

PrairieLand Talk

# A Sudden Summer Storm

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

It was a summer night some twenty years ago. My life's companion and I were at rest in our bedroom. Awakened by a flash of lightning and the thunder. Then at once the house was lit up as if an intruder had stepped in. I got up, stepped to an adjoining room to look out a north window. A haystack was on fire. Lightning had struck, now fire to burn us out to start from that burning hay. No. A downpour of rain put out the fire and we could go back to bed and sleep the night through. In the morning learned a horse had been killed by lightning in the pasture to the south of our abode. Lightning—if you are in its path down you go.



Romaine Saunders

When the schoolhouse closed its doors for the summer and the kids thought it was over, then the various churches began another "vacation" Bible school. So now our young friends are off again, not to learn to read and write, but to be instructed in the spiritual things in life.

You step out of the bath, water and soap having cleansed your body once more. Now open your soul for that unseen hand, its cleaning power to pour!

The morning dawns calm, the sun glows in golden glory to light up the far flung prairie land; the raging wind of yesterday fresh from the North Pole has blown itself out, so that the velvet green on high tree top flutters this morning calm; and the deep blue sky up there so high looks down upon the green robed scene where U and I go about the affairs of life another morning. And as the shades of night may come at eveningtide may we have done our stuff another day as best we could then crawl into bed and snore the night away.

It was in June in 1906. There were 43 patriots interested enough to turn out to the annual school board meeting and election. The treasurer, Dr. Gilligan, reported that the district indebtedness, outstanding warrants, had been reduced from \$20,000 a year previous to \$8,000. Dr. P. J. Flynn and D. J. Cronin were elected members of the board. . . . The group at Page opposing granting of a saloon license to open a grog shop in their town won out in a district court hearing. . . . Miss Mamie McManus was visiting relatives in Chicago during the month of June that year. . . . The Misses Horiskey were enjoying a visit with a friend from Laurel. . . . Miss Flo Bently went to Boyd county to spend a night or two on her homestead. . . . Mrs. D. H. Cronin was visiting in Randolph.

Editorial

## Silly Question Department

Trying to answer all silly questions for the year in advance, Bob Wright, editor of the Montello (Wisc.) Tribune, recently ran a column of questions and answers, as follows:

- Q.—Why don't you print in color, say red, once in a while?
- A.—Our entire supply of red ink is used in the bookkeeping department.
- Q.—Why don't you have funny papers?
- A.—We think we have the funniest paper in Wisconsin right now.
- Q.—Why don't you have an "Advice to the Lovelorn" column like Abby Lane?
- A.—None of our readers have any such problems.
- Q.—Why don't you publish a pin-up picture once in a while?
- A.—I dunno. We ran our own picture a couple of years ago and nobody asked for reprints.
- Q.—Why do you have all those misprints?
- A.—They're the most entertaining part of the whole paper.
- Q.—Why do you always say we when referring to yourself in the paper?
- A.—We want our readers to think they're outnumbered.
- Q.—Why do you make so many grammatical mistakes?
- A.—Cause we ain't never learned no better.
- Q.—Why don't you put out a bigger paper like the Milwaukee Journal?
- A.—We plan on it as soon as the population of Montello equals that of Milwaukee.
- Q.—Why do you devote so much space to such trivialities as "Joe Smith is feeling poorly this week?"
- A.—Because good old Joe has many pals who are concerned over his health even if you are not. Who knows somebody might read the item and send Joe a bottle of sympathy.
- Q.—What would you give me for writing a weekly column of moral homespun philosophy?
- A.—A poke in the eye with a sharp stick.
- Q.—Why don't you write an editorial and tell those guys on the city council what they can do to improve the town?
- A.—Why don't you go down to the next meeting and tell them yourself?
- Q.—Why don't you print more letters to the editor?
- A.—Why don't you write me one? And sign it with your name—please—don't be chicken.
- Q.—Why don't we go have a cup of coffee?
- A.—Why not?

### Here's A New Argument Nebraska Signal

One of the most astounding reasons we have ever heard given for trying to keep public business out of the newspapers was offered by Keith Kovanda of Burwell, Garfield county attorney, who was one of the speakers on the program of the Central Nebraska District Press association at the recent meeting held at Ord.

The program, arranged by the press association, was actually presented by laymen, who told what they don't like about newspapers. We thought several of the criticisms were reasonable but the criticism, or implied criticism, given by Kovanda was something else.

In case you missed the report, which was given in the Sunday World-Herald, Kovanda was quoted as suggesting a new law which would make news

She comes one evening a week with bits of cake to sell, six for 30 cents. Just a young girl assuming thus in childhood some of life's burdens with a helping hand for mom and dad. Don't say no if she comes to your door. Just reach into your pocket and get three dimes to hand to her and you have some good little cakes to nibble on at meal time.

So Nippon thumbed a nose at our esteemed President Ike. Very well—he returns to the White House sound and unharmed. Just as I escaped without being scalded that time from a Sioux Indian camp by the Elkhorn.

Tim Hanley and Silver Triggs—are the likes of them in O'Neill today. Tim in the pitcher's box and Silver behind the batter—home talent on the baseball grounds where now are the dwellings of citizens on west Douglas street.

Now a few years past middle life, started life together owning little or nothing of this world's goods. They labored, planned and saved. They have today a comfortable home of their own, the home well furnished and they get about in their own car. Had raised a family to maturity and today have a few grandchildren. Years ago they faced life together bare handed, struggled along life's way to acquire not great wealth but life's richer blessings, a happy time together and a home with its comforts. Just one of the many happy homes in prairie-land.

Another lovely letter comes to me from my young friend out in the Eagle creek country, Trudy Schultz. Now that summer has come, school days are over and vacation time has come Trudy has more time for her home duties and to get about the charming country side on her pony, Glass Eye, that will soon or now has had another colt. Maybe this one will be Prairie Rose, and will make eight horses on the Schultz ranch. And Trudy reminds us that her sister was one of the top ones in school matters this year. Nice to hear from you my young friend.

The past ten years our state population increase has been nothing much. Thank the Lord that on Nebraska's open prairies there is still elbow room—let others take off to the moon!

Sunday, June 19, Father's Day. The Old Man sits and thinks it over again. Father, grandfather, great grandfather. Then his door opens and in steps a 13-year-old granddaughter with a Father's Day gift. Other gifts had come by mail or handed him in person. Children and their children—it touches the throbbing heartbeat today of more than one Old Man.

involving misdemeanors and first offenders unavailable to the press.

Kovanda cited a case in which a young man accused of a minor traffic offense offered to plead guilty "if the judge would keep it out of the paper." The judge refused, the boy was found guilty in county court and freed in district court, Mr. Kovanda said.

That isn't all. Please consider carefully the implications of Kovanda's comments when he said, "The case cost our county thousands of dollars, all of which could have been averted had the judge had power to keep the story away from the press in the first instance."

What the Garfield county attorney is saying is that if the county judge had agreed to keep the case out of the papers the youth would have plead guilty and everything would have been fine, even though the district court said he was not guilty. In other words, the guilt or innocence of the man was unimportant because only a minor traffic offense was involved.

Following the reasoning of the county attorney, we might point out that the entire matter could have been less costly if law enforcement officials had winked at the traffic violation, especially since the case must not have been too strong in the first place.

We say the officers could have winked at the case but actually we would hate to see things come to the place where they would do so. That would have been as bad as railroading an innocent man and buying his "guilty" plea with a promise to keep it out of the papers.

The trouble with some public officials in cases such as the above is that they can't stand to be reversed in higher courts or lose cases in lower courts. We can see why they would prefer to keep the cases out of the papers in such cases.

As a matter of fact, we believe most county officials dealing with all types of crime really prefer to have the press cover the cases. We have had officials tell us they feel in some cases the newspaper publicity is almost as strong a deterrent as the punishment handed out by the court.

No, we hope the Garfield county attorney gives more thought to his proposal to give courts arbitrary power to keep cases out of the newspapers and we also hope he really didn't mean to imply in his remarks that the important thing in such cases is to get the defendant to plead guilty, regardless of his actual guilt, in order to save taxpayers money.



JAMES CHAMPION, Co-Publisher  
BRUCE J. REHBERG, Editor

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## Frontiers Ago

### 50 YEARS AGO

During the thunder storm last Friday night lightning struck the residence of J. H. Meredith in the western part of town, setting the building on fire but the prompt work of Mr. Meredith and some of his neighbors the flames were extinguished without much damage. . . . Judge Malone officiated at a double wedding at the county court room last Monday afternoon when he united in marriage William S. Horton of Washington county, Colo. and Myrtle Belle Wood of Chambers, and Joseph Bradshaw and Miss Anna Horton, both of Amelia. . . . J. B. Ryan returned last evening from a two week's visit with relatives in Chicago and other Illinois cities.

### 25 YEARS AGO

A sand-limestone rock was struck recently and a charge of dynamite crushed that. A 10-pound chunk with an arm bone of some ancient human was drawn up from that depth, 32 feet, and many persons are wondering how that got down there. . . . A family reunion was held Sunday, June 30, at the old home place of Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Taylor, near Star. . . . The night of June 27 an unknown person broke into the Conoco station here and made off with 15 gallons of gasoline and lubricating oil. Art Tibbets is the proprietor of this station. . . . Floods have cost taxpayers of Holt county more than a pretty penny this spring. Early storms ruined bridges to the extent of about \$30,000 and the northeast Holt storm of June 24 is believed to have caused damages that may total \$10,000.

### 10 YEARS AGO

The city's new 33-thousand dollar outfall and lift station was placed in operation Friday morning. The event marked an important milestone in civic improvement. . . . Clarence Ernst was elected chairman of the Holt Soil Conservation district at their regular meeting of the supervisors Wednesday, June 21, at the courthouse annex. . . . Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Gillespie and children left Friday, June 23, for a few days fishing in Minnesota. . . . The O'Neill post office service will be curtailed beginning July 3, 1950. . . . The first Country Club dinner was held Sunday, June 25, under the chairmanship of Mrs. John Watson and Mrs. John Stufbergen.

### 5 YEARS AGO

Hugh McKenna, 33, a native of O'Neill and now an administrative vice-president for an Omaha insurance company, last Thursday was elected president of the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce at the organization's 35th annual convention held in Atlanta, Ga. . . . Willard Solfermoser, principal at Creighton high school the past three years, has accepted the position of principal at O'Neill high school for the coming year. . . . Miss Geraldine Cronin of Los Angeles, Calif., a former O'Neillite, recently was awarded one of the highest honors awarded by the Greater Los Angeles CIO council's community service committee. . . . Rev. Egon Kirschman is the new pastor of the Assembly of God church succeeding Rev. Wayne A. Hall.

## The Long Ago At Chambers

### 50 YEARS AGO

George Lambert and family celebrated in Chambers. Aunt Vina Nesbitt went home with them and will visit in Ewing a few days. . . .

Upon the request of Chambers people the Duncan and Devere show will play here Saturday night. . . . Mrs. Maud Blake had a lively runaway Thursday but fortunately escaped unhurt. . . . The Fourth in Chambers passed off very smooth. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves to the uttermost. There were no accidents to mar the day, and something was doing all the time.

Mr. and Mrs. Gaius Wintermote arrived home Monday evening from their trip through the Ozarks. . . . Rev. Sengpiel left for Lavenworth, Kan., Monday morning to take charge of his work as chaplain in the CCC camps of Kansas. . . . Bathing at the Chambers swimming pool is on in full force now since the pool has been renovated. . . . Mrs. C. E. Tibbets entertained about fifteen guests in honor of her mother, Mrs. W. B. Cooper, Sunday. . . . A number of people will visit Lake Ericson for the Fourth. Martha will stage a celebration for those not wishing to go far away from home.

## Smoke from "Brandin' Iron" Crick

By J. C. Fudd

Crackin' good fishing weather along the Crick this week. The Bandy boys got a fine mess of bullheads down in Turtle bayou. Old Man Chinn hooked a dandy bass in the swale behind his barn. Says he caught it on a plug he invented himself—a corn cob with triple hooks screwed in the end trailing a strip of bacon rind. (Bet the old bugger used a cane pole and worm.)

Otty Camber made the headlines twice this week. On Monday he got everyone in a tither when he traded off his old '48 klunker and got one of them new compact jobs. Seems like he had been up at the County Seat about a month ago snooping around the car dealers. Salesmen have been running him ragged ever since. Nobody figured he could swing the deal however so he sure surprised the heck out of folks. It's bright red but got a narrow wheelbase so all the citizens are speculating on how it will work on country roads.

On Tuesday night he got picked up for speeding. Seems he was hitting 70 when the patrolman nabbed him. That didn't faze folks any, they know what a speed demon he is, what's gotten snook is wondering who was with him. De-lano Burdy who had been to the show at the drive-in came along just as the cops nailed Otty. De-lano swears there was someone with him and that it was a female with a scarf tied over her head. He tried his best to get close enough to see who it was but the patrolman got tough so he had to move on. Can't get a word out of Otty for a change.

Ten ladies attended the pink and blue shower for Mrs. Abe Gory. A nice program was put on by Mrs. Art Gory and Mrs. Willie Kell. Lunch of ice cream and cake was served. Some of the gifts will have to be exchanged unless she decides on mass production. She got four bottle holders, three blankets, a ditty jacket and two sweater sets.

Kids are a heck of a lot better informed now than they were when yours Truly wore short pants. Little Martin Gory was in this week and I was asking him if they had a stork shower up at his house (Just to see what he'd have to say about it.)

"Nope. He says. They had a shower for the new baby we're gonna get." . . . "Say, Mr. Fudd, what is a stork?" . . . Mrs. Willie Kell is expecting company from Rapid City next week. Her nieces are coming to stay a spell. See you next week.

## Homemakers Corner . . .

Do you love life? Then do not squander time; for that's the stuff life is made of.

Benjamin Franklin With summer just beginning, there are many busy days ahead for the farmer, rancher and the homemaker. The gardeners are really making progress now, providing they hadn't been washed out by the heavy rains Sunday night. Here in this vicinity we received over two inches of rain, but farther south and east they received as high as nine inches. It really ruined many crops and hay land.

This is also the busy season for canning of fruits and vegetables for winter use. The expression has been made that it is just as cheap to buy it as to put it up yourself, but considering the kind of winter we had last year and how hard it was to get to town at times, it is then that it pays to have some extras on hand.

Since this is the season for rhubarb and strawberries I am going to give you some recipes which you may find useful as well as steel. Maybe not now, but when winter is upon us these jams and preserves will taste good on bread and butter, pancakes or toast.

### HEAVENLY JAM

- 2 raw pineapples
- 1/2 cup water
- 4 quarts strawberries
- Juice of 3 oranges
- Sugar

Slice, pare and dice pineapple. Cook in water until tender. Then add strawberries and orange juice. Measure fruit and add 3/4 cup sugar for every cup mixed fruit. Cook, skimming frequently, for 8 to 10 minutes or until sirup coats spoon. Pour in sterilized glasses and seal with paraffin.

### STRAWBERRY PRESERVES

Select firm ripe berries. Scald two quarts of berries, leaving in boiling water two minutes, and drain. Add four cups sugar and boil two minutes, counting time when entire contents of pan are bubbling. Remove from fire, and when bubbling has stopped, add two more cups sugar. Boil five minutes, counting time as directed above. Pour preserves into shallow pans; do not let them stand more than one and a half or two inches in pans. Let stand overnight; in the morning, pack cold preserves in hot sterilized jars and seal with paraffin.

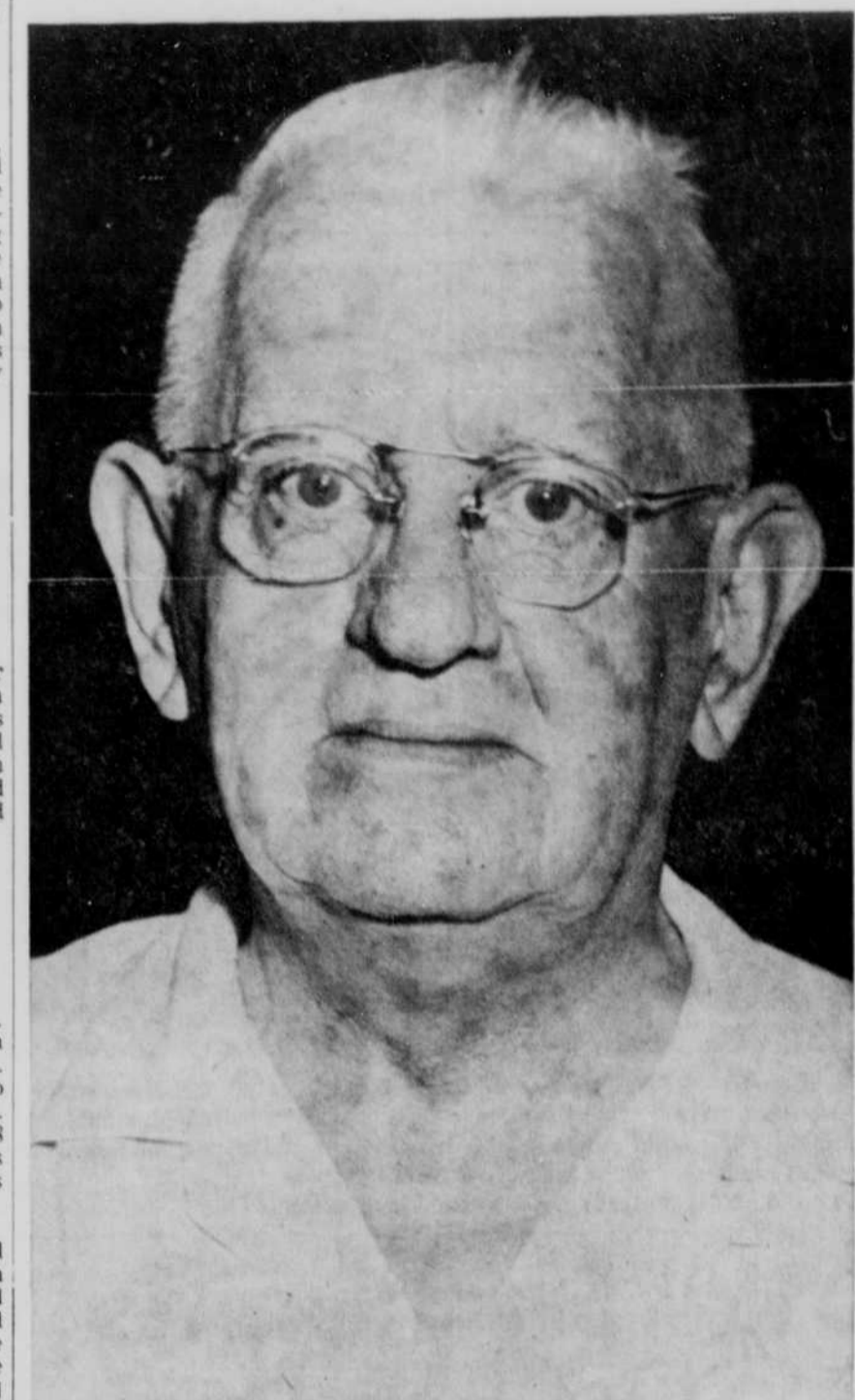
### STRAWBERRY AND RHUBARB JAM

One pound rhubarb, 2 pounds strawberries, 2 pounds granulated sugar, Wash and skin rhubarb; wash and hull berries. Put rhubarb thru the food chopper, catching the juice. Combine rhubarb juice and sugar. Add berries and let stand until sugar is dissolved. Stir frequently to prevent sticking and to crush the fruit. Cook until a spoonful tried on a cold plate jellies. Turn into sterilized jelly glasses and cover with paraffin when cold.

We are hoping this column, in

## Do You Know Your Neighbor?

"Know Your Neighbor" is not a contest. There are no prizes given for correctly identifying the person pictured. The only reward is the satisfaction of knowing your neighbor.



Well perhaps he didn't really help dig the Missouri, but many of his friends claim he did. He's Joseph L. McCarville sr.



This man knows the true value of things.

the past five months, has given our readers the information which they have found useful. If there are other things you wish to see or questions you wish answered, we will be glad to help you. Maybe you have some clever sayings by your children or ideas you wish to pass along. Just write to Mrs. Sarah Michaelis, Inman, Nebraska, we are always glad to hear from our readers.

## Opportunity

For ambitious men and women, ages 17 to 50 from Nebraska, in the growing field of Accounting and Industrial Management. No previous experience needed. Must be willing to spend one hour a day, four days a week using specially designed materials. Arrangements can be made for those accepted so that training will not interfere with present employment. Positions for which this training will qualify you are currently paying from \$270 to \$400 per month. If you have a sincere desire to better yourself with a steady job and income, we will be glad to discuss these opportunities with you. No obligation. For strictly confidential interview with our bonded, state licensed personnel interviewer, send in this coupon NOW!

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### TWILIGHT

## Stock Car Racing

### Free \$1,000 Fireworks After Races

## MONDAY, JULY 4

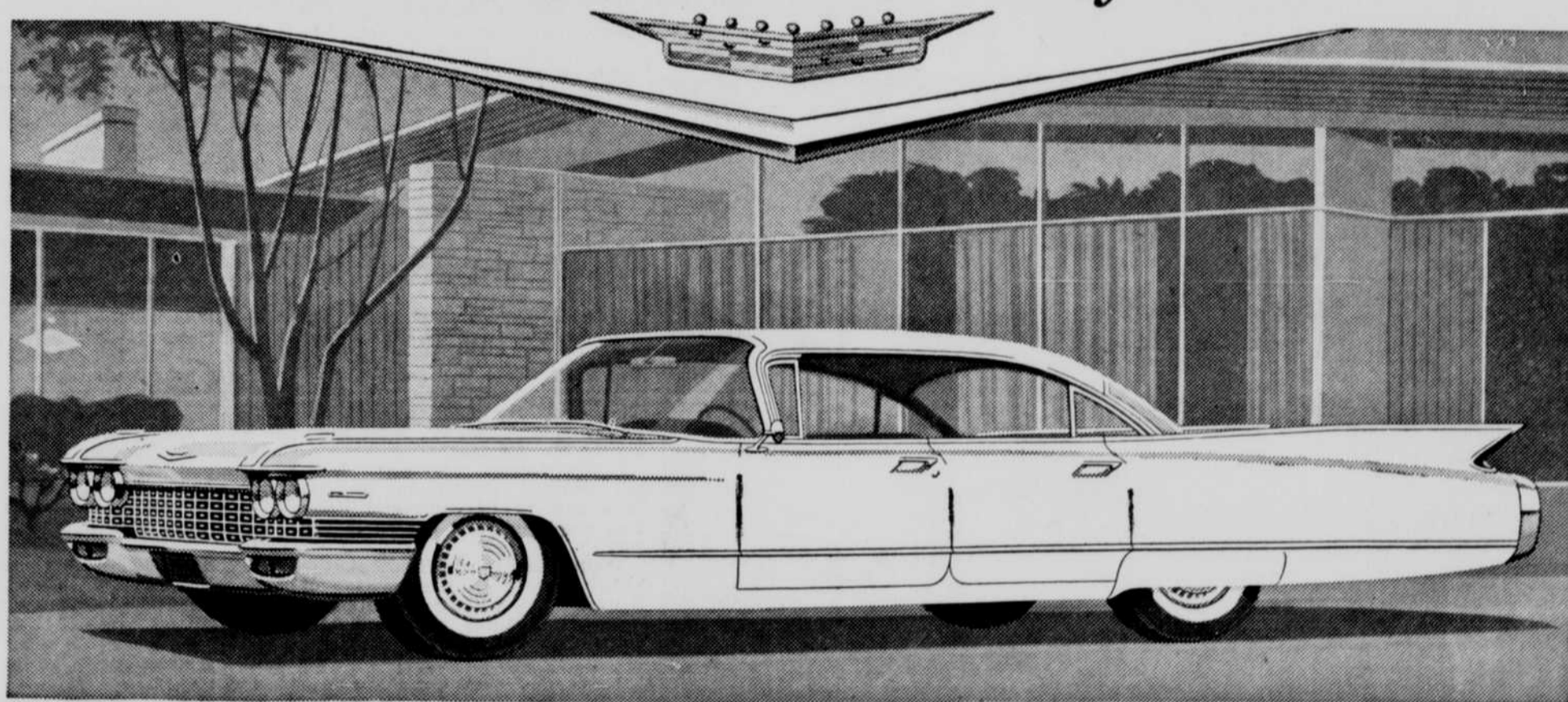
7:00 P.M.

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