

Prairieland Talk

"Memories of '88 Blizzard"

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

Who walks the streets of O'Neill today or lolls at home in an easy chair who can recall the scene 73 years ago the morning this is written, the morning of January 13, 1888? Yes, that morning after the great blizzard, the morning three fellows from out Dorsey way pulled into town with loads of hogs, having survived the blizzard that had raged until midnight and then let up. And who now remembers seeing Con Keys come along Douglas street from the east limits of town where he had found refuge in a vacant house from the storm and spent the night there, one of his horses having died and he hitched himself beside the other horse and headed for home. Doc Mathews and Clyde King, frost bitten and half starved, pulled into town a little before noon, caught in the blizzard down Chambers way and found refuge in a cattle shed. Stories of those who had perished by freezing were reported as time passed and the after blizzard scene across Holt county disclosed here and there a leg of a cow or steer sticking up out of a snowbank. This year no snow, no blizzard for a modern Bates to write about, but bright sunshine that gives us shirt sleeve weather in midwinter here on Prairieland.



Romaine Saunders

Maud Muller on a summer day raked the meadow hay. Maud Wisegraver gave me a slap on the jaw as I asked her for a date.

The cowboys of grass robbed north Nebraska will swing into their saddles and head for Bassett May 23, then and there to rope and brand the advancing problem of the cattle industry. But this time it will not be the double cinch saddle on the back of a cow pony but behind the steering wheel of a highway traveler of today. But maybe the boys will shake the dust of the streets of Rock county's capital town from their feet, go out to open prairie, build a camp fire to sit around and roast chunks of beef, as their predecessors did in the days of the Spade outfit up that way.

Seven in one automobile, five in another crash together on the highway and twelve youthful Americans dead. Teenage kids out to get the thrill—100 miles an hour! We did it many years ago on horseback and nobody wounded, crippled or killed. Boys will have their fun and the funeral homes must have dead to bury.

I learn that Oran Bowen of Wayne recently fell and sustained injuries that confine him to his home. Oran is a son of the late Judge Bowen who served as county judge of Holt county in the 1890's. Oran had taught school in Atkinson, attended university in Lincoln and was an instructor in the teachers college in Wayne until his retirement a few years ago. As a youth Prof. Bowen and Prairieland Talker showed the ladies of "our crowd" a merry time.

I have stood again a calm winter evening far away from crowded human haunts and the streets passing by the buildings tall, out there to look again on the setting sun that paints the distant horizon in golden glow and goes down to light the world below. For about six thousand years day and night have told the story of a Master Mind and Guiding Hand that helps you and me as we travel life's way that leads to an endless day.

He comes over from Omaha to the Capitol City from time to time. Before becoming a citizen of our big town by the Missouri river he lived in Wheeler county. So he gets the paper from the county seat town of Wheeler and after reading brings it with him to Lincoln and gives it to Prairieland Talker, Talker having rode the cow trails down there many years ago. I see by a recent issue of the Bartlett paper that deer have taken over the Beaver Valley, a stretch of country some 25 miles in length that was in my day down there the AT cattle ranch outfit. That outfit folded its tents like the Arabs and silently stole away many years ago; as did the settlers in northern Wheeler county due south from O'Neill. I count on three hands families that had homesteads and lived there, now all gone. Guy M. Green, a printer in O'Neill more than 60 years ago, was one of those homesteaders, as was his mother, sister and three brothers. Guy later went to Washington state, died there about 1940. His brother John and family settled in O'Neill, John getting into business here and died in O'Neill some years ago. Some of his family may be here now. And if Beaver Valley has been taken over by deer, herds of cattle have taken over where the homesteaders had been in northern Wheeler county. And Rich Burtwistle still rides along the cow trails down there, Nigger Dixons having disappeared from the scene.

The day by day newspapers tell the story of public officials and the crimes and tragedies of the whole world. The home town weekly newspaper tells us of the friendly relations neighbor with neighbor, the stories of life at its best, friend greeting friend and the stranger given the glad hand.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO
O'Neill population listed at 2,007. N. B. Harris will have a sale 11 miles northwest of O'Neill, preparatory to locating near Burwell. County Attorney Whelan thinks he may find it necessary to take steps to reduce evil of small school boys smoking pipes. Wedding license issued to William J. Foxworthy and Norma Tuttle both of Stuart, and Win Wallace of Fairbury and Jessie Thoman of O'Neill.

25 YEARS AGO
Plans for new courthouse accepted by county board. Thirty bison skulls found below power dam on Niobrara river 30 miles north of here. Justis Butterfield, 79, dies January 15 after illness of several months. Billy Watson of Inman cuts fingers severely while operating meat slicer in father's store. Nine and one-half pound daughter born January 9 to Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Allen of Emmet.

10 YEARS AGO
Mrs. Glen Stewart is installed as noble grand of Friendship Rebekah lodge. O'Neill Eagles lose first game of season to Ainsworth Bulldogs. Some steer calves sell as high as 41 cents per pound at O'Neill Livestock Market. Cletus Durr of Glenwood, Ia., arrives here as manager of Lee store. Melvin Ruzicka, local businessman named Boy Scout chairman.

5 YEARS AGO
Five-year plan to make Holt county brucellosis free launched here. Anton E. Kalkowski, Lynch farmer, files for Boyd county supervisor. Ewing post office advanced from third class rating to second class. Roy Worden, 67, Amelia rancher, dies January 15 in Burwell hospital. Inman Tigers take 1956 Holt county basketball tourney. St. Mary's academy Cardinals are runners-up.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO
A Visible Loading Repeating Rifle is advertised at \$9 by the Stevens Arms company in Massachusetts. P. Reifers has offered for sale or rent his place of 760 acres, 60 acres in cultivation. Mr. and Mrs. James Smith came in on the stage Tuesday for a visit with relatives. Born to Mr. and Mrs. George Anderson of Amelia February 7, a 12-pound boy. Wedding bells rang for Fona Clauson and Florence Seaman January 11 at Rapid City, S. D.

25 YEARS AGO
Ex-service men can obtain blanks for cashing bonus checks from H. C. Cooper or Elmer Farrier. Town board agrees to sponsor library in north part of H. L. Smith's store. Roads and highways had to be shoveled out in some places but it was impossible to keep 281 open. Etta and E. Everett Cooke held a public sale February 10 at their place one mile east of Chambers.

A Poem From Mrs. Eby . . .

—A Boy and His Dog—
A boy and his dog make a glorious pair;
No better friendship is found anywhere,
For they talk and they walk and they run and they play,
And they have their deep secrets for many a day,
And that boy has a comrade who thinks and who feels,
Who walks down the road with a dog at his heels.
He may go where he will and his dog will be there,
May revel in mud and his dog will not care;
Faithful he'll stay for the slightest command
And bark with delight at the touch of his hand;
Oh, he owns a treasure which nobody steals,
Who walks down the road with a dog at his heels.
No other can lure him away from his side;
He's proof against riches, and station and pride;
Fine dress does not charm him, and flattery's breath
Is lost on the dog, for he's faithful to death;
He sees the great soul which the body conceals,
And it's great to be young with a dog at your heels.
(Edgar A. Guest)

Meek News

By Mrs. Fred Lindberg

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Eiler, Harvey and Bobby of Palmer surprised Mrs. Eiler's mother, Mrs. Elsie Eppenbach, by calling on her Sunday morning. In the afternoon they visited at the home of Clara Conway. Mrs. Eiler is the former Lucie Eppenbach and used to reside near Scottville. The occasion was the Eilers 22nd wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Kaczor were Sunday visitors at Grandman Hills and Bill, Grandma is spending most of her time in bed. Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Kaczor and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Hubby were supper guests Tuesday evening of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Walters.

Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Rouse and boys, Lloyd Rouse and Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meyer and Vickie of Atkinson were Tuesday evening guests of Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Anderson. Mr. and Mrs. Dewayne Devall were weekend visitors at the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Devall and Mr. and Mrs. D. E. Seger.

Mrs. Jim McNulty was a Wednesday visitor at the Emmet Slight home. Mr. and Mrs. Bennie Johnson and Craig and Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Anderson and Nancy were dinner guests Friday at the Henry Walters home.

Warren and Nate Conrad helped Vern Harding Thursday work on a well. Mr. and Mrs. Don Fernau spent Thursday at the Carl Krogh home.

Leon Odenbach accompanied Fred Wells home from a trip to Montana. He is a brother-in-law of Mrs. Fred Wells. His wife is the former Laura Wetzler.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewayne Anson, Sharon and Carla and Mr. and Mrs. George Nelson, Larry and Sue were Sunday dinner guests of Mrs. Christine Johnson. The occasion marked Mrs. Nelson's birthday anniversary.

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 Jack Bailey of O'Neill.



Here's an O'Neill businessman you've met.

and Norma, Marsha Slattery and Mrs. Christine Johnson attended a fellowship meeting at Bassett Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell Woepper and Paula of Ewing were supper guests Friday evening of Mr. and Mrs. Delbert Rouse.

The Rev. Turner plans to be at Paddock Union church Sunday morning, weather permitting.

Mrs. George Nelson, Larry and Sue were Thursday evening visitors at the Dwayne Anson home.

Mr. and Mrs. Don McClellan returned from Minnesota where they had gone to visit Mrs. McClellan's father, John Krogh. They report his condition remains serious.

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Editorial

How Neat is Your Desk?

Ninth World Wonder

In a recent magazine article a psychiatrist made a comparison of owners of clean, neat desks vs owners of cluttered messy desks.

The owner of the clean desk, he said, accomplished more work with less effort because he did no time-consuming searching for items, his mind was orderly and concise, his work of high quality. Mr. Cluttered Desk, while he made much fuss and furor about the amount of work he did, was actually inefficient, a poor workman and an inveterate time-waster.

We take issue with the good doctor. First of all we maintain that Mr. Neat Desk has not enough work to do, spends more time being orderly than he does at work, makes such a fetish of a clean desk that he actually accomplishes little of the work he is hired to do.

Meanwhile, back in his office, Mr. Cluttered Desk is so busy grinding out work that he has no time for details such as filing, dusting and straightening papers. He is the man upon whom the weight of the world rests, the man who must get the next piece of work done before he goes home, even though he does leave a messy desk.

And, thank goodness, there are many more men in the Cluttered Desk clan than in the Neat Desk family. These cluttered men, too, will drop their work at an instant's notice and head for the golf course or lakeside, leaving in their wake a pile of jumbled papers on an almost obscured desk.

These poor, overworked men know they must relax so they will remain in condition to do another tremendous day's work tomorrow.

We're just ready to leave now, but we can't find the key to the office under this pile of papers on the desk. In fact we can't even find the desk.

Amos 'N Andy Bookkeeping

Expansion of the social security system to include medical care for elderly persons, offers some tough nuts to crack. Experience shows that in politics things are advocated that are unworkable. Richard Starnes, columnist for the Washington Daily News, reveals some not very comforting statistics on the entire social security set-up. "In its first quarter century," he says, "social security took in \$70 billion. It paid out \$50 billion of that, and has \$20 billion of government bonds in the kitty. Against that \$20 billion there are obligations, at the present rate of benefits, of \$360 billion."

If you wonder how the social security system has reached such a pass the answer is simple. Mr. Starnes cites a not unusual case—a pensioner who paid for three years, starting in 1937. Then he retired. Since then he and his late wife together have drawn \$13,490 in benefits while their total contribution to the fund had been \$40. But in the case of young people starting to work circumstances are reversed. They can never hope to take out as much as they are forced to contribute.

There is little justification for further taxing, in the name of social security, already overtaxed younger workers to provide medical care for millions of elderly persons who are both able and willing to care for themselves. Senator Harry F. Byrd, a distinguished democrat who has as great an understanding of the fiscal problems of the federal government as any man, does not mince words. "I am opposed to . . . compulsory medical service and hospitalization under the Social Security System. I am convinced this would lead to socialized medicine with the possibility that it would bankrupt the social security trust fund."

Union Suit or Strait Jacket

William C. Doherty wants to put the United States Government in a union suit—at least that part of it made up of civilian government workers.

Doherty is president of the National Association of Letter Carriers, numbering 138,000 members. His union and some 22 others now include about 700,000 government employees. Starting this month, Doherty says he will try to organize the remaining 1,700,000 government employees into "one big union."

Last year Doherty pressured a federal pay raise through both houses of Congress over President Eisenhower's veto. Success in his new organizational drive would give him 10 times as much power as he had then. This could prove very expensive to U. S. taxpayers. It also could prove very dangerous. Unions no longer limit their interests to pay raises and fringe benefits. They actively push a full program of government objectives in all fields from education to foreign affairs. If all government employees were lumped into a single union, elected representatives and appointed officials would have little chance of carrying through any policy that did not meet the approval of the union leaders.

The dangers of such a situation are all too obvious in these days of Soviet competition and subversion. One has only to think of what might happen if the wrong people won control of such a union.

According to Chain Store Age, more specific new drugs have been released in the past 20 years than in all previous medical history. About 80 per cent of prescriptions written today are for drugs that did not exist 10 years ago. The magazine credits heavy investments by drug manufacturers in research—which has totaled about \$1 billion in the last decade—as the main cause of this avalanche of medical discoveries.

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