

# THE FRONTIER

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## SOUTHWESTERN BREEZES

By Romaine Saunders

After the passing of thirty-eight years Kid Wade is still discussed, which illustrates the grip the memory this young romantic outlaw still has on public fancy. The accompanying story of his abduction and hanging I gave to Frontier readers in this column in 1937. Interest in that criminal yet heroic chapter of our history seems to live on, which is the excuse for reprinting it here. Few if any liberties have been taken with the historical background.—R.S.)

### KID WADE

Wednesday night, February 6, 1884, the Kid was hung to a F. E. & M. V. whistling post one-half mile east of Bassett. A coroner's jury empaneled in Brown county, of which Rock was then a part, said he came to his death by hanging at the hands of unknown individuals. Those who knew considered it a time when silence was golden.

After justice had laid an inexorable hand on Doc Middleton, the Kid was the recognized leader at the eastern end of a band of outlaws operating from the Black Hills to the Missouri. At the time of his apprehension young Wade—he was 22—was under indictment in Iowa, Nebraska, Dakota, Wyoming and Montana. Some distinction for a Holt county citizen. He had been schooled in the craft of a horse thief by the elder Wade, whose ranch on the Big Sandy nearly due north from Atkinson was a rendezvous for the outlaws. There were always provisions in abundance in the Wade cabins. Hams, sides of bacon, antelope meat and beef hung from rafters. The last I knew, people by the name of Younkun were on the old Wade place.

The operations of the Middleton band caused the settlers of the Niobrara valley to organize what was known as regulators or vigilantes. They were officered with captains and lieutenants. It was often suspected but seldom proved that some of these "regulators" were using the organization as a blind to cover up their misdeeds.

On the strength of the various indictments, as well as general principles, four Holt county citizens, Capt. C. C. Dodge, Lt. Peter Hansen, Charles Messenger and Michael Coleman, undertook the task of apprehending the Kid.

January 12, 1884, they swung in to their saddles, reining their horses eastward. Information had been received that the Kid was near LeMars, Iowa. On the evening of the 16 they arrived in LeMars. Here they learned that the object of their quest was at Mansfield, sixteen miles out. The morning of the 17th Messenger, not known to the outlaw, rode out to Mansfield and located Wade, with whom he negotiated the purchase of a horse. A forfeit was posted and Messenger informed Wade if he would accompany him into LeMars they would get the money from the bank for full payment. The Kid consented to this, not without some misgivings. On the way into LeMars he cast frequent searching glances at Messenger, who rode stocially on. At they were leaving their horses to the care of the livery barn attendant in LeMars the companions of Messenger quietly closed in from three sides and drew their guns—and the Kid, the terror of the Niobrara, was a prisoner.

After twenty-four hours in the saddle, the Kid in irons, they arrived in Yankton, S. D., the evening of January 18. He had agreed to accompany them without a requisition on the promise of the four that he should have a fair trial in Holt county. They remained two days in Yankton. Here they saw commercial possibilities with their prisoner. A hall was engaged and it was advertised that Kid Wade would give an exhibition of his skill with the six shooter—at 50 cents admission. He had the reputation of being the best that ever flashed an ivory-handled 45 in this territory. That he went through this performance in good faith without making a kill and his get-away clearly indicates his confidence in a square deal being given him, with no thought of the tragic end awaited. And looking back over the intervening years the retrospective forces the conclusion that the Kid, outlaw that he was, had high regard for his word of honor and a faith that was betrayed in

those qualities in others. At Yankton a second prisoner was taken, Joe Jordan, a brother-in-law of young Wade. It appears that Jordan was released upon the arrival in Holt county with the two prisoners. Thus far the activities of the regulators were clothed in the honored vestments of law and order.

On February 1 a kangaroo court was held at Back Berry's at Paddock. Delegations of Brown and Holt county vigilantes were present to "examine" the Kid. A tragedy was averted at this meeting by Mike Coleman relieving Henry Richardson of Brown county of his gun when he was in for shooting the Kid on the spot for telling him "you are as big a horse thief as I am."

Maybe desiring to shift further responsibility the majority of the Holt county bunch favored turning Wade over to the mercies of the men from Brown and the Kid saw the promise of a fair trial and his hopes vanish. S. J. Weekes of the O'Neill National bank was among the boys and men then living in the neighborhood to congregate at Paddock to "see the excitement."

Coleman and Hugh O'Neill protested the turning of the Kid over to the Brown county vigilantes. He had been promised a fair trial at home and should have it. They did more than protest. Hastening into O'Neill they swore out a warrant for the arrest of the Kid and sent Sheriff Ed Hershiser out to bring him in. Ed, like the Northwest Mounted, generally got his man. He trailed the group to the vicinity of Long Pine.

The Brown county delegation, under command of Capt. A. J. Burnham, probably by this time also inclined to shift responsibility, turned the Kid over to Hershiser. Capt. Burnham and another of the party by name of Matson, offered to accompany the sheriff in with his prisoner.

These three with the Kid pulled into Bassett to spend the night. Hotel rooms were all occupied but they were told they could stay in the bar room. The Kid rolled in to a blanket and went to sleep on the floor. The sheriff with his two companions settled at ease in their chairs. The cold February night wore on. Suddenly a crash of glass as gun barrels were thrust thru the windows startled the watchers. At the same time the door was flung open and a body of grim and disguised men appeared. The regulators had come.

The Kid was awakened and led to his doom.

One story was that he trembled with fear and asked to be spared that he might have a chance to mend his ways. Another was that he implored his guards to give him a pair of six shooters and he would get away from the mob and come into O'Neill and surrender. In telling of the affair when he got back to O'Neill Sheriff Hershiser said the last words he heard the Kid say were: "I have been feeding you fellows and now you are going to hang me."

Did the Kid recognize his abductors as his own band of outlaws who resorted to a hanging to protect themselves?

### The Methodist Church

V. C. Wright, Minister

Church school 10:00 a. m., H. B. Burch, Superintendent.  
Public Worship 11:00 a. m.  
Music by the choir and sermon by the pastor.

Youth fellowship devotions 8:00 p. m.  
Sunday, May 31, Rev. D. S. Conrad will preach in the absence of the pastor.

Rev. V. C. Wright will leave Monday for Nebraska Wesleyan University Commencement and Summer School of the Board of Ministerial Training. The school for the licentiates will run from May 26 to June 5, the Graduate school from June 1 to 4. Rev. Edmund D. Soper of the chair of Religion in Garrett Biblical Institute will deliver eight lectures on "The Idea of God in the Religions of the World." Rev. William W. Sweet of the chair of American Christianity in the School of Religion of Chicago University will deliver eight lectures on "Methodism in American History." Rev. Wright is the dean of both schools.

### EDUCATIONAL NOTES

The Holt county Eighth Grade Promotion Exercises will be held in O'Neill, Wednesday, May 27, at 2 p. m., at the Public School Auditorium.  
Elja McCullough, County Superintendent.

## MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES

SATURDAY, MAY 30th

Parade at 9:15 A. M. All participants please meet at the Arbuthnot Service Station at 9:15 A. M. Order of march: Colors, Band, Auxiliary, Legion.

O'NEILL PUBLIC SCHOOL AUDITORIUM  
10:00 A. M.

- |                              |                                   |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Selections - - - - -      | Band                              |
| 2. Invocation - - - - -      | Reverend R. J. Parr               |
| 3. Vocal Selection - - - - - | St. Mary's Academy                |
| 4. Reading - - - - -         | O'Neill High School               |
| 5. Reading - - - - -         | St. Mary's Academy                |
| 6. Address - - - - -         | Colonel F. M. Brennan             |
| 7. Remarks - - - - -         | Paul L. Beha, Commander of Legion |
| 8. Benediction - - - - -     | Reverend R. J. Parr               |
| 9. Taps - - - - -            | Davene Loy - Dorothy Lowery       |
- Taps at Cemetery - - Dorothy Lowery - James Golden

### Celebrates Fifty Years As Teacher in Sisterhood

Jubilee bells rang out joyous proclamations at St. Mary's Academy on the morning of May 15th on the occasion of the celebration of Sister Alexia's Fiftieth Anniversary of her religious profession.

At eight o'clock, accompanied by ten little pages and maids of honor dressed in white and carrying flowers, Sister Alexia was escorted to St. Patrick's church where a special prie-dieu ornamented with gold-leaf and white, in the center aisle, was reserved for her. A High Mass, celebrated by Rt. Rev. Monsignor McNamara, and sung by a mixed choir of High school and Grade children, followed. In his address, Monsignor explained the beauty and efficacy of the religious life and paid special tribute to the Jubilarian's beautiful life of service and sacrifice.

After the services in church, the faculty and student body assembled in the auditorium of the Academy where congratulations were extended and gifts presented. A very impressive Phantasy in costume, symbolizing the sheaf years of Golden Years of the Jubilarian's useful life was staged. Songs by the Glee Club were interludes to the poetic echoes of the past years in the following program:

- Guardian Angel — Chickie Iler  
Spirit of Sacrifice — Winnie Coyne  
Spirit of Golden Years —  
Mary Menish  
Spirit of Emulation —  
Gertrude Sullivan  
Spirit of Purity of Purpose —  
Jean Slaughter

During the day old friends called at the Academy to congratulate and visit with Sister. The Jubilarian enjoyed reviewing the events of the pioneer days of St. Mary's.

Thus the day linked the chain of fifty years of self-sacrifice and charity of this happy religious teacher, and friend of youth.

### Mrs. William Oswald

Funeral services were held at Beemer Saturday afternoon, May 9 for Mrs. William Oswald of Beemer. Interment was in the Beemer cemetery with six nephews acting as pallbearers, Dallas Schantz, Dale Oswald, Wilford Erb, Earl Oswald and Elmer Oswald.

Mattie Oswald, daughter of Jacob and Fannie Erb, was born May 4, 1886, near O'Neill, and died at her home in Beemer, May 6, 1942, at the age of 56 years and two days. In 1910 she was united in marriage to William Oswald. To this union nine children were born, five sons and four daughters, of whom 4 sons and 4 daughters survive. They are Harold and Dan of Indiana; Mrs. William Schweitzer, Mrs. Rueben Schantz, Bertha and Doris of Beemer, Robert of Camp Denison, Iowa, Arthur of Pomeroy, Iowa. Also surviving are her husband and two sisters, Mrs. Jacob Oswald, Sagertown, Pa., and Mrs. L. A. Ott, O'Neilltwo brothers, Albert, Fort Lyon, Colo., and John of Lake Wilson, Minn. and five grandchildren.

Her sister, Mrs. L. A. Ott, north of this city was in attendance at the funeral.

### S. M. A. Senior Class Day Exercises

The Senior Class will welcome their relatives and friends to the Class Day Exercises at St. Mary's at 8 p. m., Thursday, May 28.

### Loretto Phalen Given Rare Distinction

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Phalen have received the good news that their daughter, Loretta, was given the honor of giving the class address in the graduating exercises of the college of law of De Paul University in Chicago. She is the first lady in the history of the University to be given that distinction.

O'Neill friends tender congratulations to Miss Phalen for this recognition of her high standing at the University. Loretta is also a graduate of the University of Chicago.

Almost forty years ago Frank and Mrs. Phalen came to O'Neill from Wisconsin. During their years here they reared five children. All of them not only entered schools of high learning, but each one has completed the work to fit each for service in professional work of some kind. Two sons are now in the medical service of the United States. Frank and Mrs. Phalen should be very proud, along with their family, for their accomplishments. More than that they should be vain, but vanity does not seem to be one of the parts of their way of life. Anyway we will take this opportunity of congratulating them in raising a family that any father and mother, anywhere on earth should be proud of.

### S. M. A. Grade Pupils Entertain Friday Eve

St. Mary's Grade pupils will close the school year with a program Friday evening, May 22, at 8 o'clock in St. Mary's Gymnasium.

- Grade 1. Playlet: All Out For Defense.  
Grade 2. Playlet: Who Will Be Queen?  
Grades 3 and 4. Vocal Selections: There'll Always Be America Our United States The Americans March  
Grades 5 and 6. Vocal Selection: Morning.  
Grade 7. Playlet: Auction of the Graduates.  
Grade 8. A Tribute to the U. S. Marines.  
School Song: There's only one school for us.  
Awarding of Honor pins and Excellent ribbons by the Rev. Monsignor McNamara.

### Richter-Fritton

Miss Luella Richter and Frank Fritton, both of O'Neill, were united in marriage Saturday morning at 8 o'clock at St. Patrick's church in O'Neill, with Monsignor J. G. McNamara officiating.

The bridesmaid was a cousin of the bride, Miss Vera Schollmeyer and the best man was a friend of the groom, James Soukup, jr.  
The bride was attired in an old rose colored dress with blue and beige accessories and the bridesmaid was attired in a beige colored dress with brown accessories. The groom and his attendant wore teal blue.  
After the wedding a breakfast was served at the home of the bride's mother for the immediate family and friends. The four tier wedding cake was baked by the bride's sister, Mrs. Rodney Tomlinson.

Mrs. Fritton is the youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Richter of this city and Mr. Fritton is the youngest son of the Fritton family of O'Neill. The happy young couple will make their home in this city.

### Twenty-two Graduate From S. M. A. Friday

The Graduation Exercises of the Class of 1942 of St. Mary's Academy, will take place at St. Patrick's church, Friday, 10:30 A. M. After the baccaulaureate address, diplomas will be distributed and scholarships awarded.

The following members of the graduating class invite all their friends and those of St. Mary's to their exercises.

- Shelia Barrett, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Marion Bosn, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Joe Early, O'Neill, Nebr.  
John Fernholz, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Concy Golden, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Jack Harty, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Gene Higgins, O'Neill, Nebr.  
James Higgins, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Chickie Iler, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Mary Ann Janousek, O'Neill, Nebraska.  
Millie Jindra, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Paul Kubitschek, O'Neill, Nebraska.  
Vera LaPonte, Rosebud, S. D.  
Mary Helen Martin, O'Neill, Nebraska.  
Dorothy Moore, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Minella O'Bryan, Wood, S. D.  
Bill O'Connell, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Tillie Peter, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Harry Piercy, Kennedy, Nebr.  
Geneva Pribil, O'Neill, Nebr.  
Mary Ellen Schaaf, Atkinson, Nebraska.  
Stella Wohlgemuth, Tularosa, New Mexico.

### Republican Central Committee Held Meeting Monday Evening Here

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wherry of Pawnee City, Nebr., accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Bert Howard of Scotts Bluffs, and Frank Marsh of Lincoln, secretary of state, were in the city last Monday evening in attendance at a meeting of the republican county central committee. It was a get together meeting. Since Mr. Wherry's last visit here he has been appointed as western manager for the republican national committee and he will probably relinquish his state chairmanship at the next state convention.

Mr. Howard of Scottsbluffs is a candidate for the republican nomination for congress in the new Fourth district, of which Holt county is now a part. While here he met a few of our local people but said that he would be back in about a month and would try to get acquainted with the voters in the different sections of the county.

Secretary of State Frank Marsh says that Holt county belongs the credit for electing him again to office and so he is naturally inclined to look on Holt county as one of the chosen spots of the state. A fair sized crowd was in attendance at the meeting and everyone enjoyed the speeches delivered.

### St. Mary's Alumnae Reunion May 24th

The members of the St. Mary's Alumnae Association will hold their Reunion Sunday, morning with Holy Mass at St. Patrick's church at 9 o'clock. The Alumnae members will receive Holy Communion at this Mass. Breakfast at the Golden Hotel will follow. At 5:30, Benediction with the Most Blessed Sacrament will be given in the Convent Chapel. A business meeting for the Alumnae members will follow Benediction. At 6 o'clock the annual banquet will be served at the Academy.

The Sisters and Alumnae officers hope to welcome a large crowd of former St. Mary's students.

### Hospital Notes

- H. E. Braddock of Page was admitted Saturday.  
Carl James admitted last Thursday and is fine.  
Mrs. Walter DeVall and baby dismissed Tuesday.  
Mr. Harvey Tompkins and baby of Inman dismissed Thursday.  
Mr. Nellie Golden admitted on Wednesday.

### Marriage Licenses

Francis Fritton and Luella Richter of O'Neill on May 15, 1942  
Charles Henry Alexander of Burton and Elsie Laura Robertson of Springview, on May 15.  
Parents who wish to start their children as beginners in the band are requested to meet at the Public School next Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.  
Ira George, Director.

### Mrs. Anna Jordan

Mrs. Anna Jordan was found dead in bed last Monday morning at her home in the Wilcox residence, of a heart attack, at the age of 44 years four months and ten days. The funeral was held last Wednesday morning from the Catholic church, Rev. R. J. Parr officiating and burial in Calvary cemetery at the side of her husband, who passed away in September, 1938. The funeral was very largely attended.

Anna Carr was born on the ranch of her parents near Stafford on January 8, 1898. She grew to womanhood in this county and attended St. Mary's Academy, from which institution she was a graduate. On February 8, 1921, she was united in marriage to Richard Jordan, the ceremony being performed at Chadron, Nebr. One daughter was born of this union, who is left to mourn the passing of a kind and affectionate mother. She is also survived by her mother, Mrs. John Carr; one brother, Emmet, with the U. S. Army at Camp Roberts, Cal.; six sisters, Mrs. Ellen Ragan and Mrs. Max Wanser, Ewing; Mrs. Mary Lyman of Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Agnes Sutcliffe of Rapid City, S. D.; Mrs. Loretta Shatto of Philadelphia, Pa.; and Mrs. Catherine Keiser of O'Neill.

Mrs. Jordan was a charming young woman and had a host of friends in this city and vicinity. She was always cheerful and industrious, and always took an active interest in church work and in the different activities staged for the benefit of St. Mary's Academy. It was not generally known that she had heart trouble but a few of her intimate friends knew that she had a weak heart, but nevertheless her sudden death was a severe shock to her relatives and friends.

### CARD OF THANKS

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to the many kind friends and neighbors for the expressions of sympathy and the many acts of kindness shown us following the death of our beloved mother, daughter and sister.—Dorothy Jordan, Mrs. John Carr and family.

### Mother-Daughter Banquet At M. E. Church

On Tuesday evening at the Methodist church the annual Mother and Daughter banquet was served to over a 100 Mothers and Daughters.

The tables were beautifully decorated with May Baskets filled with the seasons beautiful flowers. At each place was an individual May basket filled with candies and nuts and lovely programs with a Mother, Daughters pictures on them. The colors of lavenders, blues, pinks and yellows made the tables very attractive.

Our toastmistress was Mrs. Irving Johnson. The evening started by the singing of the National Anthem; the balance of the program as follows

- Opening prayer, Mrs. June Johnson.  
Comments, Mrs. June Johnson, Trio, Mrs. Lindberg, Mrs. Esther and Mrs. Manzer.  
Toast to Mothers, Miss Irma Manzer.  
Toast to Daughters, Mrs. Reimers.  
Vocal Solo, Bonnie Yarnall.  
Closing prayer, Mrs. V. Wright.  
Appropriate songs for Mother and Daughters were sung by the group during the different courses led by Miss Marjorie Graybiel.

It was a very enjoyable occasion to all who were there and a sincere thank you to the ladies who worked to have it. Also thanks to the men and boys of the church who so ably served the meal.

### SMA Senors Entertain With Play Tuesday

Tuesday at 8:15 p. m., the curtain rose in the O'Neill High School auditorium on the clever three-act comedy, "Spring Fever" staged by the Senior Class of St. Mary's Academy, under the direction of Sister Laurissa. The audience was given an evening of clean, wholesome entertainment. Gene Higgins, as the young inventive genius in loe with the town beauty; Chickie Iler as the maiden aunt; Geneva Pribil, Marion Bosn, Constance Golden, Paul Kubitschek, Jim Higgins and Harry Piercy, all contributors to an evening of hearty laughs.

## Poppy Day To Be Observed Next Saturday

New names on America's roll of honored dead give new meaning to the memorial poppy this year, Mrs. E. M. Gallagher, Poppy Day Chairman of the local American Legion Auxiliary Unit, pointed out as she worked on final arrangements for the distribution of the little red flowers Saturday.

"Wearing a Poppy is the individual way of honoring the men who have sacrificed their lives in the nation's service," said Mrs. Gallagher. "Ever since the first World War the poppy has been worn in tribute to the men who gave their lives in that conflict. New names are being inserted among America's heroic dead. The poppy is for them, too. It is a symbol of our sorrow and pride. It is a pledge that we will always remember them and serve on in the cause for which they died."

"The poppy springs from the blood and tears that are the price of victory—the price of freedom in this world of conquest and oppression. Again and again Americans have had to pay this price to win and maintain their existence as a free nation. When we wear the poppy this year we will be showing that we are not shrinking from paying that great price once more in order that we may pass on to Americans to come the heritage of a free America."

"As we honor those who give their lives, we should think, too, of those who sacrificed health and strength, and of the families left in need because a father or son has served his country. They are still within the reach of our help. Let us be generous in our contributions for the poppies. Every penny of the money given goes to support the work The American Legion and the Auxiliary are doing for the disabled and dependent families of the first World War and of the present conflict."

## Livestock Trends Strengthen; Heavy Runs Of Hogs Monday

A general tendency toward firmness dominated the livestock auction here last Monday and prices were somewhat stronger than a week ago, especially on the better grades. Receipts were heavier than for the past few weeks with an unusually large supply of hogs, many of which were extra fine in quality. Demand remains good on all classes and the market was active thru-out.

The best kind of lightweight steer calves offered here sold as high as \$14.25 and \$14.30. However, the long end of the supply placed mostly from \$12.00 to \$13. Heifers in this class sold from \$11.00 to \$12.00.

Lightweight yearlings were in good demand and paid upwards to \$12.00 with the bulk of supplies selling from \$10.50 to \$11.50.

A considerable number of cows with calf at side were sold and brought fancy prices. Good beef cows sold upwards to \$9.80 on 1250 to 1300 weights. Medium to good cows ranged in price from \$8.25 to \$9.25 with plainer grades selling for less. Bulls weighing around 1250 cashed mostly from \$9.00 to \$9.50.

Hog supplies numbered around 500 head. The extreme top paid for butchers weighing 180 pounds was \$13.90. However, the popular price ranged from \$13.70 to \$13.80. Several fine, smooth gilts, scaling from 210 to 260 brought \$14.00 to \$14.40. The bulk of the sow offering sold from \$13.35 to \$13.55. Feeders were in heavy supply and paid from \$14.50 to \$15.15. A large number of small pigs sold at fancy prices.

A few horses completed the regular auction. In addition Dave Bellar donated a bushel of seed corn which was sold and the receipts turned over to the O'Neill chapter of the American Red Cross fund.

The next sale will be on Monday, May 25, 1942.

## St. Mary's Cornet Trio Wins Excellent Rating

In last weeks issue of The Frontier our reporter, who gave us the write up of the Music contest, omitted to mention three of St. Mary's young musicians, Tom Harty, Edward Campbell and Betty Gallagher, who appeared on the program as St. Mary's Cornet Trio. The young folks acquitted themselves admirably and won a rating of Excellent for their effort. One of the Judges complimented them very highly and said that he wanted to see them back in two years.