

Prairieland Talk

"Do Your Work, Sen. Frank"

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

Holt county rancher Frank Nelson touched the gadget that brought his power mowing machine to a stop, left the hay field, got into his car to grip the steering wheel and State Senator Frank Nelson headed for Lincoln to do his bit in winding up the business of the special session of the state legislature. But first the senator drove out to south 51st to give Prairieland Talker the glad hand, to have a visit, friend with friend. Rancher Nelson reported flourishing conditions in his community, a good hay crop and corn for another season. Aged Grandma Hull he said "is just fine." She now is nearing her 105 birthday, a devoted pioneer, wife and mother of northern Holt county since the year 1879. Yes, she saw it all—Indians, outlaws and the patriotic and industrious pioneer homesteaders. Senator Nelson is informed on and greatly interested in the state government, seeks again the office he now fills with credit to himself and the citizens of his senatorial district. And Senator Nelson had a good word for his opponent, saying he is a fine gentleman and will qualify to serve as state senator if elected. We hope to see Senator Frank, and think we will, in the legislative room at the State House again this coming winter. But for now, rancher Frank, get that hay into stacks.



Romaine Saunders

He came from England, had been in Ireland, now a citizen of the U. S. A. and for many years holed up in our Capital City, has a British lady for a wife and a desirable property for a home, says he is a Democrat and "not ashamed of it," but doesn't like their candidate for president and will not vote for him. Critical of our government and the officials, but came here penniless, made his stake and now he and wife are at ease with social security checks coming their way monthly. A great country George Washington gave us!

It was a week in August in 1901—Rain in the O'Neill community after a prolonged rainless season. . . . Emil Sniggs was a Northwestern passenger going east. . . . Jake Hershiser was up from Norfolk over the weekend. . . . Miss Clara Zimmerman came down from Atkinson to spend Sunday with her home folks. . . . Adherents of the Prohibition party in Holt county were in convention at the courthouse. . . . Jim O'Donnell went to West Point to umpire a ballgame. . . . Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Hicks were home from a trip to an eastern state. . . . Mrs. Evans of Hotel Evans was spending a few days in Omaha. . . . John Olsen in bed sick. . . . S. J. Weeks a Neligh visitor on business.

Editorial

Holt Countians are Leaving

According to the latest census report received from Washington, O'Neill's population is up slightly from what it was 10 years ago. Figures released this week list O'Neill's population as 3,161, as compared with 3,027 in 1950, an increase of 134 persons or an increase of 4.4 percent.

The population of Holt county is lower, however, than it was 10 years ago. The county now has 13,632 inhabitants as compared with 14,859 in 1950, a loss of 8.3 per cent.

All but 20 of Nebraska's 93 counties showed a decline in population during the past decade. Losses ranged from 2 per cent in Wayne county 29.8 per cent in Harlan county.

Oil rich Kimball county however picked up a whopping 84.7 per cent and Sarpy county, the site of the missile bases, nearly doubled population with a 99.2 increase. Lancaster county showed the third highest gain with 29 per cent followed by Dodge county with 23 per cent.

The state as a whole showed an increase of 79,046 persons for a 6 per cent gain.

This report only points up what we know all along. That the small farms and ranches are becoming a thing of the past. The Prairieland to which Romaine Saunders so fondly refers, has reached a saturation point and its inhabitants are now leaving for other pastures, which although not so green, are more lucrative.

Industry, with its improved working conditions and its high, guaranteed salary is luring an ever increasing number of persons.

The prairie schooner, the breaking plow and the once-a-week visit to town on Saturday night have faded away. In their place is the two car family, the suburban, pre-fab home, guaranteed wage and 37 1/2 hour week.

Without industry, Nebraska's ranch country has finished an era. Unless Nebraska's towns can attract industry to hold some of this moving population, many of them may see the end of an era during the next decade.

Capital punishment is when the government taxes you to get capital in order to go into business in competition with you, and then taxes the profits on your business in order to pay its losses.

Another American Export

Investment clubs—in which groups of people get together, pool dollars, study companies, and finally invest in stocks for which they have high regard—have swept the country. Their number has soared from some 2,000 to more than 25,000 in a mere five years. For the most part the clubs are small and are made up of friends and business associates, and the amounts invested by each member are modest.

Now, this popular American innovation is spreading around the world. Clubs are found, in swiftly increasing numbers, in Japan, the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, the Netherlands—and even in such remote spots as the hills of Kenya.

And these clubs, both here and abroad, are far from being 100 per cent masculine. In this country 10 per cent of all the clubs are exclusively female. In Japan, the largest brokerage company operates offices in department stores to cater to women investors.

No, not walking the streets of O'Neill today—Mike Horiskey, Billy Biglin, Billy McNichols, Hugh Birmingham, Lloyd Gillespie. We cherish the memory of these friends and native sons. And Prairieland Talker still has the big "tailor made" hat these guys conspired to put me under. . . . He tells me that he, his mother, brother and two sisters were Republicans, had a Democrat. The family out voted Dad. . . . Their home is in the great state of Texas. They had been on a trip to the Yellowstone, then returning by chance came up to our Fort Robinson State Park, so delighted with the courteous treatment accorded them there and the beauties there they plan to visit Nebraska again. . . . Four western states invite you to stand where all four states meet at the state corners and look out over Utah, Arizona, New Mexico and Colorado.

Recently received another friendly letter from Mr. and Mrs. Segelman of Seattle, Wash. They enclose a newspaper clipping telling the story of Homer Campbell and the observance of his 90 birthday. At the head of the story is a two column picture of the 90 year old former O'Neill kid and his face and features are neither faded nor wrinkled, so he looks about as he did at the age of 20 when I last saw him. This pioneer Holt county lad has grown old gracefully and attained to prominence as a printer and writer. My Seattle friends say it has been very warm out there, up to 97 one day and while they keep well the hot weather "takes the Pep" out of life. The forest fires have brought an end for the present to the logging industry. Come, esteemed friends, back to the prairies of Holt county.

Six women who had been at work all night at a factory on their way to their homes in the morning killed on the highway, and 32 motherless children that a community up in Minnesota must care for. Mother out at work to earn what it takes to maintain a household and support a family. Death awaited as they traveled homeward. Such it is today on streets and highways.

After 50 years recording the births and deaths in Holt county, Elizabeth O'Malley turns over the job to another. I know of no other citizen who has performed the duties of public office for so long a time and Miss O'Malley will well retire. State recording of births and deaths came about by an act of the Nebraska legislature in 1908, an O'Neill citizen being the author of that state law, the late Dr. J. P. Gilligan who served as state senator at that time. As the law was enacted the city clerk in county seat towns was to take on the job of keeping tabs on vital statistics. At that time Prairieland Talker was serving as city clerk in O'Neill. In 1910 I and my family moved to our ranch 27 miles out on prairieland and Miss O'Malley consented to take over my job as recorder of births and deaths.

It's good to know that this American idea has been exported—and that shillings and yen are involved, as well as dollars. People anywhere who have a direct personal interest in private, stock-issuing industry are capitalists, even though the name varies from country to country—and they are the kind of people who may be counted on to resist the pressures and blandishments of socialism and communism.

If public speakers would prepare their speeches better, more people might listen to them.

Diminishing Return with A Vengeance Gasoline taxes, which now average one-third of the cost to motorists for regular grade fuel, may be approaching the point of diminishing return.

The American motorist has become gasoline price conscious to a degree greater than ever before because of increased prices caused by heavier fuel taxes. From 1949 through 1959 there were 62 separate state tax increases, plus a rise of from 1.5 cents to 4 cents per gallon in the Federal tax. This amounted to a jump of 40 per cent. In contrast, the actual price of gasoline at the pump rose only 4.5 per cent, making the rate of gasoline tax increase nine times that of the gasoline itself. So it is taxes that cause the seemingly high price of the product—but the petroleum industry is generally given the blame.

The growth of the compact, economy car this year is accounting for 25 per cent of the domestic automobile industry's production, and it is forecast that there will be 2 million small, economy foreign cars in this country by the end of 1960. Rebellion against tax-included high gas prices is a major reason for this trend. As a consequence it is conceivable that the total of taxable gallons may drop so far that taxes have to be raised again to cover the deficit. That would be an example of "diminishing return" with a vengeance.

People who put off their work from day to day are always the ones who tell you how very busy they are.



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

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Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO Tuesday's passenger upon the Burlington from Sioux City, due here at 11:35, did not reach this city until 1 o'clock Wednesday afternoon. At LaSalle they struck a cow and the train went into the ditch and it was 10:30 Wednesday before they got the train back upon the track. R. H. Parker picked up a grape shot out of the ditch thrown from the sewer trench in front of his office last Monday. It is supposed that it is a relic of the times when the United States troops used to engage in contests with the Indians in this section of the country years ago.

25 YEARS AGO Romaine Saunders and his son, Ned, were up from their south county ranch last Monday. A prairie fire north of the Northwestern stock raising here caused a run by the fire trucks at 3:40 p.m. Monday. It was suggested sun rays focused by glass may have caused the fire. Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Birmingham and Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Froelich returned yesterday from their trip through Yellowstone Park and points of interest in the Black Hills. Oscar Alm of Manhattan, Kan. arrived in the city last Thursday night for a few days visit with his mother and sister, Mrs. Bessie Alm of Clara Alm of this city and brother, Arthur living northeast here.

10 YEARS AGO A light frost early Sunday caused some damage to tender vegetation but generally proved harmless. Persons living in lowlands reported damage to pumpkin vines and garden truck. O'Neill's Douglas street soon will have another modernistic new front to its credit. The new building will be designed especially for Gilligan's drug store. Miss Shirley Schaffer and Donald Walker were married Sunday, August 20 at the First Presbyterian church at O'Neill. The conducted Eastern tour for Nebraska school teachers, headed by Miss Elja McCullough, Holt county superintendent, spent Monday, Aug. 21 in New York City and Tuesday, Aug. 22 in Philadelphia, Pa.

5 YEARS AGO John F. Grady, a special assistant in President Eisenhower's executive office of defense mobilization, has been selected to attend the industrial college in Washington, D. C. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Grady of O'Neill. Most Rev. Gerald T. Bergan, D.D., archbishop of the Omaha diocese of the Roman Catholic church, will officiate in a solemn pontifical mass at 10:30 a.m. Monday, August 30, and dedicate the handsome and imposing new St. Joseph's church in Atkinson. Stanley M. Huffman, rancher from south of Ewing, Tuesday was elected department commander of the American Legion by delegates to the Nebraska convention at Lincoln in the closing session.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO Frank Sageser and Mr. Eby of Atkinson were in town Monday. The young people of Chambers gave a party Monday evening in honor of Miss Garwood and Miss Lumsden. Last Saturday night this section was visited by one of the worst rain and wind storms that we have had in several years. A deluge of rain and some hail, driven in sheets before a terrific wind storm, accompanied by vivid lightning and heavy thunder, caused nearly the entire population of the South Fork valley to arise remarkably early, some of the more timid sought relief to their over-wrought nerves by hastening to cellars and caves and one family didn't even stop to close the house doors after them.

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25 YEARS AGO The South Fork Holt County Fair at Chambers will open Tuesday, September 10 and will be continued four days. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Walter and family returned last week from a nine days trip to Canada. The Chambers schools open next Monday, Sept. 2. Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Gribble of Lincoln, visited at the Mark and Warren Gribbles homes Saturday and Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Chauncey Porter and family were dinner guests at Ed Porters Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. William Turner of Chambers and Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Tomlinson of O'Neill were Sunday guests at the J. R. Coventry home at Inman.

Smoke from "Brandin' Iron" Crick

By J. C. Fudd Things are a mite sluggish along the Crick this week. Folks are just recovering from the effects of a big dose of the County Fair. They claim it had the best exhibits and the hottest midway they ever saw. The rodeo was a doozy too, even if Orley Hinch did get disqualified for pulling leather in the bronc riding. Also Delano Bandy got his leg twisted by one of them mean Brahma bulls. Says he don't mind having his leg pulled once in a while but hated to have it happen in front of Mrs. Willie Kells niece. Lena got a little set back too. Her "Old Maid's Ramble" got by-passed by the judges in favor of Mrs. Art Gorey's quilt. "The Drunkard's Path" Edna Widow Barker's "Double Wedding Ring" scored higher. Lena claims the judges were either drinking men or there was payola involved. She claims unless a man was crookeder than a shepherd dog's hind leg he wouldn't give a first to any quilt with that name. She brightened up considerably however when her crocheted tidies won the gold loving cup.

Had the fair police alerted all afternoon when little Dee Dee Barker came up missing. Seems like they'd polished off their picnic dinner and Dee Dee collected her pop bottle money. (Been saving 'em up all summer. Had \$1.12) she put it in her little pocket book and told her Mom she was going to ride on the Octopus. When she didn't come back for more money in about an hour the Widow began to get worried. Hunted the place over and couldn't find her. Then she put the police on the case and had it announced for the hundredth time "Dee Dee Barker, report to the judge's stand. Your mother wants you!" and the widow was having hysterics back of the Milk Bottle concession, who should come strolling up dirty, dog tired and happy but Dee Dee. She had a big sack she was totting along. After the Widow got through kissing, crying over and scolding her, everyone began to ask where in tunkety she had been. "I just been gathering up more pop bottles," she said. "It sure takes a lot of money to ride on that Octopus." Sure got a business head on her if you ask me. See you next week.

"The EDITOR"

A late release says, and we quote "Damp coffee grounds make a sweeping compound which will keep the dust down and will also leave rugs clean." We can't vouch for the effectiveness of this method, but we do have evidence of the effect of hot coffee spilled on our favorite chair. We have always been partial to brown anyway. The release also offers this helpful hint. Dents made in carpets can be removed by filling the dents with cold water. Eight-hour soaking usually makes nap snap back. Friends of ours who have two small children and a new pup will doubtlessly be glad to hear of this new water-soak method of rejuvenating their carpet.

Here's a "how times have changed" item: In the year 1910 the Federal Government cost the average family \$38. This year the Federal Government is spending at a rate that amounts to \$2000 for every American family.

Nebraska motorists are now entering their final week of annual August agony. In the final week of August in 1959 their were six fatal accidents taking 12 lives and injuring five others. Eight of the drivers involved in these fatal accidents were guilty of some violation of our traffic code. One had been drinking, one was under the influence of liquor, one was exceeding the safe speed limit, three were on the wrong side of the road, one disregarded a warning signal and another was charged with careless driving. When we add the staggering cost of traffic injuries to the undetermined cost of traffic fatalities, when we apply the loss of earning power and then add the total property damage, everyone would recognize more emphatically that Good Driving is Good Business.

It's a smart politician who can keep a note of envy out of his voice while accusing his opponent of fooling the public.

Homemakers Corner . . .

By Catherine Indra Home Extension Agent

Fall means school and that ties in with the activities of home extension clubs. They go back to school too—not a formal class room—but back to lessons after a summer recess.

For those who don't know, Home Extension work is an essential part of the educational program of the Cooperative Extension Service in home economics and agriculture. The Extension Service is authorized by Congress and the Nebraska Legislature to conduct an out-of-school educational program for all farm families, community leaders, and urban families interested in improving their farms, homes and communities. All county agents are employed jointly by the Agricultural College of the Un-

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.



Kenneth Curren, manager of the Kansas-Nebraska Gas Company in O'Neill.



This man is ready to help build the future of O'Neill.

iversity of Nebraska and the County Extension Service.

This fall the education program will include a lesson on laundry - including the washing machine to do hand laundry. Activities will include a lesson on rugmaking, and an Achievement Day program. A special Christmas activity will be held early in November. This will be open to the public and will include many ideas for Christmas gifts, decorations and other holiday ideas.

In 1961, there will be among others lessons on Quick Snacks and Meal's Freezer. Meals, Meeting the Needs of Senior Citizens

and Buying Women's Dresses. Handicraft will center around Mosaic Tile and leather. Other special programs open to the public will be presented throughout the year.

Nearly seven hundred women avail themselves of this program. It is open to every homemaker who is interested. If you are - we'll be happy to tell you more about this out-of-school educational program.

Coming up State Council Meeting for Home Extension Clubs in McCook - September 20-23. Homemaker's Day - University of Nebraska October 26.

See the Chevy Mystery Show in color Sundays, NBC-TV



"These trails would shake the cab off an ordinary truck... but not our Chevy"

Few trucks are subjected to the body-wracking beatings that are part of a day's work for this Chevrolet Series 60 pulpwood hauler. It's owned by J. E. Fox, North Carolina logging contractor. As Bobby Fox, a partner in the business says, "Loaded with pulpwood, we drive over stumps and potholes you'd think would tear the truck to pieces. These trails would shake the cab off an ordinary truck, but not our Chevy. We can average an extra load a day . . . make \$45 to \$50 a day more with this Chevy than we can with the others."

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