

PrairieLand Talk

Talker Makes Speech

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, 4110 South 51st St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.
Former Editor of The Frontier

LINCOLN—Last night it was my privilege as "orator of the evening" to stand before an assemblage of superannuated ladies and gents who have come down the highway of time for at least 65 years.



Romaine Saunders

A party for the fathers and mothers, granddads and grandmas, assembled not to dance and cutup, not to solve world problems or plan trips to the moon, but to shake hands, look into aged but laughing eyes, to meet others and to talk with them face to face.

Some of that group had traveled the road under the guiding hand of heaven for more than 90 years, have little left but memories dear that bring forth at times the scalding tear, more often bringing to them inspiring cheer. Interesting guessing games, music, readings followed the introductory speech and for some two hours the aged of the community had their fun.

And just the evening before some hundreds sat enthralled as the Golden Chords, 50 young college students in choir-robed formation, sang the songs of Zion. The inspiring high sopranos and deep rich male voices lifted the audience above the clouds for a time. Many musical instruments are heard in the land, but none of these can compare with the human voice.

Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast; voices of the singers are stilled; the old timers have had their fun; we are down to earth once more.

From 1885 until the early 1890 period homesteaders in Holt county were proving up, as it was known, acquiring title to the quarter section of prairie land. Many homesteaders had become such not to make it their permanent home but to acquire title to the land, borrow what money they could and mortgage the land, then take off for other fields to conquer. This brought into O'Neill a group of loan agents who advertised "eastern money" to loan on land. Many homesteaders were "plastered" with a thousand dollar mortgage, the representative of that "eastern money" getting a rakeoff when he placed a loan. Loan agents have disappeared from the Holt county scene and now a group of insurance agents too numerous to mention has taken over the old town. My friend, Lloyd Gillespie, who ventured into the insurance field while "loan agents" were still thick in 1893, continues to protect property losses and lives via the insurance route, as evidenced by his periodic advertisements in The Frontier.

I just pulled on the leather boots bought at an O'Neill store for \$3 about the year 1938 preparatory to going out in the snow and wet to get in on the make believe bombing performance and "civil defense" monkeybusiness put on in a suburban community of the capital city today. Important personages, the governor, state senators and other officials, will join the pebeians taking it all in. Should I meet any who would like to have a pair of boots that last forever for such occasions as this I will tell them they can get them at any store in O'Neill.

The state legislative group down at the state-house sidesteps increase of tobacco tax—enjoying their smokes at the same old price. . . That drunk and disorderly editor has "resigned". . . Inventors have yet to come up with squeakless door hinges. . . Scandals born of union labor groups pass up the International Typographical union, printers, starting out as "devils," are the saintly intellectuals of the country's industry. . . Is the barber pole, striped in gay colors, a thing of the past, gone the way of the horse and buggy? . . . Three high school girls drowned in the Eel river in Indiana, the car they were traveling in skidding on the gravelled road and plunging into a watery death—just three more tragedies of highway travel, three more desolated homes. . . Householders are out raking lawns, planting rose bushes, spading and digging—the annual spring inspiration.

The Hon. Val Peterson has been to town again, not to rally the civil defense forces at a traffic jam and fire at 48th and O streets, but to address state university students. News guys say our ex-governor was silent respecting the Denmark diplomatic job, though Val may have whispered quietly to a friend here and there that he is ready to represent Uncle Sam in Copenhagen. When once the executive or federal bee buzzes in your ear it is fatal. Somebody has to take over and there are men even ready to put on the mantle of state and federal authority and strut in official circles until a cold hand reaches out of the unknown and lays them away.

A Baptist church in Akron, O., claims to have "the world's largest Sunday school", 7,000 of them, and will construct an addition to their temple to seat an additional 3,000.

Rain last night. Wind moans across the city today, leafless twigs and nude limbs of trees blown about—a day to recline in an easy chair awaiting another day when the sun glows like fire and the sky above is like one shining soft sapphire, and you walk abroad or down a grassy road lane where morning glories bloom and the birds sing, there to breathe the open air full and deep and look unspoiled nature full in the face. In the crowded human haunts we hear today the rushing wind blowing up another rain, and the lady next door who has a washing on the line fluttering in the wind may have some mending to do when she brings that washing in.

Three souls by horror haunted down by Kearney. Father, mother, the two young daughters of the household went to the field to round-up their calves. One daughter, 13 years of age, separated from the three, struck down by a bolt of lightning and lay there lifeless. There are many desolated homes day by day. Two just today in the community where I am. Two aged women respond to the rollcall of eternity. The old will die after a lifetime of joy and pain; a child in the bloom of health struck dead in an instant. That father and mother and sister down in Buffalo county wipe away tears, sorrowing hearts grieve on.

Girls are jumping rope, boys tossing the ball, big league professionals at it again, hay days and rodeo coming next, county fairs and a trip to the lakes. How's your budget?

Hicks on Market with Hogs, Cattle

Three Carloads to South Omaha

50 Years Ago
John N. Johnson of Inman and Mrs. Ida B. Schwinck of Wisner and Thomas Quilty and Miss Nora O'Malley were married. Marriage license issued to Fred P. Oetler and Miss Georgia Simpson, both of Bliss. . . E. P. Hicks and son, Steve, went to South Omaha with two cars of cattle and one car of hogs. . . S. P. Miller of Phoenix died at Atkinson of heart trouble. . . A surprise party was given for Mr. and Mrs. Charles Berger by their brother, John and Mr. and Mrs. O. B. Hatch. . . Mrs. W. A. Brown of Page, who has been visiting her daughters in Jackson and Pender the past four weeks, has returned.

20 Years Ago
Mrs. H. H. Mitchell of Jeffers, Mont., renewed her subscription to The Frontier and enclosed a note stating she likes to hear what's happening "in the old hometown". Mrs. Mitchell, the former Katie Sullivan, says she enjoyed a visit last summer from Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Birmingham and J. D. Cronin. She's on the best highway between Butte and Park and would enjoy seeing old friends. . . Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur George of Escondido, Calif., have twin sons. Mrs. George is the former Sara Simmons. . . Eliza Bigler, who lived here with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Moler for several years, is seriously ill in a S. D. hospital.

10 Years Ago
Deaths: William G. Beha, 80; James Morrison, 70, in Gregory, S. D.; John J. Porter, 71, of Chambers; Gerald Fallon, 31, killed by lightning; Garrett ("Garry") Benson, 61, of California, formerly of Ewing. . . Little Carol Joan Riffey, who weighed a bare three pounds at birth a year ago, is receiving congratulations from her proud parents and doting relatives. Today she is strong and healthy. . . Patricia DeBolt celebrated her 11th birthday anniversary at a party. . . Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Gavin of Emmet were given a farewell party at the Vern Beckwith home. They will make their home in Scottsbluff.

One Year Ago
Neighbors of Lowell Clouse disced and planted 110 acres of oats and barley for him. . . Also aided by neighbors were Marvin Richter and Elwyn Robertson. . . Deaths: Mrs. John R. Krotter of Spencer; Fred H. Tucker, 61, of Chambers; Samuel Noring, 66, of

Inman. Mr and Mrs. Frank Cranford of Lynch celebrated their 50 wedding anniversary, also Mr. and Mrs. John Holliday of Orchard. . . Stanley Johnson of Celia was surprised on his birthday anniversary. . . Miss Beverly Jane Chase of Atkinson was married to Gordon H. Weyeremuller of Chicago.

Center Union Awaits Annual Homecoming
Center Union Sunday-school, with Rev. C. P. Turner as pastor, is holding its annual homecoming, Saturday and Sunday, May 4 and 5. The Saturday evening service will begin at 8 o'clock. Rev. Don McFarling of Scottsbluff, the general missionary of the American Sunday-School union, will be the speaker of the evening and show pictures of the work.

The service will begin at 10 o'clock Sunday morning with devotions and the Sunday-school lesson by Missionary Hollingshead. The morning message will be by the district superintendent of the American Sunday-school union, Rev. Kenneth Sonder of Omaha.

There will be lunch of sandwiches and pie. Coffee will be served by the ladies of the church. The afternoon service will begin at 1:30 o'clock. There will be a debate: It is easier to live for Christ today than in the days of early church? Special music will be by the male quartet of the Baptist Memorial church of Chambers. Reverend McFarling will bring the message. Singing service beginning at 7:30. The evening message will be by Reverend Sonder.

O'Neill News
Guests Monday, April 22, of Mr. and Mrs. Ed Paulson were Mr. and Mrs. Mike Quakset and children of Tilden and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Maguire and children of Ewing. Mrs. Pat Sullivan spent the Easter weekend in Omaha visiting her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. John McGill. Easter guests of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sivesind were Mr. and Mrs. Roy Sivesind of Sidney. Easter callers at the ranch of Mr. and Mrs. William Shaw were Mr. and Mrs. Joe Kampshaus, Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Peters and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Shaw and family. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Van Voorhis and son, Kip, of Albion spent the Easter weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. K. L. Van Voorhis. Mr. and Mrs. Elgin Ray and Mary spent Easter in Gothenburg visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Ray.



The Johnsons and Tap Toe, owned by Buy Wanser . . . set out on race circuit.—The Frontier Photo.

Johnson Starts Racing Season

(Continued from page 1.)
Flower Show, a five-year-old, is owned by Andy. "They've both got a lot of race left in 'em," he declared, "and you'll be hearing from us at Ak-Sar-Ben (Omaha), Columbus, Lincoln and South Sioux City." The season will close at South Sioux. Mr. Johnson is hopeful that track, starting its second year, will have a successful season. "I've got a little investment in that one," he stated seriously. A year or so ago the Johnsons were given a jolt when their best horse, Crack Time, suffered a heart attack. "We were giving her a workout one morning, she shook a moment, the jockey dismounted, and Crack Time laid down and died. Too young to die, too!" On the circuit the Johnsons live in a comfortable trailer house, like most of the other track people do in this era. Other Holt horsemen on the circuit are C. L. (Jack) Sison of Ewing, Jasper Hitchcock of O'Neill and Atkinson, and James Kelley of Inman. The race people form a rather close association in this sport of kings. "Earnings aren't much when it's all said and done," observed Mr.

Johnson, "It's the sport of it . . . the stuff gets in your blood and you can never quit." The Johnsons reared a family of seven children. The oldest, Hiram, looks after the farm while the folks are at the tracks. (A tape-recorded interview with Mr. Johnson was broadcast on the "Voice of The Frontier" program Wednesday, May 1, WJAG, 780 kc).

Frontier for printing.

O'NEILL LOCALS
An Easter dinner was held at James Boyle home. Those present were Sgt. Donald Boyle and wife and family of Junction City, Kans.; Edgar Boyle and wife and family of Page; Mrs. Robert Trowbridge and family of Omaha; Patrick Boyle of Lexington; John Boyle of Osmond; and Gaylon Boyle.
Mr. and Mrs. Everett Haskins of Central City visited Friday, April 19, with Mr. and Mrs. C. Holmes. Mrs. Holmes and children returned with them. On Easter day Mr. Holmes went to Central City after them.
Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shierk spent the Easter weekend in Marshall, Minn., visiting Mr. and Mrs. Harold Benson and family.

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Editorial

Test Your Kids and Yourself

By Reed O'Hanlon, Jr., in the Blair Pilot-Tribune

The average parent, whether he says it in so many words or not, is interested in getting his youngsters educated to the point where they'll at least know what's going on around them and be able to fit into their world—and also qualify for a job so they can carry on.

We hear much about our young people not being very smart. We hear that teachers quite often can't seem to teach nowadays. We hear all sorts of versions about what's happened in the last 10 to 15 years "modern" educational processes became popular.

Frankly we never did lean toward the "modern" school which seemed to veer away from the basics of reading, spelling, writing, arithmetic, history and geography. But we hear the trend is now reversing itself, so we will dismiss it for this item.

We have looked over some of our own children's books lately, and discover that all of us parents might well dip into them of an evening and get re-smarted.

For instance, do you know offhand the name of the second president of United States?

What is "pi"?

Do you know the definition of a right hypotenuse, assuming you went to high school.

What is a simple fracture, in the study of the body, or a compound fracture? In finance, what is the difference between simple interest and compound interest?

A little whisk some idle night, through your kids' homework schoolbooks, or through that seldom-used Book of Knowledge set, might be quite revealing to us parents.

There ARE some things they still have in school which we all think we know but which we've forgotten long since—and which they're still teaching in the schools.

Let's not get too rough on our educational system until we realize what they're supposed to be teaching—and whether they are.

—And, say, speaking of children's education, how many of you parents can even yourselves answer a couple of simple questions which can't be included in the public school curriculum:

What is Christmas? Easter?

What are the Ten Commandments?

Is it the O. K. to make a million bucks through that knowledge you acquired, if you have to cheat or steal to get it—if you don't get caught, that is?

These are items you're supposed to be teaching them at home, or that your particular church is. If your kids don't know this part—about the spiritual and moral side beyond their brief 70 years on earth—either you're remiss or your church is far more than the public school teachers you criticize because Johnny can't write. A growing child who can't answer these last questions is far worse off than one who can't recall Napoleon's legions, nor remember who was chief

justice in 1920. And so are you, who worry about the miserable teaching of algebra these days.

Avoid Fats and Stress

If you want to escape heart disease, avoid fats and stress.

This advice is one of the "New Weapons Against Heart Disease" described by Francis and Katharine Drake in the May issue of Reader's Digest.

According to new research, you may be able to absorb fat or stress without bringing on heart trouble. But you probably cannot do both. The Reader's Digest writers say that faulty use of fat by your body is dangerous when combined with emotional pressure and tension.

Information like this has developed from research spurred by President Eisenhower's heart attack. His case focused public attention on the toll taken by heart disease. Every day of the year, a thousand Americans—of all ages—die as a result of coronary attacks such as the president suffered.

The article says overweight is only partly the danger that fat brings to your heart. Greater danger comes from poor burning of fat in your body. When this process is not working well, fat stays on the inside of your arteries. These deposits partially cut off the flow of blood. When this happens, you get warning by feeling the pains of angina.

You cannot avoid stress as easily as fat in this jittery age. But avoiding it is wise for everyone—and coronary patients must do so. The rule is "take it easy," at work and recreation.

This is that busy season of the year when there is a rash of school activities and when farmers and ranchers are busy from early until late. But there are recompenses in nature's new life and lush green.



CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher
ARTHUR J. NOECKER and ESTHER M. ASHER, Associate Publishers

Entered at the postoffice in O'Neill, Holt county, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter under the Act of Congress of March 3, 1879. This newspaper is a member of the Nebraska Press Association, National Editorial Association and the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

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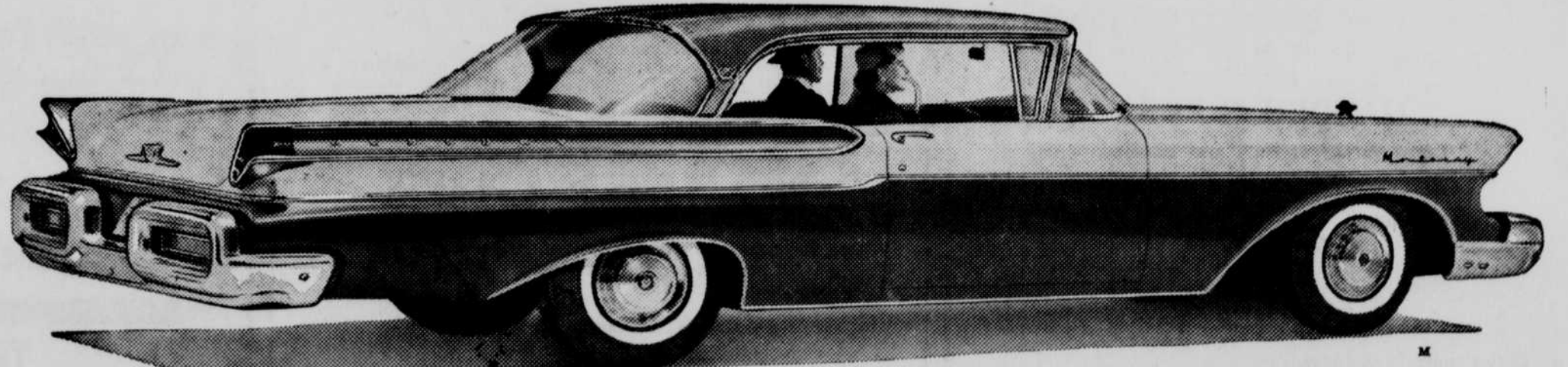
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