

# Flood Preparedness Committee Formed

## Governor Calls Meeting Civic Groups Today at Neligh

A Holt county flood disaster preparedness committee has been formed to function under American Red Cross direction in the event floods strike in the Elkhorn river valley.

Working under the Holt ARC chapter, the flood disaster committee will be headed by Glea H. Wade, who helped administer relief work in the county for the Red Cross during Operation Snowbound.

Wade's duties will be to make an advance survey of flood possibilities and draft relief plans, clear plans with civic, county and state agencies, interpret ARC assistance policy and keep higher Red Cross headquarters advised on developments.

Under the disaster chairman there will be four committee chairmen. These are: Harry Ressel—survey, rescue, transportation and communications; Mrs. Glen Tomlinson—registration, inquiry, family; American Legion auxiliary (Mrs. John Davidson, chairman)—food, shelter, clothing; Dr. J. P. Brown, chairman, and Mrs. Melvin Ruzicka, vice-chairman—medical aid.

Headquarters will be in the courthouse basement, same as during Operation Snowbound, and shelter headquarters will be the American Legion club, likewise used as a shelter center during Operation Snowbound.

Community chairmen in various Holt county cities and towns, who are being asked to act as leaders in the event of floods, are: Lyle Dierks, Ewing; Earl Watson, Inman; J. W. Walter, Chambers; John Conard, Emmet; Kenneth Waring, Middlebranch; Frank Brady, Atkinson; Glen Cobb, Stuart; Robert Tomlinson, Star (Gibson school), and Effie Stevens, Page.

In a survey of flood capabilities in the upper Elkhorn river valley, a government weather bureau worker in the O'Neill vicinity Tuesday estimated nine inches of moisture on the level after sampling snow and ice depths and converting the samples to water.

Gov. Val Peterson has called a meeting today (Thursday) at Neligh and has invited delegations from towns from Norfolk to Stuart.

Flood relief measures will be discussed. At least three O'Neill men: Wade; John R. Gallagher, Holt county American Red Cross chairman, and H. L. Lindberg, representing the Chamber of Commerce, were expected to attend.

Valley residents are keeping a close watch on the Elkhorn river. Full-fledged thawing that has been in progress for several days already has the river bank-full. No gorges had developed until late Wednesday.

## Holt Fair Board in Special Meet

CHAMBERS — Officials of the Holt County Agricultural society, sponsors of the annual Holt county fair and rodeo, met Wednesday afternoon in special session.

Important matters pertaining to the 1949 exposition were discussed.

# THE FRONTIER

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## 'Voice' to Be Heard 15 Minutes Later

Beginning Wednesday, March 2, the "Voice of The Frontier" program, originating in the O'Neill studios of radio station WJAG, will begin at 9:45 a. m., instead of 9:30.

Time change for the regularly-scheduled program, broadcast each Monday, Wednesday and Saturday, has been made for a twofold purpose. Mary Moore, WJAG's homemaker heard just before The Frontier broadcast, will extend her program 15 minutes—from 9 to 9:45—instead of her current half-hour program, 9 to 9:30. When necessary, The Frontier program can be converted into a half-hour by beginning at 9:45 and running until 10:15.

## FALL INJURIES PROVE FATAL

CHAMBERS — Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Wednesday in the Methodist church at Chambers for Hans Obermiller, 42-year-old ranch worker, who died at 9:10 a. m. Sunday in St. Mary's hospital at North Platte.

Burial was in the Chambers cemetery under the direction of Biglin Brothers, of O'Neill. Rev. Ralph Gerber, pastor of First Presbyterian church, of O'Neill, officiated.

Mr. Obermiller fell from a windmill tower recently and his death is partially attributed to injuries received in the fall.

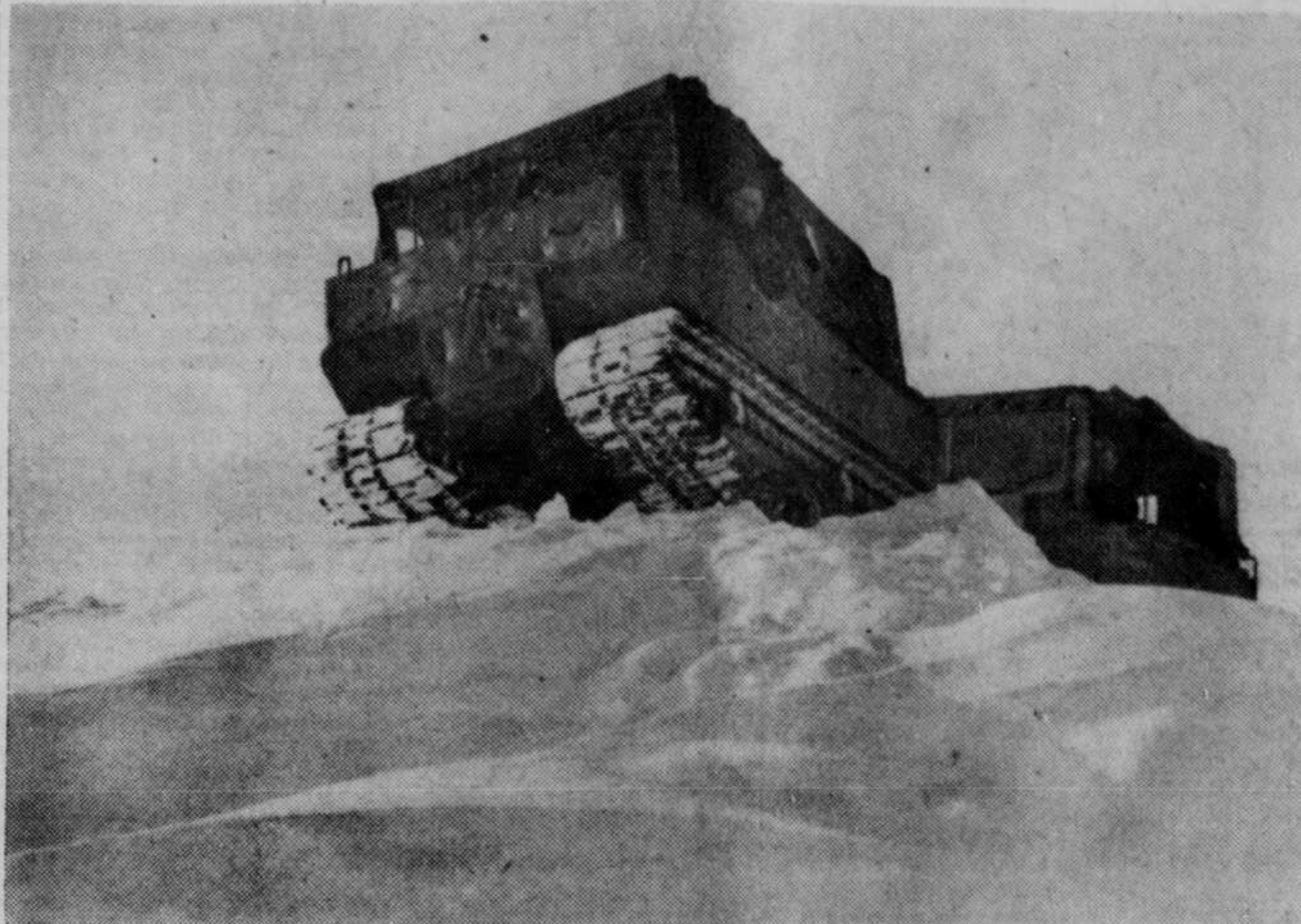
He was born November 21, 1906, at Loup City. In 1929 he went to Hyannis where for 13 years he was employed by J. L. Snyder on a ranch.

During 1935 and 1936 he resided at the Isaac Taylor residence at Chambers. Mrs. Obermiller is the former Elsie Taylor.

Survivors include: Widow; sister—Mrs. Minnie Wagner, of Riverton, Wyo.; brothers—Arthur, Carl and Edward, all of Loup City; Fredrick, of Rockville; Otto, of Kearney, and Ferdinand, of Riverton, Wyo.

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### 'WEASELS' BRING RELIEF; TAKE LEAVE

The weird "weasels", the vehicles that are a cross between a war-born jeep and a light tank, have come and gone. Most rural folk who saw them rolling over the snow when all other surface vehicles failed wish they owned one—even for normal Winters. Top photograph is a dramatic shot made by The Frontier's staff photographer, John H. McCarville, as two "weasels" operating in northeast Holt county were bounding over the drifts. Bottom picture shows Al Sipes, of O'Neill, delivering groceries to Mr. and Mrs. Earl Kifer, of the Gibson school vicinity, during a typical mercy mission.



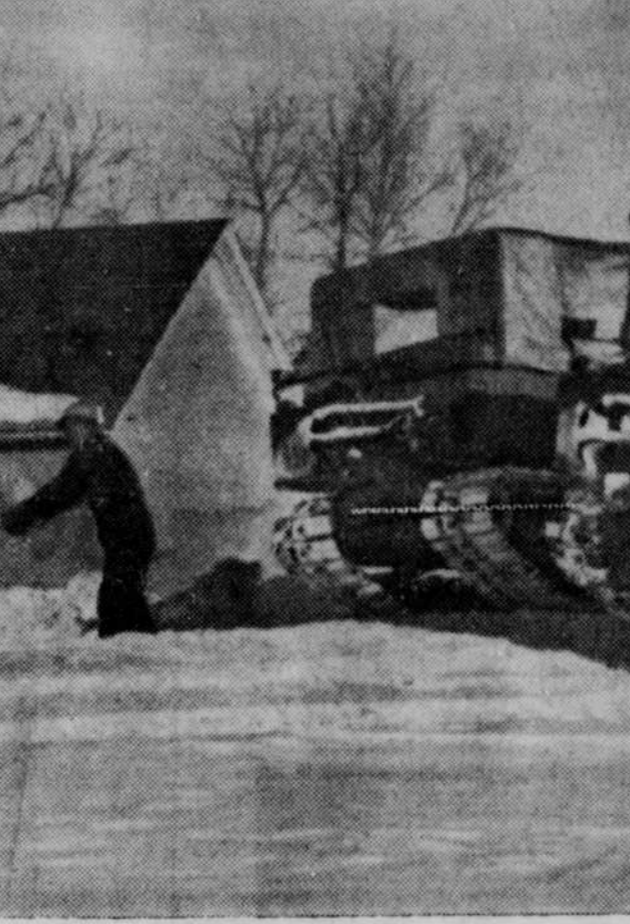
## George W. Parsons Burial at Crofton

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# 'Snowbound' Ends in Holt

## BURLINGTON'S TRIUMPH NEARS

### Casey Jones Legend to Make Room for Story of Derailed Engines

Yep, the Casey Jones railroad legend will simply have to move over and make room for the epic story of the Burlington's two derailed locomotives.

The story is so fresh in the minds of most of The Frontier's readers that it isn't really necessary to repeat.

Two locomotives, pushing a wedge-type snowplow through a 1,500-foot snowdrift 18 feet deep, left the rails six miles east of O'Neill on December 30. For several days the snowplow crews kept the engines "alive," conveying coal from town by burlap sack and scooping snow into the tender to substitute for water.

Finally, in the face of new storms, the engines were abandoned and they lay partially on their side buried in snow until Wednesday.

Photographs of the hapless locomotives made front pages of many newspapers in the land.

Burlington disaster crews went to work. Wedge-type plows couldn't begin to clear the snow and ice. Even the rotary plow, "borrowed" from a Rocky Mountain division, finally had to give up.

These crews hit a new low in snow-removal progress near McLean. Dynamite was used to blast snow out of several of the cuts. In one 16-hour period the crews advanced only nine feet!

First time in Burlington history, the railroad officials turned to private contractors for help. Big bulldozers went to work, skimming snow off the top of the rails and, finally, progress was being made.

Early Wednesday the "dozers" reached the two derailed locomotives, and others went on ahead to clear the tracks into O'Neill.

Workmen manually were digging out the locomotives Wednesday night and firing them. As soon as the two iron horses are rightened and the torn rails are restored, the engines are expected to chug into O'Neill under their own steam.

Wednesday night that triumphant moment seemed only a matter of hours away.

Last train East from O'Neill, Western terminus on the 125-mile O'Neill-to-Sioux City line, left here on Tuesday, December 28.

## Miniature 'Blizzard' Hits Circulation Desk

A miniature "blizzard" hit The Frontier's circulation desk during February.

More than 1,500 extra copies of the issues of February 3, 10 and 17 were printed and the supply has been exhausted.

Reprints of "Weekend in a Weasel", epic story of a mercy mission written by The Frontier's editor, Carroll W. Stewart, were printed with pictures to substitute for full issues of papers that had been ordered.

Supply of "Weasel" stories will not be exhausted. Reprints are being sold at seven cents each or 10 cents each if you wish The Frontier to handle and mail the full-page reprint to any address in the United States.

## Rural People Liberated, Emergency Terminates Monday at Midnight

### 'Dozers Move Out'

Operation Snowbound now is history in Holt county. The emergency formally ended Monday at midnight, several days after Maj. James H. Harper, Fifth army commander in the O'Neill sub-area of district II, had recommended its termination to Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Pick, overall commander of the extensive snow-removal operation.

Fifth army pulled out of the other counties in the sub-area — Boyd, Rock, Brown and Keya Paha — a week earlier.

Army commanders in the field made recommendations to General Pick and the General, in turn, made recommendations to Gov. Val Peterson, who had declared that an emergency existed and was responsible for bringing the military into the area.

Until the end the big bulldozers were chewing away at Holt county snowbanks, eating up miles of snow-clogged roads. It was 6 p. m. Tuesday before all the men and machines had gotten in from the field.

Until Saturday more than a hundred 'dozers were still at work in Holt county alone. By Monday this figure had dwindled to 80.

Some of the 'dozers were shipped out of here for Wyoming, where Operation Snowbound was still in full swing. Others went to Knox, Cedar and Dixon counties East of here; still others—government-owned machines—were enroute back to Granite City, Ill., aboard railroad flat cars. This is the point from which they came.

Throughout Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, highways leading out of Holt county were filled with 'dozers heading elsewhere, most of them loaded aboard "low-boy" trailers or trucks.

Major Harper late Wednesday was closing down the Fifth army sub-area headquarters, planning to move out of the city about noon today (Thursday). Actually, the demobilization had been underway for a week as men and machines were being released to other storm-stricken areas still paralyzed.

Northeastern Holt county, probably the hardest-hit section in north-central Nebraska, was the last to get full relief. But after equipment was concentrated in that locality, the big machines, manned by civilian operators, made short work of it. During the 24-hour period that ended at 10 p. m. last Thursday, the army had cleared 486 lineal miles of road.

This was an all-time record for a single county anywhere in Operation Snowbound, according to army officials here.

Most of the northeast Holt plowing was done after Sunday, February 13. Most of the work that had been done prior to that date had filled-in again and snow-removal had to begin anew.

All "weasels" have been taken out of the county. Most of these—and their Fifth army crews—were trucked to Ainsworth from where they were flown to Wyoming and North Dakota for disaster work there.

"Liberated" rural people, many of whom hadn't been in O'Neill since before Christmas, have found new spirit. Most townfolk admit that their country cousins show signs of weariness and hardship borne by the Recurring Blizzards of 1948-'49.

Fifth army headquarters here were in the Holt county courthouse. Major Harper and his staff occupied a portion of the office of the register of deeds, Esther Cole Harris, and the board of supervisors' office.

Scores of civilian and military relief workers were housed in private homes. For a month hotels were filled to capacity.

## Auction Calendar

The following sales have been booked in The Frontier's auction sales calendar:  
Saturday, February 26—Howard Jeffrey, O'Neill, personal property at residence.  
Monday, February 28—Ralph Brittell farm sale, near Page.

# Red Cross Disaster Operations End

The American Red Cross at noon Wednesday closed down its distress headquarters in the Holt county courthouse basement. Since January 26 the ARC headquarters has been a focal point in Operation Snowbound.

From the headquarters human relief was administered in seven north-Nebraska counties as well as in Holt county, where more funds were spent by the Red Cross than in the seven other counties combined.

Heading the relief work in the eight-county area was Glen D. Custer, American Red Cross field representative with World War II welfare experience. Custer, coming in response to a call from John R. Gallagher, Holt county ARC chapter chairman, elected to administer the eight-county work here because of O'Neill's communications facilities and because Holt county itself was hardest-hit in this sector. Actually, O'Neill was the most easterly city in the eight-county area.

Glea H. Wade, ex-commander of Simonson post 93 of the American Legion, was Custer's No. 2 man in running the distress headquarters. Members of the American Legion auxiliary of

Simonson post manned the battery of telephones 'round-the-clock as humanitarian relief work was carried out. Heading the auxiliary staff was Mrs. Glen Tomlinson.

The distress headquarters established priorities, purchased food and supplies, and dispatched airplanes, "weasels", freight-sleds and vehicles on mercy missions for nearly a month.

Custer and his wife, who has been here for two weeks, will leave O'Neill today (Thursday).

Officials of the Holt county ARC chapter met in O'Neill Monday night and closed the books on the activity in this county. Some of the figures follow: Food hauled by airplane—26,000 pounds; fuel oil and coal hauled by airplane—103,000 pounds; food hauled by "weasel"—13,000 pounds; feed, fuel oil and coal hauled by "weasel"—167,000 pounds; food hauled by sled—32,500 pounds; fuel oil and coal hauled by sled 66,500 pounds; fuel oil and coal hauled by army truck—60,000 pounds; missions flown by airplanes—564.

Summary of the eight-county activity and comparisons follows:

	Volunteers	Planes	Missions	Families Ass't. by Planes	Weasels	Missions	Families Ass't. by Weasels	Ground Vehicles	Families Ass't. by Ground Veh.	Veh. Evacuations	Survey (Aerial)	Paid by Chapters	Expenditure
Boyd	6	0	6	10	1	20	20	0	0	1	3 hrs.	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Keya Paha	4	1	12	18	2	50	50	0	0	0	6 hrs.	300.00	300.00
Holt	72	17	564	473	12	210	260	6	300	31	87 hrs.	9,000.00	14,750.00
Brown	8	5	65	57	3	40	40	3	20	2	25 hrs.	1,000.00	2,750.00
Rock	12	3	35	30	0	0	0	0	0	0	500 hrs.	500.00	500.00
Cherry	9	3	35	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	10 hrs.	1,375.00	1,375.00
Sheridan	25	8	100	100	7	72	100	6	75	12	24 hrs.	500.00	2,550.00
Dawes	35	4	30	30	5	75	200	12	75	2	60 hrs.	2,875.00	2,875.00
Totals	161	41	812	723	38	527	790	32	445	50	195 hrs.	\$15,800.00	\$25,350.00

## Chambers Drafts Appreciation Notes

CHAMBERS — Members of the Chambers disaster committee drafted and sent letters of appreciation to Maj. James H. Harper, O'Neill sub-area commander in Operation Snowbound, to Maj. Gen. Lewis A. Pick, overall Snowbound commander, and Gov. Val Peterson.

Committee members met on Monday night with Major Harper. Normalcy is being restored here. Rural schools have reopened — many of them for the first time since Christmas.

## MULTIPLE ROLE

Allen Martin, of O'Neill, will appear in a multiple role in the forthcoming production of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" at Nebraska state college at Wayne on March 10 and 11. He will play a guard, Marcellus and Osric, courtier and judge.

"Voice of The Frontier" . . . 780 . . . thrice weekly.

## Norfolkman to Enter Appliance Field

M. E. Jacobson, of Norfolk, next week will enter the electrical appliance field in O'Neill. As a result of arrangements completed Wednesday, Mr. Jacobson's store will be in the Beha building, second door East of the old Nebraska State bank building on Douglas street.

Matthew G. Beha, who has operated the Beha Electric in that location, has withdrawn from the appliance field and will devote his time exclusively to wiring and selling of electrical fixtures. The radio maintenance section will continue to be operated by John Mullen.

Formal announcement of Mr. Jacobson's coming to O'Neill and store policy will appear in next week's issue of The Frontier. Mr. and Mrs. Jacobson and their son, John Paul, 2, have not completed housing arrangements.

There is an average of 1,690 fires daily in the United States.



### EX-OFFICIAL DIES . . .

John Steinhauser, 83, ex-Holt county supervisor, died Wednesday, February 9, at his Stuart home. He had been ill 2 1/2 months. Survivors include four daughters and three sons.