

Prairie Land Talk

"Writes Story of O'Neill"

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

Mrs. Felts sends me from Newport, R. I., several pages of her type writer copy she has prepared for her story of O'Neill. I find them very interesting and so far as my knowledge of early times of the O'Neill community goes



Romaine Saunders

what she has written is the true story of the start of things out here. But why a citizen of that little New England state should tell the story. The gifted lady has not disclosed to me her maiden family name but I take it that she was a one time O'Neill girl. I met a lady in East Greenwich, R. I., some years ago who as a girl lived with her parents in Atkinson. So we Americans move about from place to place. Mrs. Felts gives us the history of General O'Neill and where that name comes from, a Neil in old Ireland, and goes on with the achievements of John O'Neill who did not attain to a great age, passing out down at Omaha before reaching 50. I knew his son, John, and daughter, Kittie, well and others of the family but do not recall having seen the general. The last I knew Kittie O'Neill (Mrs. Dwyer) was living in San Diego, Calif. Mrs. Felts also writes of the McEwen-Thompson group who came to this community from Wisconsin before General O'Neill brought in a colony. That small group of first settlers planted themselves by the Elkhorn river just east of where O'Neill was started. Sam Thompson of that group just out of babyhood in the 1870's became a close pal of mine in the late '80's and early '90's, but we grew apart as time past and interests in life differed. The remains of Sam, the last of the McEwen-Thompson bunch, lay under the sod up on the hill. Mrs. Felts is doing a grand work in getting the story of this historic spot into readable form for publication, and every citizen of O'Neill here today should have a copy when her book is published. Few communities in Nebraska experienced the stirring events that go to make up the story of General John O'Neill colony.

A clergyman, pastor of a church of some two thousand members where I attend services from time to time, tells me the story. His grandfather, Bill Wells the minister gave as his grandfather's name, living at the time at Plattsmouth, Nebr., went to the Indian country north of Holt county, what is now Boyd county then Indian country. Grandfather Wells was called to the Indian land to survey and lay out a Sioux Indian reservation. The job done the surveyor learned that while away from home his wife gave birth to a baby girl and named the little one Rose. A human Rosebud at home, said Father Wells, this Indian country will be known as the Rosebud Reservation.

A choice selection of a dozen or so old gals have a dinner party the day this is written. And I sat for a time waiting my chance to say a few words concerning business matters to that gifted old gal who was telephoning Mary, Ann and Kate about being ready on the noon hour for the sisters social event of the day. They had it—plenty to eat and didn't run out of talk.

Sob sisters are after it, in various states they protest the official execution of one convicted of murder. In a state or two law making bodies are about to pass measures doing away with capital punishment. Substitute for the electric chair a cushioned rocking chair, a comfortable lifetime home and well loaded dinner table. The Creator of we human beings declared that "Whoso sheddeth man's blood by man shall his blood be shed." The murderer has forfeited his right to live, but in most capital punishments the electric chair is too good an ending.

Is it this way up in Iceland? The first few days of March and the streets of our Capital City iced over following a night of lightning, thunder and rain. Citizens in the city had wished for rain to wet up the wheat fields, much more concerned about it than old hoppers out on the farms. A bit of snow as February came to a close, now showers of rain so we head into another growing season that will bring to prairie land the usual abundance. Look out—don't fall on the ice covered concrete today.

Double double toil and trouble. Yes, day by day along the way comes toil and trouble. Toil—work to keep us out of mischief and trouble to keep us humble, not to swell up over our self importance. Somehow we make it as along life's lane we go.

Just across the street south of the Hotel Golden the old building stands today housing other than banking interests. Dave Adams and Dave Darr closed the door on a busted bank and walked away many years ago. My poor mother lost her bit, something over \$200, when the Holt County Bank failed, and 70 years ago 200 dollars was some money. Then the next to try banking in that building was Pat Hagerty and Barney McGreevy. They too closed up and walked away. One of them was caught and jailed for a time, the other never seen again in O'Neill. Then for the third time another financial concern got going in the old building only to follow the other two to the wall. And the next building to the south is a bank, and just across the street west of the hotel is the community's oldest banking institution. O'Neill has today two banks of many years service to the county, both well managed and financially sound.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO
Drama presented by students of St. Mary's academy including Myrtle Fisher, Mary Brayton, Eula Stilson, Lottie Barto, Frances Daly, Lizzie Wild, Ruth Gaines, Martha Bridgell, Frances Lewis, Mary Gallagher and Grace Hammond. Rosa Hudson, formerly in newspaper business at Stuart dies of quick consumption at Lincoln.

25 YEARS AGO
During the month of February 21 new automobiles were licensed in the office of the county treasurer. George L. Smith of Chambers and Loraine Ennis of O'Neill united in marriage March 4. Third annual meeting of the Fifteenth Judicial District Bar association held in O'Neill with W. J. Hammond elected as president and D. R. Mounts, as vice president.

10 YEARS AGO
Mrs. Vera Barnes has moved from a farm near Atkinson to the place formerly occupied by James Regal at Emmet. A family gathering was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Ott March 4. Dr. J. C. Ramsey is new Stuart physician. First Lt. John Lee Baker, O'Neill jet pilot, receives Distinguished Flying Cross.

5 YEARS AGO
Three locations studied for Guard Armory. H. J. Lohaus is elected president of O'Neill Country club. Vote is called on \$20,000 bond issue for construction of new fire station. Helen N. Knudsen succumbs at Page March 2 after illness of several years. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Mott celebrate golden wedding anniversary March 12 at Spencer.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO
The Hub advertises 100 lbs of sugar at \$5.90 and 5 lbs of Old Crop Rio coffee \$1. Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Majors is moving on to the Herb Kemp place. Horse thieves March 11 stole a team of horses and then set the barn on fire, burning two other teams at the farm of Percy Jones, northeast of Neigh five and one-half miles.

25 YEARS AGO
Please note change of dates—Inauguration day has been changed from March 4 to January 20. Abbie Platt has finished her Beauty School course in Lincoln and has received her license. A large crowd gathered at the Seymour Harkins home to charivari newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Harkins. Work was resumed this week on the Methodist parsonage after storm passes.

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Emmet And Community

Dolores Tunender
Word was received of the death of the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Kloppenborg of Cozad Saturday. Those attending the funeral Sunday were Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kloppenborg of Emmet, Mr. and Mrs. Norman Wayman and E. Kloppenborg of O'Neill. Ray Pettinger visited Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pongratz Wednesday afternoon.

A number of people around Emmet attended the Grand Ole Opry Show Sunday at O'Neill. Dolores Pettinger visited Mrs. Joe Pongratz Thursday after school.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pongratz visited Mrs. Arthur Givens at the Atkinson hospital Thursday afternoon. Mr. and Mrs. George Pongratz, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Troshynski and Mrs. Paul Kramer also visited Mrs. Givens last week.

Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Al Havranek were Mr. and Mrs. Jim Havranek sr. of Atkinson, Mrs. Barbara Davorak and Kenny Fuhrer of Lincoln. Jim Keim of Chadron was a weekend guest of Mr. and Mrs. Dean Perry and family of Emmet.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Pongratz visited Mrs. Arthur Givens Monday at Atkinson Memorial hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Havranek sr. and Mr. and Mrs. Al Havranek were supper guests of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Havranek Thursday in honor of their 13th wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Pongratz called at the home of Evelyn Ernst of O'Neill Wednesday. Mr. and Mrs. Leon Beckwith called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gains Rzeszotarski Friday night.

A birthday party was held for Wendell Babi Monday night. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Husaiko, Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Hansen, Emil and Albert Heeb, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Grothe, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Grothe and Carl Hoppe.

Don and Bob Pettinger visited Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pongratz Sunday and Gene Pettinger visited them Saturday. Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Steskal and family called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pete Farewell and Judy Monday night. Mrs. Joe Ramold sr., and Hubert visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deemer and family Monday night. Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ramold jr. and family called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Tuender and family Thursday night. Mrs. Joe Pongratz called at the home of Mrs. Bob Cole Friday evening.

Mrs. Ed Winkler was a visitor at the home of her mother, Mrs. Joe Bruder of Atkinson Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Miksch of Stuart were dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Welsh and Tom Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Schaff and family and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Timmerman and family visited at the home of Mrs. Joe Ramold sr. Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Marcellus and family and Mr. and Mrs. Fred McCarty and family called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Soukup Saturday night.

Mrs. Walter Pease, the teacher of District 159, stayed during the week at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Marcellus and family.

The Marcellus family were dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Havranek and family of O'Neill Sunday and at the home of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Marcellus of Stuart Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Watson left Saturday morning for Borger, Tex., where they will visit their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Perry and daughter.

Paul Bittner went to Grand Island Sunday evening to meet his sister, Mrs. Leo Mossman, who was returning from a few months visit at Santa Ana, Calif. where she visited her son Robert Mossman and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Sawyer and family of Atkinson visited Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Sawyer and Mick Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Albert Reynolds and family were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gay Hull and family at Redbird. The occasion was the birthday of Mr. Hull.

Mrs. Albert Anthony accompanied her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Otto Matschullat of Page, to Norfolk Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Bill Butterfield and family visited Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Stevens and family at Norfolk Sunday.

DeWayne and Eldon Stevens of Norfolk visited Mr. and Mrs. Bill Butterfield and family Thursday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Milo Gorgen returned recently from Idaho where they spent a few days visiting. Mr. and Mrs. Eldon Stevens and family of Norfolk were in-man visitors Friday afternoon.

James Kelley went to Omaha Sunday. Ralph Sholes, who is employed near Fremont, visited his mother, Mrs. Violet Sholes, over the weekend.

Robert Ruther, Bill DeLong and Lyle Gillooly, who attend school at Grand Island, spent the weekend in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ruther, Mr. and Mrs. Merle DeLong and Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Gillooly.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd DeLong left Saturday for Omaha where they will spend a few days visiting their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dean DeLong and family.

Mrs. James Coventry, Mrs. James McMahan, Mrs. Kenneth Coventry and Mrs. John Mattson attended a party at the home of Mrs. Louis Vitt of O'Neill Thursday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Vaden Kivett and Kiehl, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Anthony and family, Mr. and Mrs. James Coventry and Bill went Tuesday evening dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. James Sobotka.

Mrs. James McMahan attended a meeting of Symphony Chapter, OES, Thursday evening at O'Neill.

Margaret Pruss of Clearwater spent the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pruss.

A Poem From Mrs. Eby . . .

—Answers My Soul—
When I see the wounds in His nail-torn hands,
And know they were pierced for me;
When I see the love-look in His eyes that wept in Gethsemane;
When I view the thorns on His Kingly head, that calvary's victory won,
Ah then shall my heart with anguish break o'er the little I have done?
Will He answer me in that day of days, when I seek on His right to stand,
"Have ye sought my sheep on the desert hare, with a tender, rescuing hand?
Can I show Him then one scar of pain that I wear for His dear name?
Can I there unfold to His Shepherd-gaze one single bleating lamb?
Shall I fall at His feet, His bruised feet and plead as I've oft done here,
"I had no time to seek Thy sheep afar on the desert drear;
My hours were full, I could not go," while I love with remorseful tears,
Those feet that trod the pain-strewn way to save me from death's strong fears?
Can I bear it then when He takes the crown that was woven in love for me.
And places it on a comrade's head Blood-stained from Calvary?
Can I bear it, soul, when I hear the groans of the heathen in their woe,
And know they are perishing for the bread I withheld from them below?
Can I bear it, Ah, to be turned away in sight of the gates of gold,
My Savior's face no more to see, and barred from the Shepherd's fold?
Dear Christ, I fall at Thy blood-stained cross - Oh, nail me there, I pray!
For Thee I will search the utmost wilds and return with Thy lambs astray!
(Clara M. Brooks)

Editorial

Job Killer Bill

Will the proposed minimum wage increase (up to \$1.25 an hour) hurt the ones it's supposed to help? Let's dig a bit.

Sure, we favor everyone getting a fair shake on the job. But since when did raising the cost of labor increase the number of job opportunities? We've always found the reverse to be true.

Recently, a determined man took this minimum wage bit in his teeth and appeared before the House special subcommittee on labor. Said George Hagedorn, research director of the National Association of Manufacturers:

"The wage proposal would have an especially severe impact on the employment opportunities of the very groups who presently have the most trouble finding jobs—the unskilled, the older workers and the very young."

Hagedorn contended that the direct and immediate impact of those proposed measures would be on the cost of hiring those who are at the lower fringe of the wage scale—the very people among whom unemployment rates have been highest.

Then Hagedorn added this kicker:

"If the standard of living could be raised by placing legal floors under wage rates, then the backward nations of the world could have as high a standard of living as this country does, since they are as free as we are to take such action."

Let's get on with the real cures for rolling back the recession.

To Save Our Own

What are an American's most cherished possessions? We would say his home; his position as breadwinner for his family; his opportunity to gain financial security through his own efforts—and, standing above everything else, his individual freedom of body and spirit and the hope of such freedom for his children.

These possessions of the average, everyday American are in jeopardy. They have been placed in jeopardy by the policies of those who want more government, bigger government, costlier government.

Too many of us have sat idly by—uninformed or indifferent—while those whose philosophy would destroy what all Americans hold dear have been working with dedicated zeal to forward their mistaken ideas.

We, the people have been to largely inarticulate. We have not made our case sufficiently understood. We have been "too busy" to give up time for missionary work on behalf of freedom.

Too many of us have failed to inform ourselves—much less inform anyone else—about the issues and principles that are at stake. The facts are on our side—on the side of freedom. But we have allowed the facts to be obscured by the clouds of misinformation thrown up by the Mistaken.

We have been guilty of negligence. We have been inattentive to the protection of our birthright.

The Mistaken, while holding out the gaudy promise of something for nothing, have been digging a grave for the personal enterprise system. The politicians at the funeral, if the trend continues, will be the invasion of states' rights, the habit of deficit spending, enormous and unnecessary government subsidies, burdensome taxes, stringent govern-

ment controls, and the empty belief that security can be found somewhere other than within one's self.

The trend can never be reversed if we "take it easy" and let someone else do the worrying. This is a job for all who believe in freedom, for all who are willing to become missionaries for the solid American ideals.

Writing in the Oregon Voter, Ralph T. Moore recently said: "When our social security system was originated there was no thought of subsidizing deliberate idleness nor the begetting of illegitimate children to increase the monthly stipend. But it finances a great deal of this sort of thing at present and no one seems to be able to come up with a solution. And let this writer make it clear that he includes unemployment compensation as a part of the general social security program. The results, therefore, of this massive effort, largely political in inspiration, to bridge such universal crises in the lives of just about everybody have been more to prolong the trouble than to alleviate it."

According to an article in Coronet, this country has the youngest average marrying age in the Western world. In a late year, for instance, 40 per cent of all brides were teenagers. A result: couples where bride and groom are under 20 at the time of marriage have a 20 per cent divorce rate, highest for any age group.

The American Medical Association News reports on a New York State study showing that injuries and deaths were 60 per cent lower in 400 accidents involving people using seat belts than in 400 similar accidents where seat belts were not used. And the U. S. Forest Service says that seat belts have saved at least 100 of its employees from death or serious injury.

Financial columnist Sylvia Porter writes: ". . . our economy has entered the toughest, roughest, phase of competition in modern times—and in this era the businessman who doesn't recognize what he is facing or know how to fight competition successfully is going under. He can't bail himself out by price hikes as he could in the first postwar years and through most of the '50's. He can't get by with shoddy merchandise, shabby service, sloppy salesmanship. We are into a real buyer's market—and the seller who can't sell simply won't survive."

One of the major problems facing atomic energy developers in this country is quite non-technical, according to The Exchange magazine. It is public concern about radiation. But that concern is unfounded. The Edison Electric Institute reports that "the relatively insignificant radiation coming from luminous dials and television sets will probably be greater than the average radiation from nuclear power operations in the United States during the next several decades." It adds that even if world atomic operations increase rapidly, their average radiation will be far less than from natural sources, such as cosmic rays and minerals in the earth, and much less than radiation from medical and dental procedures.

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