

The Best of . . .

"Prairieland Talk"

By ROMAIN SAUNDERS

Reprinted From May 20, 1948
 Women who pioneered on Holt county prairie-land with their men had courage. So have the women of a later generation, courage of a different sort. They no longer need to align the sights of a Winchester or brave the perils of frontier life or act the part of ministering angel to some helpless tenderfoot whom the wilderness had welled over-whelmed.



Romaine Saunders

It was early Spring in the year 1875. Mrs. John O'Connell held aside the flap of her tent and stepped out into the open. The vast was a white dot in the vast wilderness of the upper Elkhorn where the good town of Atkinson now takes care of the needs of a thrifty community.

Two starved, footsore, unshaven and disheveled men came stumbling crawling out of the northwest toward that tent. And Mrs. O'Connell, alone at the time, John having gone down the valley for supplies, watched the painful and uncertain approach of these strange figures. She had given food to a party of Indians the day before and ordered them to clear out. The Indians paid little heed to what his squaw might say, so she said nothing, but he had wholesome respect for a plucky white woman. So do most men.

Her visitors this day were two disillusioned gold seekers who had come from the Black Hill country, a restricted district under military rule. Gold seekers got in there at the risk of their wagons, horses and other possessions being taken from them and being sent to military prison for a short time. But gold seekers take risks. The two men, whose names have been lost in the fogs of the past, had walked and crawled the entire distance from the Black Hills to this lonely camp on the Elkhorn.

Mrs. O'Connell put hot coffee into them at the start and little by little revived them with substantial food. In recounting their experience to the pioneer women, they said they were at the point of dropping to earth and give up thought of surviving when a white speck in the distance arrested their attention and revived hope. Under this inspiration, they pushed on.

After a few days in camp the men moved on down the valley, and some years later the O'Connells heard from one of them who had given up the idea of prospecting for gold and had become a resident of Grand Island.

Nevada, Alaska, Hawaii - in the scope of Uncle Sam's possessions - are said to be the most promising fields for the young lady who would be pleased

to hear the wedding bells. Or maybe still greater opportunities in this respect in the Far East where unattached men from America are plentiful. And the government is in need of five thousand young women right now for jobs in Japan, the Philippines, and other eastern outposts at salaries ranging from \$2,700 to \$10,000 a year with travel expenses and inexpensive living. That a husband will be thrown in to boot is not exactly promised but chances along that line are hinct.

As of the date of this writing, the rampage of Nebraska university students has resulted in the forming of a committee of highbrows to make an "investigation" of the parking situation at Nebraska's classic halls of learning and football achievements.

"Against the background of blue May sky and the soaring capitol tower" began the story of a Lincoln reporter to his paper to inform the town patriots that 350 matrons had taken the pledge of reaffirmed loyalty to country, one of the features of this freedom week. Yes, the May sky was the usual blue, but we are wondering whether the "soaring capitol tower" was an expression inspired by exuberant patriotic thrill or the newspaper contributor had taken on something which put the capitol tower in a whirl.

The official count of the Republican primary vote gives Mr. Stassen 80,979; there were cast for the other six republican candidates a total of 98,111 ballots, Gov. Dewey receiving 64,242 of these and carried seven counties.

According to Mr. Truman, there are government records which are sacred to a chosen few and says he will veto any measure Congress passes which would bring these records into the open. The Congress is the people's representative and enacts all laws. But the idea has been growing among cabinet officers and heads of bureau that they can make laws independent of the Congress.

When workmen drop the tools and walk out on strike they have quit the job. If personal liberty means anything it means that other men who want work can take over. And they do so under the unionized stigma of "scab" or "rat". Great industries could settle strikes by saying "All right boys, you are locking the doors and going fishing. When you are ready to do to work let us know and we will open up."

Senator Wherry, something of the so-called isolationist himself, led the procession in the late lamented primary in a number of counties, Holt one such. And in the light of the senator's vote in the state the claims of the one-world dreamers that Nebraska has gone all out against isolation look pretty silly.

Frontiers Ago

50 YEARS AGO

Dr. J. P. Gilligan left Sunday morning for Omaha to attend a meeting of the Nebraska state medical association which is being held this week. Monday night's down pour of rain was the next thing to a cloud burst at O'Neill, the government rain gauge at the McGinnis creamery showing a fall of 3.83 inches of water. The McGinnis Creamery company has started a 24 hour electric service. This gives the town full night and day lighting service and is another step toward a greater O'Neill. D. H. Cronin left Sunday morning for Grand Island where he goes to attend the state convention of the United Workmen. S. J. Weekes made a business trip to Omaha the first of the week.

25 YEARS AGO

Madeline Marie Ullom, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Ullom, of this city, was awarded the Jefferson Alumnae medal and prize and the William Potter medal and prize at the Commencement exercises of the Jefferson Medical College Hospital school of Nurses in Philadelphia. Duke Kersensbrock suffered a severe gash in his forehead and left cheek Sunday evening when he ran into a barb wire while riding his bicycle. This issue of the Frontier is number 1 volume 59. For fifty eight years this paper has been published weekly in this city boosting the city of O'Neill and Holt county. Sunday afternoon May 15, Elmer Lorenz, O'Neill and Ruth Scott, Plainview were united in marriage.

10 YEARS AGO

Miss Marlene Waring was awarded 1953 O'Neill high school senior class valedictorian honors Tuesday evening in commencement exercises at the school auditorium. Salutatorian honors went to Lavonne Rieck. Patrick J. Boyle, former Riverside club member who was home on a 10-day furlough, left for Seattle Thursday. He was honored at a party, at the IOOF hall, Inman. St. Mary's seniors sneaked to Lake Okoboji, Ia., leaving at 4 a. m. last Thursday and returning late Saturday. About 220 friends signed the guest register when open-house was observed here in Page Wednesday, May 13 in honor of Dr. F. J. Bild. Doctor Bild has completed 50 years of medical practice.

5 YEARS AGO

The 5,700-acre Lakeview ranch, owned by John Q. and Jim Hosack, Wednesday sold at auction for \$22.50 per acre or \$129,600. Miss Cecelia Ann Arbuthnot has been announced as valedictorian of the class of 1958 at St. Mary's Academy, and Miss Jean Schenle is Salutatorian. Holt county voters went to the polls Tuesday in slightly greater number than two years ago. Chief interest centered in the republican balloting for district court and county assessor. H. D. Manson, O'Neill incumbent defeated Keith A. Abbott and William F. Welso, Atkinson incumbent out-distanced Opal Keating and L. G. Gillespie.

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The Long Ago At Chambers

50 YEARS AGO

Mr. Shearer went to O'Neill Monday after a new Ford car. He is staying there a few days learning how to operate it. Dr. Oxford reports the birth of a baby boy at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Clark Lewis. Asher Holcomb has the saw mill at his place this week sawing lumber from trees which he cut on his place, and with which he expects to build a fine large barn. Rev. Price closed a very successful series of meetings in the Chain Lake school house Wednesday night. Sam Anderson, Supt. of the David Cole Creamery Co. visited with his agent, at Chambers, Wednesday and decided to install a new cream testing apparatus in the near future.

25 YEARS AGO

This locality was visited by a tornado, about 5 o'clock, Tuesday evening, which did even more damage than the one of a few weeks ago. The "twister" which was accompanied by a heavy rain, and some hail struck first at the Theo Friedrich farm. From there it traveled east striking the Leslie Lieswals. From this farm the H. W. LaRue place was next and the Frank Urban Farm was the last place to be hit. Friday, the 13th of May was the 50th anniversary of the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. John J. Harley sr., Atkinson. The Commencement exercises held at the town hall, Friday night were attended by a large crowd who came out to honor the 19 seniors who made up the 1958 graduating class.

Pages Past

50 YEARS AGO

A new girl arrived at the home of Leslie Lamason on Saturday, April 19. O. L. West has five acres of potatoes (Early Ohio) planted and will plant 25 acres of prolific later. O. L. is a good authority on later culture. George D. Rich informs us that the Mineola post office has been discontinued, mail now going to Opportunity. Three inches of rainfall for this week, is not so dry as it might be. P. T. Stevens moved the first day of May to the building he recently bought and will fit up the back room for a cream station while he has his harness shop in the front. Leonard Heiss called at this office with a sample bushel of his fine Prolific potatoes. C. A. Townsend were at Plainview between trains Tuesday. Barney Stewart and wife went to Creighton Tuesday. Mrs. T. Lord visited relatives in Creighton Thursday. Doc Stewart will sell his belongings at auction Saturday afternoon and will leave this state on account of his wife's health. They will try the Pacific Coast country. Mrs. R. McBeth was a passenger to Bancroft Thursday where she will visit a few days, that vicinity being her old home.

40 YEARS AGO

John Hayne and P. A. Grass shipped cattle last Monday. John Hayne accompanied them to Sioux City. Evelyn Faulhaber of O'Neill, daughter of Mrs. C. A. Auten has been visiting in Page. Marie Vanslyke has opened the Page hotel for business. Mrs. George Roberge left on the morning train for her field work as deputy district for the Royal Neighbor Lodge. E. L. Darr and

wife of Denver, Colo. who are touring several states visited relatives and friends at Page. They are visiting his mother, Mrs. Darr and sister, Mrs. James Carson. Mrs. Darr will accompany them to Sioux Falls. "I can remember when music in air was broadcast from the wood shed Where is the station now?" Charles Cole and Miss Amelia Jensen were down on Steel Creek Sunday visiting the young lady's parents who have moved to the Truck Milling property. Raymond Sprague was in this neighborhood driving cattle to his father's ranch on the Niobrara.

Emmett

And Community

Dolores Tunander

Mrs. Leonard Dusatko, Mrs. Bernard Pongratz visited with Mrs. Jim Conway, Monday. Mr. and Mrs. Duane Pongratz, Dewey and Debbie spent Monday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Pongratz.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Donlin and family, Central City, spent the weekend at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Schauf, George, Duane and Joe Pongratz, Bob Givens, Lloyd Ritts and Clarence Ernest helped Bernard and Dick Pongratz with cattle, Friday.

Tuesday, Mrs. Elmer Schauf took some eighth graders to Atkinson high school. They were Bernard Schauf, Roy Fox, David Cole, Jim Newton, Gene Schon, Anita Schauf and Sandra Alder. Mr. and Mrs. Al Havranek and Jan, O'Neill, were Sunday dinner guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Fehring.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Wasson and family, Atkinson, were Friday night guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Marcellus. Mr. and Mrs. Al Havranek and Jan were Saturday afternoon guests at the home of Mrs. Barbara Dvorak, Atkinson.

Mrs. John Babi visited at the home of her mother, Mrs. Agnes Heeb, O'Neill, last Friday evening. Edgar Fischer and Ellen Frost were last Sunday guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Tunander.

Ernt Givens was a guest at the home of Joe Pongratz, Tuesday. Mr. and Mrs. Bob Hanus and family, Omaha, spent last weekend at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Winkler.

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Babi jr and family were last Sunday evening guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Babi sr.

Leisure Hour Pinocle club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Len Ullrich last Sunday evening. Prizes were won by Mrs. Charles Mlinar, Helen Beck, Leon Beck with Ralph Ries.

Mrs. Ralph Ries was traveling. Helen Beck was a guest. Next meeting will be May 19 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Orville Hitchcock.

Mrs. Elmer Schauf attended a pre-deanery meeting of Presidents at St. Mary's hall, O'Neill. Mrs. Jesse Wills, Mrs. Al Hav-

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ranek and Mrs. Bernard Pongratz attended.

Mrs. Elmer Schauf visited her mother, Mrs. Ruth Barnes, Monday. Her brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Barnes, are visiting from Alameda Calif. Jim is in the Navy.

Mrs. Bernard Pongratz, accompanied her sister, Mrs. Lyle Vequist, to get her daughter, Rita, from Mt. Marty college.

Victory Homemakers club met at the home of Dolores Tunander May 8 with a noon dinner. Co-hostesses were Mrs. Don Marcellus and Mrs. Ray Tunander. All members were present but one. Mrs. Charles Deerner and Annette Schauf were guests. Mrs. Ray Conway, reading leader, read several articles. Mrs. Ray Schauf led the group in singing "Oh This Day Oh Beautiful Mother". Special prize was won by Mrs. Charles Deerner and Guess What by Mrs. Joe Gokkie. Roll call was answered with our Pet Peeve.

Next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Donald Marcellus, June 12. Roll call will be our hobbies.

Mother's Day callers at the home of Mrs. Joe Ramold were Mr. and Mrs. Cyril Peter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Andy Ramold and family, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Ramold and family, all of O'Neill. Mr. and Mrs. George Ramold and family, Inman, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Timmerman and family, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Deerner and family, Mr. and Mrs. John Schauf and family and Mrs. Ray Tunander, Bob and Gene.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Marcellus and family were Wednesday night guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Marcellus, O'Neill.

Dolores Tunander attended a wedding at Valentine, Sunday, of Carren Fischer.

Mothers of School District 89 were honored with coffee and cookies, from the teacher and pupils of the school.

Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Rauterkus and family, O'Neill, visited at

the home of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Marcellus and family, Thursday night.

School District 89, the upper classroom, honored Jody Siebert and Roger Bonenberger on their birthdays, Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Donald Marcellus and family were Sunday dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. D. B. Marcellus, Stuart.

Jan Havranek, O'Neill, spent Thursday through Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Al Havranek.

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