

Prairieland Talk

"Politics of Little Interest"

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

I handed the genial gent who put the new shoes on my feet a ten and a five dollar bill. He gave me five cents in change. Fifteen dollars less one nickel for a three-dollar pair of shoes. Maybe I should have put off buying shoes until the next trip to O'Neill where Archie Bowen maybe could have given me a dime or quarter in change after handing him the five and ten. But I am in our Capital City and one of my tribal group sees to it that I am properly clad from head to foot. And who was that genial gent that took my fifteen? That was Mr. Mills who traces his family tree to one of the Sturdevant brothers, pioneers and prominent citizens of Atkinson. Mr. Mills is connected with one of Lincoln's oldest mercantile establishments. Told me it is more than two years since he visited in Atkinson.



Romaine Saunders

Lincoln has had a Mexican Indian in the city a few days recently. He is a reformed former criminal and prison inmate, now going about from city to city visiting prisons and jails to talk to inmates and point them to a better way of life, sells stories of his early life and some recorded bits of sermons to pay his way from place to place. Has a young son with him, their home being in Southern California, a land once the home of his ancestors the Aztec Indians. That little fellow, his son, smiled and thanked me when I handed him a dollar bill. A one time criminal now a saintly fellow-being going about to do good.

O'Neill has become an educational center. A large arcitueurally grand public school building or buildings up on the hill as you go up Fourth street, and just across the way the large academy buildings known as St. Mary's that is now to enlarge and improve its service for the young. A one room frame building, O'Neill's first schoolhouse, stood a half mile west and D. P. O'Sullivan welding the rod to make kids behave and learn to read and write. And Kate Mann presided as teacher for the younger children in what later became dedicated and known as the Methodist church. I know of one at least that learned his letters and 2 plus 2 of Miss Mann who still is here, the well known John Sullivan, at recent times serving as a county official. Now at his childhood home south of the Elkhorn. Schools, we have them today in great buildings, qualified and cultured teachers. Who now remembers that prairieland teacher lost in the great blizzard of January 12, '88 who found shelter in a hay stack but was so badly frozen she did not survive. And that school boy Mark Murphy who walked the three miles to town each morning to school, three miles back home, a six mile walk day after day.

A pioneer woman of the Page community did not write to her eastern kin folks in her homestead days because she did not have two cents with which to buy a postage stamp. Maybe some of your tribal group do not write today because they lack the four cents needed for a postage stamp.

All is peaceful on prairieland, rains and sunshine and abundance for all. Other lands, other regions of earth, troubled. Nation rising against nation and people against people. State and national election just ahead, but Nebraskans feel at ease knowing that who ever is elected their grain fields will continue to produce, hay meadows stacked with hay as usual and the herds of this great Beef State as abundant as ever.

Laugh and the crowd laughs with you. Weep and you weep alone. No—not alone. Down there along life's highway sits a lonely soul weeping the hours away. Smiles and tears, joy and heart ache—and soon it is all over and you are laid away.

He was at Lynch in Boyd county last weekend, a friend of mine here in the Capital City. Hot and dry up there he tells me but the citizens of the community with whom he met in a church service are a happy people and live in comfort. Hot and dry—down Lincoln way it continues hot and wet, heavy rains at frequent intervals. Weather reports the country over tell of heavy rains, unusual in late August.

Little or no interest in the coming state and national election. Even Holt county newspapers are politically silent. Not so fifty, sixty, seventy years ago. The editors those days, Mathews, Riggs, McDonough, Kautzman and others pulled the political hide from candidates that were not in their political group. Some fun, some excitement in those days over election of candidates. Today politics of little interest.

She has a house in Baltimore; streetcar runs right by the door. Jimmy get your haircut pompadour.

On October 22 the Nebraska State Historical Society officers and members who can come meet in the society's annual gathering at the beautiful Cornhusker hotel in Lincoln, the main speaker to be a notable from Northwestern University. Husking corn is a relic of other days. Maybe the grand hotel on south 13th street should take another name—Beefsteak Hotel, for instance.

A student of Holy Writ and traveling much at home and abroad Evangelist Billy Graham concludes that the end of the world is close at hand. Are we ready for it?

Editorial

The Old Order Changeth

"The old order changeth, yielding place to new," so wrote Tennyson, a great many years ago in his Idylls of the King. But the words and the thought apply in full force to the U. S. political situation of today.

National Review Bulletin recently said something that, in its essence, reflects the thinking of a growing number of political observers: "Chicago confirmed Los Angeles in suggesting that the new generation now ousting its elders from the nation's controls is composed not merely of new men but of a new kind of man. For all those differences that will so intensely occupy the attention of the voters of this country and the peoples of the world . . . John Fitzgerald Kennedy and Richard Milhous Nixon seem to be fashioned of very similar psychic clay. Both are totally ambitious, ruthlessly sentimental, masters of organizational tactics. Each handled his party's convention in essentially the same way. Boldly, with an exact sense of timing and precise calculation of pressures, they smashed or conciliated all opposition, won full personal ascendancy, and then moved to draw all the diverse party elements into a single meshed machine.

"It was as if the pattern and techniques of modern, assembly-line mass industry were finally being extended, under the compulsions of TV, to the business of politics. By computer-checked plans and tactical intuition, these political engineers guarantee the orderly progress of the agenda, just as the astute manager of a great modern factory maintains the steady advance of his production line."

Only time will tell whether this is good or bad, or whether it is just a temporary phenomena or the beginning of a new political era. That aside, Nixon and Kennedy have taken over their parties with amazing completeness. The older leaders, with few exceptions, have been brushed into the wings. The national committees, in a matter of weeks, have been almost revolutionized so far as real authority and power of decision are concerned.

This has been an amazing feat. It is no secret that many top Democrats, including the party's only former President, opposed Senator Kennedy and that some leaders with a reputation for vast political astuteness went to Los Angeles confident he could be stopped. The Kennedy forces, consisting largely of very young men, made their elders look inept.

Vice President Nixon, by virtue of his position as a member of an incumbent Administration, was in a different position at Chicago. But from the word go there was no question of who was boss, and who was calling the tune. Not the least of Mr. Nixon's political achievements was the way he brought differing elements of the party into line—notably Governor Rockefeller and Senator Goldwater.

This campaign will be the most intensive in history. Mr. Nixon plans to hit everyone of the 50 states. Senator Kennedy probably will too. Both are indefatigable, and possessed of almost unbelievable vigor. Both belong to the tough modern school of politics, in which quarter is neither asked nor given.

It will be a tense, exciting campaign too. It's true that the Democrats have, roughly, a 3 to 2 edge in voter registrations, that is mathematically impossible for the Republicans to take over the Senate, and that the chance of a Republican win of the House is exceedingly remote. This, the uninitiated might think, indicates easy sailing for the Kennedy-Johnson ticket. But the experts see the battle as a toss-up. The voters, as a series of elections has proved,

regard the Presidency differently than they regard Senate, House or gubernatorial seats. Purely partisan considerations apply less and less in choosing the Chief Magistrate. So, as the saying goes, both candidates will run scared.

Too Much, Too Soon

Right now, when schools are opening is as good a time as any to quote from an article in the Mt. Washington Press of Cincinnati, Ohio.

"It must have started, I think, with long pants for little boys," writes the editor. Wherever it started, however it goes, we in this lovely land are the victims of a vast foolishness of our own creation.

"Of a sudden, a childish childhood is somehow disgraceful. A tot who can't do a reasonable facsimile of Fred Astair at eight is socially retarded. . . the pet who hasn't 'gone steady' by the time she reaches junior high is tagged and labelled a wall-flower . . . and the lad who hasn't his own car by seventeen is underprivileged.

"And this is bad and sad for it throws the living of a long and happy life out of kilter. The peaks are passed while the children are still in the valley . . . the thrills are gone before they can be properly appreciated.

"When all the good 'firsts' are crammed into a few immature years, what can we expect but a seeking and searching for new experiences down the more devious path of life?"

We have found that it is much easier to make promises than to carry them out.

Giving money to a worthy cause is one way in which a person extends his helpfulness.

Few people ever decide voluntarily to give up a job that pays off regularly and generously.

It is very hard to mix work and loafing; somehow they do not seem to get along together.



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Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

The carpenters and decorators have completed their work upon St. Patrick's church and the work of installing the furniture is now going on. The date of the dedication has not been decided upon yet, but it will be the forepart of October . . . J. B. Mellor, Arthur Ryan, J. J. Thomas and Jas. P. O'Donnell took the early train Tuesday morning for Lincoln where they will attend the state fair and see Speed On go after the big money in the 2:15 race . . . The WCTU annual convention and 2 . . . A 40 page bulletin dealing with the problem of consolidation of rural schools has just been issued by the State School Superintendent . . . M. F. Harrington returned last Tuesday evening from a two weeks business and pleasure trip to the Pacific coast . . . Miss Julia Biglin returned last Friday evening from Scranton, Pa., where she had been visiting relatives the past three months.

25 YEARS AGO

Martin E. Lantis of Rose, in Rock county, last Monday completed a filing on 120 acres of government land in Rock county. This entry will probably be the last one made on government land in the United States . . . W. H. Barnhart of Atkinson, has rented the Ryan building on Douglas street formerly a grocery store and will open up a wholesale fruit and vegetable market therein the first of the coming week . . . Tuesday, Sept. 10 was the 76th birthday of Grandma McNichols and a few of her friends and well wishers gathered at the home of her daughter, Mrs. T. F. Donohoe to help her celebrate the event . . . Rev. and Mrs. A. J. May left for Omaha Tuesday morning to attend the annual conference of the Methodist churches of the state . . . Christopher William Hagen, known by everyone as "Billy," died at his home in O'Neill last Monday morning. He was one of the real pioneers of the county having lived here since 1884.

10 YEARS AGO

Seven hundred fifty flower lovers registered in O'Neill's schools. There are 70 boarding pupils this year at St. Mary's Academy coming from Montana, Wyoming, South Dakota and Nebraska points. The O'Neill public school's enrollment is down slightly . . . The golden wedding anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. Swan Pearson, prominent residents of Bristol, occurred Wednesday, Sept. 6 but the observance of the event was sick, known by Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Spahn of Clearwater were scheduled to sail from New York City, bound for Rotterdam, Holland . . . Art Fuhrer and Joe Scripser of Atkinson were sentenced to one year each in the state penitentiary and Benny Braum of Atkinson to one year in the men's reformatory in district court Tuesday on charges growing out of a hog stealing incident at the Gene Carr farm north of Atkinson on June 20 . . . Deaths: Robert Carr, John B. Wrede, Mrs. Art Snyder, Miss Nellie O'Connell and Charles Schmoker.

5 YEARS AGO

C.E.A. Johnson, who has been manager of the 13-county O'Neill district for Consumers Public Power since October 1, 1952, has been made manager of the Nebraska western system with headquarters at Scottsbluff. Johnson's successor is K. L. Van Voorhis, Chadron district manager since 1942. "Grandma" Hill is 100 years old. A picnic took place on the farm where she lives with her son, William, about 23 miles north of O'Neill. Thursday evening and during the early Friday morning hours O'Neill volunteer firemen had the busiest eight-hour stint on record. They were called to four different fires Thursday night. Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lowry celebrated their 54th wedding anniversary with a picnic held at the Ft. Randall park . . . Hugh J. McManus, 56, a lifelong resident of O'Neill and a veteran of World War II died Tuesday, Sept. 6 in St. Anthony's hospital.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Barnum are attending the State Fair and visiting friends in Lincoln this week . . . Dan Finigan of O'Neill Panama and elsewhere was in our burg Tuesday fighting over the Philippine War with B. J. Newlon . . . Mrs. Bowen of O'Neill was down the first of the week to see her daughter, Mrs. Arthur Fluckey, who has been very ill . . . Wes Potter's team started rather lively for O'Neill Tuesday morning, but after running across E. E. Perrin's porch, taking out two posts, they ran across the street and brought up against a telephone pole where Mr. Potter caught them.

25 YEARS AGO

The gates have swung open on the 43rd annual South Fork Fair and from all reports it bids fair to do all previous years and so far the weather is assisting with fine weather . . . Miss Virginia Lambert has accepted a position as school teacher 7 miles north of Emmet . . . Representative L. G. Gillespie attended the fair here today . . . Floya Snodgrass of Neligh has resumed his position as principal of the Martha Consoliated school for the coming year . . . Mr. and Mrs. Herman Holcomb returned last Tuesday from a very enjoyable two thousand mile auto trip through Western Nebraska, Wyoming, the Grand Teton and Yellowstone National parks.

"The Editor"

We wonder just how many O'Neill residents really know what the population of O'Neill is. Our friend, George Hammond, says it is all in your point of view and after we checked the population signs on the highways leading into O'Neill we're ready to concede he is right.

However, we won't concede that the signs are right. The tourist traveling from east to west will enter the city and see a sign informing him that the population is 3,030 and if he continues on highway 20 he will leave the town with the same population.

However, if he turns north and happens to glance at the road sign as he leaves town the sign will show an increase of 20 persons since he entered a few minutes back. It says 3,050.

Now if his curiosity gets the best of him and he decides to double back and check, once more to look at this growing metropolis and he drives to the south part of town to get a better view of the situation he will be informed that the population has again increased, this time to 3,080.

By this time he is ready to believe the tourist folder told the truth about the great fertility of the state.

If that isn't bad enough, pity the poor tourist who enters from the south and sees the population decrease from 3,080 to 3,030 by the time he gets to the other side of town.

Just for the record, according to the report which we just received from the Bureau of the O'Neill's population was 3,027 in 1950 and the preliminary figures place the population at 3,161.

Before we print this though we're going out and see if we can't make a few bets with our friends as to the population of O'Neill.

-BJR-

A Kansas City, Mo. man was charged and found guilty of illegal soliciting funds for the alleged "Good Samaritan Army of America" in Holt county court last week. Although the man could not think of anyone that the organization had helped in the 25 years he had been soliciting for it, he claimed to be the president of the corporation and his daughter-in-law the secretary-treasurer) we can not help but think that this is not much worse than some other fund raising organizations which are cloaked an air of respectability but still use up to 97 percent of the money collected for "administrative" costs. We wonder if the

next fund raiser who calls on us can give us the name of one person who has actually been helped.

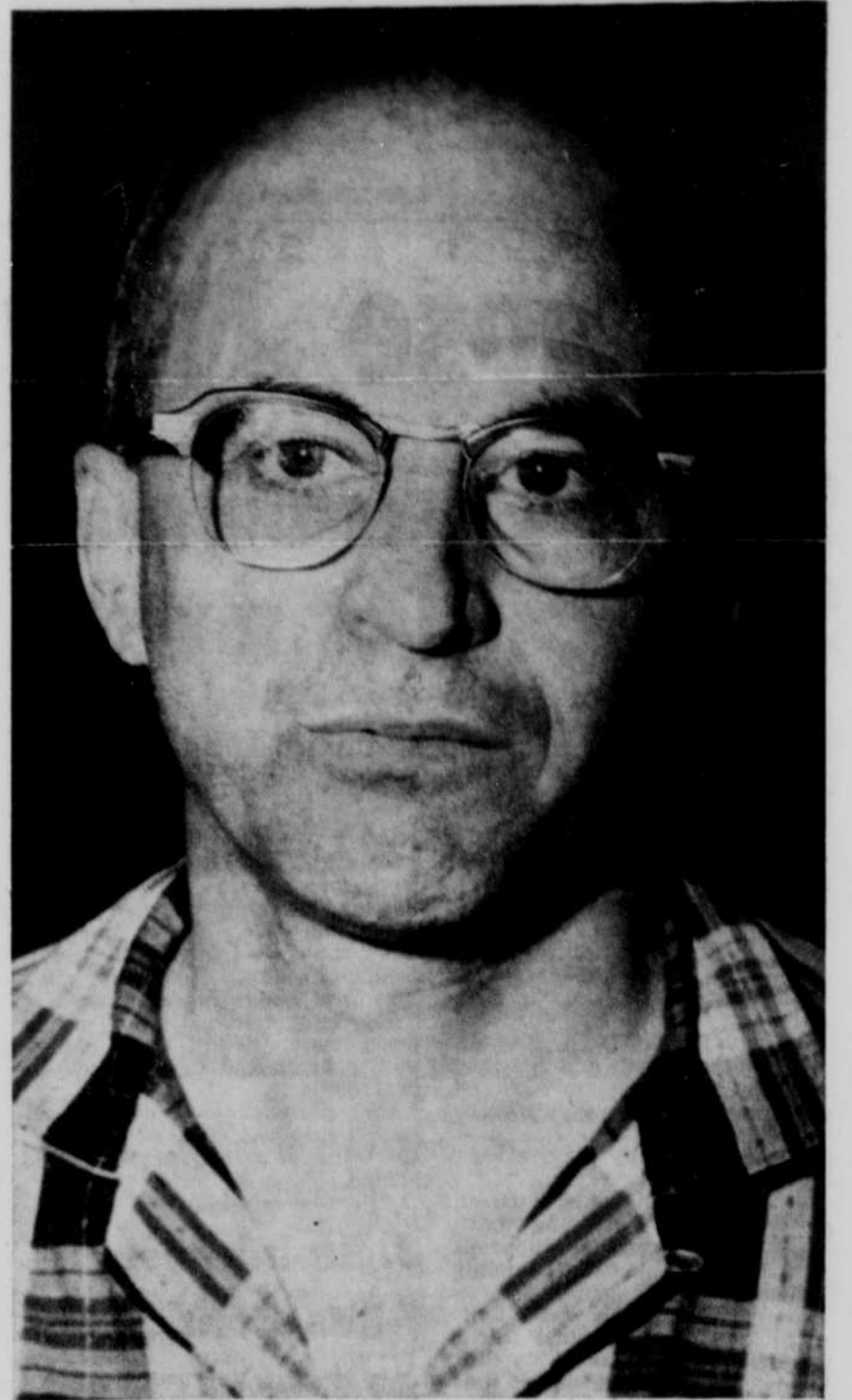
Most economists like to determine the value of Uncle Sam's dollar by comparing its worth with what the dollar would purchase in 1939. This comparison shows the dollar is worth less than 48 cents today.

Actually, in 1939 economists were looking at financial affairs through eyes of a 1929 dollar, and some of them had even rolled their comparison base back to 1910.

If you were to make use of the 1910 dollar today in any kind of comparison, we would find the American dollar has dwindled in terms of buying power to something like eight cents.

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.



Melvin Ruzicka, local hardware dealer was last weeks guess who.



Here's a man about town you should know.

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