

Prairie Land Talk

"A Visit from A Friend"

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, 411 South 51st St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.

It is always a pleasure to visit with a native son or daughter of the O'Neill community. And such it was recently when Tom Brennan came to see me. He is a son of that Irish patriot from Scotland, Neil Brennan, the pioneer hardware merchant in O'Neill, and at an early day hauling in freight from points to the east and at times stopping to bathe his tired feet in the clear waters of the Elkhorn. Tom informed me that he had recently been to O'Neill on a visit, he and his good wife, also an O'Neill girl, making their home here in Lincoln on South 17th street. New buildings going up now in his native home town Tom reports. His sister, Miss Bernadette, is still supervising the city and township library and she was wanting a copy of that beautiful word picture of adventure and romance, "The Rim of the Sandhills" by Will Spindler as many visitors to the library want to read the book, which deals with people and scenes in northwest Holt county. Tom is taking life easy these days having retired after many years with the Western Electric concern. And memories of O'Neill still linger as he also has property interests there.

The first week in May, fruit trees in full bloom, apples, cherries and plums for us another season. City lawns robed in green and those bright golden dots of dandelion blossoms adding their bright picture to the scene. Summer time comes to warm Prairieland and grow the grain and vegetable and fruit crops. And again the superannuated old boys sit around occupying the loafers' benches.

Omaha, wild and gay 50 years ago, turns sanctimonious and will have a Sunday closing law. I see in Holy Writ that the real thing religiously is not just closing shop on Sunday but to extend the helping hand to widows and orphans or others in need of help.

The north winds sullen moan bringing snow and ice is now at rest. Take down the storm doors and windows that kept out the cold, put up the wired frames to keep out the flies and bugs. Hot summer days now coming our way.

All of North America is at peace and most of Europe and distant island groups. And we on green robed Prairieland are all "happy as a clam in this land of Uncle Sam".



Romaine Saunders

He was a Nebraska boy, she a Nebraska girl. Now in middle life walking life's highway hand in hand as husband and wife. Their journey along the way brought them to the cradle of the human race known as the Middle East where for some years they have served their Lord as missionaries. And a few months back home finds them in Lincoln and while visiting here her mother died and was put to rest in the abode of the dead not here but taken to another state for burial. A visit with that Middle East mission worker I learned that life there is as it was in the days of Abraham more than three thousand years ago and they farm and watch their flocks as Isaac and Jacob did, but not very much interested in Christianity.

Another Mothers' Day come and gone. Yes, we need them every day, in memory and in person. She was the mother of two sons and three daughters, a pioneer woman out near the once thriving village of Mineola. About the year 1901 her son Fred built mother and himself a nice home in O'Neill on Fremont street between 2nd and 3rd streets. Mother and Grandmother Addison rest today in the abode of the dead here in O'Neill, as do other mothers. And the living mothers and grandmothers are still the object of our veneration and esteem.

Lifetime is living time. Let us so live so that at the end of the trail we may feel that it has been good to have been here.

Is there an aged gentleman or lady in O'Neill today who in the 1890's saw and spoke to a young girl by the name of Minnie Sul Kirk who lived with her parents in one of the early day homes in the southwest part of town. None you say? But here is one in our Capital City who had grasped the hand of that young lady in the long ago and escorted her to parties and entertainments. Yes, Prairieland Talker was that youthful admirer of Minnie. The Sul Kirk family moved to Sioux City when the Short Line railroad was built, and Prairieland Talker centered his youthful admiring eyes on other delightful gals. O, Old Timers, don't deny it; you did the same too. Yes, we had our love and happy days, and now with wrinkled brow and limping limb still like to have our fun.

Clouds, thunder, maybe the longed for rain after hot windy days that seemed to mean a summer of rainless days. Weather conditions are either a worry or a time of rejoicing. Somehow we make out and survive year after year. A flash of lightning, a crash of thunder, let it rain.

Editorial

Two-Way Squeeze

(Nebraska Education News)

When LB381 was passed in the last session of the legislature the bill regulated the price of contracting for instruction between school districts. At the time the bill passed, we predicted to the introducers of the bill that the new statute could lead to their own schools refusing to contract with the rural elementary schools. Some schools have already done this — York, Seward, Creighton, Crete. Recently, school board representatives from five southeastern counties met to consider doing the same thing. The exploration of this idea took longer than we thought, but once several town districts start refusing to accept non-resident pupils (either elementary or high school), the idea will spread like wildfire. The no-contract step is not so much to force school district reorganization but, as one Superintendent put it, "an attempt to solve our own mounting problems."

Free high school tuition and contracting for elementary pupils was proposed and used in the days when reorganization was an unheard of thing and, at the time, thought to be impossible. But now the whole picture has changed. Reorganization is possible and is going ahead. The town schools are getting larger — and the rural schools getting smaller. The town schools are finding the financial road rough and getting rougher. The rural schools are finding themselves with so few pupils it is not financially or educationally feasible to keep a school open. Any school district is organized for one purpose and one purpose only — to have a school. Should a school district contract for instruction, it has then by-passed the reason for its existence. But, residents of these districts jealously guard their identity and favorable tax position by keeping the district. It's true that should a district contract for five years it must be dissolved. But there are obvious ways of getting around these wrinkles in the law. So, the squeeze is on — both ways. The towns don't have the financial backing to take care of

their own kids, let alone someone else's. The rural areas don't have enough kids to operate a good school economically. Both groups are going to hold out as long as they can. It now looks as if the towns are going to make the big move by simply saying, "We will educate our own and you educate yours. If you want us to educate yours, join us and we will do it." Whenever the towns make such a statement, there is always the threat of economic reprisal by the rural areas. Rural people will say that if you don't take our pupils, we won't trade in your town. This is a rather empty threat as the towns are the economic centers and business will always concentrate in these centers. It has taken longer than we thought it would, but it is now beginning to look as if our prediction in the last session of the legislature is coming true.



THE FRONTIER

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Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

The explosion of a lamp in the living rooms over Stannard's store last Monday evening called out the fire department, but the fire was extinguished with its aid. . . . Frank Scachka, Atkinson, and Miss Elizabeth Dresson, of this city was united in marriage by Rev. W. J. O'Sullivan Monday morning. . . . Andrew Springer and family returned Wednesday from Cabool, Mo., and will again make Holt county their home. . . . Cam Tinsley intends to cover his territory this summer for time that was made better. . . . The play put on by the students at St. Mary's Friday was greeted by a crowded house and is pronounced by critics to have been the academy's best drama.

Riverside News

By Mrs. Lionel Gunter

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miller visited in the Earl Stevens home, Page, last Sunday. They also called on Mrs. Jessie Cronk. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Rotherham and family visited in the Alfred Napier home Friday evening. Mrs. Walter Miller and children attended a prayer conference in O'Neill Saturday.

25 YEARS AGO

The Rev. Frances Markey arrived here Friday from Santa Fe, N. M., and celebrated his first high mass in St. Patrick's church Sunday morning. . . . Steskal digs out 12 coyote cubs from one den at his place northwest of O'Neill. . . . Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Birmingham and Mrs. W. J. Froelich attended the Kentucky Derby races Saturday at Louisville, Ky. . . . The Connolly boys celebrated the 63rd anniversary of the arrival of their father in O'Neill; Mr. and Mrs. Connolly were members of the original Gen. John O'Neill colony that came to O'Neill May 12, 1874 and founded this city. . . . John Selders and Esther Sexsmith were united in marriage May 10 at the Methodist church.

10 YEARS AGO

George McCarthy, O'Neill, was elected state deputy of the Nebraska Council of the Knights of Columbus. . . . Shirley Leahy is chosen valedictorian at St. Mary's academy. . . . Phillip J. Keating, former banker and a retired Atkinson implement dealer, died May 3 in Atkinson hospital. . . . Dr. and Mrs. H. D. Gildersleeve have purchased the Garry Johnson residential property. . . . Hazel Marie Johnson and Bruce McElhane are chosen queen and king at OHS junior-senior banquet and prom. . . . Heart attack is fatal to Ralph Cobb, 59, prominent Stuart rancher, May 14.

5 YEARS AGO

Howard J. McConnell, 47, O'Neill rancher dies, May 15 when tractor upset. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Bill Strong observed their golden wedding anniversary May 12 a family dinner at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Walter Calkins Tucker. . . . William Hock has been elected superintendent of Page schools for coming year. . . . Former Orchard woman, Mrs. Oscar Hanson, spends nine years as communist for FBI. . . . Lionel Siefen, 40, manager of Robertson Beverage company, dies unexpectedly May 12. . . . St. Mary's to graduate 44 seniors.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Chas. Barnum made a trip to Omaha Saturday returning Monday with a new Brash Runabout which he has sold to Mr. Holcomb of Amelia. . . . Mrs. Jerome Grimes is on the sick list this week, suffering severely from a pain in the side. . . . Bert Wilson has just added his name to the list of auto enthusiasts by buying a new Ford Touring Car, last week from A. E. Wyant of O'Neill. . . . Bard Hanna and Chas. Graham are moving the buildings on the Cavanaugh place. . . . Will Dexter is building a new house. He has the cage now — wonder who the bird is. . . . There will be a basket social in the schoolhouse Tuesday evening for the benefit of the Epworth League. . . . Jimmie Doherty reports a saw mill at work on the Slattery place near O'Neill. . . . Come to the ice cream parlor Sunday for a "Happy Thought".

25 YEARS AGO Anna Jane Doherty, 79, died May 9 after failing health the past few years. . . . All the latest reports say duck eggs are hatching exceptionally good this spring. George L. Smith went to Norfolk Tuesday to have his tonsils removed. . . . Theodore Moss is moving 110 head of cattle to Rock county this week for summer grazing. . . . Last Thursday night Ace Hubbard and Hap Medcalf came near having a serious accident while returning from O'Neill and run a front wheel off. . . . The marriage of Miss Carol Gribble, Sioux City, Ia., to Gurney Drayton of Orchard, to Gurney Falls, S. D.

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AK-SAR-BEN RACES

FUN UNDER THE SUN NOW thru JULY 4th 8—RACES DAILY—8 9—Races Saturdays—9 AND HOLIDAYS ADMISSION 75c (Including State and Federal Tax) LADIES' DAYS TUESDAYS and FRIDAYS Admission for Ladies 50c NO CHILDREN ADMITTED HOLIDAY IN OMAHA Post time 2 p.m. DAILY EXCEPT SUN. & MON. Except Monday July 2. Twilight Races Every Thurs. 3:30 P.M.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Johnston, Barbara and Marilyn, Mrs. Gerald Wetlaufer and Gary, Mr. and Mrs. Willie Shraider and David and the Verl Gunter family were dinner and supper guests last Sunday in the Eddy and Alice Shraider home. Mr. and Mrs. Web Napier, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Napier and girls and Mr. and Mrs. Dale Napier were supper guests Monday in the Z. H. Fry home in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Napier's fifteenth wedding anniversary. The Wayne Fry family called in the evening.

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Mr. and Mrs. Amos Switzer visited Tuesday evening in the Ora Switzer home. Mr. and Mrs. Z. H. Fry were callers Thursday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pierson visited in the Will Conner home Tuesday evening. Mrs. Frank Schmidt and Mrs. Chester Taylor visited in the Rudy Ahlers home Friday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. Martin Helmricks were guests Monday evening in the Dewitt Hoke home. Mr. and Mrs. Web Napier, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Harpster and family, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Napier and girls and the Alfred Napier family were Mother's Day guests in the John Napier home. Mr. and Mrs. Dale Napier and Mr. and Mrs. Z. H. Fry visited Thursday in the Duane Jensen home, Newman, Grove, to help Anna Marie Jensen celebrate her birthday.

Arlene Miller, teacher in Riverside school took the 5, 6, 7, and 8 grade pupils from his school to Neligh Friday morning to practice singing with other rural pupils. The group sang at the eighth grade graduation exercises in the afternoon. The Jolly Workers club met Thursday afternoon with Alice Shraider and Mrs. Wilbur Bennett and Mrs. Flora Young hostesses. The ladies did embroidery work.

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Mrs. Keith Biddlecome visited in the Joe Sturbaum home Thursday evening. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Pollock and family visited in the Dave Pollock home Friday evening. Lynn Fry and Floyd Napier were Norfolk visitors Friday.

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