

Prairieland Talk

"O'Neill's Son -- A Drug Clerk"

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

Where my good friend, P. C. Donohoe now has his office a door or two north of the First National Bank entrance in the mid 1880's was P. C. Corigan's drug store. Johnnie O'Neill the drug clerk, he a polished young gent and a son of the General, lived with his mother and sisters in their home, a four-room shack across the street north of the old Methodist church. Corigan later moved his drug store two doors west of the bank, sold out to Picketsley and Hanley who went broke at the drug business, and the last I knew of poor Tim Hanley he was trying to get orders for "tailor made" men's suits, went to his grave a beggar and rests now under the sod. Two drug stores side by side west of the bank in other days. Now but one where the John Mann store was serving the public before the turn of the century.



Romaine Saunders

To the northeast is Dorsey, a community of patriots for about as many years as there has been a county of Holt. The Frontier has news from Dorsey weekly. Doubtless some in that historic community can recall the days and pioneer events of the time of Back Berry, Mose Elliott and even the Kid Wade tragedy away to the west. And in southwest Holt there is still a community of worthy citizens we know as Amelia. Some of the pioneer patriots are gone from the Amelia scene, such as Rhoady Adams and Will Riley, but Harry White still steps about on the sod he centered over as a kid 80 years ago. Dorsey—a good community of loyal citizens; long may it survive. Amelia—Flowing well water and the homes of honest and industrious citizens. So may it, also, survive and thrive.

Thousands homeless and many dead following hither to unknown storms and floods in central Europe. And much rain here—the old earth washed up.

The wind raged that day and O'Neill's only three story building on south Fourth street, the Evans-Jotter Hotel was wiped out by wind and fire. The next to go by fire was the Checkered Livery Barn and the Millard building at Fifth and Douglas streets. Other fires from time to time and then one more great blaze that burned the Biglin and Frontier buildings. But before all these, fire on the hill wiped out the building that was the start of the now great Saint Mary's Academy.

Neither flowery prose nor honeyed lines of rhyme can polish evil deeds or excuse a crime. But "where sin abounds grace doth much more abound."

Editorial

The Real Tax Test
Pierce County Leader

A race for the governor's office of Nebraska is in the offing . . . that plus the races for state legislature brings up one common subject:

Does Nebraska need . . . does Nebraska want a sales tax or a state income tax to replace the present state property tax?

Candidates will try to swing votes by using those mysterious words . . . "broader tax base."

There is only one real tax test and it is fair to ask yourself and to also ask any candidate to put his opinions to the tax test. Here is the test:

Will a sales tax, a state income tax or any other change in the Nebraska tax system result in

- (a) Lower taxes?
- (b) Same tax load?
- (c) Increased taxes?

When you meet someone advocating a new system of taxes just ask them the three "tax test" questions . . . will taxes be lower, be the same, or be higher?

Sometimes you have to keep after the "guy" you are talking to for quite a while before he will directly answer your question. Usually they will wander all over and around the question . . . but you keep at it and when you finally get a true answer . . . it's always the same answer.

Any new tax system adopted except the present system . . . and that includes in any variations of the present system, will result in higher taxes.

Why is this true? The amount of taxes collected is not determined by the method of collection . . . the amount of tax dollars needed is determined by the amount of tax dollars being spent at the state capital level of state government.

If taxes are to be less . . . then the state government must spend less . . . that's just common sense.

If taxes can be lowered under any new system, they could just as easily be lowered under the present system.

Think is over . . . when they talk to you they may try to convince you a sales tax will let you off easier and make the "the other fellow" pay more . . . and the next day these same politicians will try to convince the "other fellow" his taxes will be less because you will pay more.

Where Paul Shanner has a furniture repair shop there stood in the 1880's a low frame building where a guy served lunches, making a specialty of pickled pigs feet. And a guy with a blacksmith business closed up shop once every day to come to Sam's joint and naw the bones of pickled pigs feet. Prairieland Talker did not join in the hog feast but there I stood stiff and stout with my belly full of saurkraut.

When George was broke, which was most every day, he knew where he could earn a two-bit piece. He came to our Frontier shop, took the blade out of our paper cutter and took to his home around the corner and put it to the grinding stone, brought it in and fastened it again to the cutter, got his 25 cents and then across to the corner where Bob stood behind the bar to serve him his drink. That was George Triggs, a good guy when we needed the cutter knife sharpened. How is it done now, Mr. Editor?

Mike Horiskey, Cowboy Birmingham on the corner across the street from where Mike holed up, Montana Jack, Billy McNicols, Frank and Billy Biglin—you see their smiling faces no more as you go about on the street of O'Neill. One by one friends and loved ones are taken by the hand of death, and all are marching that way. The ladies we had known, Mrs. Charley Hall, Alice Coykendahl, Tess Harington, Mrs. Evans, Mrs. Joe Horiskey. They too are gone from life's scenes on Prairieland. But shall we meet again walking the golden streets in that realm beyond this vale of tears?

The rain water of a day or two ago turned to ice and snow again placed a white blanket over the land. It has been a winter and may continue so during the month of March. Do not lay away your overcoats and mittens just yet. It was a day in March in 1908 Holt county was swept by a blizzard to remind us of the storm of 1888.

The many friends who had been sending me cheering word by letter have now no more to tell me. But my little 5 or 6 year old sweetheart in the home of her daddy and mama out at Los Angeles sent me a Valentine. Son nor Bobby writes no more but Doris still thinks of grandpa. Is there not one left in Holt county who still has a cheering word for the superannuated old Has Beens or shall they just sit these gloomy days and suck their thumbs. O, after more than 70 years a voter and taxpayer they know how to travel the highway of life or sit and look out the window at the falling rain and recall pioneer stories to write about.

Is he who rules on High your friend? If so, you need fear no enemy.

The trend is for more state taxes, and all sales tax plans, state income tax plans and any other plan is for one purpose and one purpose only . . . to raise more tax dollars.

So is your think a sales tax or state income tax is the answer to less taxes . . . just look a little deeper into the subject and try to discover what one state department . . . or what one state agency plans to do to reduce their present spending program.

The truth is evident . . . higher taxes is the goal of any new taxing system . . . so the choice is yours (1) stick by the present method of taxing and paying the present tax load, or (2) adopt some new method and pay more taxes! it's as simple as that and nothing can change the facts.

ALTOONA, PA., MIRROR: " . . . administration policy seems to come out as 'everyone ought to get a raise this year that corresponds to what we can afford without inflation. And everyone who thinks he is underpaid should demand a bigger raise than that.'"

"So the big drive to combat inflation by keeping costs and prices in check depends upon how many union members think they are getting all they are worth."

WINSLOW, ARIZ., MAIL: "The old philosopher who claims we would be a stronger nation if we went without a few more meals and enjoyed fewer luxuries, may have been wiser than the present generation of Americans seems to think."

WALLACE, IDAHO., MINES: "Foreign Aid—A Merry-Go-Round for free-wheeling spenders."

CRYSTAL LAKE, ILL., HERALD: "The growth of the United States has resulted from private enterprise and from the profit earned through trade and commerce. It has not come about from government business operations."

SARANAC, MICH., ADVERTISER: "If Communism is as great as the Russians would have us think, why don't they take down the iron curtain and put in a picture window?"

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

No. 1 hay reached \$13.50 per ton on the local market last week and the recent bad storm in the eastern part of the state promises to shove the price up a few notches. . . W. H. Shaughnessy and family left yesterday morning for their future home at Allan near which town Mr. Shaughnessy will farm the coming year. . . Several residents from O'Neill went down to Inman last Friday to hear Governor Aldrich speak. . . W. N. Coats of Stuart has announced his candidacy for state senator from this district. . . Born to Mr. and Mrs. George Coventry of Inman, a nine pound baby girl February 22.

25 YEARS AGO

Max W. Graver, Ewing, and Miss Hilda Gunter, Clearwater, were granted a marriage license in county court February 15. . . Prof. and Mrs. H. L. Beal are rejoicing over the arrival of a 7-pound daughter at their home on Wednesday morning. . . Michael A. O'Brien, well known in this city as a conductor on the Burlington between Sioux City and O'Neill, died at his home in Sioux City last Wednesday. . . Prices are up in heavy run of livestock at Atkinson sale ring. . . Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Burgess returned last Friday night from Chicago where they had spent the week attending the annual mid-winter meeting of the Chicago Dental Society.

10 YEARS AGO

Retirement of L. C. Walling, manager of the O'Neill District of Consumers, was announced this week, has had 45 years in public utilities. . . Funeral service held February 26 at Page for Mrs. Adaline Kelly, 70, who died February 24 at her home. . . John Eule, Ainsworth, John Berigan and Paul Moseman are members of the University of Nebraska band which will present a concert here March 12. . . Barbara Birmingham is named a princess in the 19th annual Mardi Gras festival at Duchesne college at Omaha where she is a senior. . . Todd Tomlinson, 50, former O'Neill resident, dies February 29 at Lynch. . . Holt county furnishes 10 inductees for service.

5 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. John Kee will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary March 10. . . Mr. and Mrs. Carl Boelter, longtime residents of Knox county, honored on 50th wedding anniversary February 24. . . Mrs. Ida Calkins, 67, dies February 24 at home of daughter in Crofton; burial at Ewing. . . Highway commission approves O'Neill-Emmet plan for federal road. . . Mr. and Mrs. Thomas E. Tikalsky celebrated their golden wedding anniversary February 24 at Verdigris. . . Miss Lorraine Simonson becomes bride of Donovan Joseph Becker in rites held here February 23. . . Robert Young and Carole Johnson are king and queen in OHS ceremony.



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The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

You ought to see the rattle-snake skin James Doherty has on display at "The Hub" which he captured while in Florida; it measures 7 ft. 6 in. long and one foot wide. . . Mr. Hubert L. Smith of Chambers and Miss Cordia Davis, formerly of Chambers and later of Grand Island, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony February 21 at the home of the bride's parents. . . Leap year seems to be bringing good results with Fred Ermer, Harry Putnam, Fred Smith, Hubert Smith and Glenn Smith setting up the cigars in the last two weeks. . . Miss Pearl Roberts of Joy is finishing the school in the Taggart Dist.

25 YEARS AGO

Patrick J. Redden, age 79 years died last Friday morning after a short illness of a heart attack. . . J. W. Walter closed a deal with the Travelers Insurance company whereby he became owner of the farm west of town the DeHart place. . . Mr. and Mrs. Frank Porter and family, Elaine Adams, Letha Cooke and Ralph and Bernard helped Mrs. Omar McCleanehan celebrate her birthday Sunday. . . Chambers high school team lost to O'Neill 42-17 in the Niobrara Valley Tournament last week. . . Twenty-two boys of Chambers high school have organized a rifle club and joined the National Rifle association.

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Atkinson News

Gene Ziskas Return Following Service

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Ziska and daughter returned to Atkinson last Friday to visit his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Ziska and son, Dennis. Gene has completed his service and the family plans to make their home in this area where he will be employed. Mrs. Ziska is the former Joan Palmer.

Gib Morgan returned Thursday from McAllen, Tex., where he has spent several weeks. Mr. and Mrs. Claude Johnson attended the Gay 90's Revue in Stuart Sunday afternoon. It was held at the Stuart auditorium and presented by the American Legion and Auxiliary of Stuart.

Mr. and Mrs. LeRoy McMullen, O'Neill, entertained the Sunday night Pitch club at their home last Sunday night. Mr. and Mrs. Owen Parkinson were also guests for the evening. Prizes were won by Mrs. Owen Parkinson, Emil Cofack, Mrs. Carl Schenzel and Owen Parkinson. The group adjourned at a late hour to meet with Mr. and Mrs. Claude Johnson for the next meeting.

Irven Parsons underwent surgery last Tuesday at the Methodist hospital in Omaha.

\$100.00 REWARD For proof leading to the arrest and conviction of the person, that stole the accessories from my Oldsmobile car, which was parked at the farm 2 miles southeast of Inman, known as the Ruther place. The hubcaps and radio whip are marked. We have some fingerprints of the thief. Notify Lester Spragg, Ewing, Nebr. or Leo Tomjack, Sheriff 43-44-45c

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Richardson visited his sister, Mrs. Besie Peterson, in Plainview last Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Henry, Neligh, visited last Wednesday with his brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Richardson.

Mrs. Carl Smith entertained at a birthday dinner last Sunday in honor of her husband, Carl. Present were Mr. and Mrs. William Morgan jr. and family, Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Pacha and Mr. and Mrs. Charles Shane and family.

Leaders from the local Extension clubs met at the home of Mrs. Leo Kramer Tuesday afternoon to get the lesson materials on "Window Treatment," which will be the next lesson to be given by the Extension office. Coffee and cookies were served by the hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. Rolland Kersch and family, Spencer, were Sunday dinner guests of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Embody and family.

Mrs. Fred Mack and Mrs. Vincil Kaplan went to Omaha Wednesday where they will visit with Capt. and Mrs. Norris Johnson and family and Mrs. Mack's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Stevens; also Mrs. Kaplan's granddaughter, Patricia Burger.

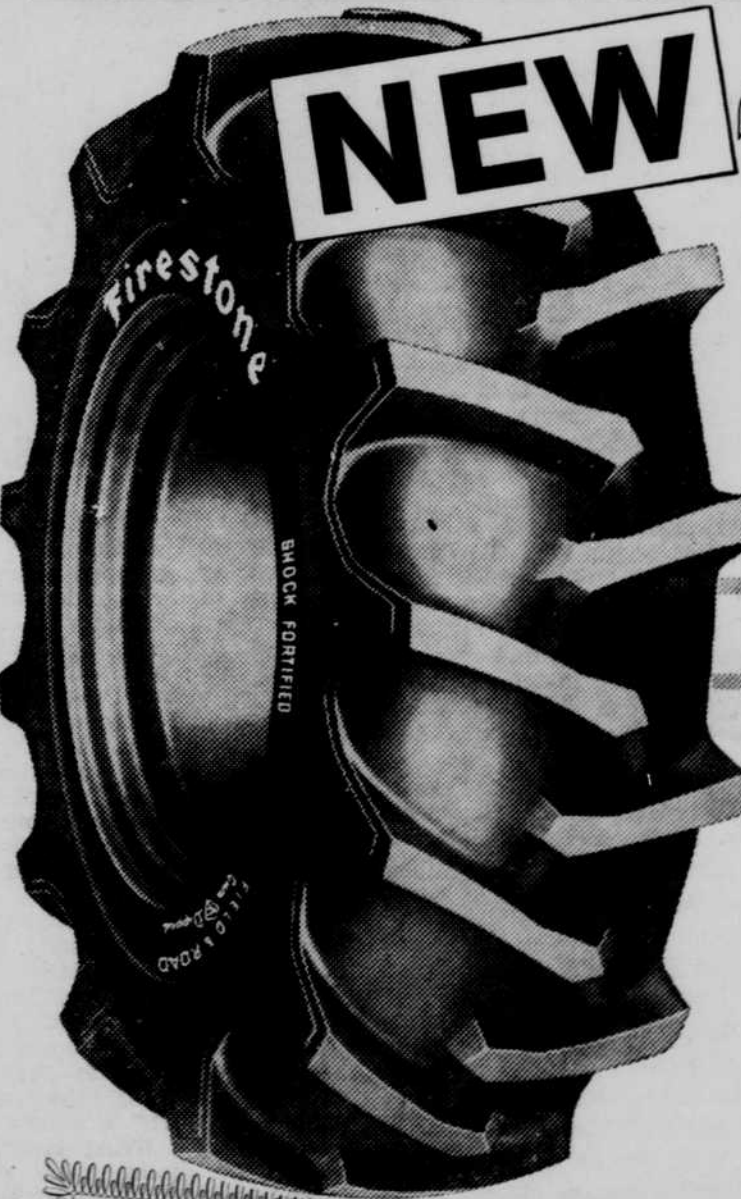
Mrs. Donald Mills and Mrs. Ted Manzer were in O'Neill last Thursday on business. Donald Roth, O'Neill, Saturday

joined his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roth, and they drove to Valentine to visit their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Roth and family. Other weekend guests at the Ivan Roth home were Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Bauer, Scottsbluff. Mrs. Bauer is the former Doretta Roth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Roth.

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