

Prairie Talk

# "Circus Tents May Lure Him"

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

Down by the railroad stood the circus tents, Ma, Pa. Jane and Jim—they were all out to see the show. And Frank Campbell was shocked and wondered how that side show actor could do it, a snake around his neck. Hay McClure went to the circus tent ring to show show-hands how to ride and manage the bucking broncos. Today the circus tent is no more. But the show boys and girls came to our Capital City a day last week and did their stuff to an admiring crowd in a "barn," an auditorium on State University grounds so called. I did not see it, but if some day show tents are seen once more in Lincoln Prairie Talker may yield to the lure.



Romaine Saunders

Thanksgiving Day and we are on our way through the woods to Grandmother's house. Hurrah for the fun—is the pudding done, hurrah for the pumpkin pie!

In front of our State House on the north is a monument to the great William Jennings Bryan. On the west side a stone figure of Abe Lincoln. At the south and east entrances nothing. Why not a stone figure of that Indian Chief American Horse, and at the east entrance a figure of a woman in memory of the pioneer ladies, a monument in memory of your mother, my mother.

I have stood there and looked at the roaring Niagara Falls, seen the splashing waves of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, but none of these held the charm of the beautiful grass robed prairies of our beloved Nebraska.

Mr. Ohmart is no longer a part of the O'Neill community, a preacher and promoter of religious dogmas all his own. And few if any could beat him at it. That northern Holt county patriot whose name was O'Neill and who could make about everybody shut up in a vocal can ran into the wrong guy when he thought to outwind Preacher Ohmart. Ohmart was not a member of any church group though in later years he attended the Presbyterian church, probably because the then pastor, Rev. Scott, let him have his say. Mr. Ohmart had a number of adherents that may carry on while he rests in the abode of the dead.

The lifeless body of a negro woman was found prone upon the ground at Lincoln's great Pioneer's Park. It was supposed the dead woman had fallen from a wall or embankment near where her body lay and going for help had dropped dead.

One newspaper was not enough for Cal Stewart. So he quits O'Neill and goes to our Capital City to publish four weekly papers, each paper devoted to a community in Lincoln, College View where I hole up, University Place, Bethany and one in the north-east limits of Lincoln. In the 1940's Cal and Mrs. Stewart came to O'Neill, took over The Frontier when Cal bought the business of D. H. Cronin who was the publisher of The Frontier for about 60 years. In 1949 Cal issued an anniversary edition of some 56 pages, the largest state weekly paper ever issued, with stories of pioneer life and the early days in Holt county. Recently a preacher friend took in hand my copy of that special edition of The Frontier, and is enjoying it immensely he tells me. Yesterday Cal's editor came over from Bethany where the printing plant is located to take a picture of Prairie Talker and get his life's story, so I am to have a write up under Publisher Cal's directions. Understand he plans to sell his property interests in O'Neill, move his family to Lincoln. Good luck, Cal and your Better Half.

I see him again in memory as he came out of the house on South First Street ax in hand hoping to find a loose board along the board sidewalks of that day, sixty-five years ago. He would make kindling wood of the board to start fires in the stove in the morning. No gas or oil burners to turn on in those days, but dandy good griddle cakes were baked over those wood and coal burning stoves. Since the long ago when that lad got a sidewalk board for kindling wood Billy has been in Alaska, in South America, in Europe, Asia and Africa at his business as a mining engineer. Today he lives in retirement with his wife in a southern California city—that is my brother-in-law, Will Meals.

A cheering note comes from friend Wally Mullen out at Los Angeles, who had been sending me the Los Angeles Times, one of our country's great newspapers, until he learned that one-eyed old man Prairie Talker no longer sees to read. My daughter, Mrs. Amy Eno, born in O'Neill 57 years ago, is eyes for me when it comes to reading. But I can still see my typewriter keys to thus expound wisdom and nonsense in this department of Holt County's oldest and best newspaper. Mr. Mullen writes that he hopes to visit O'Neill some day soon though but few are here now that he knew when living here. Few is right, Wally, but the sun still shines in golden glory above us and the ground under foot is that on which General John O'Neill walked. Your people are about all gone from the community, Wally, as also is Kinkald, the Harringtons, Dicksons, Brennan, McCafferty, and the others. But you can walk up to the abode of the dead where their remains are at rest and think again of them.

## Frontiers Ago

**50 YEARS AGO**  
Last Monday the land office moved to the newly erected Golden block south of its former location . . . The Royal was crowded last Sunday afternoon and evening to witness the moving pictures of the Passion Play, the best ever seen here. Clyde King has purchased the Galena Lumber yards from T. F. Birmingham and Ed F. Gallagher and will take possession of same as soon as the invoice is completed . . . "The Two Orphans," a melodrama in six acts, will be the season's best attraction at the Opera House November 27 . . . Miss Sadye Skirving, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Skirving of this city, was married at Leavenworth, Wash., November 15 to Mr. Ray Elmer Marble.

**25 YEARS AGO**  
Armour Creameries shipped four carloads of turkeys out of this city last week to supply the eastern cities with their holiday dinners . . . Thelma L. Alm, nine-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Alm of north-eastern Holt, died at the hospital Monday night after an operation for acute appendicitis . . . Mrs. Julia Graves, Mrs. Ella Porter and Miss Lavone Miles have been elected to district offices of the Woodman Circle . . . Mrs. Eliza Groves died in her sleep Sunday night at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Iva Dixon . . . Grocery stores advertise 10-pound bags of sugar, 55 cents; three cans soup 25 cents; one-half pound large shelled pecans, 24 cents; one pound English Walnuts, 17 cents.

**10 YEARS AGO**  
Chester Carsten, 38, northeast Holt county farmer, died about 10 a.m. November 15 in a corn-picker accident . . . More than 100 persons are expected at the banquet recognizing present and past members of the Holt county soil conservation district board of directors November 27 . . . Funeral services for Elvin H. Coker, 56, were held Saturday at the Methodist church here . . . Workmen are in the home stretch on the new half-million dollar St. Anthony's hospital here . . . Miss Betty Jane Williamson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Williamson, and Billie Gene Marcellus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Marcellus, were united in marriage November 18 at the Methodist church.

**5 YEARS AGO**  
Charles Prussa, 83, a resident of the Atkinson community more than 54 years died November 16 . . . Miss Laurine Schmitz, 16, of O'Neill was chosen "queen bee" of the Nebraska Honey Producers association meeting last week in Lincoln . . . Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Manske have purchased the Orchard News . . . Mrs. Eunice Gallagher, 60, died unexpectedly Sunday at her home . . . Mrs. Alice Axtell, Stuart, will celebrate her 105th birthday November 25 . . . Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Carter will observe their 60th wedding anniversary November 25 . . .

## The Long Ago At Chambers

**50 YEARS AGO**  
Gilbert A. Eldredge will present a widely varied artistic and popular repertoire of costumed interpretations of high order at a program in the Chambers Band Hall December 1 . . . Mr. Tange-man had a load of dressed poultry on the Chambers market yesterday . . . E. F. Porter has a force of men working on Charles Robertson's new house in Chambers . . . The ladies of Chambers will give a social at the Band Hall Friday evening for the Band boys . . . Shucking corn, hauling hay and fixing for winter appears to be the order of the day around here . . .

**25 YEARS AGO**  
The Greenstreet store advertises two pounds dates at 23 cents, package of mince meat at nine cents, pound of walnuts at 23 cents and two cans of sweet potatoes at 27 cents for the Thanksgiving dinner . . . Mr. and Mrs. L. D. Clemens were called to Ewing Saturday by the serious illness of her mother, Mrs. Alex Napier . . . The Golden Gate will present "Rhythm on the Range," a musical western with Bing Crosby, Frances Farmer and Bob Burns this weekend . . .

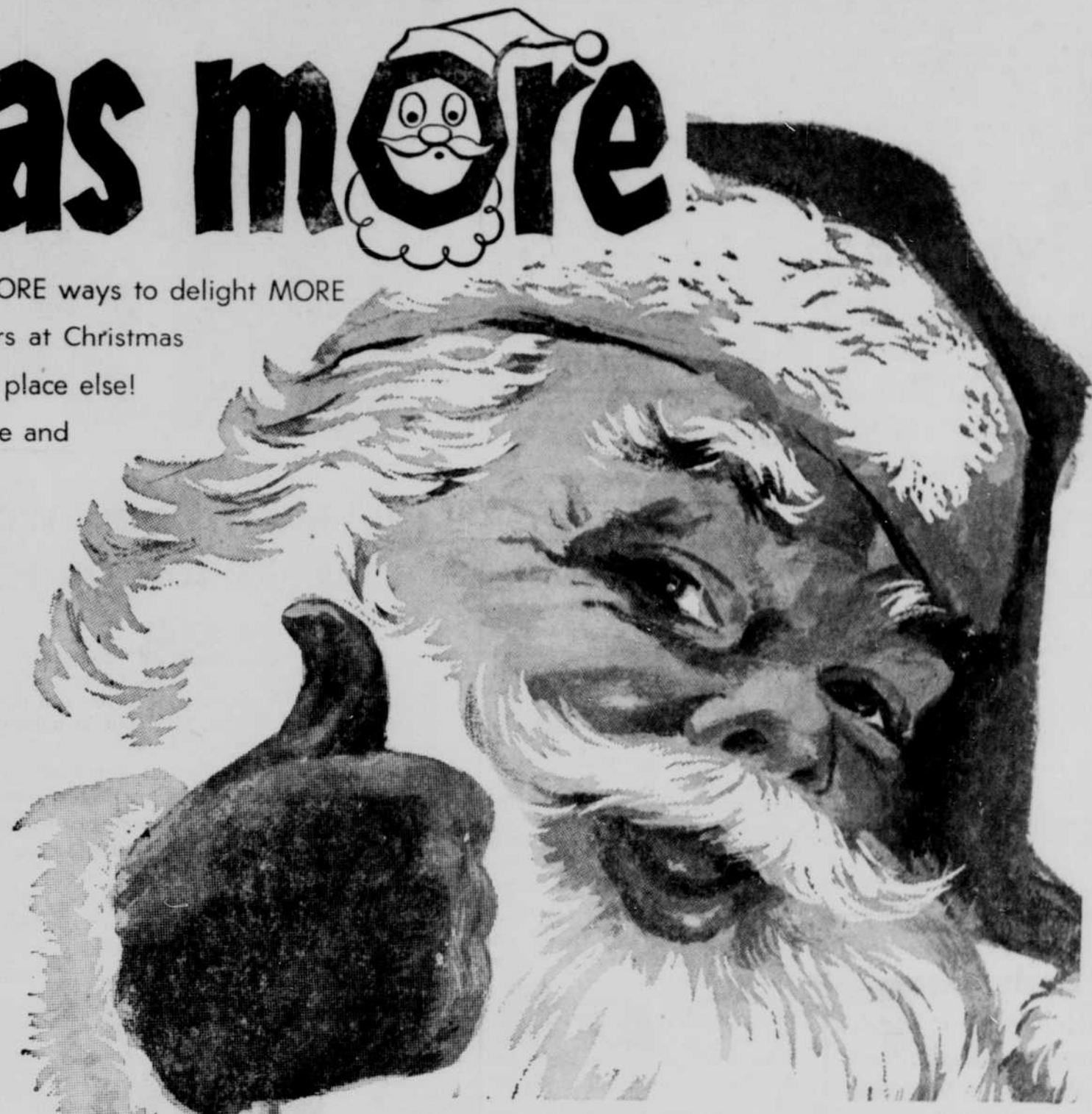
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Editorial

## Are You Described Here?

Between Monday morning and Friday noon last week three shoplifters were apprehended in O'Neill. How many others went undetected can be only a matter of conjecture.

It is indeed a sad commentary on the honesty of our citizens when shoplifting becomes so prevalent that three can be detected within such a short time.

Strangely enough, many of these shoplifters operate on a double morality standard. Persons who wouldn't be a week late paying their bills will steal from a store. Persons who attend church regularly, act and conduct themselves in the most proper manner can be shoplifters.

The cost of shoplifting to the average retail business has assumed tremendous proportions. Store owners and managers are increasing their guard against pilfering and are assuming a get-tough attitude to protect themselves.

One local store estimates that its shoplifting losses run nearly \$2,000 per year.

Many organizations publish tips to store personnel for use in detecting shoplifters . . . but many clerks are untrained in their use and the job is made increasingly difficult by the fact that the list of tips includes many shopping characteristics of honest shoppers.

Go through the list and see how many times you find yourself described.

One can't blame merchants when they get tough with shoplifters. Even though the items taken may have only a small retail value, the total at the end of the year is staggering.

It has been a common practice in most small towns such as O'Neill to release shoplifters with an admonishment. However, the inveterate shoplifter soon realizes that this punishment is usually kept a secret and he usually can continue his operations in another store.

The stigma of punishment in court, though, is not soon forgotten. Besides the cost of the fine, the publicity resulting from conviction is a lasting punishment that is reflected on the shoplifter and his family for years.

Honest shoppers can make mistakes and forget to pay for merchandise especially when they carry merchandise from self-serve stores around in their

hands. It behooves everyone to use baskets or shopping carts provided by such stores, no matter how small the purchase.

Merchants will be getting tougher, too, and they should exercise great care in accusing a person of shoplifting.

Now, as a refresher to shopper and merchant alike, here is a list of tips for detecting shoplifters:

1. Fast shoppers should be watched closely.
2. Very slow shoppers with roving eyes. Watch action of hands.
3. Women with large purses should be watched especially close.
4. Women wearing big flowing coats.
5. Watch for professional booster boxes (regularly wrapped packages with disguised openings).
6. Persons under the influence of liquor are especially courageous in brazen attempts at shoplifting.
7. Men in overalls or other loose-fitting work clothing.
8. A too-friendly person many times uses confidence to hide his true intentions.
9. Very early or late shoppers often-times take advantage of sales personnel preparing to either open or close the store.
10. Elderly couples should be watched if they separate.
11. Persons who unfolds an empty bag or shopping bag.
12. Watch for extra clothing during rainy or cold weather. Keep a close watch on umbrellas as well as people wearing coats on warm days.
13. People who continually whistle do so, many times, in order to maintain courage enough to shoplift.
14. Watch for juveniles.
15. Watch the person who juggles an item in one hand. His other hand may be at work. This especially is true if such a person is hovering or stooping over a counter containing small items having high pilferage rate.
16. Persons who appear nervous, many times puffing cigarettes.
17. A wife and husband who separate in the same general vicinity. Numerous cases have shown the husband does not know his wife is shoplifting.



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