

PrairieLand Talk

"From Teacher to Storekeeper"

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

Kate Mann was the oldest of the three daughters in that Mann family that came to O'Neill from southern Wisconsin about the year 1882. Miss Kate at first taught school before the town had a school house where the present great school building now stands. From teaching Kate became a helper in her brother John's store, and when that ambitious brother left this little PrairieLand town to go to that great mid-continent city by Lake Michigan to launch into business, Kate took over the business John had started here to continue operating it for some years until age required her to retire. And her brother John's auburn hair turned white, he too took the halting step of the aged, returned to O'Neill to end his days. And another. No more is seen of that business woman early mornings going down 4th street to unlock the door to the store there on the corner, go in and manage the business started by J. P. Gallagher. Yes, Miss Meire a long time business lady had to give it up finally as Kate Mann did. But another lady is still with us in business and heads up the Stannard store, the only place you can buy a banana now on south Fourth street.



Romaine Saunders

Father and mother went out to work leaving their 6-year-old daughter to care for the other two children, one a baby. The little girl lighted the oil stove to warm some milk for baby. Her dress caught fire and she rushed out of the house calling for help. A neighbor rushed to help the child and put out the fire. Father and mother away at work as it takes both of them to make a living these days. And a tragedy in that home 6-year-old Suzie died but baby sister got her milk.

Towels, wash cloths and soap came to me as holiday gifts, maybe some feeling that dad should wash his face.

The gas boys of the O'Neill community had to do this cold January weather. So you had to turn down the gadget. Well, in the days of buffalo chips and hay burners we fired up on cold winter days, crawled in between feather beds at night and the stove turned cold.

President Kennedy proposes to seek to be added to the social security benefits hospital and medical insurance for the aged citizen who has no other means to provide for his doctoring when ill. So grandpa and grandma can lay down sick under medical care. After 70 years voting and paying taxes why not?

Editorial

What Can I Do?

Christian Science Monitor. It's easy to be cynical about the news. Headlines by themselves are a depressing diet. Reporters consider themselves realists and unless they are careful it is only a short step from there to professional pessimism. A good many year-end reviews wallowed in the swamps of the world's problems.

Fill in your own blanks. "_____ is a mess. The situation in _____ is hopeless. We have bungled _____ disgracefully. How can you make any sense out of _____?"

This is irresponsible thinking and there is too much of it.

It is child's play to pull things apart. It takes courage and tenacity to put things together and make them work. We do this in material affairs. We build great structures and great organizations. We solve technical and scientific problems of the utmost complexity.

But how many citizens have the resilience to look at a tangled series of conflicting interests like the Congo and think—not out of impatience and irk, but think as if they were the Secretary of State? There is no substitute for saying, "What would I actually do, if the decision were mine?"

A quick answer is no answer. Policies are not made that way. Anyone can apply his prejudice and come up with a predictable decision which will be predictably out of touch with actuality. A look at one side of a dispute is an invitation to be tripped up by unseen factors on the other side. President Kennedy has frankly said he made a mistake for just this reason in the case of the landings in Cuba. This newspaper is convinced that the task of

Shoot if you must this old grey head, but spare your country's flag. A hundred years ago the arm of that grey haired Baltimore woman reached out of her upstairs window to save the flag of her country. A company of soldiers were marching by and shots had been fired at the flag. Stonewall Jackson headed that company of soldiers and when he saw that "old grey head" and heard the appeal of a loyal American woman a shade of sadness and a blush of shame came over his face. "Halt" the dust brown ranks stood fast. Who touches a hair of you grey head dies like a dog. "March on", he said. I have traveled along that same street and there stood the building where a patriotic woman defended her country's flag. And that company of southern fighting men marched on to defeat, my own dad having a hand in bringing to pass that defeat that reunited us all again under one flag.

The sun glows in golden glory this 12th day of January '62. Seventy-four years ago this day PrairieLand was visited by that terrible winter storm, the blizzard in the year 1888 that took the lives of some here in Holt county and left many dead cattle on the prairie. And the picture comes to me again of Grandma Chapman in her bobbed, her team up to a hay stack and she frozen to death, her little granddaughter by her side crying for mama and daddy. Grandma had left home near Dustin to take her little granddaughter to her parents in Stuart and was caught out in that killing winter storm. But the sun shines today 74 years later in the march of time. And I am at my typewriter because I did not get started that morning with a team for the Inman county.

John, George, Bill and men of other names are you now on the last half of life's journey: Love and adore the wife of thy youth if she still abides with you.

As a young fellow he came from Denmark to Nebraska, farmed for some years down in Greeley county. Later located in our Capital City and did odd jobs and then to one of those modern institutions known as a nursing home and got a monthly old age check from the State House. Today old and a raving wild-eyed old Danish American is confined to the crazy ward at the state hospital. Another I have known. He came from Germany some 70 years ago as a young lad. Lived his life in the farming regions just out of Lincoln. Today "off in the head", another from distant lands for our state institution. And I call to mind several others who came to us from foreign lands who live peacefully in their old age here in our Capital City enjoying health and a sane mind.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

Farmers living in the Minneola country are feeling quite confident that the proposed interurban road will be built the coming season. Dell Aiken has been reappointed postmaster at Atkinson, R. R. Marsh at O'Neill, and B. E. Sturdevant for receiver of the land office here for another term of four years. Last week the eastern butter markets were higher than they have been for over twenty years. Gus Weirich will have a public sale of his personal property at his farm three miles northeast of this city Monday as he is moving to Pierce to engage in business. Sanford Parker, register of the O'Neill land office and an old timer in this territory recommends that O'Neill copies Norfolk and enjoy the fine sleighing this winter.

25 YEARS AGO

O'Neill citizens donate \$166.80 for Ohio flood relief. William Spangler, a prominent farmer living south of Clearwater, died at his home Tuesday afternoon after two hours illness. Cold weather lasts a month, snow covered ground destroys pheasants. Spaulding academy basketball team defeated St. Mary's 22-11 but were stranded in O'Neill overnight due to drifting snow. Last rites held Saturday for Marion D. Fritchett who died at his farm home northeast of this city Thursday evening at the age of 75 years. The O'Neill Woman's club will meet with Mrs. Penisten Wednesday afternoon at which time Mrs. H. E. Coyne will review a new book.

10 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Michael Stenger, Lynch, observe their 50th wedding anniversary. Heart ailment proved fatal to Ogden Wood, semi-retired jeweler. Strong winds, snow and subzero temperature batters O'Neill region for 30-hour siege. Funeral services held for Mrs. Hannah Stevens, 89, Page, who died January 19 at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Evelyn Gray following a year's illness. Stuart Community church holds annual meeting; votes to have nine trustees instead of six. Jimmy Sawyer is elected president of the Victory Boys and Girls club.

5 YEARS AGO

D. C. Schaffer, president of the O'Neill Production Credit association for the past 20 years, announces that he will be a candidate for office of director. Five Cub Scout dens organized in city. Charles A. Bare, 30, retired Lynch rancher, died January 21 of a heart attack. Former Burlington railroad agent at Page, Henry Howerton, succumbed January 20. Gold Star Mother, Mrs. Royal Lanman, 58, dies January 20 at her home in O'Neill. Marriage of Miss Shirley Jean Keller, Spooner, Wis., and Stanley G. Young, O'Neill, performed January 12 in First Wesleyan Methodist church of Kansas City, Kan.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Lienhart have commenced housekeeping in the Baldwin house. Charlie Graham and Chauncy Porter drove horses to O'Neill Monday for the horse buyer. Smith Bros. have ordered a new ice plow and expect to harvest a big crop of ice. Bogart & Lienhart is improving their store by new paper and paint. Highest prices paid for hides at Smith Bros. Adv. Mrs. I. Eckley is expected home the last of the week from Kansas where she has been visiting her mother and sister. Wesley Gaines, the lecturer, will appear Saturday night at the Band Hall.

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25 YEARS AGO

Buss Cavanaugh, local Chambers boy, middleweight, wins fight over Jerry Jones, Wayne, in technical knockout. Many residents here are stricken with flu. E. E. Eminger is receiving medical care for severely frozen feet. Mr. and Mrs. John Haake received word Tuesday that their son, Henry and wife of Clearwater were again parents of twins, a boy and a girl. Fire destroys the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Eacker Sunday evening. Eileen O'Malley, Chambers, freshman at Wayne State Teachers college, was recently re-elected recording secretary of the Newman club organization for Catholic students.

Dorsey News

By Mrs. Harold Osborn

Visitors at the Carson sisters and the Edward Carson home were Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnson on Sunday.

This community has been witnessing some very sub zero weather the past few days accompanied by wind, which makes it seem much colder than the thermometer registers.

The Graham family is having their turns at the flu and bad colds, some feeling worse than others.

Monty Pickering spent Tuesday night at the Leslie Stewart home.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meyer jr. and Vickie, Atkinson, visited Sunday at the Roger Rosenkrans home.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Ruzicka and family visited with Frank's parents over the weekend.

Lyle Wells drove Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wells to Sioux City Wednesday so Howard could see the doctor again after having surgery the week before.

Mrs. Howard Graham, Marilyn and Leslie took in the basketball game at Lynch Saturday evening. Lynch boys won, giving them a trophy.

Gordon Barta and Roger Rosenkrans cabled in a couple of dozens of feed for Harold Osborn as he is confined to the house, by having a severe time with a carbuncle.

Mrs. Leta Miles spent several

days working at her farm home cleaning and packing, as Ben Miles is planning on returning to the farm.

Mrs. Virginia Scranton and Mrs. Janice Jenkinson drove up from Plainview to help Mrs. Miles and to also visit a while at the John Derickson home Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Buss Greene drove out Sunday to the Osborn home to help since Harold isn't feeling very well.

Riverside News

By Mrs. Lionel Gunter

The United Presbyterian Women met Thursday afternoon with Mrs. Wayne Shrader. Mrs. Kitty Fry assisted with the lunch. Mrs. Veal Tuttle gave the lesson "Let's Face The Facts" from the program guide, Mrs. Lionel Gunter had study guide on Romans: "God's Righteousness". Mrs. Web Napier led the Prayer Group in prayers for Egypt and eastern area of the United States. Mrs. Veal Tuttle presided at the business meeting, the program department is to plan Family Nights. The Mesdames Wilbert Napier, Wilbur Bennett and Archie Johnston are to get prices on electric roasters and mixers and report to the February meeting. Members are to answer roll call in February by naming and locating a National Mission Station. \$25.00 was donated to the mimeograph fund and voted to pay \$5.00 each month for dues. There were 16 members present. The women will meet with Mrs. James Kay with Mrs. Alfred Napier in February.

Mr. and Mrs. Z. H. Fry visited last Sunday and were overnight guests at the Duane Jensen home in Newman Grove.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Napier went to Sioux Falls, S. D. last Sunday. Nancy, Susan, Reta and Sonja stayed at the Dale Napier home.

Mrs. Keith Biddlecome and Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Gunter visited at the Frank Schmidt home Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Don Larson and Linda were supper guests Wednesday at the William Lofquist home.

Mr. and Mrs. Z. H. Fry visited at the Otto Retke home in Inman Friday evening.

The Riverside Missionary Society held their January meet-

ing Thursday afternoon at the Melvin Napier home. They also had a pink and blue shower for Mrs. Everett Keesler.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ahlers and family, Wisner, were guests last Sunday at the Rudy Ahlers home.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Napier and family were supper guests at the Lynn Fry home Tuesday.

The Arlen Miller family visited at the Lynn Fry home Friday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fink and Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miller visited at the Ora Switzer home Thursday evening.

Mrs. John Napier visited at the Alfred Napier home Friday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. George Montgomery visited the Joe Tomjack family Wednesday afternoon.

The Marvin Pribnow family, Cedar Rapids, visited at the Earl Pierson home last Saturday.

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