

Prairieland Talk

"Son Carries on Dad's Work"

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS, 411 South 51st St., Lincoln 6, Nebr.

James Davidson stood at the work bench in the tin shop at the rear of J. J. McCafferty's hardware store that stood where the bus depot now is, and Jim formed useful household things out of sheets of tin and made the hay burners of sheet iron we pioneers out on the Holt county prairies used to heat the abode with. Some time later Jim had a little "tin shop" of his own to the west of the hardware store at about the middle of the block. Then a much larger place of business to the east and across the street. Furnaces and water pipes had come into use and Jim and his sons set these up and got modern home life and church and business places thus equipped. Like other useful citizens of the O'Neill community James Davidson passed out of the picture, his lifeless form at rest up there to the northwest in the abode of the dead. And I understand that a son of Mr. and Mrs. James Davidson perpetuates the industrial traditions of his father. And he, too, will pass away on the march along the highway of life.



Romaine Saunders

A kindly note comes to me from the Rotherham household in the Ewing community, in which they tell of the pleasure they and others in that vicinity get out of reading Prairieland Talk. I am glad they do and trust I may yet be inspired to put a touch of literary gloss on things of pioneer life, from Ewing to Stuart, from Dorsey to Dustin, from Chambers to the Eagle creek country.

Smile and the crowd smiles with you. Weep and you weep alone. But why not sigh over wrongs I have done and not try to laugh them off.

The morning of the first day of the second week in March as I touch again typewriter keys to talk a bit to Prairieland friends. I look out of my window and there it lays, a blanket of snow, a cold morning cloudy and sunless. And I recall a March day in O'Neill in 1908 that a blizzard hit us that inspired Mrs. Ed F. Gallagher, mother of Edward Mann Gallagher, to tell us it was another January 12, '88 blizzard. Yes, it was but much milder, did not rage for hours as the '88 storm did. We are still enjoying or hating cold winter days, but the flowers will bloom again and the silken robe of green lay where today we see the snow. My son, Romaine, got aboard an airplane in a New England state city this morning, flew to Los Angeles, across the continent in half a day. Our ancestors made it in about half a year in their wagons, 20 miles in a day about the best they could do.

We travel life's highway from the day of our birth to the day of our death. How we have traveled life's highway determines what awaits us on the morning of the resurrection.

About where the Short Line depot was built on South 4th street was the home and work shop of a gun smith in the 1880's, his name at present gone from me, but probably Henry Grady could tell us. In early times you had to have a gun, maybe one strapped on each hip. Beside these a shot gun at home with which to go prairie chicken hunting. And at times one of those guns at a guy's hip blazed away at someone and dropped him to earth. A. H. Blinco had another gun shop at 6th and Douglas streets. Now no prairie chickens, no deer, no human enemy, so no guns, but a few bad words if you meet up with a one time friend.

Editorial

Amended Policy On Letters

The Frontier in the past has adhered to a policy of withholding, on request, the names of those who wrote letters to the editor.

We've changed that policy, and from now on every letter published will have to bear the name of the writer.

We are not at all convinced that anonymity in our Letters to the Editor column is a good thing. It tends to encourage irresponsible writing, and it leaves those who might be a target of such writing in the dark as to the source.

If the subject of an anonymous letter is a matter on which all or most of the public would agree, like a plug for the Boy Scouts or a pat on the back for church support, the letter might just as well carry the name of the one who penned it. And if the subject is controversial, like the current school issue in O'Neill, the one who holds an opinion should be willing to stand behind it with his name.

We want letters to the editor, and the more we get the happier we are because letters make good reading. But we want names on the bottom of those letters, and from here on out we'll include the writer's actual name with each letter we print.

Since we are responsible for the views set forth in our editorial department as well as the contents of the rest of the paper we do not feel that it is asking too much to ask contributors to the Letters to the Editor column to share part of the responsibility for their views by signing their own name to their letters.

SANTA PAULA, CALIF., CHRONICLE: "President Kennedy, in voicing his disapproval of the provisions for a 25-hour work week written into a contract by an eastern electrical labor union, echoed the feelings of all who have the nation's future at heart. As he indicated, anything that tends to lessen our productivity cannot serve the best interests of the country."

SPRING VALLEY, N. Y., LEADER: "The common law of business balance prohibits paying a little and getting a lot—it can't be done. Passage of the proposed Federal Aid to Education will provide a law that does not prohibit paying a lot and getting a little."

FARMINGDALE, N. J., HOWELL BOOSTER: "The Communists tell the Russian people that America is the worst place in the world, that half of us are starving to death—in the very next breath they are bragging that in the next couple of years they will catch up with our standard of living."

World's Fair. Our noted city to the far northwest, Seattle, Wash., has it this time. Buffalo Bill's outfit, a "Wild West" humpty-dumpty, was at a like affair in Chicago back in the 90's. Nebraska cowboys got up a horse race from Chadron to Chicago, the race won by Rattle Snake Pete riding a tuckskin bronco. Maybe some of our filling station boys could grasp the steering wheel and head for the X 62 World's Fair in an automobile race. Mr. and Mrs. Dave Segelman would give them the glad hand as they pulled to a stop in Seattle.

Take it easy today. Tomorrow you may have to go to work sawing wood or shoveling snow.

Mr. Bush, a dairyman who brings the bottles of milk to my daughter's door, informs me he has a brother who a few years ago was the Atkinson school head. He is now in Chicago in church work looking after the business affairs of a district of the Methodist church.

In our Capital City you can get it in a bottle, but not by the drink over the bar as Bob Marsh served it to Squire Slattery, I. R. Smith, and many others. But Lincoln citizens will vote on it next election day, drink by the glass or just a bottle full of the stuff that has put up several million alcoholics in our fair land. A bottle full or a cup full, it does the job just the same.

Frontier readers will be interested in the following letter from a former Nebraska citizen now in California:

Temple City, California  
March 7, 1962

Mr. R. Saunders,  
Dear Mr. Saunders:  
Just a note to tell you again that I enjoy your Prairieland Talks in the O'Neill paper. It's the first thing I read.

You don't know me, and me not you, but it seems like I know you from your writings. I am one of the old timers in that sandhill country too. I came from Denmark in 1911 and landed in Valentine on a ranch and was there for a few years. Went to school in Lincoln for 2 years, but during World War I I quit school and went back to Valentine. I landed in Butte, Nebr. 1920 and was there all the time up till 3 years ago when I retired and came out here. I am, like you in Lincoln, homesick for the wide open spaces. I don't like it here though the climate is perfect for people past 40. I am 72 and I think a bit younger than you. I like to raise flowers and gardens, and this is near like paradise for that, but there are too many people, and we don't know any of them. We have 2 sons who live here, and two grandsons who we get lots of pleasure out of but we miss the Nebraska friends. We also miss the cold and the wind and the snows and all the other things unpleasant but it was home, and always will be.

I don't suppose we will ever go back. We have no people back there, and we sold all our property so there is nothing to go back for.

You are having some bad weather in Lincoln, so I see on TV and the Norfolk paper. We have had an awful lot of rain here this year. Much more than usual.

By the way, I use to buy cream for the Beatrice Creamery there in Lincoln. Had a very nice business, but the big cans got too heavy. I wish I was back there again.

Hope this will find you real chipper, and that you will keep on writing to the paper for a long time.

Your unknown friend,  
N. C. Andersen

Snow vs. Lazy Youngsters

Several hundred sets of parents in our home town are missing a wonderful opportunity to teach their sons a few facts of life by allowing the lazy youngsters to sit on their rears while the snow shovel remains undisturbed in the corner of the garage.

It not only is strange that so many families with grown men and husky boys allow sidewalks to go unscrapped, but it also is a strong sign of unneighborliness and poor citizenship. This is particularly true with those selfish souls who somehow work up enough effort to clear a narrow path out to their own cars, but who leave the heavy snow on the main sidewalks where all passersby slip and stumble, get their shoes wet and sometimes take serious falls.

Hundreds of snowy walks were cleared today by widows and older people, not for their own safety so much, but in a desire to be good citizens and to provide better walking conditions for others. When older men and women can do this it is difficult to understand why so many young men, and so many dear little fellows of tender high school and college age, will sit on their duffs, too lazy to get outside and do a little beneficial work.

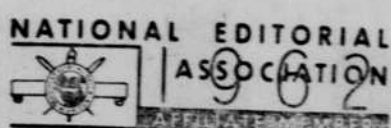
Snow storms help to reveal that America needs a little less tax-supported organized play and considerably more work for boys and young men.—Lawrence (Kan.) Journal-World.



BRUCE J. REHBERG, Editor  
BILL RICHARDSON, Publisher

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Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

Leo Mullen went down to Columbus last Sunday to attend an initiation of the K. C. Lodge. . . Marriage licenses were issued Wednesday by County Judge Carlson to Eror Bengtson, Page, and Orinda Ames, Orchard; also Bert E. Harding, O'Neill, and Esther O. Johnson, Joy. . . Pat Shea, who is holding down a homestead near Buffalo, S. D., came down the latter part of last week to spend two months here.

25 YEARS AGO

Bill Hammond Jr., a resident of O'Neill will become an editorial worker on one of Southern California's leading community newspapers in the near future. . . Water pipe leak floods three offices in new courthouse building. . . At a meeting Tuesday night the City Council voted against putting up the swimming pool bond issue before the people at city election. . . W. E. Meals, a former O'Neill resident, is in New York City arranging the purchase of equipment for mine development to be carried out by the company he represents in South Africa. . . Bernard Kennedy receives bruises and cuts when two wheels of a hay wagon passes over him.

10 YEARS AGO

Hunt for unknown assassin of Police Chief Calkins continues by

authorities; memorial fund reaches \$2,500 mark. . . Mr. and Mrs. Ray Kurtz celebrate their golden wedding anniversary March 19 by open house at the home of their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Cooper in O'Neill. . . Mrs. L. L. Cosner, 81, a resident of Stuart for many years, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. D. B. Marcellus March 17. . . John Kersenbrock, former mayor of O'Neill and a petition candidate for the same office this year, has advised City Clerk O. D. French that he is withdrawing from the mayoralty race.

5 YEARS AGO

J. Q. Archer, 68, Ewing, dies March 15 at his home after suffering a stroke seven years ago. . . Lyle Heiss and Marilyn Terrell were crowned king and queen Wednesday evening at the Page high school athletic banquet. . . Colleen Terry O'Sullivan, Van Nuys, Calif., great granddaughter of Mrs. George Bowden, O'Neill and James Reed Dawson, Phoenix, Ariz., are married Sunday at Van Nuys. . . O'Neill junior Eagles are champions of Holt county grade school basketball tournament; Chambers takes runner-up position. . . Randy Curran and Patsy Davidson are crowned king and queen of the Irish fair at St. Mary's.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Gaius Wintermote, who are moving to Washington, were honored at a farewell party in the Ray Hoffman home. . . Announcement has been received of the marriage of Miss Norma Coppoc, formerly of the Martha community, and Mr. C. R. VerMaas, both of Lincoln. . . Mr. and Mrs. Herman Holcomb were honored March 10 when about 60 guests helped them celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. . . Virginia Lambert, Ewing, and Joe Wadsworth, Middle Branch, were married March 13 at the Presbyterian Manse in O'Neill; the Rev. H. D. Johnson performed the ceremony. . . A farewell social will be held Friday for Mr. and Mrs. Louie Neilson. . . Mrs. Walt Feihn entertained the Hi-Lo bridge club Thursday evening.

Deloit News

By Mrs. H. Reimer

From Last Week

The HEO club met Thursday at the Clarence Schmisser home. Since the leaders were unable to attend because of road conditions, no lesson was given. . . Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bartak and Christy called Wednesday on Mrs. Anna Savage whose birthday anniversary was Thursday. . . Mrs. Bill Gibbs and new daughter called at the L. L. Bartak home Friday. . . Sam Verhane, who has been staying at the Ewald Spahn home, is staying at the Anna Savage home in Ewing attending high

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Owing to the bad storm Wednesday several that were planning to move, changed their plans and stayed by the fire. . . Ben Hubbard was kicked by a horse last week which put him out of business for a few days but he was not seriously disabled. . . Miss Marie Alderson has been appointed instructor in the School of Commerce at Wesleyan

school, and spends weekends at Spahn's. . . Mrs. Louis Pofahl has been hospitalized in Neligh recently. . . Mrs. Alice Lodge is ill at the home of her daughter in Norfolk. . . Mary Jo Stearns, baby daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Stearns who was hospitalized in Neligh last week, was reported improved at this time. . . Charles Bartak, Cathy, Christy and Chuck called on Anna Savage Saturday. . . The Deloit pinocle club was postponed this month. . . Mrs. Gene Tomjack, California, who with her two children is staying at the R. M. Tomjacks,

made a trip to Neligh Tuesday with Mr. and Mrs. Earl Schindler. Many folks were unable to get to church Friday evening and Sunday morning due to storm conditions.

COMING THURSDAY!

Cut-Away Version of the New Model 4010 John Deere Tractor On Display 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. This is a tractor cut in half and shows all of the working parts in action.  
HARRY R. SMITH IMP.

NOTICE Butte Livestock Mkt.

No More Special Saturday Sales Combined Hog & Cattle Sales EACH WEDNESDAY All Sales Will Start at 12:30 P.M.

You may contact either Ed Thorin at O'Neill or Roy Kirwan of Butte See us for your farm Auctions Personal property and land sales. Extensive advertising program ED. THORIN, O'NEILL ROY KIRWAN, BUTTE Home Phone 723 Home Phone 5287 Office Phone 207 Office Phone 6451 ROY KIRWAN, Owner & Operator BUTTE LIVESTOCK MARKET Butte, Nebraska

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