

Prairieland Talk

"Main Street In The 1880's"

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

We turn back the pages of time to the 1880's and 1890's. On the south side of the street about the middle of the block between Fourth and Third was the abiding place of Judge Roberts and his wife, Mrs. Roberts in the hat and head adornment for ladies business. The Judge had served as county judge but had retired and did a bit of law practice. The only business place in that block east of the Judge's was a saloon which he was violently opposed to. To the west was the Gatz meat market with an ice house in the rear, and to keep things cool at home we would go to that ice house and get a block of ice that had been cut out of Hagerly's lake in mid-winter, no refrigerators those days. Next to the west was Hotel Evans, and a little beyond that Jim Campbell's public eating place always crowded at meal time. Then across Third street was Frank Campbell's place of business, wagons, plows, pumps and windmills. Frank Campbell had been postmaster. Next to the west was Mullen Brothers carpenter shop. And to end the picture along that street we come to the skating rink, dance hall and show and amusement center.



Romaine Saunders

It had been a warm windy day in the long ago. As shades of evening announced another day was done there gathered dark clouds in the northwest, and father and mother knew that a raging storm would soon blow across the open prairie. So they closed the windows and one door to our little home-stead house and went with sister and I to the "storm cave" where we could stretch out on the bedding laid there and spend the night in safety as the storm came and went, got out in the morning to find the house and barns still standing. A bit of pioneer life as the early ones saw it.

When a young lad "Chuck" Armstrong lived with his folks in the Goose Lake country of southeast Holt county. Early in the month of August this year Armstrong went the way of all mankind and rests now in the abode of the dead in one such place in our Capital City, having died at the ripe old age of 80 years. He had made his home in Lincoln for some years but cherished his memory of life by the waters of Goose Lake and to the end regarded the Goose Lake country the best on earth. When human history is at an end "Chuck" will have entered his Goose Lake land in a better world than this.

The sunlight glows out of the fair blue sky to light up city buildings stately grand and high. And out across green robed Prairieland we see the work of the Master Hand, calm and serene there it lays far from the crowded human haunts where flowers bloom, bird and animal life touches nature's scene. We see it again and rejoice to look again on nature's lovely scene.

He was just bachelor John to those who were acquainted with him. A friend of mine and I drove over one August day to see John on a matter of business. And there was Cowboy Bachelor John in his own orderly and well kept bachelor's abode making doughnuts, a dish of the freshly done ones on the table and Doughnut John told us to help ourselves, which we did and discovered that Bachelor John could cook and bake as well as sit on his horse and look after his herds grazing out on the open prairie.

What has been could be again. I wonder. On the streets of O'Neill, in the offices and places of business no more will they be seen that stirred up such a fuss over electing a few guys to office in Holt county. Politics is tame these days. Where are they that made election time a stirring event. They are no more. Doc Matthews, Jim Riggs, Dickson, Mike Harrington, Gus Doyle, Art Mullen, Dan Cronin and D. H. Cronin. Gone, all gone, but time goes on and calmly and smoothly a few patriots go to the court house from day to day and manage the county business and ready for the job again at next reelection. Yes, we had it hot and heavy at election time and just one Republican could always make it, the Honorable M. F. Kinkaid. And he had a close second in D. H. Cronin, a few times elected to the state legislature. And I see Dennie again as a young fellow standing with a group of lads and lassies, songbooks in hand, in the old Methodist church singing the songs of Zion. Dennie liked the girls and was a favored one with the ladies at election time.

The sun glows in golden glory another August morning. And we move another day along life's way; maybe help some fellow traveler lift the heavy burden and then sit down and rest.

I recently had a telephone visit with Mrs. Den Hunt, Nellie Cronin in O'Neill some years back on the scroll of time. Today we dial a number, say hello and have a visit — not a face to face meeting and no hand clasp. Nellie had not been well but was much better the day we visited and she thought she soon would visit friends and relatives in O'Neill.

Frontiers Ago

damaged by fire about 3 a.m. last Thursday. Mrs. Paul Woldneck entertained at a birthday anniversary party Sunday for her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Marion Woldneck and Mrs. Loyal Hull.

The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Carpenters are busy this week putting up a new grandstand at the race track, the old one was destroyed by a cyclone last spring. Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Downey and daughters, Mildred and Freda, left for an auto trip to Missouri. The WCTU will meet at Mrs. Naylor's August 21. A good attendance is desired. Big discount on all buggies, wagons and machinery — Neil Brennan adv. Miss Irene Biglin returned last Friday from Battle Creek where she has spent the week visiting friends.

25 YEARS AGO

The Biglin undertaking establishment is the owner of a new hearse. The old one had been in operation for the past ten years. Members of the Holt county's 39 4-H clubs are invited to exhibit and participate in contests at the Chambers Fair Sept. 7 to 10. 4-H achievement day set for August 28. The fire department was called to the Presbyterian parsonage last Monday to extinguish a small blaze. No damage was done. Quite a bunch of Indians were in the city Saturday morning on their way home to Winnebago reservation from Battle Creek where they attended a rodeo.

10 YEARS AGO

A proposed swimming pool for O'Neill was discussed August 13 at a meeting in the American Legion club. Mr. and Mrs. Elden Butterfield and family visited Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Speers in Verdigré. John Sullivan and John R. Gallagher went to Grand Island Monday evening to attend a democratic convention. Mrs. Dale French, Mrs. Larry Schaffer, Mrs. James Earley and Mrs. William Artus went to Sioux City August 6.

5 YEARS AGO

The 57th Holt county old settler's picnic was held Monday at the Elmer Devall grove and G. Mellor was the master of ceremonies. The Kitty Clover club met July 30 at the Barbara and Renee Spittler home. Myrt's cafe in West O'Neill was badly

25 YEARS AGO

Several farmers in this community are losing horses from an epidemic classed as "Sleeping Sickness". Notice — Chambers public schools will open Monday, August 30, 1937. Try Chambers Bread, "Once tasted never wasted". Adv. Mrs. Clara Newhouse spent the latter part of last week with Mrs. C. C. Jones. Miss Eula Halsey entertained a group of friends to ice cream and cake, Sunday night.

and Mrs. Clifford Nelson were Dr. and Mrs. Edward Nelson, Chadron. Mr. and Mrs. Chris Walker, Winner, S. D., and Mr. and Mrs. Vern Nelson and family. Elaine Walker returned home with her parents after spending a week with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Nelson.

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Goebel jr., Lincoln, were weekend guests of Mr. and Mrs. Andy Goebel sr. and family. Enroute home they drove to Petersburg where they left Sister Lumena. She will teach there the following term.

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Goebel sr., Linda and Patty, took Sister Fredella to Crofton Sunday where she will teach the following year. Mr. and Mrs. Dwaine Lockman attended the Kubart family reunion at the KC hall at Atkinson Sunday. About 125 relatives honored Mrs. James Kubart on her birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Campbell and family were Sunday dinner and evening lunch guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Ziska, Atkinson.

Mrs. Leona McRoberts and two granddaughters, Hastings, were Saturday afternoon visitors of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Steinhauer.

Andy Goebel, Donna and Richie, accompanied by Fred Goebel drove to Randolph Wednesday

where they picked up Sister Fredella and Sister Lumena who returned home with them for a few days visit with their father, Fred Goebel and brother, Andy, and other relatives.

Mrs. Frank Kalvelage, Elgin, Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Kalvelage and family, Cresco, Ia., were callers last week of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Batenhorst.

Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Seger and Mrs. Hattie Fox were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Seger and family, Newport. Sunday evening they attended a family gathering at the home of Mrs. Mable Fox.

Those attending the pre-nuptial dinner from Stuart Friday evening at the Town House for Lowell Seger and Miss Karen Bridge were Mr. and Mrs. Wilford Seger, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Seger and Mike, Newport, Larry Kramer, Mike Batenhorst and Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Taylor.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hamik jr., Colorado Springs, Colo., arrived Saturday to visit a few days with Mr. and Mrs. F. Dana Bigelow and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Hamik sr. and other friends and relatives.

The Frontier

Rain or shine, all it takes is a few turns of the dial to reach any store in town. No wonder busy housewives like to shop by phone... there are no parking worries, no baby-sitter fees. You can check on bargains, compare prices, order practically anything without leaving the house. It's another way your telephone... often taken for granted... helps you do more in a busy day.

NORTHWESTERN BELL Service First



Editorial

Twinkle, Twinkle, Telstar

The new communications satellite, which relays television, telephone and radio messages between continents, already has become one of the brightest stars in the private industry firmament.

It was conceived, designed, built and launched by the American Telephone and Telegraph Company — at no expense to the taxpayers. It is the first successful communications satellite. It is also smashing evidence of what private initiative, financed by private investments, can contribute to our national advancement and prestige.

If Telstar never delivers another message, its main one will be clear to one and all:

It is the initiative of private organizations and individuals which ultimately — in their own self interest — brings the world closer together.

Anything On How To Save Money?

Had trouble trapping bobcats lately? Want to know about the sounds Black Sea fish make?

Or how to control vagrant cats? The Tax Foundation, Inc. reports such information is yours for the buying — buying from the Government Printing Office which issues millions of pamphlets, leaflets and handbooks.

Expectations are that GPO will sell \$11.3 million worth of printed material in fiscal 1963 — and "earn" more than \$5½ million. But, notes the Foundation, the cost of paying those who research, write and edit many of these publications must be counted in before a "profit" is claimed.

GPO also sells such publications as: "Sending Gift Packages to Tunisia" or "Problems of Present-Day Poetry in Rumania". Sales price of govern-

ment material is set by law at cost plus 50 per cent. Some leaflets cost only five cents. More expensive is a Russian tome, entitled "Mists Serve Man". Price: \$8.10.

CUMBERLAND, MD., CITIZEN: "We have mortgaged the wealth and fruits of labor of our forebearers who worked so hard for themselves and our free way of life. Yes, we have mortgaged our wealth and our children's children's wealth and work. Now the question is, 'How long can one continue such a policy without bankruptcy and dire results?'"

THE FRONTIER

BILL RICHARDSON, Publisher
BRUCE J. REHBERG, Editor

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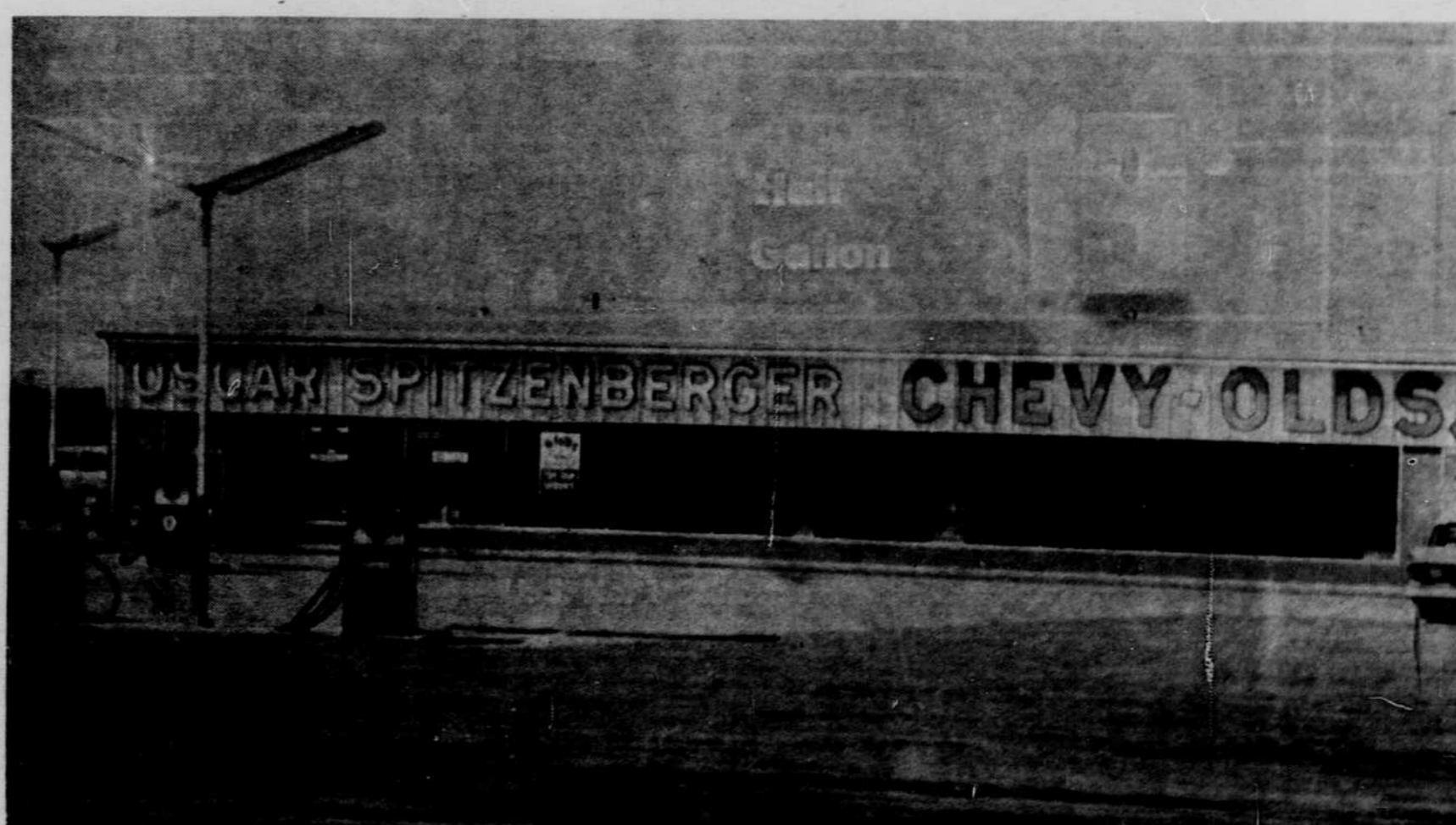
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