

PrairieLand Talk

# The Silver Tongue

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

O'Neill has been the scene of political contests that have brought some of the nation's notables here to tell us how to vote. Now nothing doing and no political spellbinders—just rodeos and other sports.



Romaine Saunders

It was a weekend day more than fifty years ago. The home of A. F. Mullen on North First street just off of Douglas was decorated with flags in respect to an honored guest, the notable, William Jennings Bryan, had come to town to wag his silver tongue in oratory as only Bryan could and point out to his hearers as he stood on a platform at Fourth and Douglas streets our duties as citizens. Another national notable to come to O'Neill to stand in the upper room of the old court house and preach Democratic party doctrine was J. Sterling Morton, at one time a member of the president's cabinet, and the Nebraska patriot who gave us Arbor Lodge and Arbor Day—now about forgotten. And then the most noted one of all, Theodore Roosevelt, the South Dakota rancher and cowboy, the Rough Rider who licked the Spanish army down in Cuba, who served as president of the U. S. and wound up a great career as a Bull Moose. The Northwestern train on which Roosevelt was heading east stopped long enough to let the noted passenger come out and make us a speech. "Teddy" was more of a doer than a platform speaker, but his brief visit and cordial greeting of the O'Neill crowd was well received. Even Mike Harrington joined in the cheers.

About a foot of snow in Colorado, 140-mile-an-hour winds in some southern states, 70 degrees below zero at the South Pole, the sun glows in golden glory this calm last day of September on prairie-land.

Roosters crow and morning dawns, then noon and soon comes night. Short bright autumn days and wild ducks take to flight. Long nights for slumber and rest as time lays in our lap its very best. Asleep and at rest all night long, then roll out and face life's duties brave and strong!

The poet writes of the face upon the floor. I see a face, not on a floor, but in front of me. A face upon which the cares and struggles of life had left their wrinkles, but a face touched with a smile of memories of joys here and there along the way, and a face lighted with the glow of life beyond this vale of tears. That face was the face of my pioneer prairie-land mother.

Editorial

## Atkinson Water Table Drop?

The time is coming for a major change in the regulations governing the use of ground water for irrigation projects in Nebraska.

For several years now professors at the University of Nebraska College of Law have reminded their students that they must keep abreast of recent developments that are sure to make major changes in the way the farmer is allowed to use his wells for irrigation.

The Conservation and Survey Division of the University is also winding up their long project of mapping underground water in the state. Of course, the day may never come when all we will have to do is to look at a map and determine whether or not water can be pumped economically, but a good indication of the general water table system in the state will be available.

The Frontier believes that a sound set of regulations governing the use of underground water is an absolute necessity. We have heard reports that the water has dropped south of the giant irrigation projects near Atkinson. Of course, Atkinson residents with wells of their own (in the town and near it) would be quick to notice any change in their systems. Just how many of these reports—and we have heard this quite informally—are true, we do not know.

However, it stands to reason that with the precipitation deficiency during the first 2 months of 1959 (added to the deficiency in the fall and winter of the previous year) some shortage of subsoil moisture was experienced.

This has made it difficult for non-irrigated crops in some parts of the state to carry through the hot months of August and resulted in a higher rate of pumping.

Here's the real rub according to E. C. Reed, director of the Conservation and Survey Division:

"Although there has been some recovery in groundwater levels during the last few years, this rise has not been enough to give us assurance that we will not have difficulty in some areas if we are faced with a prolonged dry period again," he said.

We will bet the farmer and rancher in Holt and surrounding counties understand that statement. It sounds almost as though Mr. Reed has spent some time here in the county.

Just when and from where regulations governing the use of ground water will come, it is too early to tell. An angry farmer might start it off. A legislator could start the ball rolling just as easily.

But it's coming. The law is near at hand when the laws will be upon us. We think it's high time.

### What You Preach

Last week, Jerry Petsche, editor of The Frontier, was apprehended on highway 275 between Ewing and O'Neill for speeding by officer Robert Gude.

It is discouraging to note that he was in a hurry to get home from an Ewing football game—it's the kind of carelessness that can cause death.

But it is particularly discouraging to note that the editorial page sometimes includes traffic safety warnings. Practice what you preach, Mr. Petsche!

# Frontiers Ago

### 50 YEARS AGO

One of the cold-blooded and mysterious attempts at murder that are becoming all too numerous was made near Emmet on October 11, 1909. Mrs. Kane, widow of the late Dennis Kane, was shot by some person from the outside just as she had arisen from the supper table at her home. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spindler departed for Cahwell, Alabama, near the Gulf Coast, where they go to make their home. . . . Pittsburgh and Detroit played in the 1909 World Series. . . . Forest Smith living southeast of Inman, met a sad accident when he had gone out in the pasture to catch one of his horses intending to ride back when the horse slipped and fell, breaking Mr. Smith's leg in two places. . . . Thomas Davis of Star, who held a sale of his personal property about two weeks ago, was in the city making arrangements to move to southern Missouri where he has purchased land. . . . Dan D. Harrington and sister Mrs. J. D. Kelly were in Humphrey the first of the week attending the marriage of John I. sister, Miss M. Harrington, who was married to a young dentist of Elgin. . . . Death: Jerry Kelly, who resided northeast of O'Neill. . . . Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Clark and children left for a two week's visit with relatives at Creston and Arlington, Nebr.

### 20 YEARS AGO

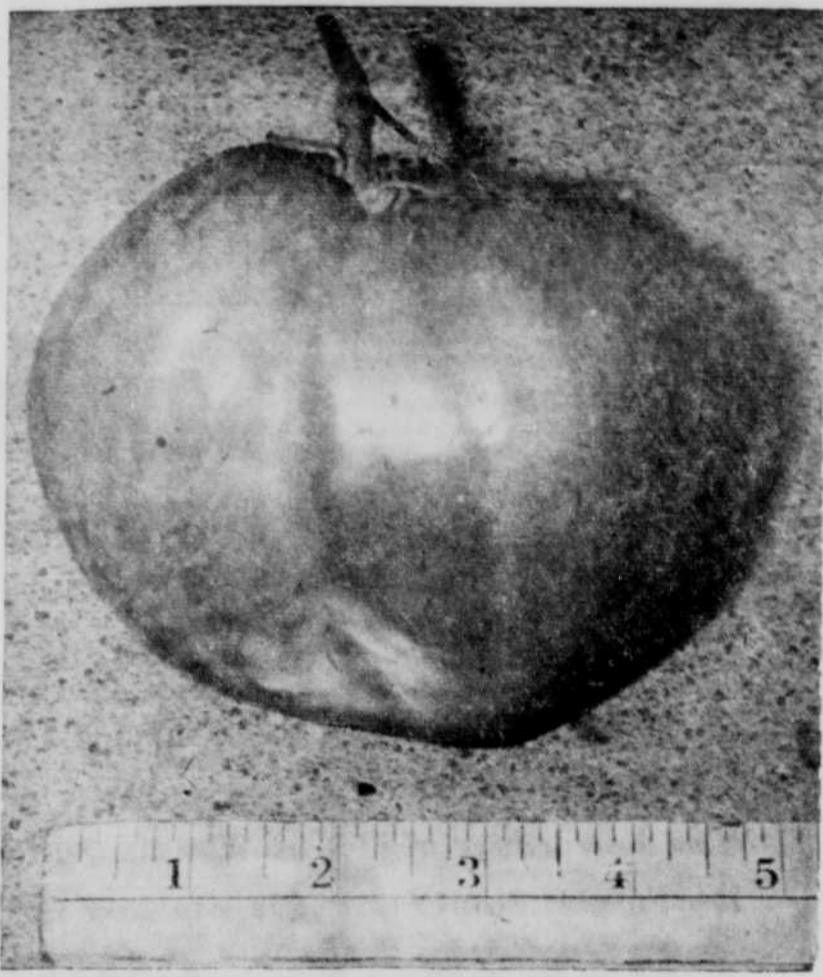
Charles Sholes, a resident of Inman for the past four or five years, hung himself October 11, 1939 in a tool shed on his place adjoining Inman. . . . John I. Quig was the recipient of the first of a set of nice engraved certificates from Father Flanagan's Boy's home in Omaha. . . . Col. C. C. Singer, Sedro wooley, Wash, a former resident in this city for 50 years, arrived in the city and placed a suit case in the home of Miss Julia Cronin of Cheyenne, Wyo. came here to spend a week visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Cronin. . . . Charlie Yarnall has spent the past week in Stuart where he is now in-voicing the stock of the Harry Cowles store which was declared bankrupt a short time ago. . . . A chapter of the Eastern Star lodge was recently formed here with twenty-three members being formally transferred from other chapters to the O'Neill lodge. . . . Superintendent and Mrs. C. F. Grill entertained the teachers and their wives of the O'Neill public school at a get-acquainted party at their home. . . . Wayne Mat-schulat, second son of Mr. and Mrs. Otto Matschulat of Page, who is a student of the University of Nebraska, has been elected by the students of the freshman class as their class president and leader in all of the activities of the class for the coming year. . . . Group number two of the Presbyterian Guild sponsored a social afternoon at the home of Mrs. J. A. Brown.

### 10 YEARS AGO

The O'Neill region bore the brunt of a combination wind-rain electrical storm sweeping out of the Northwest, and since the embattled citizens have been occupied with cleanup chores. . . . being installed at the Spencer hydro-electric power plant on the Niobrara river, North of O'Neill. . . . Married: Miss Lois Charleen Harmon and Alvin R. Vorce; Miss Madeline Mary McDermott and Leiland Jacob Page; Miss Lois Heiss, Page and Richard Asher of Page; Miss Delores A. DeBolt of O'Neill and Richard E. Farrer of Chambers. . . . Fifty persons have signed for membership in the Parent-Teachers' association. . . . Property owners in Atkinson whose lots adjoin either of Atkinson's two principal streets which were surfaced in the operation ending two weeks ago, will pay 30 cents per running foot to finance the project. . . . The Jack and Jill corner this week introduced Linda Lou Hynes, one-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Hynes, O'Neill and Richard Allen Hill, three-year-old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Hill of O'Neill. . . . Robert G. Cirkseales, 40, a mortician joined the staff at Bilglin Brothers funeral home here. . . . Death: John Carr, 45 year old Atkinson farmer rancher; Daniel D. Harrington, 73, farmer; O'Neill businessman at his home in Wisner; Mrs. Della C. Rutherford, 83, Page.

### FIVE YEARS AGO

St. Peter's Catholic church in Ewing was re-decorated and open house was planned for October 17. . . . Julius D. Cronin, O'Neill, retired as president of the Niobrara Bar Association. . . . Bruce, 14 month-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wettlaufer, Page, escaped drowning when he was found floating in a stock tank at his farm home north of Page. . . . Several of the children and grandchildren of Mrs. Rose Harding came in and surprised her with a birthday dinner in honor of her 79th birthday. . . . A cross was erected on the west end of Maxey Memorial church addition in Inman. . . . Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Sisson of Detroit celebrated their 59th wedding anniversary on October 15. . . . James W. Rooney, O'Neill, was elected to the executive committee for the Niobrara Basin Development association at the annual meeting which was held in O'Neill. . . . Deaths: Patrick C. Sullivan, 72, retired O'Neill farmer; Clyde O. Johnson, 81, Holt county farmer; Leonard Heiss, 75, Page; Charles Edward Grim, 80, who held the distinction of being the first white child born in the Orchard locality; Thomas Donlin, 85, a retired Holt rancher; Mrs. Josie Crumly, 82, Page.



Given the right conditions and a proper green thumb, you can grow tomatoes like these in Holt county. Henry Phelps brought it in to the newspaper office last week. It weighs 1 1/4 lbs. and measures about 4 inches across.—The Frontier photo and engraving

### Riverside News

By Mrs. Lionel Gunter  
Mr. and Mrs. Howard Miller and Mr. and Mrs. Leo Miller and Ellen were in Chambers and Ne-igh Thursday.  
Mr. and Mrs. Otto Retke of In-man spent the week at the Z. H. Fry home. Otto Retke and Rich-ard Woelager were working on the barn.  
Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hill and family visited Thursday evening at the Alfred Napier home.  
Mrs. Lynn Fry and Mrs. Harold Rodgers, the teacher, took the school children of the Riverside district to Clearwater Wednesday afternoon for ear and eye exami-nation.  
Mrs. Duane Jensen, Jerry and Janice of Newman Grove visited Thursday afternoon and were supper guests at the Z. H. Fry home.  
The William Lotquest family ate dinner Sunday at the Leo Miller home.  
Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Hoke called Friday evening at the L. A. Hobbs home.  
Robert Montgomery of Neligh plans to spend a few days the fore part of the week with her grand-

Sunday to the Wilbur Bennetts to and baby of Fort Robinson came get their two children, Barbara and Robert, who spent the past ten days with their grandparents while Harold and Shirley were getting settled in their new home.  
The John Napier family visited Saturday evening at the Ed Cuddy home in O'Neill. They also called on Mrs. Jerry Cuddy and new baby in the O'Neill hospital.  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hobbs are visiting at the Dewitt Hoke home. The Hobbs and Hokes attended the Football game in Battlercreek Monday evening, October 5.  
Charles Miller was a supper guest at Shirley Funk Saturday.  
Mrs. George Montgomery and Mrs. Grant Mott helped paint at the John Miller home October 5.  
Mr. and Mrs. Bert Funk visited Friday evening at the Dave Pollock home and help Dave celebrate his birthday anniversary.  
The Lynn Fry family were visitors in Grand Island on Monday.  
Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt Hoke called on Mr. and Mrs. Z. H. Fry Sunday afternoon, October 4th.  
Paul Gunter and S. S. Schlottman were Omaha and Council Bluffs visitors Saturday, October 3.  
Tuesday, October 6 Mrs. John Napier, Tommy and Ann were dinner guests at the Jerry Cuddy home in O'Neill.

The Jolly Workers Club met Friday afternoon October 9th with Bessie Napier, Luella Bennett and Belva Shrader were co-hostesses. The ladies embroidered tea towels for the hostess. 21 ladies answered roll call, during the business meeting, they voted to have an exchange of gifts at the December meeting. Gifts not to cost over a dollar. They divided the group and half of them will serve lunch in November and the rest in December. The club members had a pantry shower for Mr. and Mrs. Russel Napier who were married the latter part of August and are living now in Sterling Kansas. Bessie Napier opened the gifts and

Florence Hoke wrote gifts in a book. Alice Shrader, Lola Shrader, Edna Johnston, Margaret Fry, Bessie Napier and Flora Young received gifts from their mystery pals. We will meet with Edna Rotherham in November.

### Rock Falls News

By Mrs. Floyd Johnson  
Last Week's News  
I hope you're all enjoying this beautiful autumn weather. Our weatherman predicts it will be short-lived (hope he's mistaken). We're sure all the nice folks were thankful for the very nice days. Saturday and Sunday in which to enjoy those out door performances. And life goes on—everyone busy with their own duties, school, home and other-wise. Regardless of season or weather conditions there's always work to be done, and the piles of leaves and tree branches on the lawn remind your reporter of an outdoor chore to be done before another nightfall.  
Weekend guests of the Lou Brown family were from Fairfax, S. D. Mr. and Mrs. Dick Wolf and children, Jessie and Jack, and Mr. and Mrs. Warren Melvin, Shelley and Monte of Reliance, S. D. Mr. Wolfe won the championship bull riding. Mr. Melvin took part in the bull riding and Mrs. Melvin in the ladies barrel race.  
Mrs. Kathryn Yantzi and Pat Gallagher were supper guests at the Blake Benson home on Oct. 1.  
Mrs. Lloyd Gallagher returned on Saturday evening from Rochester where she had been a few days for a check up. The reports were favorable. Mr. Gallagher accompanied her on the trip.  
Afternoon visitors at the James Curran home on Friday were Mrs. Albert Sterns, Mrs. Elmer Slaymaler and baby and Mrs. Don Sterns and children.  
Rock Falls News Elsewhere



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