

Prairieland Talk

"Livery Stables to Filling Stations"

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

O'Neill today has three hotels located in the business part of the city. In the 1880's there were six hotels and five livery stables. In that earlier period the "first class" hotel was a three story frame building that stood at the corner of Fourth and Fremont streets.



Romaine Saunders

Where the K. C. hall now stands was at one time the Arcade Hotel, and it was here that Billy Wrede shot and killed Sheriff Barney Kearns and where Doc Middleton hung out when he came to town and from where he was taken to serve a term in the state prison for horse stealing.

A cordial letter comes to me from E. P. Loy of Clarksville, Ark., another from Prairieland who thought the gems of life were to be found in regions beyond. But Mr. Loy, like others that I see, has memories that he cherishes. Back in the "horse and buggy" days he was in the draying business in O'Neill and knew us all.

Another governor, another president. The sun rises and sets as usual, we eat and sleep and go about life's daily program happy or sorrowful as ever. And we respect and honor those now in high places of state and national authority.

Johnie had a fancy little dog that the neighboring rancher took a fancy to up here in the cattle country of North Nebraska. Johnie, said that cowpuncher you can look over my herd of some ten thousand cattle, pick you out ten cows, and they are yours for that dog. Johnie, the little kid early in life got into the cattle business. He now a grown man struts about on the streets of our Capitol City.

At it again at the State House in Lincoln, those honored gents proposing to hook a sales tax on the citizens of our state. Tax—if you have no property but do have a little money the assessor will get you. Two patriotic citizens near and dear to me are asked to dig up \$65 tax on the auto they must have to get about in. Tax on the horse and buggy a half century ago—nothing much.

A walk in the open about everyday makes for healthy living, a sturdy pair of legs and sound mind. Friends along the way to spend a little time with discussing world problems. I saw them again today, John and Lew and Tom, Sue and Mary too. We visit one with the other, go on our way and meet a little child with a sweet smiling face, and we stop to grow young again. A clerk in a store, a busy business man serving his customers, a gent in shirt sleeves at his desk checking over his record of orders—these are busy men and women but always time for a friendly chat.

And so it is day after day
Traveling along life's lengthening highway
A smile, a cheering word, a friendly hand
That's what we have on prairieland.

The first week of this new year it was 66 years since the lifeless body of Barret Scott was taken out of the icy waters of the Niobrara river. Scott had been hung at the Whiting bridge by the few remaining vigilantes of northern Holt county. Scotty—what had he done to bring him to a tragic end? He had helped the needy with county funds at a period of distressing hard times on prairieland. His bones are at rest in a grave up there on Prospect Hill.

State Senator Frank Nelson of Holt county probably spent the weekend his first this year with relatives over Omaha, then back to Lincoln where he is a permanent fixture when state senators gather at the State House to do their stuff. State Senator Fern Hubbard Orme concluded to stay home on the job and not go to Washington to substitute for Congressman Weaver in a gathering of officials to determine how to care for the aged of the country.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

O'Neill has made rapid strides in the past ten years. The census returns show the population has nearly doubled since the census of 1900. In that year it was a little over eleven hundred. The census of 1910 shows a population of 2087. The annual ice harvest has been in progress the past two weeks and the ice houses about town are all filled up with the unusually good quantity of ice. The very cold weather with little snow has made fine ice.

25 YEARS AGO

A find that roused intense interest in boys was made below the power dam on the Niobrara river about thirty miles north of here a few weeks ago. Wood choppers in what had been a part of the channel of the stream found buffalo skulls where a herd had died in the quick sand. Perhaps a prairie fire or blizzard frightened them and they entered the water only to die in the relentless sand. Contractor O'Brien of Grand Island who has the contract for excavating for the new courthouse, arrived in the city Tuesday and this afternoon workmen started on the preliminary work, such as removing some of the trees on the courthouse lawn.

10 YEARS AGO

Holt county's winter of 1950-'51 stands a good chance of making history of a different kind. Fresh in the minds of most of the citizenry are the rugged winters in recent years. But California-like weather has been the rule thus far this year. Tuesday the mercury climbed to 63 degrees.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Bruder, longtime Holt county residents, will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary on Tuesday, Jan. 23. Mrs. Augusta McPharlin, 82, widow of the late J. H. McPharlin and a well-known O'Neill resident, boarded a chartered plane at the Municipal airport here Monday and headed for Denver, Colo. Mrs. McPharlin will visit her daughter, Mrs. Alfred Steverson at Denver and then fly to the West Coast to visit her son, Dr. J. H. McPharlin jr., at Salinas, Calif., and a son Eldon McPharlin, a Los Angeles attorney.

5 YEARS AGO

W. R. (Bill) Tenborg on Thursday celebrated his 82nd birthday anniversary with a party held at the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. Walter Freichen in O'Neill. Dewitt Gunter, a retired farmer from the Freichtown locality near here, now is minus both legs. Several years ago in Sioux City he submitted to the amputation of one leg. Friday at University hospital in Omaha, off came the other leg. Both amputations are above the knee.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Mr. Cheeney of Sheridan was in town last Saturday trying to make arrangements to run their telephone line into Chambers. Miss Clara Higgins entertained a party of friends at a Candy-Pull, Wednesday evening. Games were played and at midnight a dainty lunch was served.

25 YEARS AGO

A Triple A Rhode Island Red hen owned by Jimmy Doherty was hatched in February in 34, and began laying eggs the following August. The new building of Mr. Martins on the Samon place is being rapidly erected. Mr. Saxton died Saturday night at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Tom Thompson, north of Amelia, from old age. Interment was in the Chambers cemetery. His home was near Inman.

A Poem

From Mrs. Eby ...

—Let Jesus Be Your Guide—
Can you picture a builder without plumb line with him?
How his buildings would lean, never stand straight and trim,
Or a ship without a rudder way down below, without a direct course knowing just where to go.

That's life without Jesus, no direction or guide to point out the way and walk beside,
These are three pictures of life to be free, we need Jesus on board to guide you and me,
This old world seems full of drifting souls, who have no definite goals, no definite goals.

The world is crying out for strong Christian youth who have courage to live for Jesus and truth,
And youth asks the question in this trying hour, where can we find that kind of power?
The answer comes through when Jesus Christ says, "Just follow me young folks, and you shall be lead."

(Della Stuart Eby)

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.



Last week's Guess Who was Jim Sessions, Western Home Improvement representative in O'Neill.

"The Editor"

Have you read this little story yet that is making the rounds? The lady at the supermarket checkout counter was unloading her purchases. Out of the shopping cart came three packages of cigaretttes, four cakes of soap, two bottles of hand lotion, a bottle of suntan lotion, a jar of face cream, a pair of canvas work gloves, two knitting needles, four flashlight batteries, two magazines, a phonograph record, six glasses, a quart of milk, a dozen eggs, a TV dinner and a package of frozen chicken. As the lady paid her bill, she commented, "Food is so expensive nowadays that it is no wonder that the farmers are getting rich."

—BJR—

Then there was the country editor who finally weened of all the blue and cry that followed each of his editorial blasts. This week, he decided to duck all the public issues, so he simply reprinted the Ten Commandments. Next day, he got a note from an angry subscriber saying: "Cancel my subscription. You're getting too personal!"

—BJR—

A father and mother can support a dozen children through thick and thin, but the children want the government to support the old folks.

—BJR—

It's nice for children to have pets — until the pets start having children.

—BJR—

And last but not least, we offer this story:

The little fellow was strolling down the street leading his little yellow dog when suddenly he encountered a big fellow with a huge bulldog. "Keep your dog away from my dog," shouted the little man. "I warn you."

The big guy snorted and said: "That's a laugh. What could a little yellow cur like that do to my big bulldog?"

Then bang! The fight started. Just when it looked as if the bulldog was about to dispose of the little yellow mongrel, the little dog opened up its mouth and whammo! That was the last of the big bulldog.

Naturally the big guy was flabbergasted and he screamed at the little fellow: "Say what kind of dog do you call that?"

"Well," said the little fellow, "before I cut off his tail and painted him yellow, he was an alligator."

Editorial

The Most Logical Plan

State Senator Cecil Craft of North Platte has proposed in the Legislature a bill calling for what we feel is a logical re-districting of the state's Congressional districts.

There have been many suggestions about how to reduce Nebraska's present four districts to three. However, LB 122, Senator Craft's proposal, seems to us the most sensible—certainly as far as western Nebraskans are concerned.

It would extend present boundary lines of the state's Fourth District south to the Kansas line, and east to include Antelope, Boone, Nance, Merrick, Hamilton, Clay and Nuckolls counties.

In effect, it would divide Nebraska into a large "western" Congressional district, a smaller "central" district, and still smaller "eastern" district.

All would be approximately equal in population, as required by law.

Certainly western Nebraskans, both north and south, share a great deal in common economically. They share a wheat-and-cattle economy in the drylands areas, and a corn-and-sugar beet economy in the irrigated valleys.

It's logical that a Representative in Congress speak for many persons with common interests. And assuredly wheat growers or cattlemen in Red Willow county have more in common with farmers or ranchers in Cherry county than they do the merchants of Lincoln or the manufacturing plants of the Missouri valley.

The Purse Strings

Lancaster (S. Car.) News (Ind.)
The idea that the Federal Government must come to the aid of education unless this nation is to face some vague disaster in the indefinite future stems from an erroneous national survey and a choice collection of selfish motives.

The national survey, conducted several years ago, almost convinced Congress that the states could not meet their educational needs in either plant or teaching personnel without Federal aid. Although this survey was successfully challenged as a weighted report, the idea implanted at that time has persisted.

Federal bureaucrats and national educational organizations support Federal aid to education because they find nothing alarming in the idea of Federal control of schools. They deny that aid would mean control as a tactic to confuse opponents but any historian among them knows that the acceptance of Federal funds means also the acceptance of supervision.

In a letter to the Philadelphia Evening Bulletin describing what Federal aid to schools would mean, Fred E. Wright wrote:

"I speak of the so-called need for Federal aid to education. I speak of Federally-approved school children attending Federally-approved school buildings, using Federally-approved textbooks, riding Federally-approved school buses, eating Federally-approved menus in Federally-approved cafeterias, taught by Federally-approved teachers using a Federally-prescribed curriculum. I speak of Pennsylvania supporting the schools of Arkansas, and Arkansas doing the same for South Dakota.

"Is it too much to hope that the American people will not let themselves fall for this unconstitutional solution to a problem which community must face for itself? Is it too much to expect that Pennsylvania, and each other state, will decide what its own needs are in education and continue to solve its own problems in this field?"

As Simple As A-B-C

There's something drastically lacking in the current battle over the Federal aid to education issue. The spendthrifts who want the government to subsidize our schools don't explain how the schools would operate. Shucks that's easy. By 1968, the school superintendent would do it this way:

Parent: My child says the cafeteria food is bad. Superintendent: Why tell me? Write the Secretary of Agriculture.
Parent: How come my boy was kept after school for throwing spitballs? Superintendent: Detention for spitting was upheld by United States Supreme Court versus Joyner, May, 1967.
Janitor: I want a raise. Superintendent: No problem. Call your Congressman.
Teacher: Can I order some new history books? Superintendent: Not in this election year.
Parent: How long is Christmas vacation this year? Superintendent: Did you vote in the last election?
Principal: Where are the erasers, chalk and pencils we ordered? Superintendent: You'll have to wait. Military appropriations were increased last month.
Proud Father: Look. My boy Scott is awfully smart. Could he skip first grade? Superintendent: Is he a Republican or Democrat?

"Making" Money

If the U. S. government started printing twice as many new one-dollar bills as it took out of circulation each year, everyone knows what would happen. We would have inflation of the worst kind.

Without realizing it, Americans are asking the government to do what amounts to much the same thing. They are demanding that Congress spend more and more money on more and more services and social welfare programs. If the government took in enough taxes to pay the extra expenses, that would be one thing—but over the years the government has spent \$290 billion more than it has taken in.

When the government needs money it doesn't have, it can deposit a promissory note in a commercial bank; then it writes checks against the deposit. People who receive the checks cash them, and the government has "created" money where none existed before. The effect is the same as if the government had printed that amount of new money without withdrawing any old money from circulation.

Of course, expansion of the money supply by the banking system is not in itself something to be condemned. In fact, as the country grows, we are sure to need more money to keep the economy operating. What is dangerous is the abuse of the money-creating facilities of the banks in order to expand government expenditures without collecting additional taxes. Such abuse is bound to lead to inflation and reduction in value of everybody's money.

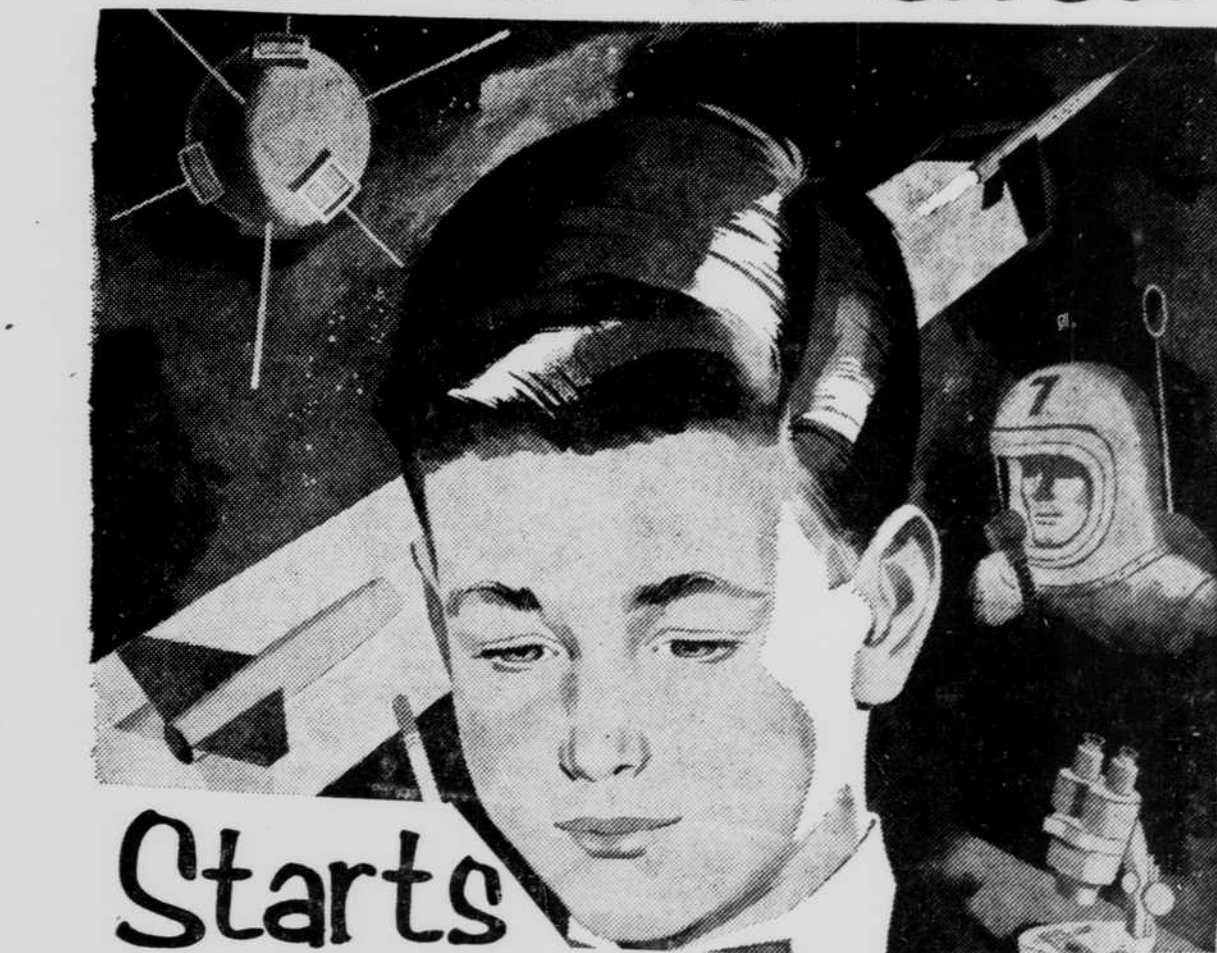
A plain bar of iron is worth about \$5. This same bar of iron made into horseshoes, is worth \$10.50. If made into needles, it becomes worth \$3,285, and if turned into balance springs for watches, it attains a worth of \$250,000!

The same is true of another kind of material—man—whose value is determined by what he makes of himself.

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