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Defeat Christmas

Blackout Was Complete Success Over Entire State; Others Later

The nine midwestern states comprising the Seventh Defense Region have demonstrated to the rest of the Nation that there is no complacency and lack of co-operation in this area. The regional test blackout held Monday night, December 14, was a decided success, according to reports reaching the regional office from the various states. The region covers approximately one-fourth of the area of the Nation, and is the largest area yet attempted to be blacked out at one time. Brig. Gen. U. S. Grant, national head of the Civilian Defense Corps.; Major Gen. Frederick E. Uhl, commander of the Seventh Service Command, and Joseph D. Schultz, regional OCD director, were gratified over the results of the test, which exceeded their expectations.

Reports reaching the office of Walter F. Roberts, State Civilian Defense Co-ordinator, show that Nebraska was blacked out nearly 100%, only a few minor infractions being reported, and these being unintentional and soon corrected. No accidents as a result of the blackout have been reported in the state.

Reports from nearly all the cities, towns and villages over the state have been received by the State Defense Committee, and all of them stress the fact that the average civilian is doing his best to co-operate to the fullest extent in the defense of his country. The following are a few extracts from reports received:

Loup City: "Sherman county's blackout came off last night without incident. As nearly as I am able to determine, it was 100%. The public generally co-operated cheerfully and I believe the result will be a closer co-operation and more interest generally in all civilian defense activities."

Beatrice: "Thanks to the complete co-operation of the citizenry, Beatrice passed an uneventful blackout test. There was not a single incident reported to control center."

Syracuse: "The blackout was considered a complete success."

Wahoo: "Everything was well under control, co-operation was excellent, and services in all departments were prompt and efficient." Incidentally Wahoo simulated bomb hits, fires and accidents, and the respective squads responded to these emergencies.

Ashland: "Efforts were entirely successful. We had 65 air raid wardens, 15 auxiliary police, 10 fire watchers and messengers on duty, besides the staff officers, special medical unit and utilities maintenance group. We had three simulated casualties which involved two ambulances and four of the special medical group. The first aid work was very satisfactory. Special blackout lights on the ambulances were very successful."

McCook: "In twenty seconds

Ed Alder, living one mile south of Dorsey, lost his barn and blacksmith shop together with a lot of tools, and some grain, by fire a week ago last Sunday. Mr. Alder was burning some trash along his fence line, when the wind came up and took some embers on the top of the barn, setting it afire and also the tool house. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

About College Students Enlisting In The Navy

Lieutenant R. J. Mahoney, officer in charge of the U. S. Navy Recruiting Station, Omaha, issued the following statement December 19 relative to enlistment in the Navy under the V-1 Accredited College program:

"Notwithstanding press reports to the contrary, enlistment of college students over the age of 18 years, in the V-1 program will not be accepted, and enlistment of college students under the age of 18 in the V-1 program will be terminated on March 15, 1943."

In a further statement clarifying the new enlistment policy as it affects men in this group, Lieut. Mahoney had this to say: "Students holding probationary commissions in the United States Navy Reserve, provided they are on inactive duty in a deferred status, will be permitted to resign and accept assignment to the college training program as appropriate."

Miss Margaret Hammond, of Omaha, will come Friday to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hammond, and other relatives and friends over Christmas.

after the air raid alarm was sounded, the blackout was total . . . all business houses and all residents of the city favored us with 100% co-operation in this test."

Hooper: "The Dodge county blackout . . . was a pronounced success. Our entire organization worked fine . . . we are now ready for any eventuality. We had set up a rural organization that worked like clock-work. We appointed a township captain for every township in the county and placed nine or more leaders under him. We used block leaders in all towns."

Stratton: "Co-operation 100%. No trace of opposition. Boy Scouts assisted block leaders with great ambition to serve."

Cozad: ". . . the local commander reported . . . an absolute perfect blackout and not a light visible in the town or surrounding country. Gothenburg, Farnam, Sumner, Eddyville and Overton all reported a success."

Holdrege: ". . . the most completely successful undertaking by this community . . . not a light could be seen by anyone."

Bayard: ". . . staged a 100% successful blackout last night at the appointed time."

Holdrege and Bayard both held successful tests, regardless of the fact that both towns failed to get their signals. After waiting a few minutes after 10 o'clock, both towns blacked out "on their own."

Lincoln: ". . . a very successful operation . . . for at least two minutes of the blackout period, the city of Lincoln was in total blackness, after which time the railroads and defense plants resumed operations under sufficient restricted lighting that permitted safety in operation. . . . The 1700 wardens, 500 messengers, and 300 auxiliary police and firemen, plus the regular police and fire department staffs, did a splendid job."

Gov. Dwight Griswold made a short radio talk from the top of the tower on the capitol building, and complimented the people of the state on their fine co-operation. Mayor Johnson also made a few remarks, thanking the people of Lincoln for doing such a fine job in their first blackout test.

The people of Nebraska are to be congratulated for making the state an outstanding example of what may be accomplished when everyone co-operates to the fullest extent in any undertaking. They really made Nebraska the "black spot" of the Nation.

I wonder if old Hitler, Like Belshazzar at the ball, Will presently decipher The handwriting on the wall.

TOOLS AND GRAIN LOST IN FIRE AT ED ALDER FARM

Ed Alder, living one mile south of Dorsey, lost his barn and blacksmith shop together with a lot of tools, and some grain, by fire a week ago last Sunday. Mr. Alder was burning some trash along his fence line, when the wind came up and took some embers on the top of the barn, setting it afire and also the tool house. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Bright and daughter, Bonna Jane, of Fremont, will arrive Saturday to visit Mr. Bright's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Ramon Bright and Mrs. Bright's sister and brother-in-law, Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Burgess.

Johnny Fernholz, who has been in Buffalo, Wyo., for the past few months, came Sunday to spend Christmas with his father, Joe Fernholz, and other relatives and friends.

Miss Margaret Hammond, of Omaha, will come Friday to visit her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Hammond, and other relatives and friends over Christmas.

Jesse James, Of Atkinson, Dies In Stuart Hospital

Jesse James, 63, one of Holt county's leading ranchers south of Atkinson, died at the Stuart hospital at 8:30 last Tuesday evening, after an illness of but a few days. Monday evening he was taken to the Stuart hospital by friends, as he was suffering from a severe cold. Pneumonia developed and he passed away the next evening. He is survived by his wife, three sons and two daughters.

Jesse James represented the Seventh supervisor district on the county board for eight years, from 1926 to 1934, when the place was taken over by Ed J. Matousek, who has since represented the district.

Another Pioneer Has Passed To Her Reward

Mrs. Hannah Merriman died at her home in O'Neill last Monday morning at 12:15 a. m., following a stroke suffered about thirty minutes before, at the age of 73 years, five months and ten days. The funeral was held Wednesday morning at 10:30 from the Presbyterian church, Rev. Dr. Spencer officiating, and burial in Prospect Hill cemetery at the side of her husband, who passed away in August, 1936.

Mrs. Merriman had not been in good health for the past seven years, but was able to be up and around. Sunday night she suffered a stroke and passed away about thirty minutes later.

Hannah L. Walker was born at Clyde, Iowa, on July 11, 1869. When she was 16 years of age her parents came to Holt county and located in the eastern part of the county, north of Page. This was in 1885. On October 3, 1889, she was united in marriage to Elmer Merriman, the ceremony being performed in this city. Three sons were born of this union, all of whom are living and two of whom were present at the funeral: Floyd E., of Sioux City, Iowa, and Lawrence, of O'Neill. She is also survived by two sisters and three brothers. They are: Mrs. Clara Hartford, Page; Mrs. Laura Yokum, McClusky, N. D.; John T. Walker, Page; David Walker, Vineland, N. J.; Edward Walker, Page. She is also survived by seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Mrs. Merriman was another of the old-time pioneers of Holt county. Coming here as a young girl of sixteen, her entire lifetime—with the exception of ten years spent in Sioux City, Iowa—was spent in this county. Fifty-seven years ago the family came to Holt county, coming here from Iowa. She was a charming woman and had a host of friends all over the county who will regret to learn of her sudden passing.

HUSBAND OF O'NEILL GIRL DIES IN NEW ORLEANS

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Dempsey received word last Saturday that their son-in-law, Samuel E. Spencer, of New Orleans, La., dropped dead at his home there. His wife is the former Marian Dempsey, of this city, and they were married four years ago at Neligh.

Large Run Of Hogs And Cattle; Prices Are Good

There was a good run last Monday of both cattle and hogs, with the market still advancing on hogs and the market on cattle fully steady.

Steer calves sold from \$13.50 to \$15, and heifer calves from \$12 to \$13. There were two loads of good heavy yearling steers that sold for \$13.25 and \$13.35. Fat cows sold from \$9.50 to \$10.50, while canners and cutters brought from \$6.50 to \$8.50. Bulls sold from \$10 to \$11.35. Butcher hogs reached a \$14.45 top with the bulk selling from \$14.15 to \$14.40. Fat stags sold from \$13.85 to \$14. Stags sold around \$12. There were quite a few small pigs that sold by the head at a good price.

BREEZES FROM THE SOUTHWEST

By Romaine Saunders
Atkinson, Nebr., Star Route No. 5.

Resignations, backed by the old reliable alibi, ill health, among government men in key positions indicates that all is not well at the new deal headquarters.

The FBI announces it will "interview female applicants" for clerical jobs. We admit, ladies and gents, that we are pretty much the animal, but why emphasize it in this fashion.

"Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down and shaken together and running over shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again."

Ben Powell of the Minneola country, brought in a big hog one day and an O'Neill buyer gave him \$24 for it. But Ben lived a quarter century too soon. Bill Fryer of Amelia took a 600-pound porker to Atkinson last week and traded it for \$80.

Bernie Kennedy sustained the loss of a handsome young colt, the outcome of an accident. Nearing home from a trip to town he encountered the colt by the side of the road, the colt making a lunge into Mr. Kennedy's car. He got out to investigate, found a handle missing from a car door and discovered the handle embedded in the colt's shoulder. He succeeded in extracting it and treated the injury, but within a week it proved to be fatal.

The Associated Press sends this out from Washington: Representative Curtis of Nebraska said: "America must destroy the OPA or the OPA will destroy America." He declared in a statement placed in the Congressional Record that the office of price administration was "overrun with intellectual crackpots, with smart alecks who think that 130 million people are guinea pigs for them to try out their maniacal theories." Mr. Curtis must have had an unfavorable run-in with somebody.

Most citizens, even as they growl about it, are glad to comply with anything, rationing or otherwise, that will contribute to the successful termination of hostilities in which we are involved as a people. But there is definite sentiment against new deal administration heads taking advantage of the war to enmesh the country in their fantastic schemes. Any man or set of men that would build for personal glory or financial gain on the blood of our fallen soldiers are not patriots.

Twenty thousand citizens witnessed a professional sports contest in Los Angeles and left 4,740 empty liquor bottles as token that they had been there. In these serious days, these tragic days, days in which all over our land the hearts of fathers and mothers are made to bleed because of the fatal message handed to them, "your son killed in action," is it not to our shame that these contests with the accompanying convivial revelry are not restricted? Let the school boys roll the balls and have their fun while they may, but the huskies arrayed for contests in the arena and the half-naked lunks of beef-poised for a wrestling match might better hide away or get into service duds.

A carton of black walnuts sent us from Oklahoma, a bag of English walnuts and a beautiful assortment of fruits stuffed with nuts in a redwood tray from California assures the Breezes here not only of an ample supply of the season's delicatessen, but of the loving thought back of these material tokens. And from other sources have come additional tokens of an undeniable substantial nature, and the great number of

greeting cards are accepted as the sincere sentiments of the senders. Life would become a gloomy round of vexing commonplaces without the warm heart throbs of friendly greetings from time to time, and none is more fraught with kindly cheer than those that come at this season.

This is the day the inventive genius has come into his own. There is a clamor for new things. The inventor has rarely experienced anything but disappointment in the past. O'Neill has furnished some such. The late B. F. Cole and E. H. Benedict each had contraptions for the benefit of mankind too numerous to mention. Doctor Trueblood perfected invisible rims for the prevention of breakage of rimless glasses, but the manufacturers told him they were interested in breakage—the more glasses broken the more they would sell. Guy Green perfected a simple thing for use in the printing industry, borrowed the money from Ed F. Gallagher to have it patented, but realized little or nothing out of his invention. In too many instances all the inventor has got out of his created work was what satisfaction there might be in knowing that he had a part in the endless string of accomplishments for the welfare of the race.

Announce Engagement Of Former Holt County Girl

Word has been received here of the engagement of Marjorie Ann Mains, of Lincoln, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Mains, formerly of Stuart and Emmet, where he was station agent for the Northwestern, now of Hastings, to George E. Thornburgh, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Thornburgh, of Blair, Nebr.

Miss Mains is employed in the state house. Mr. Thornburgh attends the University of Nebraska, where he is affiliated with the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity. The wedding will take place in the spring. Miss Mains graduated from St. Mary's Academy, O'Neill, with the class of 1941.

Mrs. Roy Sauers Died Here Sunday Night

Mrs. Maud B. Sauers died at her home in this city last Sunday evening at 11:30, after an illness of several months of a heart ailment, at the age of 55 years, 11 months and five days. The funeral was held Thursday morning at 10 o'clock from the Presbyterian church, Rev. Doctor Spencer officiating, and burial in Prospect Hill cemetery.

Maude B. Planck was born at Redbird, Neb., on January 15, 1887. When she was a little girl the family moved to this city, where her father was engaged in business for several years, being a member of the firm of Planck & Thompson. In the early nineties he disposed of his business interests here and moved to the western part of the county, where the family made their home for several years. On January 27, 1911, she was united in marriage to Roy M. Sauers, the ceremony being performed in this city. Mr. and Mrs. Sauers made their home in Stuart until November 11, 1919, when they moved to O'Neill, which had been her home ever since. Mrs. Sauers is survived by her husband and one son, Robert K., of Fullerton, Calif. She is also survived by one brother, Boyd W. Planck, of Atkinson.

Mrs. Sauers was a charming lady and always took an active interest in the civic affairs of the city, as well as church activities. She had a host of friends in O'Neill, as well as in the western part of the county, where she grew to womanhood, and her many friends will regret to learn of her passing.

Mrs. Arthur King and son, Jerry, left Monday for Denver, where they will join Mr. King, who has been ill in a hospital there. From Denver they plan to go on to San Diego, Calif., where they will make their future home.

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Mr. and Mrs. James Corkle and family and Miss Marjorie Hanson will spend Christmas in Pierce, visiting Miss Hanson's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carsten Hanson.

Captain Carney, O'Neill Native, Loses Life In Southern Pacific

Miss Mary Carney received word last Saturday afternoon that her brother, Capt. James V. Carney, U. S. N., was killed when his plane crashed in the southern Pacific. He was 44 years of age last February.

James V. Carney was born in O'Neill on February 14, 1898, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Carney. He attended school in O'Neill and worked for a few years in the Sanitary Market and also in Gallagher's store.

In 1917 he entered the U. S. Naval Academy at Annapolis, Md., and graduated from that school in 1921. After his graduation he was assigned to the New Mexico on the west coast.

In 1924 he entered the Naval Aviation Training school at Pensacola, Fla., and graduated from there in 1925, and was again assigned to service on the west coast. As an officer of the U. S. Navy, he had seen service in all parts of the world.

In November, 1927, he was united in marriage to Miss Nellie Kibler, of San Diego, Calif., the ceremony being performed in San Diego. Two children were born of this union, Betty Ann and Peggy, who with their mother survive and are left to mourn the passing of a kind and affectionate husband and father. He is also survived by three sisters and one brother. They are: Miss Mary Carney and Mrs. Grover Shaw, O'Neill; Mrs. L. F. Curtis, Sioux City, Iowa; Thomas Carney, Denver, Colo.

The writer had known the deceased since boyhood and knew him to be an honest, industrious

Local Lady Receives Good News Through Red Cross

Mrs. J. J. Harrington has received word through the International Red Cross that her brother-in-law, E. R. Girard, who was in the Philippines at the time of the Jap invasion, was alive and well. She received a cablegram from him, addressed to his wife, that he was well and was being treated well. He did not say where he was, but he is undoubtedly a Japanese prisoner. This was the first word received from him since December of last year. Mrs. Girard and her daughter are now in San Francisco, where Miss Girard is attending school, and this Christmas will be the happiest event in their lives; while Mr. Girard will not be with them, they know that he is alive.

Mr. Girard was the president of the Automatic Electric Sales Company and had been over there for four years, at the outbreak of hostilities. He has visited here with his wife and daughter and is known by many O'Neill people.

Lieut. Donald Courtright, With Armored Corps

Lieutenant Donald D. Courtright, Cavalry, of O'Neill, has reported for duty with the III Armored Corps, commanded by Major General Willis D. Crittenger.

The Lieutenant, a graduate of Central High School, Sioux City, Iowa, was commissioned a Second Lieutenant last December upon graduation from the cavalry officer candidate school, Fort Riley, Kan. Following his graduation he served with the Fifth and Eighth Armored Divisions, Fort Knox, prior to being transferred to Camp Polk, La.

He will serve as assistant to the adjutant general of the Corps. The Lieutenant is married to the former Agatha Beelaert, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. Beelaert, of Ewing. He is the son of O. A. Courtright, 7020½ Seville Ave., Huntington Park, Calif.

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young man, who worked hard for what he received. He was made of the material that the American aviators, who are giving such a good account of themselves on the world's battle fronts, are made of, the best in the world. James was rated as one of the best aviators in the Navy. For several years he was a test pilot and a man must be good to get a position like that in the fighting forces of the Navy. The only information so far received is that he died when his plane crashed, and whether he was in a fight with the Japs or on some mission for the Navy probably will not be known until after the conflict.

He is the first O'Neill boy who has given his life for his country in this struggle for freedom. His wife and children, his sister and brother have the sincere sympathy of the people of this city in their hour of sorrow.

Basketball Tournament Held Here January 7-8

The Holt County Basketball Tournament will be entertained at O'Neill again this year, on January 7 and 8. The schools in the county voted to have the tournament here again, due to the central location in the county.

Drawings for the tournament last Thursday night for the first round of play came out as follows: St. Mary's against Page, St. Joseph against Ewing, Inman against O'Neill, and Chambers drew a bye. Semi-finals will be played Friday afternoon, January 8, and the finals that night. Losers in the semi-finals will play for third and fourth places.

The tournament will be played off in two days this year in order to cut down on traveling. Mr. Lockman has been designated as official timekeeper and Paul Kubitschek as official scorer. The referees have not been contracted as yet.

Three trophies will be awarded. The championship trophy will be presented by the O'Neill Commercial Club, the runner-up trophy will be provided by the Holt County Activities Association, and the third place trophy and official program will be awarded by the business people of O'Neill through contributions to members of the O'Neill Pep Club. Those people contributing will have their names appearing on the official programs and an engraved recognition on the trophy.

Prominent Dress Designer Home For The Holidays

One of O'Neill's most talented daughters, Miss Mona Melvin, of St. Louis, Mo., came home Tuesday to be with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Melvin, and other relatives and friends over the holidays.

Miss Melvin has distinguished herself as a designer of Mary Muffet frocks. She deserves a great deal of credit for her success, as she has worked very hard to attain it.

SAYS WORK IS PLENTIFUL OUT ON THE WEST COAST

Jack Ernst returned last Friday from a trip to the west coast, where he went the forepart of last July. While away he visited Portland and Seattle and many other towns in Oregon and Washington. Jack says there are many former O'Neill people all along the west coast and that all of them appear to be prospering. Jack expects to return to Oregon in a couple of weeks, as soon as he gets some business matters here straightened up, as he says there is lots of work there and jobs are easy to find.

Mr. and Mrs. John Pruss of Emmet and Mr. and Mrs. George Reese and children of Atkinson will spend Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Ivan Pruss in O'Neill.