

Prairieland Talk—

Daniel Has the Answer

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

LINCOLN—On the ruins of former world empires Hitler, Stalin, a bogus Caesar in Rome each had visions of world empire.

One night in the palace of the emperor of the first world empire, there came strangers knocking at the door. And that night they slew him on his father's throne, the deed unnoticed and the hand unknown; crownless and ceptless Belshazzar lay, a robe of purple round a form of clay.



Romain Saunders

The Medes and Persians took over. But here comes a young upstart out of the west and Alexander welded together another world empire. Now who was this from the banks of the troubled Tiber who stepped into the scene and formed the fourth—the last—of world empires, Rome? It sits yet alone on the seven hills, no more a world empire.

And to what do those fragments of once great empires look today for succor? To America, to George and Mary Meals, to Tom and Ruth Baker, and to others out here on prairieland? What next? Let Daniel speak: "... in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom ..."

The county treasurer of an Indiana county did it in a big way, 200-thousand-dollars of county funds added to his personal roll. If he was treasurer of Holt county a hanging would be in order. The Hoosiers may make him governor. John D. Forsyth of Niobrara, for nearly 30 years a member of the Knox county board of county supervisors, on official business in Lincoln, collapsed in the statehouse and was taken to a hospital, pronounced dead upon arrival at the hospital. He had for many years been active in public affairs of Knox county. A young woman from Hastings issued a no-fund check to a Lincoln department store; she, in turn, being issued a summons to answer to a criminal charge in court. A woman from Lincoln came out of the Rockies to take a look, also a bite, at us in the capital city of the past in the O'Neill community? Roy Harris, farmer near Sheldon, reports nine-foot corn stalks, and thinks a yield of 250 bushels per acre will come from those towering cornfields of his.

U.S. Sen. Roman L. Hruska sends to Nebraska friends and foes of the national administration a monthly "Washington Report". I do not recall anything like it coming from Nebraska senators of other years and find the senator's report of what official Washington is doing both interesting and informative, containing much of importance that does not come to us through the medium of news dispatches.

I sat today where children play, under outstretched arms of stalwart oaks and grass-robbed landscape all around. Four or five little girls were playing and running around. Childhood in its beauty and innocence with life's colors not yet blurred, when the years unravel the threads that in childhood are woven to form a perfect design as we stumble and blunder along life's highway. First one, then another, confident and unafraid, would come running and bound up on the bench where I was seated. The girls were at play as I walked away, soul refreshed yet humbled before innocent childhood just romping about. I pick up the scattered ends of the warp and woof of life and go at it again.

Not many steps away an aged citizen sits the warm summer day out and reads the morning paper from first to last page. He is alone in the world. When the first man of whom we have record looked out upon his beautiful Eden home he heard whispered in his ear: It is not good for man to be alone! From that time on man has sought out a life's companion. That lonely old guy just a few steps away has found his in a dog and cat.

Editorial—

Sufficient Showing?

The Nebraska railway commission's hearing—a long, detailed proceeding last week at Valentine in regard to Chicago & North Western's trains 13 and 14—is now over. Fireworks had been promised by the Save-the-Trains association, which has been opposing abandonment of the last two remaining passenger-mail-express trains serving most of North Nebraska. And fireworks were there! Good thing, too, from the listener's standpoint, because C&NW's crying-wobly testimony and thousands of figures were incoherently tedious. The railroad broadened the base of the hearing by introducing systemwide financial, maintenance, equipment, replacement and rehabilitation programs. C&NW brass admitted gross inefficiencies in the past. Train-saving witnesses kept the inefficiency theme current by plating in the record testimony and evidence of dirty accommodations, rundown conditions of premises, discourteous relations with passengers, downgrading attitudes of officials and sorry freight performances—all applicable right up to the eve of the hearing. The train-savers discounted the C&NW wailing wall technique with evidence of the sharp rise in C&NW stock value— inexplicable unless the road has a much brighter future than the company's brass wanted the hearing record to show. C&NW's vice-president and comptroller admitted using a set of figures in the Valentine hearing that differed from the figures used in filing its annual passenger report with the Nebraska commission. Moreover, the passenger figures had not been kept and furnished according to statute. The S-T-A counsel disclosed C&NW's express revenue figures by causing C&NW brass to admit the revenue shown on inbound express was by formula and not actual figures. Credit of this dispute involved the distribution of excess which has been given to the express company and how much has been allocated to the two trains—Omaha-Chadron trains 13 and 14.

Gene Kemper, publisher of the Alliance Times-Herald and official of the Western Nebraska United Chambers of Commerce, raised a poignant point for the record when he asked the commission to demand a full investigation of

Up in Dawes county a widow sits lonely today in a desolated home. Her husband was killed by lightning while at work out in the open. It is appointed to man once to die. Lightning filled the appointment for that bereaved widow's husband, no pain, no suffering before being entangled in the arms of death. The wound is in the heart of the Dawes county widow. Lightning flash brings death, swift and sudden. It may bring warning of danger ahead. A flash of light on the road ahead at night; then all is dark. I was a nine-year-old the night we were at a party in a nearby village. Going and coming with a team we crossed a river on a long enclosed bridge. Returning home that dark night the driver did not see the approach to the bridge. The horses were about to step into the swift-flowing river when a flash of lightning came as a warning. It was at a home in the western limits of O'Neill. It had begun to rain. The lady of that household the opening door to see and enjoy the refreshing summer shower. A flash of lightning—Mrs. Sniggs fell dead.

When Prairieland Talker was a legal voter, property owner, precinct election official and patriotic citizen of Swan precinct, some 40 miles southwest of O'Neill, and Mrs. Saunders was in Lincoln under medical and nurse care, I was alone at home. A prairieland housewife on a ranch more than two miles distant from time-to-time sent me a day's feed of fried chicken, pie, biscuit and home-churned butter and other substantial such as only a prairieland ranch cook can get together. The past two weeks daughter and her husband, with whom I now make my home, have been away on a trip. Neighbors all around at arm's length but not a crust handed to me. But this is city life—if you need a crust, rustle it yourself. Just a little picture of one phase of city life in contrast with that out there prairieland ranch patriots dwell. But this good feeder gets a plenty. Just this morning ran out a cherry pie in the cooler that daughter had prepared for me before leaving for distant Los Angeles.

Those who keep tab on such things have it figured that the cost of living has jumped 20 percent over 10 years ago. All who come within the range of my vision seem to be making out all right, well fed and clothed with a car to buzz around in.

Electric fans, air-conditioning units at window tops and just the hand fans are going at full speed these times with the temperature 100-degrees and above. Wear as little as you can get away with and not be written down by the prude as immodest. The prospects for cornbread to the full were never better, the swivel chair farmers give out but where irrigation pumps are lacking some rain is needed right now with corn in the ear-developing stage, say the dirt farmers. Probably up there where The Frontier is read in most ranch homes the sweeps are pushing hay on the stackers and the calves are growing fat running with the mother cows. Where is the snowball the kid hit me with last winter? Then it rained!

A little visit the other day from a "poor farmer" from central Kansas who was in our capital city (Editor Cal will probably cut out the "cap" C's as his Linotypes don't have capital letters). This Kansas farmer, togged out in the best and driving a late model, farms 750 acres and said his crops were good. He also has something under 100 head of cattle, sends a son to college in Lincoln. (Note by Editor Cal: Some newspaper guys and some other people insist on capitalizing every thing that comes along; let down the guard and "caps" become so cheap and commonplace they have no meaning left.)

"I'll be seen' you!" One way to ditch 'em. Years have come and gone since that day the two looked into each other's eyes, smiled, hand-clasped, the one off on the journey, the other left behind. They met again, the one who had gone away now robed to be taken to the abode of the dead. Out of memory's treasured store comes the gratifying thought that on separating some time previously there had been no "I'll be seeing you!"

C&NW's bookkeeping relative to these two trains. Kemper said in 1954 the railroad claimed an annual loss on these two trains of 60-thousand-dollars. In the interval the S-T-A helped to amend the full train crew law and lop off the flagman, saving the road 25- to 30-thousand-dollars per year, and helped to build business against obstacles to offset the balance of the purported loss. Now, Kemper said, the road contends an out-of-pocket loss of more than 200-thousand-dollars per year. "Impossible!" stormed the Alliance newspaperman.

Adverse effect on the freight hauling was promised by S-T-A witnesses if the two trains in question cease to run.

Transcripts of the hearing testimony will be furnished in 30 days. Counsel for both sides have until October 1 to file briefs for both a reasonable time thereafter the commission will hand down a decision.

The Save-the-Trains officials and this newspaper do not attempt to pre-judge the issue or presume to know the intricacies of the law, but they share the feeling a sufficient showing was made at Valentine to justify the retention of these last two passenger trains on this 450-mile mainline. After all, there is no other reliable and adequate substitute, over 20,000 passengers used these two trains in and out of Omaha's Union Station during 1956, and the freight revenues along the line are profitable.

THE FRONTIER
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When You and I Were Young...
Rollie Twyford's Phono Gets Interest
Listeners Declare He Has Fine Records

50 Years Ago
A. W. Dodge, 85, an old settler, died of asthma. A number of folks listened to the phonograph at Rollie Twyford's and declared he had some fine records. At Joe Williams' wedding, many beautiful gifts were displayed, but everyone agreed that the Monitor drill bough from O. F. Biglin was the best of all. Miss Jennie Kane is home for a vacation from the Presbyterian hospital in Omaha where she is studying to be a nurse. M. M. Sullivan expects to enlarge his store room and put in new shelving to accommodate an enlarged stock. Mrs. James Coyle and a visit in Iowa with her parents.

20 Years Ago
"Montana Jack" Sullivan rescued a drowning three-year-old boy in Montana. Jack was on a district sportsmen's picnic when the mishap occurred. Bert Jones, 35, died after an operation. He was born and raised in this county, but was a resident of Antelope county for the past 25 years. New homes under construction: Ralph Beck with a cottage; Guy Beckwith, a cottage; Mrs. John Carr, a commodious cottage; Wesley Sanford, a commodious cottage; Pat O'Connor, a neat little cottage and Andy Morgan moved a residence in from the country and is having it modernized and a garage added.

10 Years Ago
Throngs gathered for the opening of the new 3 1/2-floor department store of Gambles. Miss Lilah Smith was crowned hay days queen by Gov. Val Peterson. O. R. Ring of Gary, Ind., an author and printing instructor and a husband of the former Mary Phalin, has had a new book just published. Deaths: Mrs. Maggie Smith of Chambers; Mrs. Herman Eisert of Middlebranch; Roy A. Carter, formerly of Middlebranch.

One Year Ago
Lorene Ziska was chosen hay days' queen. Deaths: Mrs. C. H. Chambers, 80; H. J. Harte, 70, of northeast of Inman; Dennis A. McCarthy, 69, Mrs. Elizabeth Pelcer, 94, of Atkinson; Frank Backhaus, 66, of Amelia. Eugene ("Mike") Van Every has been promoted to manager of a Gambles store at Perry, Ia. Maj. Madeline Ulom, ANC, received a certificate of achievement for outstanding service as chief of nursing service at the 130th station hospital located in Germany.

Elkhorn Group Tours State Park

EMMET—The Elkhorn Valley 4-H club met at the William Grothe home on July 29 at 8:30 o'clock in the evening. The meeting was called to order by the president by saying the 4-H pledge. Roll call was answered by 15 members by saying how near they were done in these projects. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. For new business we discussed the county fair. Most of the numbers decided what they would enter at the fair. Our leader gave the members their entry numbers for the county fair. The next meeting will be held at the Herman Grothe home on August 11. At this meeting the members will bring their things that they are going to enter at the county fair. Later in the evening a delicious lunch was served of sandwiches, cake and Kool Ade. The Elkhorn Valley 4-H club toured to Niobrara State Park on July 14 with 16 members and their families taking part. A delicious picnic lunch was served at 1 p.m. This was enjoyed by everyone. The rest of the afternoon the club went to see a ferry northeast of Niobrara and that was also enjoyed by all. About 5 o'clock all of the members and families who took part returned home. Helen Marie Dusatko, reporter.

Arrive Sunday—Mrs. E. R. Young of Neligh arrived Sunday to spend the week visiting her daughters, Mrs. Derald Graham, Mrs. Lynus Howard, Mrs. Leon Beckwith and their families.

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O'Neill News
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Allen attended a family picnic in Norfolk Sunday in honor of Mrs. Allen's father's birthday anniversary. Mrs. Rosa Bowers was in Spencer Wednesday and Thursday, July 31 and August 1, and brought Mrs. Anna Havranek to O'Neill with her for a visit. Mrs. E. E. Bright and daughter, Mrs. Stewart Schleuser of Seattle, Wash., were Monday and Tuesday guests of Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Burgess. Mr. and Mrs. Gale Dierberger and family and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Domgaard of Norfolk spent the weekend in Niobrara state park.

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