

MAN'S BODY, DEAD 3 DAYS, FOUND

Heart Attack Blamed for Sudden Death of Richard Jennings

Spends Life at O'Neill

The dead body of Richard Jennings, 67, single O'Neill man, was discovered about 2 p.m. Sunday in a hotel here. Dr. W. F. Finley, Mr. Jennings' physician, said he believed death was caused by a heart attack. It is believed death may have struck about three days before.

Doctor Finley said the man's heart condition had been serious for several years.

Funeral services were held at 10 a. m. Wednesday in St. Patrick's Catholic church here with Rt. Rev. J. G. McNamara, church pastor, officiating. Interment was in Calvary cemetery.

The late Mr. Jennings was born in O'Neill on November 2, 1881, a son of Richard and Mary Jennings, who had immigrated here from the East. The family lived nine miles northwest of O'Neill where the late Mr. Jennings continued to farm until several years ago, when his health began to decline and he retired.

Survivors include: Brothers—George, of Rapid City, S. D., and John, of Norfolk.

After the body was discovered, it was removed to Biglin Brothers funeral home.

Pallbearers were: E. F. Flood, P. C. Donohoe, Edward Murray, John Pribil, John Sullivan and M. H. Horiskey.

Fuel Shortage At Ewing Ends

EWING—Two days after coal supplies were exhausted here Ewing residents welcomed the belated arrival of two rail carloads of coal.

During late January and early February residents kept an anxious eye on the dwindling coal supplies and the fuel was rationed.

Meanwhile, citizens are digging out from under the blanket of snow. Some of the principal rural roads are passable and most activity now is centered around opening up haystacks.

Firemen Called Twice During Week

Twice this week firemen have been summoned by fire alarms.

Sunday evening at 9 o'clock the volunteer firemen went to the Howard Jeffries home where an oil stove had exploded. No damage was done.

At 1:45 p. m. Wednesday the department was called to the Lloyd Collins Implement store where a torch was out of control and threatened the building. No damage, however, was done.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Michael J. Gallagher, 25, of Inman, and Miss Joy Laursen Moore, 23, of Inman, February 11.

More Extra Copies Printed This Week

Again this week five hundred extra copies of The Frontier have been printed to meet the heavy demand for mementos of the Recurring Blizzards of 1948-49.

Orders continue to pour in for the February 3 issue which was a sell-out in five days. The February 10 issue likewise has been a sell-out and all requests for copies of The Frontier with "blizzard stories" henceforth will have to be filled with this issue February 17.

The Frontier is for sale for seven cents per copy on newsstands and at the circulation counter in the office. Copies will be mailed anywhere in the United States for 10 cents per copy (cash with order).

Scores of newspaper clippings from all over the country are finding their way back to Holt county. Mrs. Edna Coyne brought to The Frontier office an article from the Tokyo edition of Stars & Stripes in which O'Neill was mentioned prominently as a disaster center. The clipping came from her daughter, Mrs. H. M. Christenson, and son-in-law, Sergeant Christenson.

From Bungary, Suffolk England, came a letter to The Frontier this week stating that blizzard news on the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation, audible throughout Europe), had carried an O'Neill news dispatch.

13 JURY CASES ON SPRING DOCKET

District Judge Mounts to 'Call Docket' Friday at 10 A. M.

Thirteen jury cases are on the Holt county district court docket as March 7 approaches. That is the date the Spring term is scheduled to open.

District Judge D. R. Mounts said Wednesday that he will "call the docket" on Friday at 10 a. m.

Cases include: Mariane Hansen vs. Charles Lawrence; Pearl Andrews vs. C. K. Sexton; Durven Kipple vs. Iowa Precinct; Anna Clark vs. Roy Serry, et al; Frank Kazda vs. Carl Holz; Sadie Pickerson vs. Charles F. Prior; Clear Ridge Aviation vs. Gayle Williams; Matter of Estate of Joseph McDonald; Matter of Estate of Joseph Mann; Melvin Hansen vs. Transit, Inc.; Western Mutual Fire Insurance Co vs. Transit, Inc.; Thomas G. Slattery vs. Standard Oil Co.; Thomas G. Slattery vs. Standard Oil Co.

The Slattery-Standard Oil cases are in the process of being removed to federal court District Court Clerk Ira H. Moss said.

O'Neill Firemen Guests at Atkinson

Members of the O'Neill volunteer fire department Wednesday evening were guests of the Atkinson fire department at Atkinson. Good playing furnished the entertainment.

Need printing? See The Frontier printing department. adv

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PRICE 7 CENTS



The Gibson school . . . located 24 miles northeast of O'Neill . . . transformed during disaster into American Red Cross supply center, billet for fatigued dozer and weasel crewmen, a message and refuge center.



Inside the school students' desks were pushed aside to make room for GI cots, blocked salt and fuel oil. The teacher and her seven little pupils couldn't recognize the school today. In the photo (left-to-right) are: M. L. Parks, of O'Neill; Robert Tomlinson, of Star, and Francis Moore, of Atkinson. Bob Tomlinson is dispatcher at Gibson school; Parks and Moore are civilian "cat skimmers" (or "dozer operators").

Morale Climbs with Mercury

Operation Snowbound Moves into Home Stretch as 'Liberation' Nears End

By a Staff Writer

Under brilliant Spring-like skies Wednesday, the Fifth Army's Operation Snowbound was grinding to a finish in Holt county.

In four other counties—Boyd, Rock, Brown and Keya Paha—the emergency formally terminated at midnight Tuesday night. When the emergency will end in Holt county had not been determined Wednesday night. The day before, however, Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Pick, who is directing Operation Snowbound, emphasized that work will continue in Holt, Garfield, Wheeler, Greeley and Banner counties, the south one-third of Cherry county and the north one-half of Morrill county, as well as in all other Nebraska counties that haven't been officially removed from the disaster area.

"We have no intention of pulling out . . . until the job is finished," General Pick told a Boone county delegation.

Meanwhile Maj. James H. Harper, O'Neill sub-area commander, told The Frontier Wednesday that work was rapidly "letting up" and he felt the "crisis is definitely over." Major Harper said it appeared that from now on most persons will be able to solve their own problems. The Army, he said, considers that the snow and ice on the level has settled one-third—or from three feet to two feet—during the past seven days.

Tuesday and Wednesday the O'Neill headquarters was busy processing contractors pulling out of sub-area counties except Holt. At Ainsworth and Bassett numerous bulldozers have converged at railroad yards awaiting shipment. Several weasels and GI crews, used extensively in Holt county during the past fortnight, Wednesday afternoon were transported to Ainsworth from where they were to be flown to North Dakota for snow disaster duty there.

Example of the fair weather progress made since Sunday is the case of four D-8 dozers, among the largest built, owned and operated by private contractors working for the Army in the Dorsey communities. They plowed open 32 lineal miles of road during Monday night.

Evidence of the success in the field was shown on the streets of O'Neill, as well as other towns in the county, with "liberated" rural people coming to town—most of them for the first time in many weeks. Their stays usually were short-lived, however, refusing to gamble with the wind, and after a quick errand round-up they'd scurry back home.

But normalcy rapidly was being restored this week in O'Neill. Things won't be fully normal, however, until the Burlington's famed derailment problem has been solved. Burlington expects to clear the Sioux City-O'Neill line by Saturday. (For details see Burlington story elsewhere on this page and Radio Diary in section 2.)

People who know the Elkhorn river valley are no sooner emerging from their snow highways than they begin to take precautions against Spring floods. Officially, the snow depth measurement in Holt county is 36 inches—greatest in the Elkhorn water shed.

Glen D. Custer, American Red Cross field representative who has been directing ARC relief work in Holt and other storm-stricken counties since January 26, left O'Neill Monday for Western Nebraska and returned to O'Neill Wednesday night. Red Cross activity is declining rapidly and operations may be closed down this weekend.

Temperatures during the past week varied. Friday was the first Spring-like day of the year and morale of snow-sickened Nebraskans rose with the temperature, which hit 42 degrees. Little more than 24 hours later, however, the mercury was down to six degrees below zero and a new storm had moved in, bearing fresh snow.

A stern, storm-warning had been issued the day before and with a vast, powerful army of machinery in the neighborhood that latest storm wasn't as hard on the morale as earlier ones. A cold wave followed, but early Sunday large-scale snow-bucking operations were resumed after the storm had passed over. Since then, hundreds of lineal miles of roads and passages have been opened, haystacks have been "uncovered", important roads have been widened, and life rapidly is getting back to routine.

Barring a terrible new storm, Operation Snowbound this week is expected to be wrapped up. The Army makes the reservation, of course, because of Nebraska's unpredictable weather.

Late Wednesday night Army officials said there still remained some "mopping up" to do, particularly in the Scottville and Dorsey communities and near the Gibson school.

This is the first seven-day period since November during which the federal roads have been continuously open. Several lesser-travelled state roads were filled-in temporarily during the Saturday blow.

The Saturday storm also interrupted normal traffic on the mainline of the Northwestern but Wednesday's trains were running almost on schedule.

SKUDLER RITES PLANNED TODAY

Atkinson Woman, 78, Dies in Lincoln Result of a Stroke

ATKINSON—Funeral services will be held at 3 p. m. today (Thursday) at the Seger funeral home for Mrs. Joseph (Emma) Skudler, 78, who died at 4 p. m. Monday in Lincoln. She had suffered a stroke last fall at Atkinson, spent some time in the Stuart hospital, and later was taken to Lincoln to be near her daughter, Rose.

Mrs. Skudler, who died more than a year ago, operated an electric light plant at Atkinson for many years.

Rev. Orin C. Graf will officiate and burial will be in Wood Lawn cemetery.

Survivors include: Sons—Edward and Frank, both of Atkinson. Daughters—Mrs. Emma Winkle, of Topeka, Kansas, and Rose, of Lincoln.

\$157,000 Loan to REA Network

The Rural Electrification Administration has approved an additional loan of 157 thousand dollars for the Niobrara Valley Electric Membership Corp., according to William Blakolb, president. These funds will be used for completion of previously planned and approved line construction.

Actual building of lines has been held up because of bad weather and impassable roads, according to Manager Ed Wilson, but construction work is to resume as soon as weather conditions permit.

An application for another loan is being forwarded to REA by the Niobrara Valley organization. Funds from this loan will be used for additional construction after the first section has been completed.

QUALIFIES FOR HONOR PAGE—Beverly Wanser, of Page was among the juniors of Wayne state college to qualify for recognition on the honor roll for the past semester. His average was 2.5; the highest average possible being 3.0.

Weekend in a Weasel

By CAL STEWART
Editor, The Frontier

I took a two-day whirl through snowland by weasel and airplane to find out how a dozen snow-locked Nebraska families in one of the hardest hit disaster areas were enduring the worst Winter in the history of the West.

I got an idea of how the Fifth Army and American Red Cross came with men and machines to relieve human suffering and livestock starvation, and how, together with a strong-willed people, man, as usual, was winning the struggle with nature.

Our story begins on November 18. This portion of North-Central Nebraska—northeastern Holt county in particular—was visited by an unprecedented late fall blizzard that raged for two days. Since then about 67 inches of snow has fallen in blizzard-after-blizzard. For weeks the story has been the same: wind and snow, snow and wind. Men who've spent their life here have lost count of the storms. Men who have been idolized for years for their survival of the great blizzard of 1888 and whose memories of that storm have made loved slightly during the intervening years, now witness that the Recurring Blizzards of 1948-49 have brought about the hardest and costliest Winter on record.

Layers of snow and ice measured 35 inches in depth on the level.

The Fifth Army moved in during the first week of February with appreciable strength, and Operation Snowbound was begun. Until then, Holt and 21 other Nebraska counties had been in a state of emergency for a week—officially proclaimed by the governor. Thousand is of families had not been heard from for weeks. Food and fuel supplies had long since been depleted and, in numerous in-

100 PERCENT

During his Weekend in a Weasel, The Frontier editor contacted 15 farm families. He discovered: In EVERY home the regularly-scheduled "Voice of The Frontier" programs were heard religiously in two-thirds of the homes he found this newspaper a regular visitor (until the storms came). School classes are held at the Ben Miller farm home, instead of the snow-bound school. Classes usually begin for Teacher Lola Ickes and her three pupils at 5:30 a. m., except on Mondays and Wednesdays, when studies start at 9:45—following the "Voice of The Frontier" program. One family charged the radio battery regularly in an automobile in order that they could hear the "Voice"

stances, exhausted. Livestock on short rations for many weeks were weakening and dying. Many families used fence posts, furniture and an occasional brooder house for fuel.

Meanwhile, hundreds of caterpillar tractors with bulldozer attachments were rushed out of army engineer storage depots and off government reclamation projects to join the battle. Troops, mostly dozer operators and maintenance men, were speeded to the disaster area to man and machines. Weasels—a species of vehicle that is a weird cross between an oversized jeep and a light tank—were flown in from Camp Carson, Colo., where the Army trains mountain and ski troops. That's when Operation Snowbound got underway.

I contend that Major General A. Pick's label for this great peacetime mechanized operation is a misnomer. It should read: Combined Op-

eration Snowbound. I say combined because this arctic battle could not have been fought so successfully thus far without full cooperation between the populace, the Army and the American Red Cross. Before forces were joined for the all-out assault, these dogged, weary people were taking everything the Weather Man could dish out.

I'll admit, though, there was a time before the Army arrived that the spirit of these people had hit a new low. There was a time when even the hardest wondered how long they could hold out.

But let's get on with the trip.

Our weasel departure was scheduled from the American Red Cross distress headquarters in O'Neill, capital of Holt county's 2,400 square miles, at 2 p. m. on Saturday. The mission was to transport fuel oil and medicine to distressed persons, to take grease to a waiting bulldozer along the way, to drop off at his home a farmer who had been marooned in town for several days, and to deliver to an Army supply point two "re-freshed" dozer operators—cat skimmers, they call them. The motley crew consisted of: T/Sgt. Walter Fairfield, of 355 East Broadway, Muskegon, Mich., and T/Sgt. Grady Boutwell, of 14 1/2 West McKellar St., Memphis, Tenn.; Earl Kifer, 56, O'Neill farmer; William S. Buck, jr., of O'Neill, and Francis Moore, of Atkinson, civilian bulldozer operators, and this reporter.

Destination was the Gibson school—a country classroom transformed into an Army-Red Cross supply center, a billet for fatigued dozer and weasel crewmen, a message and refuge center for storm-stranded residents. Gibson school is 24 miles north-

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Al Sipes, 35, O'Neill handyman-turned-weasel-driver . . . when he delivered American Red Cross coal to a home that had been cold, the man of the house put his arms around Sipes and wept.—The Frontier Photos by John H. McCarville.

(Story at left)

Burlington Disaster Crews Hit New Low in Snow-Removal Progress Near McLean

By EUGENE M. LIEWER
Editor, Osmond Republican

The 1949 rail traffic tieup between Sioux City and O'Neill, is the worst in that line's 58-year history. That is the official word of W. P. Wilson, general

superintendent of the Omaha, Lincoln and Wymore C. B. & Q. divisions, who was in Osmond, halfway point this week.

The general superintendent travels by automobile on the

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