

The Best of . . .

# "Prairieland Talk"

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

Reprinted from May 27, 1948

It was 42 years ago this coming autumn that a car of household goods and personal property was routed out of O'Neill for Seattle, Wash., marking the departure of two families. One of these was especially identified with the early life and activities of O'Neill, marking too the mingled feelings of sympathy and condemnation.

Mrs. Hagerty and children were shipping out to join her unfortunate husband, now facing life's sunset, who was confronted with the task of building home again.

Hagerty was O'Neill's first merchant, conducting a large business in the building now used as a public eating place since its removal across the street from the original site at Fourth and Douglas. From merchant he became banker and was head of the Elkhorn Valley bank which was closed by bank inspectors. Mr. Hagerty left the town quietly and was followed by Bernard McGreevy, associated with him in the bank. The bank failure was unavoidable, but none the less severe on depositors.

That the family of this well-meaning pioneer had to face this humiliation aroused the sympathy of many. McGreevy's baggage was released for transportation after settlement of some claims in justice court.

Jim Farley's story of the break with the late FDR contributes no luster to the spectacular career of the instigator of the New Deal, marked up on the agenda of old fashioned patriots as the raw deal.

Oddly enough, Mr. Roosevelt's popularity clustered exclusively among the ranks of the common herd, whom he looked up as his social inferiors. His official circle did his bidding while hating him. His — true worshippers were those who never got to see him only as the monthly dole was a steady reminder.

It is a queer kink of human nature for those who must root, hog or die, to admire, and maybe sometimes envy a gent that has never done a day's work and can come along and dip into the United States treasury and toss out the billions to be blown across the earth by the four winds.

I believe it was a newspaper gent out at Alliance who started it — a dollar doesn't do as much as it did and you are not doing as much for a dollar.

Of course it would be unfair to lay it at the White House door, but there has been more and better strikes since 1932 than in all previous history of organized labor.

Because President-Elect John Tyler did not have sufficient funds to pay his way to Washington for his inauguration, he had to borrow from friends to meet the expense of the trip from Williamsburg, Va.

They occupied a side seat at the front of the bus opposite from where I sat. A young mother with two children under bus fare age. The little boy clung to a small rubber tire and presently began the process of beating up on his little sister. She came back at him in kind.

There it was, primitive, fundamental to the race. The children were not of the rowdy underprivileged class; their mother had the bearing of culture, and marks of refinement. To subdue her beligerent offspring she sat between them.

Who is this troubled world longing for the sweet solace of peace is there to sit down between the conflicting elements and speak the work, peace, be still.

During their debate neither Stassen nor Dewey put a finger on the tender spot of communism, which is tinted to the core with religious conceptions. Russians threw off one absolute monarch for another, kicked out the state church, and became atheists, casting off the God of their fathers for a god of flesh. If that's what they want they are welcome to it, but just why do they desire to ram it down the throats of other peoples?

President Truman has succumbed to the barnstorming pre-convention tours. Omaha will have the honor of entertaining the president, Mrs. Truman and their accomplished daughter on June 5. Omaha is Nebraska's stronghold for Democrats and doubtless Mr. Truman considers it not worth while to invade the Republican stronghold in Lincoln. Oddly, the late W. J. Bryan, three times the Democratic standard bearer, fared better in the capitol city than in the larger town over on the banks of the Missouri.

Better read the label before you take it with you. When you get home you may discover that bottle of hair pomade was made to straighten the colored gent's kinky hair.

This thing they call the new look is old stuff to those past 50. For men, let us not go back to the Mother Hubbard trousers or the skin tight pants legs. Some of us would welcome the knee pants of colonial days for hot weather wear.

A Nebraska citizen celebrating the 100th anniversary of their birth is of frequent occurrence. It is notable that those among us who have survived for a full century came to prairieland as pioneers and experienced the vicissitudes of frontier life.

Thrown from an overpass by a traffic collision to the top of a moving freight train, a truck driver then slid to earth. That was in California where the unusual is the usual daily occurrence.

There are about 2,800 different languages spoken throughout the world; 270 million people speak English. 488 million speak a variation of Chinese, and 166 million speak Russian and its dialects.



Romaine Saunders

## Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

Pat McGinnis arrived in the city last week from Puerto Rico, being called here by the serious illness of his father, Stephen McGinnis. Mr. McGinnis was dangerously ill for a couple of weeks but has been on the road to recovery for the past ten days. . . Charles W. McDonald of Wheeler county and Miss Mary D. Burk of the county courthouse after a six-month illness. . . Adrian (Bernard) Laible, OSB, will be ordained to the holy priesthood on Tuesday, May 27 at Conception Abbey, Conception, Mo., by Most Rev. J. P. Cody. Father Adrian is the second priest to be ordained from St. Boniface parish at Stuart in his 75 year history. . . The board of education has secured Thomas Hutton for a coach for the Ewing public school.

5 YEARS AGO

Three O'Neill girls participated at the capping exercise held Sunday, April 20, at the Sisters of Charity school of nursing at Providence hospital, Kansas City, Kan. They were the Misses Cora Corke, Carlene Schoenle and Rita Jigg, all are 1957 graduates from St. Mary's academy. . . District Judge D. R. Mounts has returned to duty at the Holt county courthouse after a six-month illness. . . Adrian (Bernard) Laible, OSB, will be ordained to the holy priesthood on Tuesday, May 27 at Conception Abbey, Conception, Mo., by Most Rev. J. P. Cody. Father Adrian is the second priest to be ordained from St. Boniface parish at Stuart in his 75 year history. . . The board of education has secured Thomas Hutton for a coach for the Ewing public school.

## The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Dr. Oxford is enlarging the building between the Central and Bugle office and will have his headquarters there in the future. . . The Amelia juniors ball team are coming over Saturday to cross bats with our High school boys, a purse of \$5 has been offered to the winning side. The Martha team is also coming up to play with our local team for a purse of \$9. Everybody be sure to see these games. They promise to be good. . . Dr. Bernard and Ed Jarman went to Omaha after a new R. C. H. touring car for Ed Porter and one for John McClenahan. . . Union Memorial services will be held in the Band Hall, Sunday, May 25th. Rev. T. H. Evans will deliver the Memorial Sermon. Jesse Davis and wife returned from Omaha Wednesday where they have been spending the last few weeks.

40 YEARS AGO

Thomas Cooper and F. Lauderer drove to Osmund Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Leah returned from Omaha Monday. . . Charles Grass and family ate Sunday dinner at the Leslie Lines home. . . Mrs. McGaughey is teaching during the illness of Mrs. Leah. A shower was given Florence Heiss at the home of Mrs. Dr. French. A large number were in attendance and many beautiful and valuable presents were brought. The dining table was tastefully decorated with red and white.

25 YEARS AGO

Announcements have been received of the birth of a son, Alan N. to Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Christiansen of Robin, Ida., on May 14. Mrs. Christiansen previous to her marriage was Miss Louise Wintermote has accepted a position as teacher of Vocational Education at Newman Grove for the coming term. She will graduate from the State Agricultural College on June 6. . . Announcements have been received of the graduation of Miss Janice Anderson from the High School of Coquille, Ore., Janice attended her Freshman year at the Chambers high school. . . Miss Lorraine Mitchell returned home Tuesday evening from Miltonvale, Kan., where she has been attending college the past nine months. This was Miss Mitchell's second year's training for missionary work.

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## Pages Past

50 YEARS AGO

Earnest Frank is the busiest man in town these days. . . An organ has been installed in the Fraternal Hall by the Royal Neighbors. . . Mrs. Robinson and the Misses Finley were passengers to Sioux City Tuesday. . . Wilt Stewart took his departure to Bellingham, Wash., Monday. . . Born to Mr. and Mrs. Hans Peterson of Middle Branch, April 7, a daughter. . . Mr. and Mrs. William A. Uly are rejoicing over the arrival of a baby girl at their house April 8. . . A bright bouncing boy is reported at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Rost, born April 9. . . R. A. Sarchet departed Sunday evening with a carload of horses and machinery for Maple Creek, Sask., Can. His wife will conduct the hotel in his absence. . . Luther Shannen was married Mar. 22 at Cleveland, Ohio to Miss Nellie Finch. They arrived last week and are visiting at Luther's parents home northwest of town. . . Fourth class postmasters are a nervous lot. They note of their impending doom. . . Harry W. Bowker and Miss Susie Crellin were united in the holy bonds of matrimony at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Crellin Wednesday evening, Apr. 9. Rev. E. H. Murten officiated in the presence of the relatives of the contracting parties. George Crellin acted as best man and Miss Mae Ross was bridesmaid. They will reside at Neligh.

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streamlets from the center where stood in gay wedding attire two fine kewpie dolls about ten inches high. Folded slips of paper were passed around, which each guest was to paste a snapshot of himself and also write a bit of advice for the bride. About five o'clock, Ivan Heiss, as preacher, came slowly in followed by Graydelyn Wanser and Whitney Grayton dressed as the bride and groom and drawing a richly decorated wagon heaped with gifts for the bride-to-be. After the gifts were opened a dainty lunch was served. . . Col. Buy Wanser and George Fink shipped five carloads of cattle to the Chicago market accompanied by one owner and two caretakers, Sam Nicholl and L. Miller. . . Mrs. R. Murray, Mr. and Mrs. S. Soukup and Mr. and Mrs. Dean Streeter took supper at the Clyde Streeter home Sunday evening.

Servicemen's Notes . . .

PEARL HARBOR — James Enright, machinist's mate first class, USN, will be advanced to his present rate May 16, 1963 after successfully competing in Navy wide examinations for promotion. The Navy Department announced.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Enright, O'Neill. Enright is serving in the destroyer USS Epperson (DD-719), one of 12 anti-submarine warfare destroyers homeported at Pearl Harbor. His ship's duties include anti-submarine defense of the Pacific area.

Prior to entering the Navy, June 4, 1958, he was graduated from St. Mary's Academy and employed by the American Gear Company in O'Neill.

USS EPPERSON — James D. Enright, machinist's mate second class, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Donald J. Enright, O'Neill, serving aboard the destroyer USS Epperson, took part in the Pacific recovery of Astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, May 14-15 during his 22 orbit of the earth. Thirteen ships in the Pacific Recovery Force are patrolling five pre-planned recovery areas during the flight. The ships are

supported by Navy carrier-based aircraft and Air Force land-based planes. A special world-spanning, naval communications network links the Pacific Force with the Atlantic Recovery Force and Cape Canaveral, Fla.

USS FLETCHER — Merin K. Velder, seaman apprentice, USN, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome V. Velder, O'Neill, serving aboard the destroyer USS Fletcher, took part in the Pacific recovery of Astronaut Leroy Gordon Cooper, during his 22 orbit of the earth. Thirteen ships in the Pacific Recovery Force were patrolling five pre-planned recovery areas during the flight. The ships were supported by carrier-based aircraft and Air Force land-based planes. A special world-spanning, naval communications network links the Pacific force with the Atlantic recovery force and Cape Canaveral, Fla.

The primary recovery ship was the aircraft carrier USS Kearsarge, which picked up Astronaut Walter Schirra at the conclusion of his six-orbit flight last October.

SHEPPARD AFB, Tex. — Technical Sergeant James A. Langan, O'Neill, has completed the United States Air Force technical training course for technical instructors here.

Sergeant Langan was trained in principles of learning, use of training aids, lesson planning and practice teaching. He was chosen to become an Air Force instructor because of his experience and capability.

The sergeant, son of Mr. and Mrs. Michael M. Langan, O'Neill, attended O'Neill High School. His wife is the former Elina Garcia of Tucson, Ariz.

Sergeant Langan, an aircraft instrument technician, is remaining here for instructor duty.

**Paul Shierk**

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