

PrairieLand Talk

"Thief Takes Cash and Coal"

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

There was upon a long time household bureau a can filled about to the top with pennies and nickles I was saving for two grandchildren when they got out to see where I was then living. But away from home for a time, the house supposedly locked, some light fingered scoundrel got in through a window or otherwise, stole that can of coins, then went to the barn where I kept a load of coal and made away with a quantity of what was used to keep the stoves hot. Money and coal that unprincipled citizen of the neighborhood made away with from my place of dwelling out on prairie land. Had I driven up to the gate and seen him at it there would have been a shot fired and down would have gone that thieving cut.



Romaine Saunders

The year has run its course. Another year of life's record left behind by you and me, a record lighted along the way. Now another year to do it again and may the Kindly Light lead all the way our traveling feet must go.

Among the many Christmas greetings PrairieLand Talker found in his mail box, it was nice to get that good word from Senator and Mrs. Nelson who have a ranch home on beautiful prairie land in northern Holt county. It was a fruitful season in their community the past year. Senator Nelson has committee work at the State House to look after in connection with his job as state senator and I hope to have a visit from Frank when he comes to Lincoln.

A cold December morning as the year 1961 draws to a close. The month of December brought to the Capital City more real winter than was experienced all last winter. But Capitol City patriots take it with a stride, up and on the go. And two little friends smiled their thanks when given money for them to get their Christmas candy.

John. Starting with General John O'Neill who started things here there come to mind about forty citizens of this community who answered to the name John. One of the last bearing that name to pass out of the picture here was John Sullivan who spent his life from early boyhood to old age in this community. John Mann, John McCafferty, John Skirving, John Weeks were a few of the many Johns, and my father's first name was John though he was known mostly by his middle name, George.

He said he "loved money." He was a white collar gent at whose office I had stopped on my rounds for news in my newspaper days. Then he explained that love for money that he liked the things that money would buy so worked to rake in the money that for him and his dear one maintained an enriched household. Yes, it takes money as we pass along the journey of life, all want it, some have plenty of it, others but little. That white collared money lover kept it at but like the countless humans before him he heard the death angel beat the drum call to eternity. So, he and his love of money rests today in the grave. But the news hunters are still on the go nosing in on the affairs of other money lovers.

A good letter and season greetings comes to PrairieLand Talker from Mrs. William Egger of O'Neill. The lady is a daughter of a pioneer couple of that interesting region of northern Holt county and has memories of her childhood out in the Joy community and the stories she heard of pioneer life and the hanging of Barret Scott. Greetings came to me from that lady now living in a New England state, she a native of O'Neill and a daughter of one of the DeYarman families. There were three DeYarman brothers who had the Checkered Livery barn in the "horse and buggy days" located at Fifth and Douglas street. And that lady down at Columbus who tells me she is my "Scotch-Irish friend" writes a beautiful letter with seasons greetings. Mrs. Lawson is a daughter of the late Billy Hagerty household and has memories of girlhood days in O'Neill and thinks often of them. Cheerful words come from friends in distant states and from those still in good old Holt county, Nebraska.

James F. O'Donnell—see him no more on the streets of O'Neill or at his banking business. But memory calls him to me this winter morning as he and I were youthful sprouts in the old school room up on the hill and Jimmie stepping around to wait upon someone at his parents' hotel, the Valley House in the east part of town, his people being pioneers and about the first to start a hotel. But school days and hotel days come to an end for James F. O'Donnell, he a roustabout at the First National Bank which introduces Jimmie to his life's work, banking. Head of the O'Neill National Bank and finally heading a bank a little to the north of the O'Neill National. His remains are resting in the abode of the dead here where he had lived his useful and busy life. As far as I know but one of that pioneer O'Donnell family, Miss Anna, is still part of the O'Neill community. And may Anna have a Happy New Year and for days and years to come. Editor's Note: Mrs. Sue Deaver makes her home with sister, Anna.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

Mrs. M. F. Harrington and son, Gerald, left Wednesday morning for California where they will spend the winter months. Several O'Neill fistic lovers are figuring on going to Omaha on January 25th to see the contest between Jack Sullivan and Uwick.

Michael Fleck and Miss Kate Kutcher, both of Chambers, were united in marriage last Saturday afternoon at the county court room, District Judge J. Harrington officiating. Jessie Hixon, 47, died at his home ten miles north-east of this city last Sunday morning after an illness of 10 days of appendicitis. The annual ice harvest has commenced and the ice men say that the ice is not very thick even if we have had ideal ice weather the past ten days.

25 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Nellie Froelich died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Edward Campbell Wednesday evening after an illness of several weeks, at the age of 65 years. Transportation is closed here due to several days of mist, ice and a heavy snow which estimated as high as one foot before it was drifted by high winds. 489 new automobiles were bought in Holt county last year. An item in the January 7, 1937 Frontier tells of an article printed February 6, 1883 which reports the thermometer at 36 degrees below zero. Michael Holland, 92, who came to this county in 1877, died January 1 at the home of his daughter, Mrs. George Mullen in Omaha. Plans are underway for the convention of the Midwest Wool Growers association.

10 YEARS AGO

Nineteen registrants get draft orders. Stork is late for annual Frontier baby contest, no candidates so far. Agatha Heeb, 87, succumbs here. Ramon Bright and son, Ardell, became owners of Red & White grocery store, previously owned by Robert Schultz. Mobile x-ray unit comes to O'Neill. Marriage license issued to Donald Meyer, O'Neill, and Rita DeLong, Page, on December 27. Miss Lylis Tangeman, Chambers, and Vernon Schmidt, Ewing, are married December 26 in Chambers St. Paul's Lutheran church. Four sons of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hammon, Lynch, see duty in armed forces, Eldon, Duane, Gilbert and Phillip.

5 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Constance F. Biglin, 69, dies December 27 in St. Anthony's hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clyde observe golden wedding anniversary. Francis Doty, Spencer high school student, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Doty, O'Neill, suffers fracture of pelvis in car accident. Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Roush, who live south of Butte, honored on 50th wedding anniversary. J. R. Russell, 82, Page, is fatally stricken with heart attack. Miss Elizabeth Jane Gallagher, O'Neill, and Anthony Anewalt, San Diego, Calif., united in marriage December 29 at St. Patrick's church. Young Stuart Farmer, James A. Batenhorst, dies following farm accident.

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The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Mr. Fellows, who with his wife has been spending some time with his daughter, Mrs. R. H. Atwood, was taken ill and has been transferred to a Lincoln hospital. The thermometer struck 26 degrees below zero here this week. The Morrison Entertainers will present a program of interpretive reading and harp music January 6 in the Chambers Band Hall. The friends and neighbors of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Hough began the New Year right by gathering at their home and enjoying a social evening. M. S. Potter has moved onto the Graves ranch.

25 YEARS AGO

Madelon Jane Adams, 4 years old, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Adams, was killed December 29, 1936 when the car in which she was riding turned over as they met a team of loose horses at the top of a hill near Palmyra. Word reaches Chambers that Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Hammer of Sedro Woolley, Wash., are the proud parents of a son, born December 31. In the pre-

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sence of relatives and friends the marriage of Miss Leona Ruth Anderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Asa Anderson, Burwell, and Mr. Ralph Everett Majors, Chicago, was solemnized at the Chambers Methodist church Christmas morning. Three head of horses owned by John Krogh and George Hall, were killed Wednesday evening when struck by an auto owned by Ed Kennedy.

Royal News

By Mrs. R. J. Hering

Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Sawyer received a telephone call from their son, Ardell, at Hillsboro, Ore., Christmas Day while entertaining their two other sons, Ervin and wife, Royal and LaVern

and wife and daughter, Fremont. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ritter, Tilden and the Rev. Wanda Clausen, Sargent were recent guests of Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Sawyer. The Sawyers visited friends in Albion during the holiday season. The BTC club held its annual New Year's Eve "watch party" at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Blackmore.

Mr. and Mrs. T. R. Dodds and Mrs. Lottie Eggleston, Neigh, were dinner guests Friday evening of Mr. and Mrs. Russell Burch.

Mrs. Maud Friesheim, Tacoma, Wash., who had been here a month visiting her brother, Truman Kirby and Mrs. Kirby, and her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Robertson, Brunswick, was taken to Grand Island Friday evening by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Beatler, and there boarded a train for her home. A pre-holiday party at the home

of Postmaster and Mrs. Stanley Montgomery included the following postoffice employees and wives: Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Rundquist, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Dawson, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Johnston, Mrs. Zola Hering and Harry Hagedorn. An oyster supper was served. Cards furnished diversion.

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Editorial The Future -- Your Responsibility

New Year's Day has come and gone . . . resolutions have been made and by this time probably broken despite our best intentions. Nineteen sixty-one is now behind us and its cares and problems have been willed to history.

The new year is upon us, bringing with it an entirely new set of problems which must be faced as they present themselves. From a world crisis over the prospect of communist domination which poses a threat to the entire free world to the smallest personal problems which crop up daily in our personal lives an entirely new set of problems must be faced.

The overall picture for 1962 is not a cheerful one. Poverty and disease are still rampant in many parts of the world. Political strife in many countries has led not only the country involved but entire nations into bloody warfare. Communist infiltration is endangering free governments all over the world. These are but a few of the problems which must be faced during 1962.

Here in Holt county we are separated from the actual problems but it is here and in similar communities that the problems must be analyzed and dealt with. By the time these problems have advanced within our own borders, it will be too late to meet the enemy.

The fact that a farmer or rancher or business-man lives in a community located away from the line of action should not remove him from the responsibility of taking an active and responsible part in dealing with the problems which face the state and nation today.

Your neighbor who takes no part in local government, refuses to express his views to his congressman and then complains that the "Government" is sending us sliding on the greased rails to hell has no one to blame but himself—and thousands more like him who refuse to recognize their responsibility or to realize the power which they still have.

We have two resolutions which we think should be included in everyone's schedule for the new

year . . . (1) Write to your congressman twice a year. Express your views and tell him what you think of the job he is doing. We know of no rancher who would hesitate to praise or criticize his hired man for the way he was doing a job . . . why hesitate to express your views to your congressman who we know would appreciate hearing your views.

(2) Make it a point to keep informed on state and local government and TAKE AN ACTIVE PART. The parent who does not safeguard his children's right to participate in government during future years has done more toward undermining the United States than any 12 communist workers could do working full time.

Despite the gloomy outlook in many parts of the world it is still not too late to change the future. But to do it is YOUR responsibility.

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