

Prairieland Talk

'Letter From A Friend'

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

Post marked at Palo Alto, Calif., the following unsigned communication came to me recently. Whether the writer purposely conceals his identity or whether it was merely an oversight I do not know.

Plutonian shadows gather at our door. Then may we rejoice for a life well lived.

Waiting at a street corner to take the next city bus to roll "down town" where citizens flock to buy the rags they wear—this is where you learn something of the "moods of men" and the hopes and plans of women.



Romaine Saunders

As a long time reader of the Frontier and Prairieland Talk, I am sending you the enclosed item which was sent to me from Chicago a number of years ago by a friend and former O'Neill resident.

From the Sketch Book of the late H. O. Jackson, an old time insurance man around O'Neill in the early days, comes the inclosed gem, perhaps one of the greatest things ever written or uttered by a Holt County man. The accompanying note says that "In the very early days of O'Neill there were many philosophers who used to meet each month during the winter for a dinner and chit-chat in the dining room of the old Evans Hotel. John Harmon was chairman and used to introduce the speakers. T. V. Golden, R. R. Dickson, D. A. Doyle, Neil Brennan, M. F. Harrington and many other young men of the times were among those who never missed a meeting. One night the short subject on which each was to speak was entitled 'My Inheritance'.

Printed in one of Nebraska's great daily newspapers, the Omaha World-Herald, the story came out of O'Neill that Farmer Senator Frank Nelson this summer finds farm hazards climax anything he has run up against in the state legislature. An encounter with a hog resulted in Frank limping about on a crippled leg, an injured hand came out of another farm experience, and the elements of nature frowned upon the picturesque scene where the Senator lives and a hall storm well nigh ruined the Senator's corn field.

As this is written furnace heated August draws to a close, and this last day glows in unclouded brightness as it steps from our calendar. What will September lay in our laps? The second day of the new month comes the new moon. On prairieland the new moon has always meant rain, snow or the cooling of hot summer days.

J. Hyde Sweet has put in 50 years at printing and newspaper work in Nebraska City. The late D. H. Cronin was connected with The Frontier for over 57 years, as printer, business manager, publisher and editor. And today Denny is at rest upon the hill in the abode of the dead.

The postal department announces it will soon issue a stamp in memory of the first surgical operation performed in America 150 years ago by the pioneer surgeon, Dr. Ephraim McDowell. The Department announces no cut in postal rates.

Editorial

No Closed Circuit

There are probably as many ways to promote a community and its businesses as there are individuals.

It will be conceded by most that some individuals will normally be in a better position to influence outsiders and to make them understand that O'Neill is not only a good place to live but also a good place to shop. For years the "burden" of being a "public relations" man has fallen on the retailer — that is, until others realized that their interests (the retailers') are also economic and social health indicator for all businesses.

Chambers of Commerce in the United States, were, at first (at the turn of the century) not much more than clubs with retailers usually belonged for social reasons.

It became increasingly more apparent that these clubs, or informal gatherings would do well to establish themselves and dedicate themselves to the betterment of their respective communities rather than remain a purely social engine.

Soon the good Chambers found themselves with members of professions and skills, with knowledge of industry and commerce not usually associated directly with retailers. It also became apparent to Chambers of Commerce that those organizations that became the most active—the most willing to work—also became leading voices in the drive for better community relations.

The O'Neill Chamber of Commerce annual membership drive is underway. What these men are saying when they ask each business and professional man to become a member is something like this:

"Please help us to make O'Neill a better place to live, a better retail and business center. Help us to create conditions among the businesses here that will strengthen the ties between us. Help us to create conditions that we might forget our differences long enough to help the community as a whole."

If there is a better place to iron out feelings of hostility, we would like to know where it can be better done and where these hostile feelings can be better disposed of than the local chapter of the Chamber of Commerce.

The men who sit down to the table each month have more than a common bond among themselves and they know it. They are the official spokes-

men for their members as well as unofficial spokesmen for all businesses in town.

It is sometimes said that Chambers of Commerce are nothing but cliques. If this is true in O'Neill, all we can say is that it is the easiest clique you'll ever get into. They want you, Mr. Businessman. They need you. They need your help, your suggestions, your opinions.

It isn't a closed circuit.

Khrushchev Should See

A lot of planning and official maneuvering will be completed between now and the middle of September, involving Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the United States. Unfortunately he will probably be shown much that will not impress him, and will miss the real America—if custom and tradition prevail.

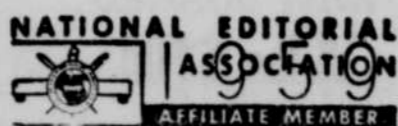
What Khrushchev should see, in United States, is how the average American lives, in the average-size town, and on our farms and in the rural communities. Everyone knows about New York City, about these things.



JAMES CHAMPION, Co-Publisher JERRY PETSCHKE, Editor

Terms of Subscription: In Nebraska, \$2.50 per year; elsewhere in the United States, \$3 per year; rates abroad provided upon request. All subscriptions payable in advance.

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.



Last of a Series

What Can Be Done To Better Our Roads; And Where We Stand

By JERRY PETSCHKE—Editor

If it is possible at all to sum up the problems of Holt county where its county and state maintained roads are concerned in one sentence, it might go something like this:

"Too little money spread too thin with state legislation making sure it stays that way."

Or, perhaps, another statement, equally true and just as important. "The inherent blindness of a state system of determining what areas will get the most development, and the inability or complacency of legislators that don't care to 'stir up the fire'."

It all boils down to a few simple problems: 1. Our county board of supervisors have all they can do to just maintain the county roads we already have. If hard work and fairness on their part meant better roads (from Amelia to Redbird) we would have some beautiful ones. Unfortunately money comes into the picture.

2. We are highly populated. We have a greater number of county and state roads. THE SUFFICIENCY SYSTEM OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS ISN'T ADAPTABLE FOR THAT KIND OF A COMBINATION.

3. We have many more drivers on the average in our area. We also pay more gasoline tax than the average. THE SUFFICIENCY SYSTEM OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ROADS ISN'T ADAPTABLE FOR THIS COMBINATION EITHER.

4. The old problem of lack of representative force in central and western Nebraska doesn't help.

5. The state department of roads is "caught up in the whirl" of interstate highway problems. The relative good we will receive from the interstate highways is smaller than it will be for the well populated areas around Omaha and Lincoln.

6. The ease with which the department of roads can throw back formerly state maintained roads onto the county, WHEN WE HAVE ALL WE CAN HANDLE RIGHT NOW!

There are many more minor reasons why our roads are no better than they are. To list them here would not be possible, but the preceding 6, if solved would make a tremendous difference in the amount of road repair we would receive.

Now what can the average man do to help. Here are just a few things to think about:

1. At some future date some may maintain that it is advisable to change our supervisory districts. BE CAREFUL. Make sure you discuss this with your respective supervisor before making that kind of move. The districts are divided on the basis of polled population. To change them substantially, might mean to break up a comparatively well regulated county road repair system. ASK YOUR SUPERVISOR FOR HIS OPINION.

2. There are those who would throw all the township routes as well as all routes on the shoulders of the supervisors. BE CAREFUL. This could be disastrous unless you are willing to pay more taxes for road repair and be willing to wait several years before the county "catches up."

3. Discuss any individual problem with your respective supervisor. They are reported by every farmer this writer has spoken to, as being men who want to help and will listen to any reasonable complaint.

4. Discuss the inequality of the state sufficiency system with your state legislator. Ask him if there is anything he can do and watch how he votes on highway bills. Make certain you have his reasons for voting the way he votes.

5. Whenever you have the chance, try to make the officials of department of roads in Lincoln understand that there are some areas that are not adaptable to the present "sufficiency system."

6. In the future, if we are fortunate, another method of determining sufficiency of roads will be adapted by the department of roads. Before you vote, make certain that your population, the relative number of car registrations, and the amount of gas tax we pay, are all taken into consideration when certain state roads are to be repaired.

Holt county will never have better roads until some of these things are done. It is not always a matter of paying more taxes locally, but rather, the care we take to make certain the persons we place in the public trust in Lincoln understand why we are different, and why others, as well as ourselves, are suffering from a system that is not in the interests of the general welfare of Holt county.

(Editor's note—We would like to thank both the county board of supervisors for their cooperation in preparation of these articles and particularly the department of roads in Lincoln. The researchers at the department were more than helpful and in the face of the criticism their department received in these columns, they have been fair in answering all questions.)

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

W. L. Shoemaker bought the Gladue meat market where he had been working for six months.

T. V. Golden has fifty acres of fine flax growing on braking two miles northwest of town. A meeting of the Holt county agricultural society was held at the office of M. H. McCarthy for the purpose of reporting financial conditions of the society. Walter Wyant and the Bazelman boys have started a brick yard, not the ordinary kind where brick are molded from clay and burned in a kiln, but a yard where they mold the bricks from sand and cement.

W. E. Meals, formerly of the city now of Lompoc, Calif., stopped in town for a visit with relatives and friends.

The county board let the contract for the county jail to Burr and Golden for \$900, their bid being about one-half that of the one other bid. Anthony Murray was exhibiting samples of apples grown on his place. Harry Spindler of Meek had a sale, after which he planned to leave for the south. Frank Griffith was in from the Eagle creek country recently.

Supervisors Roberts and Grimes went to Atkinson at the request of Chairman Hickman to investigate the need of bridges in that neighborhood. Mr. Knapp has nearly completed a large barn on his farm south of Inman and contemplates building a nice house there in the near future.

20 YEARS AGO

A great many residents of O'Neill journeyed to St. John's at Detroit to attend the Fourth Annual Tri-County day. Ben Franklin store has a new ice cream making machine. Ralph Leidy

has been busy remodeling the interior of the O'Neill Hatchery. Plans were made to start rebuilding the Spencer dam on the Niobrara river. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Sengleman, living northwest of this city, celebrated their forty-sixth wedding anniversary.

The Inman school opened with a total enrollment of 130. 10 of who were tuition pupils. Miss Nadine Coyne and Jane Parkins entertained ten guests at a one o'clock luncheon at the M & M cafe. Clarence Selah left for S. Joseph, Mo. where he had accepted a position as radio announcer. Miss Mildred Keyes and Leila Rouse opened terms of school near Stuart. Miss Lucille Stevens is teaching at Amelia again. Francis Price went to St. Louis, Mo. where he planned to visit his brother, Peter who is in the Jesuit seminary there. Miss Olive Beckwith went to Star where she will teach the coming year. Mr. and Mrs. Homer Ernst attended the poultry fair at Page.

10 YEARS AGO

Lightning struck and destroyed by fire a frame hay barn and its contents, 560 tons of stored hay at Inman belonging to I. L. Watson. William Alm of Redbird is moving to a farm vacated by Ronald Carson near Dorsey. District rally of the Bethany Free Methodist church was planned at the church 4 1/2 miles S. W. of Amelia. Donna Whaley, a student nurse at Clarkson Memorial hospital in Omaha visited her parents over Labor Day weekend.

Many Holt county 4-H club members were among the ribbon winners at the Nebraska State fair at Lincoln. Approximately 80 O'Neill business firms have been contracted by the parade committee of the Diamond Jubilee Fall Festival and have agreed to sponsor a float in the parade. Coach Marvin Miller's O'Neill high eagles opened their 1949 football season at Plainview on September 16. Darrell Weingartner and Eddie Tomlinson, members of Boy Scout troop 210 were on an 80 mile canoe trip from Winton, Minn. into Canada. George Mellor of Atkinson enter-

tained friends at a baby shower in honor of Mrs. Robert Summerer.

FIVE YEARS

Miss Donna Mae Fuhrer, 21 year old O'Neill farm girl converted her hobby of painting into a business. An article in this weeks issue of the Frontier told of the illness and recovery of "Smoky" the female St. Bernard owned by Mrs. P. B. Hartly. The 1954-55 school term formally opened at St. Mary's Academy with a total of 384 pupils.

Married: Juliana Kamphaus, Amelia and Leonard L. Svatos, Chambers; Airman Dale L. Strons, O'Neill and Miss Edith Mae Rowlett, Norfolk. Glen Burge who lives east of O'Neill reported the loss of six head of cattle which were stuck by lightning. Sister Antonella, who has been principal and senior class teacher at St. Mary's for 10 years left to sponsor the senior class in St. Agnes Academy, Alliance.

Joan Smith, Kathleen Hoffman and Laurine Cudfal, former St. Mary's students were received as postulants by the Franciscan Sisters in Denver, Colo. Wiley Young, 23, of Orchard was injured in a one-car auto accident which occurred three miles east of Inman when the vehicle struck a bridge. Death: Mrs. Rose Van Connett, 74, Page.

State Capital News

Consider Lakes Near Highways

By Melvin Paul, Statehouse Correspondent, The Nebraska Press Association

LINCOLN—The Interstate Highway will be a topic of discussion for many moons and many reasons.

One of the latest angles connected with the new super highway is that produced by Mel Steen, director of the State Game Commission.

Steen and State Engineer Roy Cochran have agreed to study the creation of a string of lakes along the 143 miles of the Interstate between Grand Island and North Platte.

Steen says his plan is that considerable sand and gravel will be needed for the Interstate highway. This has to normally be hauled into the road site. But he thinks it could be pumped from sandpits along the highway, making pits big enough to be lakes.

This would not change location of the Interstate or the river.

Cochran says there is a lot of merit to the suggestion of Steen but details will require study. Complicating factors would be location of bridges on county roads, cattle underpasses and the feasibility of bringing in the gravel by pumping.

The amount of material for the road bed of a mile-long section of the Interstate would produce a lake of 15 to 25 acres in size, Cochran said.

Nebraska will hear much about the Interstate in the next decade, whether it involves wages paid workers, federal funds or landscaping.

Kyle Retires: A familiar face in the statehouse that of friendly Homer Kyle of the Attorney General's office—will be missing in the corridors.

Kyle, now 71, has retired from the post of an assistant attorney general which he has held 18 years. He says he wants to read "some of the books I've always wanted to read."

Kyle was appointed to his post in 1929. Atty. Gen. C. S. Beck said it was with "profound regret" that he accepted Kyle's retirement.

Money Needed

State Education Commissioner Freeman Decker says he probably will not have enough funds to operate the schools for the blind at Nebraska City and the deaf at Omaha.

These institutions, formerly under jurisdiction of the Board of Control, came under management of the State Board of Education July 1.

Decker says the Legislature appropriated \$300,000 for the deaf school and \$160,000 for the blind school in order that the department may run the institutions for the second year of the current biennium.

But the commissioner says the board of control was able to supplement those funds with other revenues while his department cannot do this.

Thus, says Decker, he probably will ask the 1960 Legislature for a deficiency appropriation.

Taxes Collected: The state collected \$5,248,402 in taxes from gasoline, oil, natural gas, cigars and liquor during August, monthly reports show.

Bulk of the revenue—\$4,465,322—came from the taxes on gasoline. Cigarette taxes produced \$522,494, liquor \$146,312 and oil and natural gas severance levies, \$114,274.

State Fair

The current edition of the Nebraska State Fair is in full swing in Lincoln.

But Democrats and capital employes cannot be seen "politicizing" during working hours.

That is, if they are following the advice of Gov. Ralph G. Brooks.

Robert Conrad, the governor's administrative assistant, says wives of department heads and other Democratic volunteers from throughout the state will be at the Democratic party's booth at the annual exposition.

However, employes and department heads who are Democrats will be at the Democratic booth in the evenings, Conrad said.

State Chairman Russell Hanson says the booth will be the "warm-up for the 1960 campaign."

Equalization

The latest meeting of the State Board of Equalization was more harmonious than previous ones.

Board members got together to approve assessments on flight equipment of airlines which operated in Nebraska in 1958. These are set by the State Tax Commissioner.

United Airlines was assessed \$25,920, Braniff \$5,047 and Western \$1,055.

TO PLAN BAZAAR

Ash Grove Auxiliary will meet at the Ash Grove Hall Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 15 at 1 p.m. It was postponed as some are attending the state fair. All members are urged to attend as plans for the annual fall bazaar will be discussed.

Cub Scout News—

Den 5 of the Cub Scouts met at the home of Mrs. Bob Forwood Wednesday afternoon, Sept. 2. We visited Bellins honey house. We named hobbies for roll call and played a hobby game.

The meeting was closed by saying the promise, Mike McCarville served treats.

Jim Forwood, scribe

RECEIVES ASSIGNMENT

PAGE—Army 1st Lt. Richard L. Buxton, son of Mr. and Mrs. William E. Buxton, Page, recently was assigned to the 101st airborne division at Fort Campbell, Ky.

Lieutenant Buxton is an aviator in the division's 101st Aviation Company. He entered the Army in 1953.

The lieutenant, whose wife, Audrey, lives in Clarksville, Tenn., is a graduate of Page high school.

Advertisement for TRIMZ Ready Pasted Borders, showing various border styles for kitchens, nurseries, baths, and any room. Includes contact info for Ben Franklin and A. L. Patton, owner O'Neill.

Advertisement for Gleanings from our Heritage of Freedom, featuring a portrait of Thomas Paine and text about enjoying beer and social time.

Large advertisement for LOHAUS MOTOR COMPANY featuring 'FINAL CLEARANCE DEALS' on the 59 FORD. Includes a picture of a Ford 59 Model and lists various models like Galaxies Galore, Custom 300 Sedans, and World's Favorite V-3. Contact info: Fourth & Fremont, O'Neill, Nebr.