

Prairie Talk

"Names Make News"

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

Today I feel inspired to mention a few of the notables of generations now gone who had walked the footpaths and board walks and served their day among us in a village called O'Neill, not then a city of four wards as we have today.



Romain Saunders

Editors—yes, about the first to come to the mind of prairie talker: Doc Mathews, Jim Higgs, Clyde King and Denny Cronin of the Frontier; John McDonough at the Tribune sanctum in the basement of the First National Bank, and who went from there to New York City to connect with the Daily Sun, Ham Kautzman of the Beacon Light, McHugh, Eves and Miles of the Independent.

Nebraskans who are at all interested had an opportunity to size up the two leading candidates for the presidential nomination—Nixon and Kennedy. These two notables each spent a few hours in our Capital City.

The April sun glows out of a clear blue sky. Snow, ice, mud and water pools gone. There they are, the superannuated has been parked on the corner visiting and enjoying life, a life of leisure after a lifetime of toil and struggle and now resting at ease and buying their daily bread with what that social security check hands them at the teller's counter.

Charley Stout came to O'Neill as a young man from his childhood home at the eastern boundary of Nebraska, and here became the husband of one of the community's native daughters, was father and grandfather engaged in the drug business and was a worthy citizen. Traveling the highway of life for more than four score years a friend to all along the way. Charley now lies beside his life's companion in the resting place of the dead. Another upright citizen laid away. But few left now who were a part of a growing community in the 80's and 90's.

Eastern Nebraska wheat fields by mid April were not promising a normal crop but farmers think that by corn planting time the wheat will be on the way to yield a fair crop. Assessors are having their worries even over an old guy like Prairie Talker who is urged to step in the assessor's office at the Lancaster courthouse and sign something. Precinct assessors formerly came around to see what Nebraska patriots had. . . . Easter observed in memory of a risen Christ was the subject of ridicule and mockery broadcast by the Russians. . . . Are you seriously concerned about the troubles of mankind? Don't fret, it will soon be all over according to what we hear of an angel visit to an American gospel worker and informing him that there is but five years now until the end of human history. . . . A late April snow storm out where the "panhandle" is hung, and rain on the dry earth in the Capital City community.

There is no destiny, no fate, no chance buffeting along life's lengthening way that can hinder or delay life's ultimate goal of every sincere and determined soul.

Some three or four patriots seeking the Republican nomination for governor of Nebraska indicates they are convinced a GOP will be elected this year. And here comes a Lincoln lady soliciting my support to secure for her the Republican nomination for governor. A woman governor—why not? It is a woman in every household that is the governor of that home. The man—O he just sits back and looks on. Mrs. Hazel Abel, a Lincoln wife and mother, sends me her announcement with her picture and woman like enclosed a needle and thread in a neat little cardboard folder. Well, Hazel, I am for that State Senator of Broken Bow, but if you beat both him and Terry I'm voting for you in November.

Touch a gadget and on comes electric heat or the blazing gas, and the lady of today presiding in the modern home places a frying pan or kettle on her kitchen range and soon dinner is ready. Pioneer mother on the Holt county prairie cooked with hay-burner fires, maybe corn stalks or cow chips poked into the fireplace of the old time cook stove, and that pioneer grandmother of yours worked about all forenoon cooking a dinner. Turn a faucet today and out comes hot or cold water. The pioneer house wife picked up a pail, went to the well outside her house and drew a bucket of water. If she needed hot water in went a dipper full or two of that well water in her teakettle to be set over the fire to heat. Yes, it is wonderful these modern household conveniences, but I still cherish the memory of the toil-worn hands of grandmother.

Walking down life's highway here and there we meet a friend who is ever ready a helping hand to extend.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

Thomas and Michael Flannery arrived in the city Monday evening from County Sligo, Ireland, and made their future home with their aunt, Mrs. A. Doyle. The trip across the water was made in six days and two days from New York to O'Neill. . . . O'Neill is to have a modern up-to-date brick depot on the Northwestern to replace the one destroyed by fire a couple of weeks ago. . . . A force of men and teams are at work on the roadbed between the Burlington station and their gravel pit northwest of town. They expect to have the work completed and the track laid in about four weeks. As soon as the track is laid to the gravel pit they will commence ballasting the road between here and Sioux City and will lay heavy steel thereon, making this branch as good a piece of road as they have in any portion of the state.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Sargent of this city held open house last Tuesday afternoon and evening to their many friends in celebration of their 14th year wedding anniversary. Hundreds of their friends from this city and the northeastern part of the county, where they made their home for many years, called during the afternoon and evening to pay their respects to these Holt county pioneers. . . . Joseph Langen, Michael Langan living northwest of O'Neill, broke his right arm in two places between the elbow and wrist, while trying to crank a Ford car. The little lad was brought to this city and the fractures were reduced by a local physician. He is getting along nicely. . . . Residents of towns along Highway No. 281 are urging the paving of that highway across the state. It might be a good idea for the towns along Highway No. 281 to urge its paving also, as it is getting to be one of the main traveled highways of the state.

10 YEARS AGO

William ("Bill") Malloy, a 15-year-old Life Scout, Friday was selected to represent troop 210 of the Covered Scout council at the national Boy Scout jamboree which will be held at Valley Forge, Pa. . . . A 10-acre tract in the southwest portion of Atkinson, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Oltmar Poessnecker, appears to be the site for their new 25-thousand-dollar Atkinson Memorial hospital. . . . Mrs. Robert Cunningham and children, Mary Lou and Bobby, left Wednesday, April 19, for San Francisco, Calif., from where they will board ship for the Island of Guam to join their parents and other relatives. . . . Mrs. Cunningham, who is stationed there, Mrs. Cunningham and the children have made their home with her mother, Mrs. John Mohr, here in Atkinson for the past year. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brookhouser, of Middlebranch, Monday night, April 24, reported the loss of 85 baby chickens when their brooder house was destroyed by fire.

5 YEARS AGO

The new Ash Grove community hall, a grandiose structure, recently took shape last week when 30 to 40 men shouldered the construction. The community hall is located 10 miles north of Page and four miles east. . . . A group of relatives and friends surprised Mr. and Mrs. John M. Gallagher at their country home on Monday evening, April 18. The occasion was their 43rd wedding anniversary. . . . Mrs. Nellie Conner was honored on her 81st birthday anniversary at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Vet Schlotman on Saturday. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Ray Wilson of Redbird celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary on Sunday, April 24, at their

districts should make the superintendent's duties less numerous.

It would be beneficial for Dakota and Dixon Counties, for instance, to consider such an arrangement. The two counties are closely related.

Redistricting proposals at Dixon County schools—Emerson, Allen and Ponca—have all included Dakota County school districts.

Much of the planning work in the counties would be similar, and by dividing his office time between the two, one experienced individual could handle both jobs.

Dixon County has a qualified superintendent in Paul Peterson, a former school superintendent in South Dakota and Nebraska.

It would appear that Mr. Peterson is qualified to serve in the capacity of Dakota-Dixon County superintendent. We think both counties would benefit for the following reasons:

1. By being paid by two counties, it would insure the superintendent of an adequate salary, without undue hardship on either county.
2. It would solve a growing problem: obtaining qualified individuals to serve as superintendent.
3. The nearness and size of the counties would not create any transportation problem for anyone having business with the county superintendent. Actually, portions of Dakota County are nearer the Dixon County seat at Ponca, and vice-versa.

Dixon County, faced with a similar vacancy two years ago, was fortunate in obtaining Mr. Peterson. We doubt that Dixon County could locate another qualified individual for superintendent should Mr. Peterson succumb to much more lucrative positions open to a man of his background.

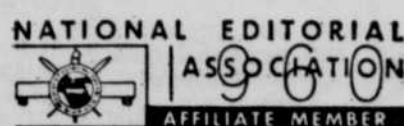
Therefore we believe it would benefit Dakota and Dixon County mutually, to consider such an alliance. It is already being proposed in other areas of Nebraska.

THE FRONTIER

JAMES CHAMPION, Editor and Co-Publisher

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NATIONAL EDITORIAL ASSOCIATION AFFILIATE MEMBER

farm home where they were married. The late Joe Schlotmeyer, sr., Justice of the Peace, performed their marriage ceremony on April 24, 1915. . . . There has been a hull in checker-playing in the Rock Falls neighborhood. But Lou Brown comes forward to claim temporary laurels as neighborhood checker champion. He won seven-straight games from Orville Thorson.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

I. Eckley has purchased three lots north of the Charles and Graham Livery Barn of J. C. McGowan and will move his house in from his farm. . . . Born to Mr. and Mrs. Jud Hurtle, April 24, a daughter. . . . Today at four o'clock the mercury registered 99 in the shade. . . . Mrs. W. E. Perry and children of Chest Springs, Pa. are visiting her sister-in-law, Mrs. J. Ferguson of this place. . . . Mr. Saben who lives down in Wheeler Co. had the misfortune to get kicked by a mule last week. Dr. Colman was called and found that several of Mr. Saben's ribs were badly injured. . . . Mrs. Will Robertson brought her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bond, to town yesterday to take the stage for O'Neill on their way to Colorado. . . . Dr. Hemingway, the Dentist, next Tuesday and Wednesday, May 3rd and 4th. See him about your teeth.

25 YEARS AGO

State surveyors were in Inman Thursday surveying the site for the new highway which will follow the C&W track through Inman. The highway will be north of the track. . . . Close to 100 friends gathered at the Ralph Gribble home for a farewell reception for them on Sunday afternoon. We are all sorry to have them leave this community but wish them success in their new home. . . . The Em-

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Smoke from "Brandin' Iron" Crick

The weather has been pretty decent and the old crick is behaving himself for a change. Folks, I made a bad mistake. The wedding announced for this week does not come until the 6th of May. Petered out telephone batteries are to blame for the error. Comes a ring on Brandin' Iron Crick's party line and receivers slam against ear drums with the



ORA R. YARGES

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trained precision of rifle butts slipping against a target in a military. The guy who is most miles away from the ringer gets the poorest reception. It's a double hazard if his batteries are low on push. . . . When long distance called the Gory Ranch, Yours Truly was right on the stick. The whos, whats and wheres came in loud and clear but somebody further south lifted a late receiver and the whens was blurred. (Willie Kelis have not bought new batteries in 2 1/2 years.) Art Gory, who has spent the winter feeding the hieners on that land they rented down in Garfield County called to say he is getting blinched. Girl's name is Hulda Orchoff. (He spelled that out) Seems he's been sampling her cooking all winter and they were fixing to get married down there but her dad is a tight old squeak and wouldn't spring for a big wedding. Art, who is the oldest of the Gory boys, (Must be pushing 40). (Comes from a family that likes to splurge.) decided they'd have the ceremony right here on the Brandin' Iron and to heck with the expense. . . . Just when Mrs. Alex Gory who was screechin' fit to split on the ranch house phone wanted to know when they planned on tying the knot, this roaring, hissing and blasting started. What he answered was anyone's guess. Mine was a bad one. . . . Abe Gorys brought the cream and eggs in Wednesday. Said they had a letter the first of the week that made the details clear.

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PLATFORM
Williams is the only candidate who is not trying to think up new ways to spend the taxpayers' dollar.
Williams is opposed to new taxes of any kind.
Williams will ask that the important roads dropped by the 1935 Legislature be returned to the State Highway System.
Williams will push for paving state highway system at earliest possible time without increasing gas tax.
Williams will work to change personal property assessment date from January 1 to March 1.

Editorial

Mission Needs Help

Every week a weekly newspaper editor receives many letters asking support or donations for some worthy cause. Many are not considered worthy and filed in the circular basket. This week, however, we received one that we feel is worthy.

The Sisters of St. Joseph at Greenwood, Mississippi, have asked that we pass along a plea for clothing and shoes for the St. Francis of Assisi Mission at Greenwood.

According to Sister Mary Bonfilia, the superior, the mission is desperately in need of adult and children's clothing. We realize that you all have missions to support closer to home or in your own church, but if just one pair of shoes is sent to the Sisters from this area, I'm sure that devoting this much space to the plea will be space well used.

Please mail any discarded but usable clothing to: Sister Mary Bonfilia, Superior, St. Francis of Assisi Mission, Route 1, Box 28-A, Greenwood, Mississippi.

Dakota-Dixon County Superintendent?

Dakota County Star

For the fourth time in five years, Dakota County will be faced with a vacancy in the office of county superintendent of schools.

William Strasburg is expected to resign the position this fall. He has already resigned as superintendent of schools at Homer.

It appears very unlikely that the position can be filled with a full time superintendent.

The qualifications of a county superintendent are such that anyone willing to fill the office would do so only at a great financial sacrifice.

This was not always the case. There once was a time when a county superintendent's job was as desirable as a school administrator's—financially—but the salary of the county superintendent's office has not kept pace with the upward spiral of teachers' salaries.

For instance, the county commissioners have established the county superintendent's salary at \$3400 in Dakota County.

To hold the office, an individual must have a four-year college degree, 15 semester hours of graduate credit and three years successful teaching experience. The individual must have at least an Initial Administrative and Supervisory Certificate in force.

Anyone with those qualifications employed by the South Sioux school district would be paid \$4700 to \$5400 for nine or 10 months work.

Many counties in Nebraska face the same problem. Year by year, the list of counties without county superintendents grows. In Iowa there is a county superintendent's job open and there are numerous candidates. But the job is appointive and pays annually.

The Nebraska problem could be solved by combining two or more counties and designating one superintendent for the area. It appears even more advisable with the trend toward consolidation. Fewer

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