

When You and I Were Young —

Editor James H. Riggs Estimates Holt County's Population at 50,000

60 YEARS AGO
July 5, 1888

Holt county. It is a young empire in many respects. It is situated in the northern tier of counties of the state and is covered by 52 miles in size covering an area of 4,245 square miles or 1,500,000 acres. Holt county has a population of about 50,000. (Editor's note: These figures are the exact ones used by the editor of 60 years ago, James H. Riggs.)

The soil is varied and adapted to mixed farming. In the valleys we have a heavy, black soil, and native grasses grow abundantly furnishing an endless supply of hay for feeding purposes. This soil is the most productive in the country when the seasons are not too wet.

Then we have the soil on the table or uplands, which is a dark sandy loam, the surest soil we have, standing alike the dry and the wet seasons. And lastly we have the soil of the hills which, while it is not suitable for heavy farming, raises the finest kinds of vegetables and fruits.

The rainfall has increased during the past 6 years to such an extent that the bug-a-boo of drouth does not worry the farmers in this country. And what is still better, the fall is

becoming more uniform; in other words we have more rainy days and they are becoming more uniformly distributed throughout the year.

Stock raising is one of the leading and most popular industries of the county and will probably always be one of its staple industries. The pure atmosphere, the abundant supply of excellent water and the nutritious grasses combined to make it one of the best stock countries in the West. Cattle are not liable to disease, can be raised cheaply, hence profitably.

The raising of hogs has become an industry of considerable magnitude. Six or 7 years ago, before the railroad came in, there were very few hogs in the county; not enough for home consumption. Now how different! Every farmer has from 10 to 50, and it is truly wonderful the number marketed in the railroad towns of the county.

50 YEARS AGO
July 7, 1898

Frank Willows, of Dorsey, had an experience last Saturday night that he will remember as long as he lives. He is in the employ of John Davidson who runs a store at Dorsey, and on the night above mentioned was in Mr. Davidson's house, about 4 rods from the store, when he heard a noise outside the door. He stepped to the door to look out when a man who was heavily masked shoved a 6 shooter in his face and commanded him to throw up his hands.

Willows did not comply with the request and the other fellow having the drop, pulled the trigger. The ball missed the mark, but the right side of the young man's face was filled with powder and badly burned.

After the shooting he was so dazed that he did not know if he was hit or not and when he had recovered sufficiently to explain what had occurred the would-be assassin had escaped.

He came to this city Sunday and had the powder picked from his face but the chances are that he will always be



INTERNATIONAL ICE PATROL—1948 . . .
One of the continuing missions of the U. S. coast guard is known as the international ice patrol consisting of air and surface operations supplemented by effective use of radar to locate and report ice conditions on the seas. In combatting this menace to navigation coast guard patrol units determine set and drift of icebergs, collect weather information and surface and subsurface oceanographic data and keep all interested parties and commercial shipping informed of the facts they collect. These three crew members of the USCGC Mendota watch the coast guard ice observation plane fly over a large iceberg in the Atlantic. Coast guard cutters and planes assigned to patrol the steamer lanes of the North Atlantic are based at Argentia, Newfoundland.

powder marked.

He informed us Sunday that he did not know who the party or parties were that held him up.

25 YEARS AGO
July 5, 1898

The largest crowd ever assembled in O'Neill at the fairgrounds assisted the American Legion in celebrating the Fourth of July. The visitors, from several counties and from many towns, began pouring into the city early and the influx continued until shortly before the beginning of the fireworks display at night. The program of entertainment began with a band concert at the North Western railway station and concluded about 2:30 Thursday morning when Ted Cooper's saxophone player busted his last reed and the fiddler ran out of rosin. There was something doing every second of the time between those 2 events.

The formal program opened at 10 o'clock in the morning on the courthouse lawn, where from the bandstand Judge Robert Dickson delivered a short but stirring patriotic address and Miss Mary Fitzsimmons and the Women's Glee club rendered a beautiful musical program.

Immediately after the patriotic program came the surprise of the day, a decorated parade of kiddie cars and doll buggies, staged by the junior population of O'Neill under the able direction of the ladies of the Women's club.

Joe Ryan on his fiery charger was marshal of the parade. Just behind the gallant marshal was a juvenile band in carnival attire, discoursing sweet music on harmonicas, horns, and reed instruments, and following were the doll buggies, kiddie cars and autos, all most profusely and tastefully decorated.

The auto parade completed the program for the morning and the afternoon began with a concert by the Ewing band, after which both the O'Neill and Ewing bands, which furnished the music for the entire day and evening, proceeded to the fair grounds to which the largest crowd ever assembled there had preceded them.

The first ball game of the afternoon, a contest between O'Neill and Ewing ended in 7 innings with a score of 8 to 3 in favor of the visitors and at 2 o'clock the contest and races began.

At 3 o'clock those old baseball rivals, Atkinson and Emmet, started in again to settle their differences of many years. The game, which concluded at 6 o'clock with a score of 9 to 5 in favor of Atkinson, completed the program for the day.

After supper the 2 bands gave concerts in the streets and the big crowd abandoned itself to carnival enjoyment until dark when the grand fireworks display was given and dancing began at the bowery to continue until far after midnight.

The celebration was the biggest ever held in O'Neill with everything free as advertised. There was no disorder, no unpleasant happenings, and not a single individual was placed in jail. The throng is to be congratulated on its conduct.

Each of the 10 thousand visitors seemed bent on having a good time without interfering with the enjoyment of others. It was one big bunch of joy-makers—good fellows all.

Mrs. Ray Is Hostess —
The Wednesday club met at the home of Mrs. Hugh Ray on Wednesday, June 23. Mrs. James W. Rooney and Mrs. L. A. Burgess were high score winners at bridge during the evening.

Venetian blinds, 7-day delivery, made to measure, metal or wood, all colors.—Brown-McDonald's, O'Neill. 331f

Dawes Speaker at Martha Celebration

CHAMBERS—The people of the Martha community sponsored an old time celebration July 3 at the Martha schoolhouse. A large crowd attended.

The main attraction of the forenoon was an address by A. Neil Dawes, Holt county agent, and a vocal quartette, composed of Stanley Lambert and 3 friends. This was followed by a picnic dinner at noon.

From 1 o'clock until 2 o'clock was devoted to contests and races of all kinds for young and old. This was followed by a baseball game between the Chambers and Martha teams, which resulted in a victory for Chambers.

In the evening the crowd witnessed a motion picture, "Regimented Raindrops," a soil conservation picture in colors presented by Mr. Dawes, using the new projector which is being purchased by donations from various extension clubs, organizations and individuals for use in the county.

Following the motion picture a display of fireworks was presented.

The American Legion ran a bingo stand and the American Legion auxiliary and the rural youth club each had a refreshment stand on the grounds.

Light and power were furnished by W. D. Reninger, of Chambers.

4-H CLUB NEWS

LUCKY CLOVER CLUB

The Lucky Clover 4-H club held its fourth meeting at the home of Rexford Carson. All members were present but Gary Wilson, Alvin and Ronnie Carson. Albert Lee Kruse was absent because he went to 4-H camp at Long Pine.

Our leader, Mrs. Thomas Hiscocks, was absent because of washed out roads. We had 1 visitor, Gordon Slight.

Betty Osborn and Joy Slack gave a demonstration on setting the table.

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A Guest Editorial — Poet's Picture of June Is Recalled

By A. STOLLER

"O, what is so rare as a day in June!"

Those beautiful and familiar words of a famous poet were recalled by some persons of O'Neill in the closing days of the month. They were, indeed, "rare" days—unusual days. Following copious rains, which had fallen intermittently during the entire month, the world was flooded with bright sunshine, the foliage was luxuriant, the flowers were blooming, the crops and gardens were flourishing and the birds were singing joyously in the trees.

Never before in years, it seemed, had there been so many different kinds of birds of brilliant plumage in this vicinity as there were this year.

All this made a lovely, never-to-be-forgotten picture which will be remembered by the people of Nebraska for a long time.

It was a striking contrast to the picture the landscape presented in the dry, dreary month of May. That was also a month to be remembered, but it is not a pleasant memory. It was a month of almost unbroken drouth and filled the minds of thoughtful people with fear and dread.

Then, just as the danger was becoming serious and we

W. F. Finley, M. D.
OFFICE PHONE: 28
First National Bank Bldg.
O'NEILL

were becoming really alarmed, the long drouth was broken by refreshing, life-giving rain.

Nobody knows what will happen in July and August, but everybody can exclaim sincerely with the poet, "O, what is so rare as a day in June!"

Letters to the Editor

Ewing, Nebr.
July 3, 1948.
Dear Sirs:
I was wondering if you would happen to have 4 or 5 extra copies of the July 1 issue of The Frontier.

The picture and write-up of the 5 generation picture was very good. I wish to send these to outside friends.

If you have these send me the bill.

Sincerely,
DEWITT HOKE.

Leave on Western Trip—
Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Chambers, jr., and sons left this week for a 2-weeks' vacation trip through various western states.

Are You Prepared for These Bills?



If Not, See:
Lester J. Jonas
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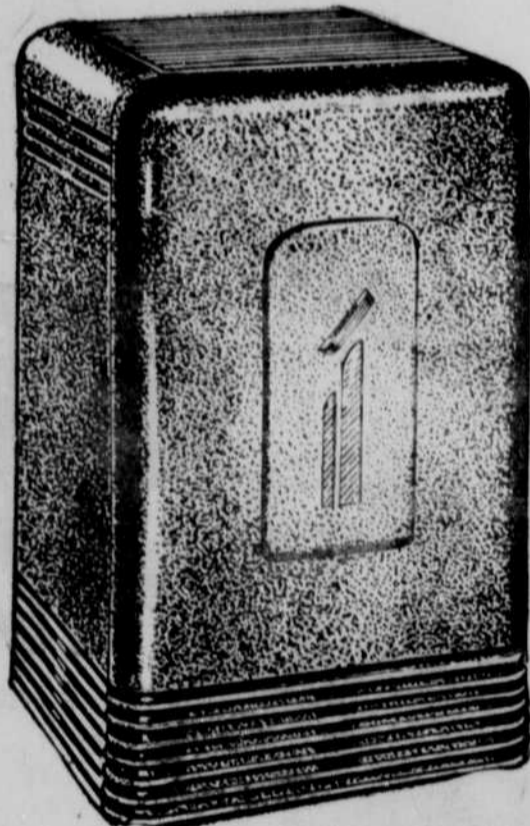
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