

# 'Elect' Students to County Offices

## 'Campaigns' and 'Elections' Underway in Holt High Schools

Campaigning for the "primary election" in the American Legion-sponsored boys' and girls' county government program is getting underway this week in Holt county, according to Miss Elja McCullough, Holt county superintendent of schools, who is chairman of the program in the county. Glea H. Wade, ex-commander of Simonson post, is vice-chairman.

Roy J. Lang, who is in charge of the state program working with the state department of the American Legion, will be here to help direct the activities on Monday, January 24—the day when the "elected" officers will "function" in various county offices.

Justice Carter, of Gering, of the state supreme court, and Mrs. John Davidson, of O'Neill, district II American Legion ladies' auxiliary president, will assist Lang.

Purpose of the program is to teach county government by having the students participate in the steps taken by a candidate for an actual county office. Members of the junior class of each high school in the county will be selected to come to O'Neill to study the county government in operation.

Based on the same plan as the boys' and girls' state projects, which have been operated for several years by the Nebraska American Legion, this setup will be on a county basis rather than on a state basis.

A maximum of 21 junior class members from each high school will be elected by the entire student body of their respective high schools to fill the various county offices. Each student elected to an office will spend a day at the court house watching the county officer who regularly fills that office perform his duties.

Miss McCullough stated that before students file for the various offices and begin their campaigns, they are instructed in the duties of each office so that they will apply for a particular office because of their interest in the type of work, rather than the title that goes with the office.

The student body has been divided into two parties, the Federal and the National, and will vote accordingly.

After filings for office have taken place, said Miss McCullough, elections will be held before January 24 to eliminate all candidates except one from each party.

There will be 10 elective offices and four appointive offices to be filled.

Students from various schools who are selected in the elections will be issued certificates of election which they will carry to the court house showing their right to hold that office.

According to information from the Nebraska American Legion, this is an experiment which no other state has yet tried. Although boys' and girls' state organizations are in operation through the United States, Nebraska is reported to be the first state to attempt such a set up on the county level. It is now hoped that the county government project can be carried through on a nation-wide basis.

The American Legion auxiliary of Simonson post will entertain the student government pupils at lunch in the club auditorium on the date of the final session.

All members of the Holt county bar are serving in an advisory capacity to the pupils and schools in clarifying any questions that arise. These include: Julius D. Cronin, Norman Gontert, John R. Gallagher, William W. Griffin and J. J. Nolan, all of O'Neill, and Charles E. Chace and Francis D. Lee, both of Atkinson.

### NEWS OMITTED

Much news from The Frontier of correspondence has to be omitted this week because of delayed mail service, disrupted rural telephone service and some instances—snowbound writers. The Frontier will endeavor to publish all of the delayed news in next week's issue.

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## FARMER'S BODY REMOVED BY AIR

Joseph A. Kopejtko, 56, Expires in Snowbound Farm Home

REDBIRD—The body of Joseph A. Kopejtko, 56-year-old lifelong resident of Holt and Knox counties, lay in a Lynch mortuary Wednesday pending completion of funeral arrangements.

Mr. Kopejtko, who had been ill for a year with diabetes, died Friday morning. The body was removed from the Kopejtko home, South of Redbird, to Lynch with the aid of an airplane.

Burial rites have been delayed since because of last week's blizzard and impassable road conditions.

Shortly before Mr. Kopejtko's death at 11:15 a. m., his son, Walter, of York, arrived in a plane piloted by T. Ulb, of York. Later, Mr. Ulb flew E. K. Darnell, Lynch mortician, to the Kopejtko home.

Mr. Kopejtko was born at Walnut on June 14, 1892. He was a carpenter and farmer most of his life.

Burial will be at Verdigre as soon as roads are open.

Survivors include: Widow—Anna. Sons—Walter; Frank, of Star; Albert, of Inman; Ralph, of Page; Harold, of Redbird, and Clifford, of the Army. Daughters—Mrs. Eddie Hrbek, of Redbird; Mary Ann Kopejtko, of Redbird.

One son and one daughter preceded him in death.

## GERALD BREINER DIES IN HOSPITAL

Funeral Services to Be Held Saturday for Former Resident

Gerald Breiner, 43, former O'Neill resident, died at 8 a. m. Tuesday in the Methodist hospital in Sioux City. In failing health for five years, he had been hospitalized since October 14 with a heart ailment.

Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p. m. Saturday afternoon at the Methodist church here with Rev. V. R. Bell, church pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Prospect Hill cemetery.

A son of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Breiner, he was born in Howard county on November 14, 1905. At the age of five he came to Holt county with his parents.

In 1937 at Grand Island he married Amelia Kasperia. For the past 11 years the late Mr. Breiner was a municipal employee at Grand Island and Palmer where he worked with power and light works.

Survivors include: Sons—Ronald Lee and John Joseph, both of Palmer. Mother—Mrs. Theresa Breiner. Sisters—Mrs. Floyd (Clementine) Johnson, of O'Neill; Mrs. Glen (Fille) Dailey, of Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. Charles (Opal) Bonny, of Santa Monica, Calif.; Miss Lois Breiner, of O'Neill; Mrs. John (Wynona) Cleary, of O'Neill; Mrs. William (Yvonne) Murray, of O'Neill, and Dona Ray Breiner, of O'Neill. Brothers—Herbert, of Grand Island, and Alvin, of O'Neill.

## NATIVE OF PAGE DIES AT COLUMBUS

Mrs. Justin Fritz, 40, Succumbs Following Long Illness

PAGE—Mrs. L. B. Taylor received word Monday of the death of her niece, Mrs. Justin Fritz, 40, of Columbus, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Palmer, of Norfolk. She died about 9:30 Monday morning in a Kearney hospital after a lingering illness.

Mildred Palmer was born at Page October 25, 1908. She was a graduate of the Page high school. She took nurses' training in Norfolk Lutheran hospital school of nursing and was later employed as a regular nurse at the Lutheran, Our Lady of Lodes and Norfolk state hospital. She has been employed in a doctor's office at Columbus.

Her first husband was Brooks Tinsworth, who was fatally injured by a car in Colorado on January 7, 1941. About three years ago she was married to Justin Fritz, of Columbus.

Survivors include: Widower—Paul and Timothy Tinsworth; parents—Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Palmer, of Norfolk; sister—Mrs. Ross (Carmen) Smiley, of Norfolk; brother—Gene Palmer, of Norfolk.

Page relatives had not learned funeral details by Tuesday afternoon.

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# Region Paralyzed by Storm

## ANDY CLARK NEW BOARD CHAIRMAN

Succeeds Ed J. Matousek As Head of Holt Supervisors

## Board Reorganizes

Andy Clark, veteran Third district supervisor, Wednesday was unanimously elected chairman of the Holt county board of supervisors for 1949. He succeeds Ed J. Matousek, of Atkinson. Seventh district supervisor, who completed his third consecutive term as chairman and declined to serve in that capacity another year.

Wednesday's session was the first for the new board and the first for the new year. The board had attempted to convene earlier in the week but was unable to do so because of road conditions.

The Frontier was exclusively designated to publish all proceedings of the board at the full rate as stipulated by Nebraska statutes. Heretofore, several papers had been designated to publish the proceedings and the revenue was divided three ways.

In awarding the contract to The Frontier, the newspaper agreed to keep all proceedings "up-to-date and carry out the spirit of the publication law."

The following officers comprise the new board: First district—Albert Sterns, of O'Neill; Second—Axel Borg, of O'Neill; Third—Chairman Clark; Fourth—Frank Cronk, of Chambers; Sixth—Alphonse Batenhorst, of Stuart; Seventh—Mr. Matousek.

Miss Ruth Hoffman, of O'Neill, is the county clerk. Chairman Clark appointed the following committees:

Courthouse: Matousek, Borg and Sterns. Finance: Hubbard, Cronk, Batenhorst. Printing: Matousek, Sterns, Hubbard. Tax: Matousek, Hubbard and Borg. Bonds: Hubbard, Cronk and Borg. Bridge: Batenhorst, Sterns and Matousek. Roads: Hubbard and Cronk. Settlement of county officers: Sterns and entire board. Claims: Cronk and entire board.

## Vogel Transfers to Church College

EWING—Rev. C. Donald Vogel, pastor of the Ewing United Presbyterian church since September, 1947, announced to his congregation last week his intention to accept an appointment to the teaching staff of Monmouth college at Monmouth, Ill. He plans to begin his new work around the first of February. He will teach in the Bible department of the college and assist in the Greek and philosophy departments.

Rev. Vogel came to Ewing from Royal Oak, Mich., where he served as pastor in the Royal Oak United Presbyterian church. He served as a chaplain in the Navy during World War II.

Both Reverend and Mrs. Vogel have been active in church and community affairs in Ewing and has been a special correspondent for The Frontier.

Monmouth is a Presbyterian church school.

## Emmett Moores Prepare to Leave

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Moore plan to leave this month for their new home in Nevada, Mo. Their farm is located at El Dorado Springs, 19 miles from Nevada.

Mr. Moore returned last Thursday after driving his daughter, Miss Marilyn, to St. Teresa's college, in Kansas City, Mo. Miss Rosalin Bohn accompanied them to Lincoln, where she is a student nurse at St. Elizabeth's school of nursing. Miss Kathleen Flood, a student at St. Marys college, Xavier, Kans., also accompanied them.

The Moores already have moved four truckloads of their car to Missouri.

## FARMERS SHOVEL

REDBIRD—A number of farmers from Redbird went to the Niobrara river hill to shovel some of the huge snowdrifts on Friday, January 7. A large crew of men from the Dorsey vicinity with sleds and double-teams went through Redbird Saturday to help open a road to Lynch.

## 'Voice' in More Special Broadcasts

"The Voice of The Frontier," O'Neill's radio link with station WJAG at Norfolk, twice this week has been called upon to broadcast special information to storm victims in the area in addition to its regularly-scheduled broadcasts.

At 4 p. m. Tuesday the O'Neill studio in The Frontier building went on the air to advise rural folks that several aircraft were constantly flying over the territory on mercy missions and errands and persons in need of aid could make dark "X's" in the snow as a signal.

Persons in distress were invited to telephone 345 at O'Neill—the Seger Oil & Transport Co.—if they needed supplies.

A similar program was broadcast at 1:17 p. m. Wednesday afternoon under the auspices of the American Red Cross. John R. Gallagher, Holt county ARC chairman, said additional ARC-sponsored broadcasts would be made as the airmen consider necessary to complete their job. (See story in columns 6 and 7.)

## JAMES MURPHY, 87, BURIAL AT PAGE

Former Resident Dies in Stromsberg Hospital Following Stroke

PAGE—Word was received at Page Sunday telling of the death of James Murphy, 87, at Stromsberg. Funeral services were to have been held at Page Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock at the Methodist church but owing to the blockade of highway 20 East the funeral was postponed until Wednesday afternoon.

John L. Murphy, Stromsberg, formerly of Page, died Sunday in a Stromsberg hospital from the effects of a stroke. Mr. Murphy came from Johnson county to Page in 1909 where he resided until 10 years ago. Following the death of his wife in 1938 he has made his home with his daughters and son.

Survivors include: Daughters—Mrs. Mary Stauffer, of Portland, Ore. Mrs. Walter (Evelyn) French, of Stromsberg. Mrs. William (Anna) Thompson, of Norfolk; son—J. Lowell Murphy, of Plainview. Sisters—Mrs. Mary Law, of Wetmore, Kans.; Mrs. Martha Gentry, of Sabetha, Kans., and Mrs. Clara Stone, of Belle Fourche, S. D.; 10 grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren.

## Bank Officers and Directors Reelected

Stockholders of the O'Neill National bank Tuesday held their annual meeting here. All members of the board of directors and all officers were reelected for another year. These are:

Officers: F. N. Cronin, president; Mrs. Emma Dickinson Weekes, vice-president; J. B. Grady, cashier; O. D. French and W. D. Melena, assistant cashiers.

Members of the board: Mrs. Emma Dickinson Weekes, Julius D. Cronin, E. F. Quinn, Mary I. Cronin and F. N. Cronin.

## Clarence Ernst To Tell of European Trip

Clarence Ernst, Holt county farmer, will show pictures and talk of his trip to Europe at annual extension and soil conservation meeting Thursday, January 20 at 1:30 p. m. in the court house annex.

The program for the afternoon will consist of summaries of the year's work of the soil conservation district and Holt county extension service. Election of two board members for extension service from supervisory district three and five.

Mr. Ernst will show moving pictures and colored slides of his trip to the foreign countries of Europe. Mr. Ernst was one of 25 mid-western farmers who made the trip and gained first hand information of living conditions overseas.

Officials state that the public is invited to attend the annual meeting of the Holt soil conservation district and the Holt county extension service.

Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Knittle, of Greeley, Colo., arrived last Thursday for a visit with Rev. and Mrs. J. G. Hamburger and family.

T. D. Anderson, of Norfolk, is a new employee at the Central Finances Co. office here.

## POLIO CAMPAIGN BEGINS FRIDAY

Mrs. Dorothy Kelly to Head 1949 March of Dimes in Holt

Mrs. Dorothy Kelly, of O'Neill, widow of the late Francis ("Fritz") Kelly, is Holt county chairman for the 1949 March of Dimes campaign in behalf of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

The drive will begin Friday. A workers' and officials' meeting will be held at the M & M cafe to launch the work.

Mrs. Thomas A. Green has been appointed by Mrs. Kelly as O'Neill drive campaign. Appointments in other communities have not been confirmed because of delayed mail and disrupted communications.

Dr. R. G. Gustavson, chancellor of the University of Nebraska and state March of Dimes chairman, has announced the 1949 appeal will officially open all over the nation Friday. Chancellor Gustavson, internationally known research scientist and educator, is a member of the national medical advisory committee of the Infantile Paralysis Foundation.

"It is my very profound conviction," said Doctor Gustavson, "that the National Foundation is carrying on a tremendously important job in research, education and in taking care of patients. For this reason it is with a deep sense of responsibility that I have again accepted the appointment as state chairman."

The National Foundation's only source of support, stated Chancellor Gustavson, is the contributions of the American people to the March of Dimes campaign each year in January. "But," urged the leader, "please don't take the March of Dimes title too literally. It is only a symbol . . . it takes dollars . . . dollars and many of them, to accomplish the all-out program conducted by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis."

"Polio is no stranger to us here in Nebraska," said Dr. Gustavson, "It has stricken those you and I know. When infantile paralysis comes to a home incomes quickly . . . without warning . . . without mercy . . . and when it leaves there may be a boy or girl who cannot walk . . . who cannot hope . . . unless you and I help. The Foundation spent \$248,000 in Nebraska alone last year."

The campaign dates are January 14-31. One half of your contribution goes to finance research; training of professional personal in fields bearing merit; and, for emergency aid in major epidemic areas, Gustavson said. The other 50 percent, he said, stays in the county where contributed to assist local patients needing that help.

## '49 Baby Derby Deadline Changed

Deadline for filing entries in Holt county's 1949 first baby contest, sponsored by The Frontier in cooperation with 14 O'Neill business firms, has been changed. Under original plans, all entries were to have been postmarked by 6 p. m. Monday, January 10. The new deadline is 6 p. m. Monday, January 17.

The first baby contest editor decided to make the change to provide for entries from outlying sections of the county which have been snowbound since Christmas. Several rural communities have not had mail service yet in the New Year and The Frontier reasoned that it would be unfair to close the contest until all entries could have been entered.

James Michael Beha, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew G. Beha, of O'Neill, presently leads the derby. He checked into this world at 7 a. m. on New Year's day—Saturday, January 1.

Infants must be born within the Holt county boundaries to be eligible.

## SCHOOL RESUMES

INMAN—The Inman school classes were partially resumed Monday morning after a two-weeks' vacation, one of which was forced due to closed roads. The high school and the seventh and eighth grades are having classes and the rural students are staying with relatives and friends in town.

## Aircraft Flying Mercy Missions and Errands to Rural People in Distress

Winter's "one-two" punch has North-Nebraska and the O'Neill region on the ropes. Fresh storms, accompanied by strong winds and subzero temperature, this week further complicated life in these parts. If until last week the Winter had not already earned undying fame as one of the most difficult on record, most observers are willing to concede the point now.

Skies had cleared and residents were hoping that they would get a breathing spell and an opportunity to dig out when a new storm late Saturday moved in from the Rockies. Temperatures dropped rapidly, wind closed most highways, and again the O'Neill region was completely paralyzed. The sub-zero temperatures prevailed throughout the entire midwest.

Meanwhile, coal piles dwindled and food supplies were running low and, in some instances, being exhausted. Officials and relief organizations were at a loss to know where relief was most needed.

Cliff Adkins, of the O'Neill Airport, with a ski-equipped airplane, continuously has been flying mercy missions and errands. Business became so brisk that Andy Risser, a Norfolk airman, assisted throughout Tuesday and a third aircraft was placed in action Wednesday.

On Wednesday Adkins was asked to call on 75-year-old Mrs. Ida Noble, who lived alone northeast of here. Affectionately known as "Grandma" Noble, she was found without foodstuffs. She said she had been eating "one pancake a day for several days." Mrs. Noble was evacuated by air and brought to O'Neill.

The Chamber of Commerce met in an extended three-hour session Tuesday night at the Golden hotel to deal with the problems of opening county roads. The city council met in special session early Wednesday, and the county board of supervisors, with several members snowbound and without a quorum, tackled the plowing problem.

A snowplow leased by the city last week for clearing city roads was released to the county to supplement county equipment in clearing principal county roads. The Chamber arranged for a crew of 20 workmen and Wednesday work was begun on the Opportunity road. By 2 p. m. the equipment had moved six miles, clearing the way both off-and-on the road. By evening the men and machines had reached Opportunity.

Andy Clark, chairman of the Holt county board of supervisors, said work would probably begin early today (Thursday) on what is known as the Menonite road, and as soon as that is opened another will be tackled.

Most of the principal streets in the city have been kept clear by the snowplow—which reached here Friday via truck from Omaha.

Mayor H. E. Coyne said it was doubtful if the city would attempt to purchase the plow, but would retain it on lease until its period of usefulness is over.

Early Monday the railroad picture was grim in O'Neill. Deep drifts four miles East of Emmet caused a derailment of a wrecker train, which was headed for Cody to help on the Black Hills division.

Eastbound train number 14 was held at Atkinson until the wreckage was cleared, and the Westbound train, number 13—already several hours late—was held at O'Neill until afternoon.

Tuesday's Westbound train number 13 ran about six hours late.

The Burlington railroad, which attracted widespread interest last week because of a derailment near here, has been dormant for nine days. The two derailed locomotives which had been bucking a drift 1,500 feet long and 18 feet deep with a wedge-type snowplow were kept "alive" for several days following the accident on Friday, December 31. In the face of a new storm the engines were abandoned. Meanwhile, a wrecker-snowplow from Sioux City, intending to participate in salvage operations, required two days to reach Page and itself became marooned.

The crews stayed with this train for several days, and during the weekend this train, also, was abandoned and the crewmen went by bus to Sioux City.

Agent H. A. Yocum in O'Neill said the Burlington plans to dispatch a rotary snowplow here to free the stranded locomotives, but doubts if a rotary can clear the track in less than a week.

Airmen have been flagged down with dish towels, shirts, blankets and handkerchiefs. In several instances people have "pooled" orders for supplies. When airmen sight signals, they land and usually one or more persons comes on foot or horseback to meet the aircraft.

Five trips were required to one landing place, carrying 200 pounds of groceries each trip. On numerous occasions medicines have been dispatched by courier.

Equipment failures hampered state highway department activity. On Tuesday and Wednesday two large plows were (Continued on page 5)

## McCLANAHAN RITES FRIDAY

O'Neill Woman Expires Monday in an Omaha Hospital

Funeral services for Mrs. Earl L. McClanahan, 42, will be held at 2 p. m. Friday in O'Neill at First Presbyterian church and burial will be in Prospect Hill cemetery. Rev. Ralph Gerber will officiate.

Mrs. McClanahan died Monday, January 10, at Omaha. She had been ill for 18 months.

A daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Liehty, she was born near O'Neill on January 5, 1906. On January 7, 1931 she married Earl L. McClanahan at Lake Andes, S. D.

Survivors include: Widower—Earl L. McClanahan. Mother—Mrs. Jennie Eppenbach. Sisters—Mrs. Ruth Morgan, Mrs. Harold (Pauline) Leise, Mrs. John (Faye) Bailey, Mrs. Thomas (Lois) Knoell, Mrs. Louis (Doris) Storch, of Spencer. Brothers—Ernest Eppenbach, Vernon Eppenbach, Lyle Eppenbach, Earl Eppenbach and Dale Eppenbach, all of O'Neill.

The remains arrived in O'Neill early Wednesday.

## Legion to Burn Building Mortgage

Simonson post of the American Legion is out of debt on its 25 thousand dollar club building and auditorium which was constructed in the Summer and Fall of 1947.

Commander John R. Gallagher said Wednesday that the last installment on the indebtedness—amounting to \$1,687—had been paid.

A mortgage burning ceremony and a party are planned for next month in celebration of the event.

Glea H. Wade was commander of the post during a two-year period in which the building was planned, built and in operation for about 10 months. Since August Gallagher has been commander.

Equally active in building the club and liquidating the indebtedness has been the ladies' auxiliary of Simonson post.

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