

Prairieland Talk

# "From Lumberman to Banker"

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

Ed F. Gallagher came to O'Neill from a southern Wisconsin-Northern Illinois community, started the Galena Lumber Company with Tom Birmingham an associate, their place of business being on what is now North



Romain Saunders

Third street a block north of the K. C. hall and across the street to the west, where now stands a modern residence. The lumber yard was moved down near the railroad, later moved to Fourth and Everett streets and passed into other hands. Mr. Gallagher disposed of his lumber business and became a banker, heading up the First National Bank and placed his desk and chair by a south window where he could keep an eye on the street doings as he served as Mayor of O'Neill and had the rough necks stowed away. His capable son Edward Mann Gallagher now heads the banking business formerly his father's. He gets the name Mann from his charming mother who was one of the Mann family, her brother John the town's leading merchant, and her brother Joe the last of the family to run things at the Galena Lumber Yard, after the passing of Mrs. Gallagher's brother-in-law, Clyde King, who in the early 1890's was the brilliant editor and writer of The Frontier. Edward Mann Gallagher, through whom the family name survives, knows how to manage the banking business, and how to give Prairieland Talker a smile, a cheering word and cordial hand clasp when I get up to O'Neill.

Friends—their memory my treasured heritage, in western states, in eastern states, in southern states, those who had once been part of the O'Neill community and friends still here, many remembered this superannated hasbeen with birthday and Christmas cheering greetings for which I thank them but do not write it to them only through Prairieland Talk. And my young friend Trudy out there in the Eagle creek country remembers me again with a cheering note that touches the heart. Now we launch forth on another New Year and may the days and months ahead bring you all peace and happiness is my wish and my prayer.

Cold winter days came earlier than usual, which may indicate a soon coming January thaw. I look out of my window this morning and there it lays the blanket of snow, just 10 below and in here the furnace pours forth the welcome warmth. And we recall again that "April showers will bring May flowers."

Take out a feed for the birds when you go out after your herds. And a bone with a bit of meat for the coyotes to eat. So creatures out on Prairieland live through the winter from your generous hand.

Editorial

## Christmas... A Time For Giving

It's a pity we can't enjoy Christmas without worrying about neglecting the true meaning of the season.

Everything you read or hear concerning the subject tells a sad story of how Christmas has become too commercialized, how it no longer represents the birth of Christ.

We don't believe that it true. Parents are not fools. They don't overlook the fundamental teaching of religion in their homes at Christmas time simply because they delight their children's hearts with tales of Santa Claus and the fascinating picture of his reindeer and toy helpers.

Instead the children are brought up with the belief that Christmas is the time of giving and isn't that basis of religion—give your love, your heart, your help, your respect, your sympathy?

Children are on the receiving end but even then they, too, have placed some little gift under the tree for members of the family and as they become older they, in turn, gladden the lives of their families by giving gifts.

Too commercialized? Why? You don't see people downtown at Christmas time buying for themselves. It's always for someone else. It's the one time of the year when their minds are filled with what they can do or give that will make someone else happy. The rest of the year, with the ex-

ception of some of the "commercialized" holidays, such as Valentine Day, Father's Day, Mother's Day or birthdays, a person buys strictly for himself or home essentials.

There is nothing in this world that makes a person feel better than giving. Because most people have done just that at Christmas they feel good and what better way to start the New Year than with such a spirit.

No, Christmas doesn't fail in these modern times. It's the remainder of the year when life becomes too commercialized and when families forget religion. It takes catastrophe, death and misfortune then to make one realize how short life really is and only then do people once again rally and give of themselves, time, sympathy, love or financial aid.

If only Christmas could remain in our hearts a long, long time.

## Frontiers Ago

### 50 YEARS AGO

Floyd Wolfe was in from the Dorsey neighborhood last Wednesday to make final proof upon a quarter section of Holt county land. John Mullen, Ed Gallagher and Hugh Birmingham, who are attending the State University, came home the latter part of the week to spend Christmas vacation. Bob Hanley, who has been one of the star members of the Creighton football team the past two seasons, came up from Omaha to spend Christmas holiday here at the home of his mother east of town. On Christmas morning at the beautiful home of the brides' parents, Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Snyder, occurred the wedding of their daughter, Mabel May, to George R. Morrison of Manitow, Colo.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Large loads of hay are moving out of Holt county about every day. Robert Gray died at his home in Page Tuesday morning at age of 89 years. Old iron that has accumulated for years on all farms has become valuable again and trucks are combing the country gathering up discarded wheels and castings for shipping east. Mmes. Ben Grady, H. J. Hammond, P. C. Donohoe and Ira Moss entertained 48 ladies at bridge at the Golden Hotel Tuesday evening. J. P. Mann entertained a group of men at his home Tuesday evening at a 7 o'clock dinner and cards until 12. County pension warrants are available this week at the clerk's office. Bruce Rummel has been transferred to Crookston, Minn. with the Inter-state Power company.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Interior decorators Saturday completed a \$5,800 project at St. Patrick's Catholic church; life-size murals are freehand work of Wolfgang Wittich, a native of Germany. Mrs. Elias L. Clark died December 23 at her home, survived by 86 descendants. Dr. Nadine Coyne, Philadelphia, Pa., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh E. Coyne, is third member of family to have European tour. Corporal Thomas Troshynski, son of Mr. and Mrs. August Troshynski, Atkinson, is killed December 19 when he bailed out of a burning plane in Texas. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clyde celebrate 45th wedding anniversary December 24.

### 5 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. John Kenny Atkinson, celebrate their 56th wedding anniversary December 24 with a quiet observance at their residence; Hyge spent a half-century in Holt county. The postoffice department has ordered the offices at Star and Dorsey, both in Northwestern Holt county, to be closed effective February 8. James Batenhorst, 28, Stuart farmer is fatally hurt when run over by underslung. Arthur Givens, Stuart, is Holt county chairman for polio drive. Harry White will retire after 72 years on ranch. Miss Hazel Marie Johnson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Johnson, Dorsey, and Bruce T. McElhaney, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted McElhaney, O'Neill, exchange vows December 23.

## The Long Ago At Chambers

### 50 YEARS AGO

Christmas Day the three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Good of Martha, died at her home. The dance last Monday evening was a splendid affair, there was a large attendance and everyone was well pleased with the manner in which the Chambers dance orchestra conducts their social gatherings. The annual masquerade skate will be held at the Band hall Saturday evening and suitable presents will be awarded for the best lady and gentleman costumes. I. Baldwin is taking an inventory of his stock, and will retire from the mercantile business January 1; Messrs. John Bogart and Ray Linehart are his successors.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Norman Medcaif, while helping grind feed at Dan Perkins Tuesday afternoon got his hand into the cogs, badly crushing and mangling that member. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Farewell and Ramon took six o'clock dinner with her mother, Mrs. Rebecca Barsell Saturday evening and enjoyed listening to her new radio. Mrs. J. C. Baker was hostess to members of the Hi-Lo Bridge club at her home Thursday evening. The Chambers high school basketball team was defeated Friday 31-10 by the Stuart players on the Stuart court. Peter C. Kutschler died Christmas eve; he emigrated to Holt county in a covered wagon and homesteaded just south of Chambers.

## Celia News

Mrs. Merrill Anderson

The Celia Homemakers held a Christmas party Tuesday, Dec. 19, at the home of Mrs. Connie Frickel with 15 members attending. Mrs. Robert Hendricks was co-hostess. Roll call was answered with the group reading the Christmas Story. Mrs. Berl Beck

**Laurel, Nebraska**

# Farm Sale

As I have decided to quit farming, I will sell the following described personal property to the highest bidder at public auction at the farm located . . . from Wayne: 10 miles north and 1 1/2 miles west . . . from Concord: 3 miles west . . . from Laurel: 3 miles east on Hwy 15, 1 1/2 south and 1/2 west . . . ON

## FRIDAY, JAN. 5

Sale Starts at 11:30 a.m. Lunch on grounds.

**78 Head of Livestock 78**  
**Good Line of Farm Machinery**  
**Feed and Grain**  
**Miscellaneous Items**  
**Some Buildings**  
**Poultry and Equipment**  
**Some Household Goods**

TERMS: CASH. No property removed until settled for.

**VERNEAL PETERSON, Owner**  
Oscar Koester and Ivan Nixon, Auctioneers  
Security National Bank, Laurel, Clerk

read the "Miracle of Christmas." A skit was presented by Mrs. Robert Hendricks and Mrs. Hans Lauridsen, directed by Mrs. Mark Hendricks. A shut-in was chosen. Club will meet in January at the home of Mrs. Helen Beck in Atkinson. Mrs. Milton McKathnie will be co-hostess. New officers will take over their duties. Mrs. Robert Hendricks is the new president.

The young people of the Wesleyan Methodist church gave a Christmas program Wednesday evening. Bruce Hoffman, Reece Kan., arrived Thursday to spend the Christmas holiday at the Leonard Chaffin home.

The Rev. and Mrs. E. Blain and sons left Sunday afternoon for Rapid City, S. D., to spend the Christmas holiday with Mrs. Blain's mother, Mrs. John West.

Phyllis Lewis and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hendricks and family left Friday to spend the holidays with relatives in Kansas. Miss Lewis will visit her parents at Langford and the Hendricks family will visit Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Ernst, Mr. and Mrs. Leon Hendricks and Mr. and Mrs. John Ernst.

Charles Chaffin attended initiation of the freshmen members of the FFA of the Atkinson unit. Charles, who is vice president, was one of the speakers for the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meyer Jr. and Dickie spent the Christmas weekend at the home of Mrs. Meyer's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Novak at Pender.

Mr. and Mrs. Omer Poynts are taking care of chores for Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hendricks and family while they are vacationing in Kansas. Mrs. Poynts spent Saturday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Mark Hendricks, Mr. and Mrs. Hendricks, Mr. and Mrs. Poynts and Mr. and Mrs. Richard Klingler were supper guests Thursday evening at the Robert Hendricks home.

Mrs. Emil Colfaek and pupils had a Christmas program at school Thursday afternoon. Guests attending were the Rev. and Mrs. Elmore Blain and sons, and Mrs. Richard Klingler.

Sunday dinner guests at the Jim Dobias home were Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Dobias and family, Mr. and Mrs. Norbert Dobias, and family, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Deermier and Karla and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Dobias and family, Papillon. Guests Christmas Day at the

home of Mr. and Mrs. Herman Meyer sr. were the Rev. and Mrs. Ivan Meyer and family and Beverly Meyer, Wayne; Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Dobias and family and Kenneth Meyer, North Platte and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Neiman, Linda, Loraine and Jimmy, Wakefield.

Supper guests Saturday at the Merrill Anderson home were Mr. and Mrs. Clair Anderson, Long Pine, and Mr. and Mrs. Merylin Anderson, Debra and Nancy, O'Neill.

Mr. and Mrs. George Woolstrum, Kearney, and Paul Adams, Vermillion, S. D., spent the Christmas holiday at the David Adams home.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Miller, Omaha, spent the Christmas weekend at the David Rahn home.

## "The EDITOR"

It's a sure sign you're showing your age when "Wine, women and song" turn to "Metrical, the same old gal and Sing Along with Mitch".

Does anyone still have a picture of Uncle Sam? We mean one of those stern, lean looking pictures that depict him as being a leader and protector of our country. When Uncle Sam used to lean out of the recruiting posters and beckon to the nation's young men we knew instinctively that this was a picture of a man who was going to have a winning team. Here was a man who would have his team playing on the opponent's side of the field and come hell or high water would not stop short of the goal line.

Uncle Sam's latest pictures show that he is rapidly becoming a senile old gent who has mellowed greatly during the last hectic years. His motto has changed from "54-40 or fight" to "54-40 or as close to it as we can get." It's no longer "don't fire until you see the whites of their eyes," — it's now "don't fire until we negotiate."



Cartoonists have reduced Uncle Sam to a daddering old gent, overburdened with worries, and grown paunchy and panchy. They have taken away the big stick and replaced it with a big sack full of dollars with which to buy friendship from his enemies. Smokey The Bear now instills more patriotism in our youngsters than Uncle Sam does.

Maybe we're being nostalgic but if you have a picture of the original Uncle Sam we'd like to have it. It would make a dandy conversation piece to decorate the wall of a fallout shelter.

Speaking of fallout shelters we can't help but wonder about the sales pitch they're using to sell them. In one breath the salesman tells you that you never know when you may need it and the next minute he's encouraging you to sign up for the 36 month easy payment plan. We've never known a finance company to go out on a limb yet, so it's a pretty good indication that we're not going to need a fallout shelter for the next three years.

## NEW YEARS EVE Party

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