

Prairieland Talk—

P-T Medium for Oldtimers

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

LINCOLN—Wally Mullen, one of that tribe of patriots in O'Neill who now hies up in the crowded human haunts out at Los Angeles, Calif., writes Prairieland Talker a cheering holiday greeting in which Wally tells of the pleasure it gives him to read The Frontier, reviving memories of the past with a touch of regret that so many of those he had known and esteemed are no longer a part of the picture.



Romaine Saunders

And so do I, Wally, but this we realize: Time rolls on cutting down a friend here and there. I thank Mr. Mullen for his compliments and the gift sent me. I cannot properly write all who send greeting cards but in this way I can express the pleasure it brings. A lady down at Fremont, Mrs. Keeler, writes me a beautiful holiday greeting. She, too, has memories of her girlhood home in the picturesque Phoenix community of Holt county, being a daughter of the Coburn family and was The Frontier's correspondent in that community. Today she reads The Frontier with pleasure and writes of others who once called Holt county home who are thrilled to get the paper.

And now as the old year dies and prairieland lies peacefully robed in autumn brown, we wish for all a prosperous and happy year ahead. Should Mrs. Keeler be at the Fremont bus station as the morning bus from Lincoln rolls in she might see Prairieland Talker step off that bus the day before next memorial day.

We know them once as drug stores; now it's a pharmacy. The one on the corner where loafers gather has about everything—aspirin for a dime, a package of envelopes, a bottle of cough drops or a noonday lunch. And doc sends you there with a three dollar order to be filled, take one night and morning.

We learn of another who as a young wife and mother lived in O'Neill back in the 1880's who has survived the wreck of time for more than a century. In a letter from a nephew of the aged lady, Will Means out at Montpelier, Ida., says: "Aunt Hannah has passed the century mark." Aunt Hannah is Mrs. A. J. Meals, mother of George Meals of the Atkinson community, and is spending her declining days in the home of another son up in Alaska. The family lived in O'Neill in pioneer days. Her husband, Jack Meals, at one time was our county treasurer. When the blizzard of January 12, 1888, hit us, Jack left his office at the courthouse, crossed the street to the north to the school and helped get school kids safely to their homes. Going to Alaska he took on government work. That nephew, Will Meals, was in knee pants (or maybe in just one fold of cloth at that time). Now he is a mining engineer.

Editorial—

Return to Political Highways?

Former Gov. Roy L. Cochran, three-term chief executive of this state during the terrible thirties, Saturday was announced as Gov.-Elect Ralph Brooks' choice as chief of the Nebraska department of roads and irrigation.

Cochran served as highway engineer before making his successful bid for governor. At 71 Cochran prefers this latest appointment to be on an indeterminate basis, meaning he'll be at liberty to pull out when he feels like doing so.

From a general viewpoint (Brooks is Nebraska's first demo governor since Cochran) the appointment is fair enough. Cochran has had long experience in public service and the fact that he wants to be able to withdraw when he feels the urge is no more than fair in consideration of his age and background.

For years Nebraska highways were built on a combination necessity-political basis. This was practiced by Cochran and a half-dozen successors. L. N. Riss, state engineer under Victor Anderson (republican governor), apparently defeated by Brooks, tried to veer away from political road-building. He inaugurated a so-called sufficiency system which determined where highway improvements were to be made on a traffic need basis. However, there are monumental examples in which the sufficiency system was junked in favor of a political expedient and Mr. Riss was in the mess up to his neck.

Let's take, for example, the interstate highway. Omaha politicians dictated running the interstate through the heart of the city. The same highway, on the other hand, will skirt Lincoln. Something is wrong somewhere.

The wrath of Nebraskans upset over the interstate route plus the ire of the labor leaders over wage rates for interstate workers, were important factors in Anderson's being upended by the McCook Junior college prey.

Many landowners were upset over appraisals of interstate right-of-way property. Riss tried to hold down the labor costs on the monstrosity in this state, which actually was for the best interest of Nebraska. But the political considerations outweighed the practical and economic considerations and Anderson, Riss et al are turned out. There were other factors, too.

Cochran has his political-road-building monuments. U.S. highway 275 from Norfolk to Wisner crosses the so-called "Cochran mountains", missing several towns (Stanton and Pilger). The stretch could have been built for much less by following the Elkhorn water-level route with very little difference in mileage and a whole of a difference in cost. Conversely, U.S. highway 20 from O'Neill to Sioux City (much of the present route was adopted during Cochran's era) arranges to accommodate directly most of the towns. Had the "mountain" technique been followed, U.S. 20 would hit only Creighton between O'Neill and the junction north of Laurel.

It would appear, therefore, that political roads are the thing whether we like it or not. And the squeaking wheel will get the grease.

Mr. Faubus—Brave Man

Arkansas Gov. Orval E. Faubus (D) has invited the editors and publishers of the National Editorial Association to a two-hour press conference next week in Hot Springs, a famous spa town in his state. Mr. Faubus says he will field any and all questions from the floor for a greater part of the afternoon.

Mr. Faubus is a brave man. Some of the northern editors, enthusiastic about the integration movement, will uncoil some tough Texas leaguers. It has been our observation that the remarks

Sunday, next to the last Sunday of the dying year, a granddaughter of Prairieland Talker's celebrated the 12th anniversary of her birth. Two blocks away a woman who had traveled the highway of life for 95 years lay straightened for the grave. Life in one home, death in the other. Smiles and tears, happiness and heartache—such is life. That same Sunday friends of mine up where this is printed walked with solemn sacred step into their respective sanctuaries, bowed the knee in worship and adoration of the Creator of us all, inspired and strengthened thereby to venture forth on life's highway as the New Year begins.

High cost of living. Higher cost of being sick. Eighteen dollars a day for hospital care here in the Capital City. Still higher cost for your funeral, a thousand dollars to be buried out of sight. So we will put up with the high cost of living!

Cornpicks pick a human hand as well as an ear of corn. The husking peg took only the ear of corn. . . . Our state legislative group will assemble in the Capital City January 6, anticipating a more than usual interesting session. Come down and look it over. . . . The new governor has a grand new mansion to call his home during his stay in Lincoln. It's just across the street to the south of the statehouse. . . . Soon pennies of a new design will be in circulation and when you buy that \$9.99 outfit you will have some of them. . . . Elsie Ford Piper, a teacher and dean of women at our state university, died recently in Lincoln.

White collar swivel chair farmers back there in Washington tell us the farms of the U.S. the past season turned out 3,789,844,000 bushels of corn and 1,462,218,000 bushels of wheat. Said to be a record yield. And that Dick Van Nostran's farm down there near Leigh in Colfax county in 1896 produced corn that the elevators paid five cents a bushel for was probably a contributor to the billions in crib this year—the \$1 a bushel corn of President Ike's day. Poor farmers!

The Frontier editor steps into this sacred department long enough to tell us that there are guys up around Valentine who do not agree with the assumption that Loyd Grandinger may be a martyr. But the federal judge before whom he had been taken so concluded, as did the citizens of the county west of Cherry who served as jurors. Where an evil deed has been done both prejudice and common sense pass judgment.

The story comes out of Columbus that henceforth there will be no Sunday funerals in Platte county. Is the day to be devoted to sacred things, or go to the movies and football games? Death closes human life any day, any night. It is for the living to say when the departed one is to be laid away. And the dead knows neither the day nor the hour the funeral march starts for the last resting place.

Editorial—

No Labor Trouble—Yet

Bill Plourd, sage of the Nance County Journal at Fullerton, writes: "It makes a pretty nice deal for the wrong kind of labor leader if he can compel a worker to fork over a percentage of his pay check every week or lose his job. That's the law, federal law, that is, in any state which doesn't have a right-to-work law such as Nebraska and a handful of other states have."

"In the other states, the employer must fire the worker if he refuses to join the union. The man who objects to paying in a free country is out of luck and earns a living in a free country is out of luck in these states."

"But we don't have any local labor troubles in a small community like this. No. Not yet, anyway. But the small town labor field is one that the labor barons know is there and they are not noted for passing up any opportunities."

Nebraska Facts

Did you know that . . .

- Nebraska has no bonded indebtedness?
Nebraska has surveyed first in 1837?
Nebraska has 12 major game reserves?
Nebraska's highest altitude is 5,342 feet?
Nebraska is the central state in the Union?
Nebraska gained its first railroad in 1863?
Nebraska City is the first incorporated town?
"Equality before the Law" is the Nebraska motto?
Nebraska is fifth in size among the states?
Nebraska had a slave auction, December 5, 1860?
Nebraska observes State day officially, March 1?
Nebraska's first military post was Fort Atkinson?
Nebraska has more river mileage than any other state?

Things have been so good in Baltimore, Md., since Sunday's breath-taking 23-17 win by the Colts over the New York Giants in professional football that the Baltimore weatherman headed the weather story: "Not So Colt Today."



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When You and I Were Young . . .

Priceless Yule Gift at Donohoe Home

Little Boy Arrives Before Christmas

50 Years ago Emmett J. Revell, Miss Lillie Pearl Coffman, both of O'Neill, Frederick L. Welker of Van West, O., and Miss Harriet Bam-berry of O'Neill, and Clarence E. Tibbetts and Miss Hattie R. Cooper, both of Chambers, were granted marriage licenses. . . . John Murphy, a college student in St. Louis, came home to visit the home folks. . . . Thomas Donohoe thinks he has about the finest Christmas present of anyone around here. It came a little before Christmas but that doesn't render it any the less a priceless gift. It's a boy and came last Saturday. . . . Vernie Cooper, of Chambers, who broke his left leg at school is getting along fine. . . . Matt Meer, who attends dental college at Omaha, came home for the holidays. . . . Six pupils of O'Neill high school held a debate about whether it is necessary to arbitrate differences arising between railway employees and their employers. . . . Debating were Ernest Simmons, Claire Grimes and Neil Brennan, the affirmative, and Lawrence Hunt, Erwin Gallagher and Thomas Golden, the negative. The winners, the latter team, will debate against Atkinson high school. . . . Miss Mammie Cullen entertained members of the choir and ushers of St. Patrick's church at dinner. There were 36 guests. Winners of progressive high five were John L. O'Sullivan and Miss Grace O'Sullivan.

20 Years Ago Mrs. J. Ennis entertained members of her Sunday-school class of the Methodist church at her home. A guest was Connie Lou Williams. Those present were Ethel Hinze, Shirley Clausen, Hattie Cruise, Betty Jane Ernst, Margaret Thavnet, Maxine Wilkinson, Della Hagensick, Bonnie Beth Yarnell, Betty Harris and Phyllis Yarnell. . . . William Druke, a farmer living near O'Neill, died after suffering a heart attack. . . . Roy Smith says he received a letter from his father living in Sacramento, Calif., that says they had five inches of snow. Roy has written to his father that he had better return to Nebraska and spend the winter. . . . Asa G. Brooks of Elmira, N. Y., and a former Chambers man, died. . . . John Kay of Neligh, formerly of Ewing, submitted to an appendectomy.

10 Years Ago Mr. and Mrs. Charle Grim, well known Venus couple, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. . . . A raging blizzard paralyzed the region. It was the winter's second major snowstorm here. . . . Deaths: William M. Kramer, 80, of Spencer; Mrs. Harvey Ross, 97, of Valentine, a former resident Mrs. Alfred Staples, 49, of Atkinson; Erwin Vargason, of Lusk, Wyo.; and Jesse Hickok, 68, of Denver, Colo., formerly of Atkinson. . . . Judged as the "most attractively decorated" for Christmas season in Ewing were the homes of Bus Harris, William Spence and J. L. Pruden.

One Year Ago Mrs. Gene Terrill and her daughter, Diane, 6, of Laurens, Ia., were killed in an accident south of Woodbine, Ia. Mr. Terrill was listed as critical (and later died). David Terrill, 4, was hospitalized, but would recover. The driver of one of the other vehicles involved was also killed. A pickup truck was also involved. Gene

Terrill's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Otto Terrill of Page. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pierce of Amelia, who have spent 45 years on the same ranch, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. . . . Jacob B. Long of the Opportunity community, celebrated his 90th birthday anniversary. . . . Jerry Clarence Funk, three month old twin of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Funk of Deloit, died of pneumonia. . . . Mrs. Emmet Thompson of Page had eight stitches taken to close a gash in her leg inflicted by a boar.

Hubby Home Scene of Gathering— Guests at the Virgil Hubby home for Christmas dinner were Mrs. Carrie Borg and daughter, Marvel; Mr. and Mrs. William Hubby of Neligh; Mr. and Mrs. Howard Rouse and Lloyd; Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Rouse and sons, Wayne and Dale; Mr. and Mrs. George Hansen and Mrs. Albert Kazor. In the afternoon Edward and Gerald Kazor called.

Mr. and Mrs. William Hubby were Friday afternoon visitors of Mrs. Carrie Borg and daughter, Marvel.

Friends Fly Here for Reunion— Richard Sahl of Cedar Rapids, Ia., works manager for Midland Industries, an iron forging plant, and his brother, Avery, of Saskatchewan, Can., arrived by private plane Monday for an overnight visit with Mr. and Mrs. Dale Wilson and family. Richard succeeded Wilson at the Midland post when the Wilsons came to O'Neill. The Wilsons spent Christmas day with relatives at Wayne.

Mr. and Mrs. John H. McCarville and family departed Sunday for Ellsworth, Minn., for a week's visit with Mrs. McCarville's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Egan. Mr. and Mrs. William W. McIntosh and sons left Sunday for a three-day visit in Omaha.

Sp/4 and Mrs. Jack Hollenbeck who live at Clarksville, Ky., arrived last week to visit until Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bazelman. Jack is stationed at Ft. Campbell, Ky. Becky Howard is visiting relatives in Sioux City during the holidays.

Engaged to Wed Mr. and Mrs. James Conway of O'Neill announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Bonnie Beth Burival (above), to Ronald Ray Reed, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Reed of Orchard. No wedding date has been set. Miss Burival is a sophomore at St. Mary college, Xavier, Kans., and Mr. Reed is a senior at the University of Nebraska where he will graduate at mid-term.—O'Neill Photo Co.

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AUCTION As I am moving to town, I will dispose of the following property located 1 mile east of Gross, Nebr.; OR 5 miles north and 8 miles east of Spencer, Nebr.; OR 7 miles north and 2 miles east of Bristow, Nebr.; OR 13 miles northwest of Lynch, Nebr., on— TUESDAY, JANUARY 6, 1939 Sale Starts at 12:00 Noon Lunch by Gross Woman's Club 60 — HEAD HEREFORD CATTLE — 60 41 Hereford stock cows to calf in April; 15 head 3-year-olds; balance good aged cows with size and bred to registered Hereford bull; 1 Registered Hereford bull, 3-years-old; 27 last spring calves (steers and heifers); 1 smooth-mouth saddle horse; 12 Hamp gilts bred to farrow the last of March; 6 dozen laying hens. MACHINERY & EQUIPMENT 1937 John Deere tractor; John Deere tractor cultivator; 2-botton 16-inch plow; A-C roto-baler, nearly new; 10-ft. disc; 4-sec. harrow; John Deere 10-inch hammermill; 2-whee J-D manure spreader; John Deere endgate seeder; tractor lister; McCord-Deering 28-in. threshing machine, good condition. Clipper flanning mill; hay rack on rubber gear; wagon on rubber gear; wagon on steel gear; 12-ft. J-D side delivery rake; 12-ft. Case tractor rake; McCormick 10-ft. rake; 45-bushel hog feeder; mounted buzz saw to fit J-D. 500-chick size brooder; feed bunks; 300-gal. fuel tank on stand; fuel barrels; 2 tank heaters; platform wagon scale; 2-wheel trailer on rubber; vice; post hole drill. Many other articles. SOME HOUSEHOLD GOODS WILLIAM WENDT Lester Pearson & Marvin Larsen, Auctioneers Spencer State Bank, Clerk



Plans Spring Rite

Daniel Rakes of O'Neill and Mrs. Agnes Rakes of Aptos, Calif., announce the engagement of their daughter, Miss Helen (above), to Wayne Schollmeyer, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Schollmeyer of Page. Both Miss Rakes and Mr. Schollmeyer are graduates of O'Neill high school. The bride-elect is teaching, and she is planning a spring wedding. Mr. Schollmeyer is engaged in farming.

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345,900 Women Who Save Trading Stamps Are The Largest "Woman's Club" in Nebraska

Every day about 345,900 Nebraska women make it a point to shop where they get trading stamps. This large group of smart, thrifty Nebraska shoppers, with their common interest in trading stamps, can be thought of as a huge "woman's club" with membership throughout the state.

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