

The Best of . . .

# "Prairieland Talk"

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

With the death of Romaine Saunders comes the end of new Prairieland Talk columns. However we feel that previous columns were of such great interest that we will reprint selected items as a regular feature of The Frontier. We hope new readers will receive as much enjoyment from the accounts as we have and those who read it for the second time will refresh memories or find new inspiration and information they missed on the first publication.—The editors

March 18, 1948

A state university professor sees further decline in population if we remain a strictly agricultural state. Prairieland covets not the belching smokestacks of factories and battles and busted heads of striking workers. There is room in Nebraska-land in the "far flung open spaces where no plow has turned the sod", room for men to live and breathe God's free air, to see the glory of the sun rise and the splendor of the sunset's afterglow, room for villages and towns, for homes on the land. Nebraska—the cow, grain and hay state where families may live and work and learn and worship in unworried and unhurried freedom.



Romaine Saunders

If Congress has authority to fix monthly rents on dwelling houses and apartments it has no authority to say what share of the crop the renter shall turn over to the land owner and how much cash he puts up per acre for pasture? Is there any limit to price fixing?

The morning was cheerless and soggy. Clouds, like a gray curtain, hung across the sky. Pavements were wet, bespattered with mud, a raw wind penetrated to the marrow. The pedestrian, wrapped in morning gloom and mental melancholy silently grumbled about the bad weather. Then a citizen crossed his path, flashed a captivating smile as he called out a cheery "Hello!" and the face of the young man shone with a full measure of glory. "Oh, heck it's not such a bad day!" And so the sunshine of a warm-hearted personality dispels the dark shadows of unlovely thought even as the glow of noonday sun overwhelms obscuring clouds.

Robert Meals accompanied the diplomatic mission to Ankara, Turkey and is now serving the Turkish government as advisor on munitions. He is a son of Col. Charley Meals who won his spurs at West Point where he went from O'Neill under appointment from the congressman of the Sixth congressional district in 1901. Robert served as an officer in the late war, himself a product of West Point.

If you must smoke yourself to sleep, better get yourself some asbestos bedding.

Asked what he thought of the prospects of another war, the tan clad soldier with the insignia of an officer in the aircraft service on the sleeve of his coat, replied: "It is too near to suit me". He has seen three and a half years service in Europe and in the Pacific and at present is sta-

tioned at an army flying field at home. His observations and experience brings the conviction that the next world tragedy will drop from the sky in bombs and explosives, with the ground army equipped to take over conquered territory. Soldiers, who have felt the world pulse, viewing the situation as they do, what may patriots everywhere contribute toward peace among mankind?

The Indian mother packs her papoose in a blanket on her back while his lordship—her man—walks ahead of her unincumbered. The native African mother carries her baby astride a hip as she works the farm land, while her man lolls in the shade. They were walking up O street in Lincoln, the young mother carrying the child in her arms while the young dad walked by her side empty handed. Men just don't take to caring for babies.

The Frontier today with a bulky issue out does anything in small town newspaper endeavor in this part of Nebraska. An enterprise of this kind cannot but reflect great credit not only on the editor but business interests of O'Neill that have made such an undertaking possible.

When Calvin Coolidge occupied the White House he once had a visitor on Washington's birthday, one of those gents who like to cast a shadow over national heroes. He remarked that Washington had been a gambler. Mr. Coolidge looked out of the window in the direction of that tall shaft guarding the Patomac and said "the monument is still there."

Men count their real estate holdings in the thousands of acres. When the bell tolls at the end of life's trail all you can have is 6 feet of land.

The sizable lists of candidates for presidency are getting organizations set up in Lincoln to promote their chances at the April primary. Gov. Dewey of New York will be boosted again by Lee Rankin, a young Klinec attorney whom I have known since he wore knee pants. Mr. Rankin managed the Dewey campaign four years ago. Mr. Stassen has invited the New York governor to a debating party, which is not likely to materialize. Debates render participants raving, caving, stark staving mad and settle nothing, but furnish a little fun for spectators.

I don't know much about the background of the southern feeling toward the Negro, but if a domain in the open spaces of Africa were made available for the colored folks of our black belt the whites that have been knocking them around would have to go to work.

The statistic gatherers say there are 3,882,000 cattle in Nebraska. The best they can do is take assessment figures which never account for the last hoof. But those figures disclose a beef population more than three times that of humans.

By the word of the Lord were the Heavens made, and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth. He gathereth the waters of the sea together as a heap; he layeth up the depth in storehouses. Let all the earth fear the Lord: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him—Psalms.

The state of Nevada expresses it in a three-word motto: "Willing and able". And that expresses the capacity of Reno divorce courts.

Editorial

## Good-Bye To A Friend

The Frontier and Holt County lost a friend last week with the death of Romaine Saunders. Mr. Saunders, author of Prairieland Talk, achieved a kinship with Frontier readers during the years he edited the paper and later as he served as a guest editorial writer. His vivid accounts of early happenings in the settlement of this area, as well as his keen observations on present day happenings, made his column a favorite with young and old alike.

Mr. Saunders grew up in Holt county during that wild and reckless era when a new country was being settled. The harsh visitations of nature, the rolling thunder, the wild lashing of raging winds, weeks of merciless heat from cloudless skies, devouring clouds of grasshoppers, all served as a challenge which men and women of that generation faced with conquering courage. Mr. Saunders brought these memories to life as he recorded them in his writings.

Romaine also recalled the lure of Prairieland which fascinated and captured the very lives of those of his generation. The harshness of Prairieland was tempered by the pleasant winds of romance and adventure, the whirr of wings of countless Prairieland birds, a visit at the home of a

dainty and mild-eyed antelope, the waving sea of grass, the fragrance and color of the prairie rose, the fairy music of the meadow bells and the lingering harmony of landscape and sky. These memories, too, he recalled for us.

The following paragraphs from one of his early columns reveal some of his insight on life:

"The tide of time ebbs, and out of the receding shadows who would wish to close the heart, the vision, to one lovely thing? There was a starlit night across the sweep of yesterdays when a warm, soft hand rested in mine and blue eyes reflected full surrender as gentle words spoke their mutual faith.

"Are yesterdays only vain memory? Nothing is vain or futile that touches the mysterious depth of human emotions. We have the yesterdays and today. Who knows that he will have tomorrow only as he may have built it in the yesterdays and today for that greater tomorrow?"

Romaine has stepped across that threshold into the greater tomorrow. We are sure he has built it well.

B J R

## Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

B. H. Parker wore an unusual St. Patrick's day decoration. Byron pinned on a five-dollar bill in lieu of the shamrock or green ribbon which he wore until it was torn off by an ultra enthusiastic son of Erin. . . . Father Flannigan, assistant parish priest, has been transferred to Omaha. Father Gleeson has been sent here from Omaha to take his place. . . . Col. Neil Brennan departed yesterday for Omaha, where he joined a large concourse—something like a trainload—of implement dealers from all over Nebraska who have been subpoenaed as witnesses in the International harvester trust. . . . Miss Mary Howe has accepted a position in O'Neill and has resigned her position at Chambers as teacher in the high school resignation to take effect about April 1. . . . Peter Ryan arrived home Tuesday from Delaware where he had been since last September. Mr. Ryan in the meantime having had the whiskers removed that long adorned his face.

25 YEARS AGO

Saturday evening a surprise party was tendered Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Brady at their home near Dorsey, the occasion being their Silver anniversary. . . . Mrs. Mable Meredith McKenna filed for the republican nomination for county clerk last Wednesday. . . . Frederick Schaal died at the residence of Fred Tesch, northwest of Emmet last Monday at the age of 79 years. . . . Michael D. McKenny, who was convicted in district court last Wednesday morning of having stolen four calves valued at \$65, the property of Harry Van Fleet living near Atkinson, was sentenced to six years. . . . The Bowen Variety store was broken into last Sunday night the cash drawer rifled and about fifteen dollars in cash taken. . . . Mrs. Mayne Weddel was hostess to a luncheon honoring Miss Clarissa Teague, who will go to O'Neill to assume the position of chief operator at the telephone Co.

10 YEARS AGO

The entire teaching and custodial staff of the O'Neill and public school has been re-elected for the 1953-54 year. . . . Army Pvt. Bernard Janzing of Camp Roberts, Calif., graduated with fellow members of his company as they completed basic infantry training last week. . . . The Bethany Presbyterian church will hold its first service in the new sanctuary on the evening of Good Friday, April 3. . . . Harding Crawford, a teacher, was awarded a certificate of merit for writing first place in their group for having bought cream from stations whose average score for 1952 were 93.87 per cent. . . . A marriage license was issued to Frankie L. Buckles, 18, of Merriman and Miss Wilma Van Buren, 18, of O'Neill on Saturday, March 21. . . . DEATHS: Thomas Harding 85, O'Neill, Marine 2/Lt. Henry Schleuter and William H. Kahoff, 60, Clearwater.

5 YEARS AGO

Simon unit 93 of the American Legion announced that Elaine Pauline Krugman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Krugman has been chosen to represent O'Neill at Cornhusker girls state in Lincoln in June. . . . Ten Pin Alleys, a bowling firm opened here in December, has been sold to Mr. Poleck of Prague. . . . Miss Donna Fuhrer 25, a well known O'Neill invalid who paints by using a brush in her teeth, Saturday was taken by ambulance from St. Anthony's hospital here to University hospital at Omaha. She is suffering from a heart ailment. . . . James Nisenson, a Junior at Page high school has been chosen as boy stater for this year and will be sponsored by the American Legion post No. 315. . . . DEATHS: Fred Fritton, 69, O'Neill, Charles Cronk, 74, Page, Mary Dierks, 55, Atkinson, Julie Braddock, 80, Bassett and George Schneider, 22, O'Neill.

## The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

One of the worst blizzards since '88 occurred last Friday. It was preceded Thursday by an all day rain which in the evening turned to snow and accompanied by a terrific windmade traffic of any kind impossible. . . . The little sons of Wood Jarman met with a very painful accident last Friday afternoon by upsetting a teakettle of boiling water on themselves while playing in the kitchen. They were badly scalded but are reported by Dr. Gail as getting along fine at present. . . . Dr. Oxford reports the birth of a fine baby girl at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Nelson last Friday. . . . Frank Lienhart purchased the barber shop and business from Wood Jarman last week and took immediate possession. Will Biglin and Leo Mullen came down from O'Neill Monday to embalm the body of LeRoy Nichol, preparatory to shipping it to Correctionville, Ia. for interment.

25 YEARS AGO

At 2 p.m. Monday, March 21, at the Methodist parsonage in Ainsworth, Rev. John Hart, officiated at the marriage of Miss Lo-raine Ella May Giberson of Danning, to Mr. Leyn Leroy Fluckey of Chambers. . . . Miss La-verne Walter and Lloyd Jutte were home from Wayne College a weekend recently, coming to Neligh with another student from college, being met by Lloyd's father, William Jutte, who brought them to Chambers Sunday of last week. . . . The Cedar Creek Baptist Mission will hold its dedication services Sunday, April 3 with all day program; the real dedication service being in the afternoon. . . . Nebraska as you well know is the home of Arbor Day, which comes on April 22. Again this year, plans are underway for celebrating one way or another this 66th anniversary of this important event. The American Legion, The Izzak Walton League and The University of Nebraska are sponsoring the state wide anniversary.

## Pages Past

50 YEARS AGO

A. E. Riggs is now located at Lomax, Ill. . . . Alvie Davis was here from Scottville Saturday. . . . John Aberg made a trip to Iowa this week. On his return trip he called on Sam Coover who is now proprietor of a bowling alley and pool hall in Omaha. C. H. Frink of Wood River was a guest of his son, Earnest, the first of the week. . . . Ralph Stevens spent Sunday in O'Neill, as usual. . . . Mrs. S. H. Page will open a kindergarten at her home next Monday, March 19. School hours 9 to 11:30. Tuition \$1.00 a month. . . . New barber, W. F. Rief. . . . The Ladies Mission meets with Mrs. Roy Waring Thursday. . . . Bror Bengtson is moving to the Kes-ners place. . . . Elias Clark and sons have finished shucking 200 acres of corn without help. . . . Myron Hartford and son, Allen started for Norfolk Wednesday. . . . C. C. Hartford and John Bengtson were callers at the R. K. Stevens home Tuesday.

40 YEARS AGO

R. J. Bryan, accompanied by W. R. French drove to Lynch Saturday to meet Miss Marjory Bryan off the train from her school duties at Burke, S. D. The storm hurried them on home, arriving at 11 a.m. . . . Gertrude Stauter, principal of the school, accompanied her. . . . Kansas Klan carry fight to United States Supreme Court to show they are purely American. . . . Fred Clark, Harold Grass, John Lamason, Mildred Palmer and Marjorie Park visited eighth grade Friday. . . . P. X. Larsons, working out at the Knudsen place. . . . H. L. Bittner and wife moved to Plainview March 1. . . . Lucille Kemper had the misfortune to throw her knee out of joint and is unable to attend school. . . . Lawrence Munderloh, Orville Kemper, Jimmie and James Hildreth went to a wolf hunt Sunday east of Creighton. Eight hundred men got five wolves in the circle and killed

them. Forrest West left last Sunday for Douglas, Wyo. . . . Born to Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Miller, March 5, an eight pound girl. . . . A seven and a half pound girl born March 5 to Mr. and Mrs. Charley Sterner.

## Inman News

By Mrs. James McMahan

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Reynolds went to Omaha Wednesday to attend the Lumberman's Convention. They returned home Friday. Mrs. Albert Reynolds spent Monday in Neligh on business. She also called on Mr. and Mrs. Bert Reynolds. Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Keyes, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Gunnson, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Clark and Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Hansen and Warren attended the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Clark Sunday at Walthill. Mrs. Clark is a sister of Mr. Clark and Mrs. Gunnson is a sister of Mrs. Clark. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Cunningham and son have moved from O'Neill to the tenant house on the Harvey Tompkins farm south of town.

Mr. Otto Reitke, Mrs. Curtis Smith and Mrs. Ethel Tompkins were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Tompkins and sons Saturday evening.

## Cub Scout News

The Inman Cub Scouts met at the schoolhouse Monday after school with Den Mothers Alta Wierfeldt and Lois Tompkins. The Cubs began work on their March projects. Neil Tompkins served treats.

Inman Cub Pack No. 283 met at the schoolhouse at 8 p.m. After the flag salute led by Arlee Butterfield, the Cubs and parents sang "America the Beautiful" and recited a pledge to keep our country clean and beautiful. Achievements for advancement in rank were discussed. Lois Tompkins led in singing and Alta Wierfeldt and Joy Gallagher directed games. The bear badge and a gold arrow point were conferred upon Rodney Alder. The program for the evening closed with the singing of the "Star Spangled Banner" and the Cubs reciting the Cub Scout Promise. Mrs. Justin Butterfield and Mrs. Howard Jackson served refreshments.

## Boy Scout News

The Inman Boy Scout Troop No. 283 picked up the Goodwill bags Saturday morning under the direction of Donald Keyes, Scoutmaster. A large pickup load of materials was gathered for the Goodwill Industries. The Boy Scouts held their regular meeting Monday evening, March 11 in the Manual Arts building of the Inman Consolidated School. The boys worked on learning the Morse Code.

## 4-H Club Notes

Goose Lake 4-H Club  
The "Let's Sew" girls of the Goose Lake 4-H club met at the home of their leader, Mrs. Diane E. Summerer for their second project meeting.  
Three interesting demonstra-

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tions were given. Diane Summerer presented "We Sew with Clean Clean Hands"; Phyllis Tomjack was on "Our Sewing Tools" and Julie Summerer showed us how to "Thread your Needle and Tie a Knot".

We worked on our towels which are to be completed by the May meeting. Many of the girls showed their apron materials and also the attractive sewing boxes they had made.  
Our next project meeting will be April 15.

Mrs. P. W. Summerer and Mrs. Bud Tomjack assisted the leader as our regular assistants, Mrs. Ted Tomjack was ill.

## Nifty Needlers 4-H Club

Nifty Needlers 4-H club met Saturday at the home of Debbi Asher. The meeting was brought to order by our president, Jolene Grass and the minutes were read by Andrea Wettlaufer. Roll call was answered by exchanging cookie recipes.

The business meeting was then adjourned and we all went to our classes, followed by group singing led by Mrs. Lyndley Crumly. Mrs. Asher served lunch followed by games, in charge of Patty Jo Crumly.  
Janet Kelly was a guest.  
We will meet next with Becky Beelaert.  
Laurie Scheinost, reporter

## Midway 4-H club

Midway 4-H club met Friday at 8 p.m. at the Linda and Jeanette Woidneck home.  
The meeting was called to or-

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for  
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der by Linda Woidneck, president. Roll call was to wear something green. Plans were made for the coming year.

After the meeting we sang a few songs. The project books were passed out, plans made for next month's lessons and the year books filled out. The rest of the evening was spent playing games.

Jeanette Woidneck and Karla Anson of the "Let's Cook Project", made a delicious lunch of sandwiches, vegetable plate and apple crisp. This was served cafeteria style by Linda Woidneck, who is taking "Meal Planning".

The next meeting will be held at the home of Sharon and Karla Anson April 12.

Pamela Crawford, reporter

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