



CONSUMERS BUYS 'HOME' . . . L. C. Walling, district manager of Consumers Public Power, Monday announced the district's purchase of the Scott building for its permanent headquarters. The Scott block, measuring 45 x 110 feet, on the ground floor and 45 x 85 feet on the second floor, is located on the North side of Douglas street, between Fourth and Fifth streets. The original building on the site was destroyed by fire and the present building was constructed by the Scott brothers—Charles and Gerald. In September, 1945, the block was purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Sumner Downey from Mrs. Ruth Scott Oppen Mann. For 20 years it has been occupied by Consumers and its predecessor, Interstate Power company. Purchase price was 23 thousand dollars, according to R. H. Parker, who handled the sale. Mr. Walling says that extensive remodeling is contemplated this year.—The Frontier Photo by John H. McCarville.

Fire Destroys Page School

Blaze of Unknown Origin Proves Costly to Holt Community

Arrange Classrooms

PAGE—The Page public school building built in 1915, with the exception of the gymnasium wing, built in 1929, early Friday was destroyed by fire of undetermined origin. The blaze was the costliest in Page's history.

Rolla Park, who with his wife, a teacher, live in a small building near the school, first discovered the fire about 2 a. m. He saw a reflection on the windshield of his automobile parked in the yard. He hurried to the C. E. Walker place, a half-block away, where there was a telephone and he summoned help.

When Park and Walker reached the school, they were met by Lorenz Nissen, who had heard "an explosion." While they were marshaling help and bringing the fire truck to the scene, flames began pouring out the East entrance, and shortly thereafter walls of the main building began to cave in.

O'Neill volunteer firemen responded to the call for help, but nothing could be done to save the structure. O'Neill and Page firemen fought the blaze until 7 o'clock Friday morning.

Although the gymnasium was not burned, about a foot of water stood in that part of the structure. A piano and some other musical instruments in that part of the building were removed, but the floor and ceiling were ruined.

Page firemen poured more water onto the ruins later in the day to squelch flames that had flared up in the debris.

School officials were not certain where the blaze started, but it may have been in the basement, below the East entrance.

Firemen were handicapped by a short water supply. Much of the water poured onto the fire was from a nearby creek. The Page water tank has been frozen all winter. Water for the use of residents has been pumped during the daytime recently, but pumps often have been shutdown at night.

The village siren was not in best working order, but the fire had made such headway that little could be done.

Soren Sorensen, school custodian, said that the stoker had been "fired lightly" because of the mild weather.

A large crowd of spectators gathered to watch the firemen.

(Continued on page 5)

Mrs. Anna Kaup, Former Stuart Resident, Dies

STUART—Mrs. Anna Kaup, well-known former Stuart resident, died Tuesday at Steinhauer, where she had been ill for two years.

Funeral services will be held Friday in St. Boniface Catholic church at Stuart with burial in the St. Boniface cemetery. Norris Coats, of the Coats mortuary, went to Steinhauer Wednesday for the body.

Survivors include two sons and three daughters. One son, Leo, now of Genoa, was a Stuart Advocate employee for 17 years.

Mrs. Kaup's husband died several years ago. The Kaups originally were farmers, moved to Stuart where Mr. Kaup operated a feed store.

WIDOW OF VET DRUGGIST DIES

Mrs. Robert E. Chittick, 77, Succumbs 10½ Months After Husband's Death

STUART—Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Monday in the Stuart auditorium for Mrs. Robert E. Chittick, 77, widow of a veteran Holt county druggist who at one time was also a Holt county official. Rev. V. R. Bell, pastor of the Methodist church in O'Neill,



Mrs. Robert E. Chittick . . . never recovered from a broken hip suffered in a fall.

officiated and burial was in the Stuart cemetery.

Norris Coats mortuary was in charge.

Mrs. Chittick died at 3:15 p. m. Friday at her home in Stuart. On January 16, 1948, she broke her hip in a fall and never fully recovered, relatives said. Her husband died in June, 1948.

Sarah Leona Sturevant was born November 8, 1872, at Meade. At about the age of three, she moved to Atkinson with her parents, Joseph B. and Cornelia Newton Sturevant.

After graduating from high school in Atkinson and attending Gates college at Neligh, she taught in rural schools near Atkinson.

On July 7, 1891, she was married to Robert E. Chittick and moved to Stuart where she lived the remainder of her life. Throughout her life, she was active in the Methodist church. Recently she was presented with a life membership in the Women's Society of the Christian Service. She was a member of the BU of PEO of Atkinson. Always active in civic affairs, her greatest interest was the beautification of the Stuart cemetery through the Women's Improvement club. She continued to be active in this work as long as her health permitted.

Survivors include: Sons—Martin B. Chittick, of New York City; Robert E. Chittick, jr., of Casper, Wyo.; Dr. Rupert A. Chittick, of Waterbury, Vt.; and Ralph J. Chittick, of Balboa, Canal Zone. Daughters—Mrs. R. A. Mains, of Casper, Wyo., and Miss Ethel C. Chittick, of Stuart. Sister—Mrs. D. L. Thompson, of Hastings.

All of the sons and daughters were near their mother at the time of her death.

BREAKS ARM

William Kelly suffered a broken arm Wednesday when a winch slipped and hit him.

2d Annual Spring Opening Edition 24 PAGES

WEDNESDAY'S SNOW AND BLOW, reminiscent of the weather that made the Winter of 1948-'49 one of the memorable ones on record, hasn't deterred The Frontier and O'Neill's leading business firms in presenting the second annual Spring Opening Edition. This 24-page issue of The Frontier goes into 4,500 homes, including most rural homes in Holt and Boyd counties as well as into hundreds of rural homes served by the Bonesteel and Fairfax, S. D., Newport, Verdell, Verdigre, Orchard and Clearwater postoffices.

THE UNPREDICTABLE WEATHERMAN has made difficult the planning and preparation for this edition, but the alert O'Neill businessmen are mindful that April 1 is at hand, Easter is 18 days away. Come what may, Spring in the true sense is sure to follow although thus far it is here in name only.

EVEN THOUGH WINTER has revisited the O'Neill region twice within the past week and people have been snowbound, mudbound and waterbound, the stores and shops in this shopping center for North-Central Nebraska

and South-Central South Dakota are bedecked with Spring merchandise. With the Easter season at hand it means a lift in the weather . . . in spirits . . . in hopes . . . and there is a compelling urge for something new. Whether that urge takes the form of a new outfit for yourself, for the members of the family, something for the home, or something from the food stores, you'll find it in the advertisements in this issue of The Frontier.

TO HERALD the new season, O'Neill stores have stocked a host of new things in all departments. You will find a distinctive selection to please every taste and every desire. The O'Neill merchants have worked hard to bring you quality merchandise, the maximum in service, and thrifty low prices. So, when Ol' Man Winter has relented, the skies have cleared and you're no longer snowbound, mudbound or waterbound, hurry to O'Neill and let the merchants whose advertisements you've read serve you with the things you want for the new season.

—THE FRONTIER

THIS ISSUE



THE FRONTIER

North-Nebraska's Fastest-Growing Newspaper

3 SECTIONS
SECTION I
PAGES 1 TO 8

VOLUME 68—NUMBER 47

O'NEILL, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, MARCH 31, 1949

PRICE 7 CENTS



PAGE SCHOOL BEFORE AND AFTER . . . Pictured above is the Page public school as it stood for many years as the finest building in the town. Below the ruins are shown—the result of the costliest fire in Page's history.

Fire of undetermined origin destroyed the school early Friday. The new gymnasium wing was saved. In February last bonded indebtedness on the building was taken up.—(Top: O'Neill Photo Co.; lower—Betty Knudson, Page high student.)

(See story at left.)



Army Day to Be Observed Here

Wednesday, April 6, is Army day and a formal observance is planned in O'Neill.

Mayor H. E. Coyne has issued an official proclamation and a one-hour program has been arranged.

A parade will depart from the American Legion building at 2:30 p. m., marching West on Douglas street to the Knights of Columbus corner, then South one block, East one block, and North to the intersection of Fourth and Douglas streets where, near the traffic signal, the program will be presented.

Capt. Roger M. Thompson, of Grand Island, will speak over a public address system.

Order of parade: Municipal band, directed by Ira George; American Legion, commanded by John R. Gallagher; Chamber of Commerce, headed by J. Leo Moore; Lions club, headed by Hugh Ray and William McIntosh; Rural Youth and 4-H clubs, headed by County Agent A. Neil Dawes; American Legion auxiliary, headed by Mrs. Melvin Ruzicka; Girl Scouts, directed by Mrs. Merle Hickey and Mrs. William Beha.

S/Sgt. James Lyons, Army and Air Force recruiting representative here, is in charge of arrangements.

HARRY FULLER DIES AT STUART

Death Separates Couple Married 58 Years; Funeral Tuesday

STUART—Harry Fuller died Friday at the Stuart hospital. He had been critically ill for some time.

Funeral services were held Tuesday at 2:30 p. m. in the Federated church at Stuart with Rev. Orin C. Graff, church pastor, officiating.

Mr. Fuller's death separated a pioneer couple that had been married 58 years. Their wedding anniversary was January 7.

Mr. Fuller came to the Mariaville community in 1884, among the earliest of settlers. He retired and moved into Stuart a few years ago.

Survivors include: Widow—Fannie; sons—Howard and Ilo, both of Newport; daughters—Mrs. Laura Marshall, of Colorado Springs, Colo.; Mrs. Walter (Polly) Wells, of Butte, and Clara, of Stuart. He also leaves 10 grandchildren.

Voice' Time Change Begins Saturday

Change in time of the "Voice of the Frontier" radio program, heard Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays through Norfolk's WJAG, will be effective Saturday. The quarter-hour remote control O'Neill program, originating in studios in The Frontier building, will begin at 9:45 a. m. instead of 9:30 a. m.

Purpose of the change is to extend Mary Moore's "Homemaker" program from a half-hour to 45 minutes and to enable The Frontier to extend its program from 15 to 30 minutes when the need arises.

The time change was originally announced for March 1, and then delayed for a month.

Because the telephone wire linking the O'Neill studios with the control room at WJAG, 69 miles away, was severed because of heavy snow and sleet, Wednesday's program was not broadcast at the regular time.

By late Wednesday afternoon, April 6, piano small groups will be heard at St. Mary's auditorium at 4 p. m. with Prof. James Reistrup, of Morning-side college, Sioux City, as judge.

Piano solos will open the performance at 7 p. m. at St. Mary's auditorium.

On Thursday morning, the

New Threat of Flood Looms

Twist in Weather Brings Rain and Snow; Blizzard Parallels November 18 Storm

New floods are threatening valley residents along the Elkhorn river and its tributaries. An unusual twist in an all ready abnormal year brings added peril to lowlands.

Rain and snow Tuesday and Wednesday promised more high water when the skies clear and the mercury mounts.

On Saturday rain turned to snow in the O'Neill region and by 8 a. m. Sunday the Elkhorn, peaceful after the high water of nearly a month ago, began to rise. By Monday morning the river had surpassed the previous high-water mark of the season.

Tuesday afternoon a light shower of rain turned to snow. By nightfall, the countryside was blanketed with an unseasonal whiteness. Snowfall continued through Wednesday. At times visibility was zero because of a strong wind with gusts up to 35- and 40-miles-per-hour. Only difference between this week's storm and the historic January and February storms is in the temperatures. During the height of the storm Wednesday afternoon the temperature stood at 30 degrees.

While snow was piling and blowing in the O'Neill region, Norfolk reported rain. Six inches of snow fell in O'Neill during the 24-hour period ending Wednesday at 8 a. m. At the same time, snow up to 12- and 15-inches in depth fell at Broken Bow, Chadron and points in the Panhandle, where roads were closed. Total snow during the past 48 hours has been estimated at 18-inches.

1,529 ENTRIES FOR MUSIC CONTEST

O'Neill Host City for Students from 35 High Schools

The annual district music contest for high school musicians from 35 schools will be held in O'Neill next Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, April 6, 7 and 8.

Corridors, auditoriums and music rooms in St. Mary's academy and O'Neill high school buildings will resound with high "C's" from bright young sopranos and echo with blares from brass bands as students come from as far as Alliance for individual and group competition. Until noon Wednesday, Supt. Ira George, contest director, said that 1,529 entries had been received.

Geographically, the entries come from as far Southwest as North Platte, as far East as Alliance, as far West as Randolph and as far Northeast as Niobrara.

Entries by schools follow (including chaperons): Neligh, 150; Tilden, 136; O'Neill, 124; Valentine, 115; Atkinson, 101.

Piano competition will be heard on Wednesday in all classes, Class C and D competition will be carried out on Thursday; class B schools will compete on Friday.

Schools entered include: Ainsworth, Atkinson, Brunswick, Burwell, Butte, Chambers, Clearwater, Creighton, Ewing, Keya Paha (Springview), Inman, Long Pine, Meadow Grove, Elgin, Center, Neligh, Newport, Niobrara, Oakdale, O'Neill, Orchard, Page, Rock County (Bassett), Royal, Spencer, St. Agnes academy (Alliance), St. Francis de Chantel (Randolph), St. Joseph's hall (Atkinson), St. Ludwig's academy (Creighton), St. Mary's academy (O'Neill), Stuart, Tilden, Valentine, Verdigre and Lynch.

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(Continued on page 4)

The cargo of heavy, wet snow raised havoc with power and telephone lines in the O'Neill region. At noon Wednesday the Northwestern Bell Telephone company could contact only Chambers, Spencer and Winner, S. D. All other long distance circuits were unserviceable. Most of the breaks occurred between 4 and 5 a. m.

Consumers Public Power district's main transmission line, completed on New Year's day between O'Neill and Norfolk, remained intact through Wednesday but the East-West transmission line between Dakota City and Valentine was severed in two places—between O'Neill and Creighton and between O'Neill and Ainsworth. Weasels were dispatched to locate the breaks.

Wednesday afternoon breaks occurred in the Consumers network North of Butte, cutting off several South Dakota towns from power service. At 2 p. m. another break occurred North of Spencer.

Because phone facilities were limited, repair crews were experiencing difficulty in locating the breaks.

Country roads, already impassable, became impossible. From all corners of the O'Neill region have come stories of desperate and deteriorating road conditions. Uncounted farm homes and even some

(Continued on page 4)

Will Sitz Dispersion Sale Twice Postponed

The Will Sitz Angus dispersion sale at Pinegrove ranch, located one mile East and 15 miles South of Stuart, has been postponed for the second time. New date is Monday, April 11.

The sale, featuring 47 head of registered cattle, farm and having machinery, was originally scheduled for Friday, March 25. Because of bad road conditions a new date was set for Monday, April 4.

Because of adverse weather again this week, the sale has now been set for Monday, April 11. Ed Thorin, of Chambers, is the auctioneer.

Date on the Sitz advertisement on page 6, section 3, shows April 4. That page of this issue was published before the April 11 date was selected.

Another sale postponement because of the twist in the weather is the five-in-one machinery auction originally scheduled Saturday, March 26, at Atkinson. New date is Saturday, April 2, according to Ernie Weller, auctioneer.

(Continued on page 4)