

## Prairieland Talk—

## Nearer to Celestial Bliss!

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

LINCOLN — I have been again with friends in O'Neill, on out beyond where silken green and stately trees adorn the picturesque region of north-central Holt county, where I had the pleasure on August 25 of grasping the hand and look into aging eyes of many at the old settlers' picnic party. It warms the human hearts of ours to meet with and engage in social fellowship with those who have made prairieland their home through the years and are today the "salt of the earth".

I feel indebted to George Mellor for picking me up in O'Neill and taking me to the picnic grounds. His wife, Mrs. Mellor, had a lunch and refreshment stand already functioning when George arrived with ice cream and wieners. Among the friends met with was State Sen. Nelson, who took me in hand and we went three miles to the Hull home where I was reunited with "Grandma" Hull, a pioneer of that charming region, now 103 years of age. Seventy-nine of those years she has spent on the land she still calls home.

"Grandma" Hull neither sees or hears as formerly, but smiles as she extends a withered hand in meeting a friend. A son, one of her 14 sons and daughters, greeted us and accompanied us to Frank's car.

As we left we drove past Frank's prosperous ranch home on our return to the picnic grounds.

Walter O'Malley, one of the north country's prosperous ranchers and substantial citizens, stepped up and extended a good Irish hand. It is always nice to see Walt — you know he always invites me to dinner. So we had it again the next day when Walt came into town.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pierce were up from their ranch near Amelia. I had a visit with Mrs. Pierce but Frank kept out of my way; maybe because he did not have that ice cream cone with him.

Old settlers' picnic . . . out there amid the scenes of nature, neighbors, friends and visitors — a step a little nearer to celestial bliss!

Since the days of George Triggs back in the 1880's O'Neill has had a "character" citizen. It still has. Just now it is a bewhiskered sociable old soul who will discourse on what has been, what is now and what may be to any who will listen. I bumped into him while in O'Neill recently and learned that he had just been told to move out of his quarters — about a monthly experience with him. Is it not a sorry state of affairs that a superannated patriot can no longer find a place to hole up in the old town? But maybe landlords feel as I felt when this bewhiskered gent proposed that he and I collaborate in writing a book.



Saunders

Another "biggest and best ever" Nebraska state fair closed the gates for this year. Though where I could go any day by stepping on a city bus, this prairie wolf did not visit the 1958 fair. But I have seen it all and more in travels across the green velvet-roped prairieland, out where nature breeds and creates the things that are shown at fairs. Nebraska's 77-thousand-square-miles are robed in verdant green now touched here and there by autumn's rich colors. Corn fields ripening for the pickers and the stalks loaded with long ears of corn. One wonders where can it all be stored? Fruits, grains, tons of red ripe tomatoes and other products of prairieland soil. Some later arrivals in the O'Neill community pronounce it as outclassing all previous seasons, but maybe they should know that what is today has been before on prairieland. Tall stalks of corn in northern Holt, hay stacks on the ranch lands, countless numbers of cattle, herds numbering from a hundred or more up into the thousands. A friend of Prairieland Talker told me he has a \$15,000 herd of black beauties on his grass lands. And Nebraska's open prairies have in recent years appealed to poultry raisers, one outfit near O'Neill has raised this season 150,000 turkeys. If Prairieland Talker gets up there next month, as planned now, maybe he can catch a gobbler to bring home for a Thanksgiving feast.

Some of Holt county's 4-H kids not only give us the baby beef but they are song birds as well. A group of 4-H'ers from Holt and Custer counties sang themselves to fame — if not to fortune — down at the state fair and carried off top honors.

J. Lee Rankin was yet at the knee pants stage along life's way when this superannated has-been showed him how to land the black bass up on the Little Cedar. Now Lee, in the justice department down in Washington, goes to the supreme court in an endeavor to make them behave down at Little Rock. Maybe it's up to Lee and his associates to see what they can do in federal court about the barber trust. A guy comes around and tells the barbers what they shall extract for their services. One tonsorial artist up the street tells the trust emisory to go jump in the Platte, he will run his business as he sees fit. He collects a dollar for a haircut, four-bits for a shave, and stands all day clipping and shaving and reaching out a hand to rake in the ones and halves. In two other shops a block down the street from him the barbers stand all day looking wishfully out of the window — they are in the high-gear ring.

Firewater has been replaced by orange juice at the United Nations delegates' banquet board. They are consuming 80 gallons of juice from Florida oranges a week. I get it here in Lincoln for a nickel a glass. In out-state towns they get three nickels a glass.

## When You & I Were Young . . . Hayrack Party Is Held at Doyle's Dancing Follows At Golden's Hall

**50 Years Ago**  
Those attending a hay rack picnic party in D. A. Doyle's grove west of town were the Misses Constance Harrington, Nelle Brenna, Kathleen Doyle, Lillian and Martina Golden, Mary Sullivan, Nelle Ryan, Bea McCafferty, Ruth Evans, Rose Fallon and Miss Costello of Chicago, Ill. One of the features was the cooking of corn over a camp fire. An equal number of young men entertained the ladies at a dance at Golden's hall that evening. . . Mrs. Tim Hanley departed for a month's visit in Butte, Mont. . . Fifty couples attended the dance at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gustav Weinreich, four miles north of O'Neill.

**20 Years Ago**  
Stuart is to have a \$22,000 auditorium. . . Andrew Johnson, 80, who lived southwest of Emmet, and Mrs. Charles Sigman of Amelia, died. . . Romaine Saunders remarked in his "Southwest Breezes" column that: "Doctor Gilligan used to say that a soda cracker was the nearest thing to nothing he knew of. But that was before the introduction of WPA projects". . . Vince Scholberg left for a two weeks vacation in California. . . Archeologists are digging on the farm of John Hynes, who lives 20 miles north of O'Neill. They are unearthing the remains of farmers and their wives and children who fought the good fight 20 years ago.

**10 Years Ago**  
Figure "8" figures prominently in the life of Kathy Burgess, tiny daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Burgess of Lincoln. She weighed 8 pounds plus; her name has 8 letters; she was born shortly before 8 on the 28th day of the month of the year 1948; she was the 18th girl born at St. Catherine's hospital at McCook during August; the room number was 18 and her mother was born in 1928. Both her grandfathers are dentists and the same physician and nurse were present at her birth as was present at the birth of her mother. . . Deaths: Seth Noble, 87, a veteran lumberman, of O'Neill; Joe P. Connolly, 37, of O'Neill, of diabetes; Charles Marlowe, 69, of Atkinson, who had fractured his hip.

**One Year Ago**  
Deaths: H. J. Birmingham, 65, prominent O'Neill resident; Joy Greenfield, 62, of Stuart, well-known rancher and 4-H leader; Mrs. Alex McConnell, 83, of Atkinson, a resident of Holt county for 32 years. . . Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Patterson, who live six miles south of Emmet, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. . . Mr. and Mrs. William Newton, 86 and 82 years old respectively, on September 12 will have been married 65 years. They reside in Emmet and are Holt county's longest married couple.

**Many Homemakers  
Hold Three Meetings**  
Members of the Happy Homemakers extension club have held several meetings these past three months. In June they met with Mrs. Bernard Hoffman. Mrs. Waller was a guest. Plans were made for the forthcoming picnic.

On July 17th members and their families gathered at the Chambers park for a picnic supper after which Neil Dawes showed a film on library service.

The August meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Stan Lambert. Mrs. Hil Conley was a guest. She was a member of the club until they moved to Colorado.

Through the efforts of members of the club many folks were able to inspect and enjoy the Rock county bookmobile, a lending library on wheels, which was parked in the center of the grounds at the Holt county fair on Wednesday, August 20.

**CENTER UNION (O'Neill)**  
Rev. C. P. Turner, pastor. Sunday, September 14. Sunday school, 10 a.m.; preaching service, 11 a.m.; young peoples meeting at 7:30 in the evening. Preaching service following young people meeting.

Prayer meeting and mission study will be in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Lorenz Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock. You are cordially invited to attend any or all of these meetings.

Jack Dailey returned Saturday from a two weeks trip to California where he visited his daughters, Miss Lila Dailey at Downey and Mrs. LeRoy Rossman, Mr. Rossman and three children of Garden Grove, Calif.

**Methodist Staff Meeting Held—**  
A Methodist district staff planning meeting was held at Camp Comeca near Cozad September 2 and 3. Those attending from the Northeast district were Rev. Robert L. Embree and Rev. Glenn Kennicott of O'Neill, Rev. and Mrs. Stanley Gangel of Bloomfield; Rev. Charles Gates of Atkinson; Rev. Leonard Hartwig of Laurel; Rev. Francis St. Amant of Plainview; and Rev. Bob Peterson of Bassett.

Speakers at the two-day meeting included: Mrs. S. L. McCaig, director of children's work; Mrs. Mae Sigler, director of youth work; Mrs. Ethel Kueck, adult work; director: James Chubb and Richard E. Carvony, missionary secretaries; Richard E. Dinsdale and Alan Justad, evangelism directors; and Bruce Gideon, director of social and economic relations.

**Pleasant Brook Club in Final Meet—**  
The Pleasant Brook 4-H club met at Veral Tuttle's home Monday, August 25, for the year's final meeting. The clubbers received three purple and five blue and red received red. No one in the club received a white ribbon. The secretary book, which received a purple ribbon was sent to the state fair.

Achievement night was held at district 131 schoolhouse. The exhibitions shown at the county fair were displayed. A demonstration on planting a lawn, transplanting a shrub, selecting vegetables, measuring in baking. . . The clubbers sang, and several members telling about their projects furnished the entertainment. A lunch of cake, cookies, coffee and kool aide was served.

## Blizzard of 1888 Survivors to Meet

### Norfolk Group Will Host Oldtimers

Survivors of the famous January 12, 1888, blizzard will gather for a luncheon meeting, Saturday, October 4 at the Hotel Madison in Norfolk. The newly-organized Elkhorn Valley Historical society at Norfolk will cosponsor this event in cooperation with the 1888 Blizzard club of Nebraska.

The Blizzard club for many years has held a January meeting in Lincoln. Realizing the advancing age of the survivors and the hazards of mid-winter travel the Blizzard club appealed to the Elkhorn Valley Historical society to arrange a "fair-weather" gathering this fall in Northeast Nebraska. It is hoped many survivors and their families from northeast and north-central Nebraska and South Dakota will find it convenient to attend this meeting.

Registration will take place starting at 10 a.m. at the hotel. There will be a \$1 registration fee and a no-host luncheon. J. R. Johnson, professor of history and political science at Wayne State Teachers college and author of a recent book, "Representative Nebraskans", will speak at the luncheon.

Those intending to attend the meeting or who wish further information concerning it are asked to write WJAG, Norfolk.

**Attend Ford Meeting—**  
Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Lohaus plan to leave today (Thursday) for Kansas City, Mo., where they will attend a Ford dealers meeting.

Mrs. W. J. Froelich and daughters, Mrs. J. Robert Berigan and Miss Mary Froelich, returned Wednesday from trip to New York City.

Mrs. Don Starr and Mrs. Henry Reimer called on Mrs. Carl Bartak of West Point recently.



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## Riverside Young People to Colleges

**RIVERSIDE** — Among young folks from this locality leaving for various campuses of higher learning are:

Russel Napier, left Tuesday, September 9, for Sterling, Kans., to attend college.  
Miss Irene Ahlers left Sunday, September 7, to attend Concordia college at Seward.  
Miss Sandra Shrader is attending Wayne State Teachers college this year.

Paul Gunter is attending Norfolk Junior college this year. Paul met Len Ruther, a former Ewing boy on the campus. Leo is also attending Junior college.

**Other Riverside News**  
Mr. and Mrs. Archie Johnston, Barbara and Marilyn, visited Friday evening at the Gerald Wetlaufer home in O'Neill.

The Ralph Shrader family called Sunday afternoon at the Wayne Lautenslager home to visit the Don Lautenslager family of California and the Ivan Lautenslager family of Iowa. Wayne Lautenslager was home for the day. He is a patient in a Sioux City hospital.

The Marcus Pierson family of Seattle, Wash., came early Tuesday morning, September 2, to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pierson, and other relatives. On Thursday the Marcus Pierson family and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Pierson were dinner guests at the Marvin Prihnow home near Albion.

The Marvin Prihnow family of Albion, the Earl McCannahan family of O'Neill, Pat Burke family and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Woepple, Kay and Gail Fleming attended a family gathering Sunday at the Earl Pierson home in honor of the Marcus Pierson family of Seattle.

Mr. and Mrs. George Montgomery were dinner guests Sunday at Fay Primus home near Neligh.

The Richard Napier family visited Monday evening, September 1, at the Lynn Fry home.

The Archie Johnston family were guests Sunday at the Alfred Napier home.

The Lynn Fry family, Mr. and Mrs. Z. H. Fry, Mr. and Mrs. Dale Napier and the Lorraine Montgomery family were dinner guests Sunday at the Floyd Napier home.

The dinner was in honor of Mrs. Lynn Fry's birthday anniversary. The Leo Miller and Walter Miller families ate Sunday dinner at the Howard Miller home.

The Richard Napier family visited Thursday evening at the Dale Napier home.

The Alvin Nelson family of Plainview, Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Hord and Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Gunter and Paul were dinner guests Sunday at the Dewitt Hoke home. Rev. and Mrs. Lee Bridgen and Gary were afternoon callers.

The Happy Hollow 4-H club had a wiener roast and election of officers Monday evening, September 2, at the Raymond Schmidt home.

Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Reiter and family of Tilden stopped at

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**O. H. Parks**

the Rudy Ahler home, leaving Duane and Ricky to stay with their grandparents, while Mr. and Mrs. Reiter and Patricia were on vacation in Canada.

Mrs. Lynn Fry entertained her Sunday-school class Saturday evening to a picnic supper. Those present were Jona Miller, Sherry Switzer, Lois Spangler, Kay Hutson, Marilyn Johnston, Leroy Napier and Jackie Fry.

Glenda Napier spent Sunday night with Barbara Johnston. Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Rose and family of Iowa were recent visitors in the Web and Floyd Napier homes.

Zeden Whitmore of Oregon was a recent over night guest of the Will Shrader family.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Browning of Madison were weekend guests at the Howard Miller home.

Mrs. Frank Hall and children of McPherson, Kans., and Bill Fink and three children of Englewood, Colo., visited recently in the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fink. Other guests visiting at the Bert Fink home were Mrs. T.

E. Lord and daughter and Mrs. Jack Cluff and family of Santa Ana, Calif.

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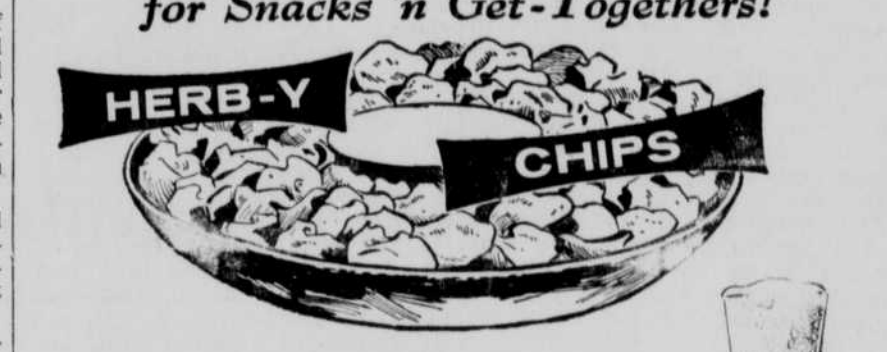
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## Editorial—

## Must Learn to Read First

One day last week one of the metropolitan daily newspapers carried a filler item in the laugh column. The item in question ran something like this and had to do with the recently passed federal aid to education bill:

Johnny is wondering if federal aid to education means that playing hooky henceforth will be a federal offense.

The pun is not quite as funny as the punster intended. Any federal participation in any type of undertaking is bogged down in red tape and controls. Schools are reserved constitutionally as a function of local government with restricted state control. This is as the country's forefathers intended and their great wisdom has been vindicated by time and by a great nation that has developed.

Of proponents for federal aid comes the classic observation of Nebraska's commissioner of education—Dr. Freeman B. Decker—who said: "If federal funds will not contaminate a sewage disposal system they certainly couldn't contaminate a laboratory microscope."

Commented editorially The Nebraska Signal, published at Geneva: "The biggest obstacle to a fair consideration of the principles involved is our in-born fear of too much authority too far away. We hesitate to accept favors even from Lincoln (let alone Washington) if it means state officials will be snooping around our private and community business. . . . Another danger which looms ahead is the blind acceptance of handouts, regardless of the price we pay to get them. That's why many Nebraskans will want to know more about the proposed federal aid so they can make up their minds independently of what newspaper editors or a few educators may think."

Wrote Emory Cross, editor of the Rock County Leader at Bassett: "The government has had its nose under the tent for some years now in the form of vocational education funds. Now it proposes, in the guise of a national need for scientists and mathematicians, to help local schools obtain equipment needed to conduct more intensive instruction in those subjects. In this connection Doctor Decker made a statement which to us is just about the most ridiculous statement ever uttered (ie sewage and microscopes). We are of the opinion that sewage disposal systems are not the last bulwark of freedom for us all as are the schools. Any contamination (and it is certain there would be some) from the federal government in our schools is to be abhorred. We think as far as education is concerned it should be paid for on a local level and avoid any chance of 'contamination' from federal funds. It will cost less in the long run and will also prevent the federal dogooders from dictating what our children learn."

What Mr. Cross has written sums up our reaction to the legislation and Mr. Decker's comment. However, we might add that Mr. Decker's first responsibility — likewise the responsibility of all his colleagues — is to teach Nebraska school children to read and write before these educators get all exercised about microscopes, slide rules and other scientific gadgets being introduced via the Washington method. Our feeling is that the modern teaching methods are failing in effective teaching of reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic. As Cross observes, the scientific hullabaloo is simply a gimmick to get federal funds in the front door of every school room.

A family we know has licked the school homework problem: No television turned on 'til ALL homework is done.

## Highway Deaths Up

Reading the papers, it's hard to get around the fact that deaths on the Nebraska highways are on the increase. The increase is attributed to various causes. The Frontier feels, and has so stated before in these columns, that most accidents are caused by a lack of judgement on the part of motor vehicle operators.

Excessive speed is popularly blamed for the accident rate increase, but auto insurance records do not support conclusively those who feel that speed is the chief villain. There are other factors such as mechanical failures, slippery roads, blind corners, etc.

Last week the democratic candidate for governor pointed the finger of blame on Gov. Victor Anderson, republican incumbent, charging that Anderson was at fault for not enforcing lower speeds on county highways and for what Brooks described as "inadequate markings".

We hate to see such things as traffic deaths brought into politics.

We know a small town marshal who believes that no curfew for youngsters is entirely effective unless "you blow the whistle a half-hour earlier for the parents so they'll be home when the kids get there." He just might have a point in his philosophy, but if the folks stayed home in the first place the need for a curfew to get their offspring off the streets would be far less.

The farmer who expects to remain in the business always anticipates the good years and bad years, according to the Waterloo (Ia.) Courier. His business operations are keyed to averages; and the excellent situation this year will give him an optimistic outlook. A year such as 1958 can help a lot to raise the long-term average.

A tourist stopped to talk with a backwoods farmer. "I see you raise hogs almost exclusively around here," he said. "Do they pay better than corn and potatoes?" Drawled the farmer, "Well, no, but hogs don't need no hoein'!"

No man who thinks in terms of catching mice will ever catch lions. Great deeds, great enterprises are the natural results of great expectations.—Contributed.

Freedom is not a proclamation, but a way of life that demands self-restraint and some sacrifice on the part of all those who wish to enjoy it.

Human thought is the process by which human ends are ultimately answered.—Webster.

## THE FRONTIER

CARROLL W. STEWART, Editor and Publisher

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