happiness today as she has gathered around the dinner table all her children and their families. Lone touchdown by O'Neill beats Ainsworth crew before largest crowd that ever witnessed a game in this city. Evelyn Ressel went first on hens and Jack Ressel first on tons in the 4-H Turkey show held in O'Neill November 21. Chambers students are planning a carnival at the schoolhouse November 27. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dexter and Ben Turek attended the Box Supper at the schoolhouse south of Ballagh. Mrs. Leona Gleed was hostess to the Valley Center project club November 17 at which time Mrs. Ervin Carpenter was elected leader. Mrs. Chloe Adams has been named leader of the Cloverdale project club.

10 YEARS AGO

National honor has been bestowed to O'Neill youth, Edward Boyle, who makes his second trip to the national 4-H club congress in Chicago. Laurence Haynes has assumed active management of the Simonson post 93 American Legion, club and auditorium here. The Covered Wagon Council's highest award, the Silver Beaver, presented to District Judge D. R. Mounts. A truckload of turkeys, ducks and chickens will be loaned in O'Neill Saturday for a free-for-all scramble, arranged by O'Neill merchants. Kathleen Flood Hansen and Stanley J. Lambert have been named as soloists for the O'Neill community presentation of the "Messiah."

5 YEARS AGO

Arthur W. Tomlinson, a lifelong resident of Holt county, died November 22 in the Omaha Methodist hospital at the age of 57. The annual Chamber of Commerce sponsored yule window unveiling will be held November 30 at 10 a.m. ceremony November 22 Miss Joan Freinking became the bride of James Edward Klosner at St. Margaret Mary's church in Omaha. Wedding vows were exchanged by Dixie Lea Stevens, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Stevens, and David L. Willits, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Willits, both of Orchard, at the Evangelical United Brethren church November 17. Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Switzer celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary Sunday.

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The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

The Methodist Ladies aid is preparing a bazaar to be held December 14 and 15. Considerable petty thieving has been going on recently. A plan however, has been perfected by which it will be easy to capture the parties on the next occasion. C. E. Martin is bailing the hay he bought of C. C. Jones. Smith Bros. offers a free cake stand, pair vases or glass fruit dish with each \$3 order. "The Heavenly Twins," a farce comedy in three acts, will be shown at the Band Hall in Chambers December 5 by the Chambers young people for the benefit of the Baptist church. Owing to the overcrowded condition to the public school in Chambers, it has been necessary to hire a third teacher, Mrs. B. F. Earl, and a schoolroom in the old post office is being used.

25 YEARS AGO

Calvin and Lloyd Bostrum of Kearney were visiting in the Leon Hertle home last week while here dealing in used cars. Evelyn Ressel went first on hens and Jack Ressel first on tons in the 4-H Turkey show held in O'Neill November 21. Chambers students are planning a carnival at the schoolhouse November 27. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Dexter and Ben Turek attended the Box Supper at the schoolhouse south of Ballagh. Mrs. Leona Gleed was hostess to the Valley Center project club November 17 at which time Mrs. Ervin Carpenter was elected leader. Mrs. Chloe Adams has been named leader of the Cloverdale project club.

Atkinson News

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Schmuckler and family went to Omaha recently where they attended a banquet held at the Town House for all Case machinery dealers. While they were in Omaha they were also overnight guests in the home of Mrs. Schmuckler's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Wahl. Patty Schmuckler remained in Atkinson with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Wahl. The Schmucklers returned to Atkinson Wednesday. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Johnson were November 18 dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schenzel in O'Neill. Dora Roth and Jerry Bauer, Valentine, spent last weekend in Atkinson with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roth. Miss Roth has set her wedding day for December 10 to be held in Atkinson. She has been employed in Valentine for the past year. Emil Colfack and Edward Bouska attended the regular meeting of the Noxious Weed board in O'Neill last Friday. Mrs. Sophia Brown and Frances Stuart, O'Neill, went to Omaha recently where they boarded a plane for Buffalo, N. Y., to visit their brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Lester Anderson. They expect to be gone about two weeks. Keith Keating, Denver, Colo., has been visiting his mother, Mrs. Opal Keating, for several days. The Atkinson Civic Improvement Garden club met recently at the home of Mrs. Dorothy Olson for the regular meeting. Thirteen members and two guests, Mrs. Violet Ashcroft and Mrs. Vera Plank, answered roll call. The hostess served a dessert luncheon at 2:30 p.m. Plans were made for the annual Christmas party to be held at the home of Mrs. Fred Mack December 6 at 5:30 p.m. After the business meeting, election of officers was held with the following new officers elected: President, Opal Keating; vice president, Mrs. Elmer Spann; secretary, Mrs. Bill Wefso and treasurer, Mrs. Leonard Jungman.

The Atkinson Iris society members held a workshop in Atkinson for all members of the Federated Garden clubs of District 6 in this area. It was held at the new Methodist church building November 14 with a good attendance. Many arrangements in keeping with the Christmas theme were on display as well as several tables artistically set with linens, place settings and other decorations in keeping with the holiday season. Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schenzel entertained the Pitch club Sunday evening at their home in O'Neill. Prizes were won by Mrs. Claude

Johnson, Mrs. LeRoy McMillan, William Wefso and Claude Johnson. The next meeting will be held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy McMillan.

Scott Carlson came Tuesday morning to visit his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. William Wefso, until Thanksgiving Day. Dr. and Mrs. Carlson and Sherry arrived Wednesday evening to spend Thanksgiving in Atkinson also.

Mr. and Mrs. John Henning had Thanksgiving dinner for her relatives. Those spending the day in the Henning home were their son, Bob, who attends Wayne State Teachers college; Mr. and Mrs. Gus Obermire and family, Stuart, and Mrs. Mary Henning, who is in the Rest home in Bassett.

Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Fricke, Lincoln, arrived Wednesday evening to spend the weekend with friends and relatives and were Thanksgiving Day guests of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Smith.

Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Hertel were Sunday dinner guests of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bernard (Bus) Clouse at Bartlett.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Lines and family enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner and family get-together at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dana Lines, Inman.

Sunday dinner guests in the G. H. Grimes home were Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Adams and Mr. and Mrs. Glen Grimes.

Amelia News

By Miss Florence Lindsey

Leonard Svatos has been ill due to a back ailment. Gene Carr has been helping him with his ranch work. Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Widman, Mrs. Lew Backhaus and Mrs. Edith Andersen went to Omaha Sunday evening, Nov. 19, to see the slides shown by Carl French at the Methodist church. The Frenches recently returned from Africa.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Bly went to Custer, S. D., Friday.

Chambers News

By Mrs. E. R. Carpenter

Mr. and Mrs. Burnell Groce and family, Wakefield, were Sunday guests of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Young and family.

Mr. and Mrs. William Jutte, Chambers, and their guests, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Serek, Bunceton, Mo., were Sunday guests of Mrs. Jutte's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Casper Harley at Atkinson. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Blaine Garwood, Amelia, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Serek, Emmet.

The Rev. and Mrs. Charles Cox went to Ericson Sunday where he performed a wedding ceremony. Mr. and Mrs. Erwin Carpenter were callers in the Tom Baker home at Amelia Sunday evening. Ernest Bailey, Valentine, was a dinner guest in the Ernest Young home Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Beed went to Valentine Sunday to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Russell, and brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. John Reynolds.

Pamela Sue Young, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Young, received baptism at the Chambers Methodist church Sunday with the Rev. Cox officiating. Mr. and Mrs. Burnell Groce, Wakefield, were her sponsors.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Serek and son, Stanley, and Mrs. Arnold Lenz, Bunceton, Mo., came Saturday

Nov. 17, to get Raymond's mother, Mrs. Louis Bly, and bring her home with them for a visit. Zane Edwards did chores for them while they were away.

The Delbert and Zane Edwards families attended the close-out farm sale of Delbert's brother, Bill Edwards, near Bartlett November 29. Edwards' wife died recently and he plans to go to Nevia, Minn., with another brother, Charles Edwards for awhile.

Charlie Sigman has been on the sick list recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Hiatt visited at Elmer Coolidges Saturday evening, Nov. 18.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Adair, Allen and Dick, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Adair, Jerry and Diane, visited with their brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Schmitt, at the home of their mother, Mrs. Gertie Adair, and were also dinner guests there. Mr. and Mrs. Art Doolittle and Mrs. Stella Sparks were afternoon callers.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn White and Venita, and Grandpa White were dinner guests Sunday, Nov. 19, at the home of Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Barnett.

Mr. and Mrs. Earnie Johnston and Mrs. Vern Sageser attended services at O'Neill Sunday evening, Nov. 19, to see the pictures shown by Missionary Carl French from Africa.

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