

Tremor Rocks Two Towns

Meteorite or Explosion Creates Excitement at Atkinson and Stuart

(Compiled from Dispatches) Residents in the Atkinson and Stuart communities reported an earth tremor or explosion which shook houses and rattled dishes about 10:17 p. m. last Thursday.

No one was injured, as far as The Frontier could learn, and no one knew exactly what happened.

The countryside, however, was rocked. Dishes were bounced in cupboards, picture frames on walls were visibly moved and in several instances clocks stopped.

A motion picture was in progress at Atkinson and scores of patrons rushed out of the theater into the street following the commotion. Both in Atkinson and in Stuart houses and other buildings were emptied of people as they hurried outside to see what had happened.

The violence was felt as far South of Atkinson as Green Valley and Holt Creek, as far East as Emmet, as far North as 16 miles and as far West as a point beyond Stuart.

No one in O'Neill reported feeling or hearing the incident. Neither was there evidence from Butte or Spencer.

Mrs. O. A. Hammerberg, The Frontier's correspondent at Celia, sent this message: "Folks were aroused by a prolonged thunderlike sound. The sky was clear and stars were shining brightly. Many felt a slight trembling within their homes."

Mrs. Fred Zink, correspondent at Stuart, wrote: "A thunderous sound rumbled stoves, dishes, lampshades and furniture in almost every home. Most everyone reported the same sensation—as if something had crashed onto the roof."

Dozens of stories began making the rounds. There was speculation that a meteorite had fallen to earth in the vicinity, but no one knew where. There were those who claimed it as an actual tremor or miniature earthquake.

Some folks connected the incident with the big landslide on the Niobrara river, near Naper, several weeks ago. There was also the theory that some chap, who guarded his identity, was dynamiting fish in a lake or a stream and set off a charge bigger by far than he had anticipated.

A Holt county official, William W. Griffin, county attorney, was in Atkinson at the time. He said the tremor or explosion created a sound like "many people rushing across the roof of the building."

The tremor or explosion created conversation piece on every telephone line and on every street corner.

Until Wednesday the mystery had not been solved.

Scout Meeting Planned Friday

Efforts to revive Boy Scout activity in O'Neill will be renewed Friday night in a meeting at the American Legion auditorium. All O'Neill boys ranging from 12- to 17-year-old and interested in Scouting are invited to attend. Prospective Scouts are also asked to bring their parents to the meeting.

Ernie Endsworth, Scout field director, will be present. Meeting will begin at 8 p. m. and coffee and doughnuts will be served at the close.

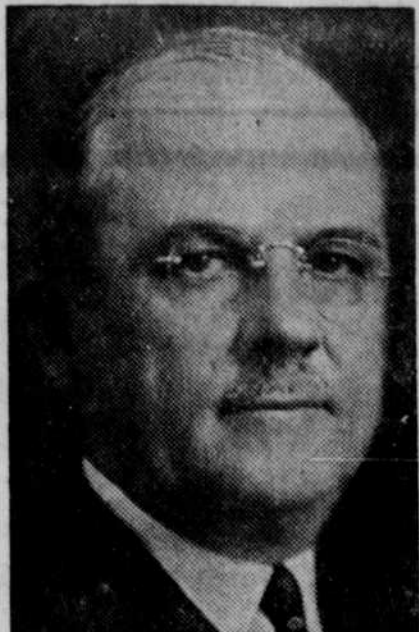
Archie L. McMasters, a soil conservationist and a newcomer here, has been named scoutmaster. Assistants are J. Ed Hancock and James Lyons. Troop committeemen are: Glea H. Wade, C. R. Hill and M. E. Jacobson.

Lloyd Sexton to Head Lyons School

Lloyd Sexton, who has been principal of the O'Neill public school the past year, has accepted a position as superintendent of the Lyons high school in Lyons. Mrs. Sexton, who has been teaching in the O'Neill school, has also been offered a position in the Lyons school.

Sexton is a Wayne State college graduate. He served in the Navy during the late war and after the war worked for a time with the Veterans' administration. He originally came from Orchard. The 1948-49 term was his first here. He coached basketball.

Visit Ft. Randall Dam Project — Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Melena motored Sunday to Lake Andes and Pickstown, S. D. They saw the Ft. Randall dam construction project.



NEW NAVY SECRETARY
Francis P. Matthews, of Omaha, whose mother made her home in O'Neill for a time, is the newly appointed Secretary of the Navy. Mr. Matthews has been a frequent visitor in O'Neill.

FINAL RITES FOR MARINE CORPORAL

E. Lester Young Was 2d in Family to Die in Late War

The remains of Marine Cpl. E. Lester Young reached O'Neill early Wednesday for final burial in Prospect Hill cemetery. Brief military rites were conducted at the graveside with Rev. V. R. Bell, of the Methodist church, officiating.

The late Corporal Young was the second member in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Guy Young to die during World War II. A brother, Richard, was killed in action in Italy on May 23, 1944.

He was born at O'Neill on January 24, 1919. At the age of two he moved with his parents to Hornell, N. Y., and spent his childhood there, attending school at Canistota.

At the age of 15 he returned to O'Neill where he resided until joining the Marine corps on January 23, 1940.

After completing various stages of training in May, 1942, he was shipped to Londonderry, Ireland, where he spent 18 months.

In December, 1943, he returned to the U. S. and in March, 1944, he was sent to the South Pacific theater. On April 1, 1945, he landed on Okinawa, Ryukyu Islands, where he died 24 days later.

Original burial was in a South Pacific cemetery.

Survivors include: Parents—Mr. and Mrs. Guy Young; sisters—Mrs. Walter Houston, of Omaha, and Mrs. Carol Summers, of Ewing; brothers—Rev. Harold Young, of Eskridge, Kans., and Stanley Young, of O'Neill.

Military rites were conducted by Commander John R. Gallagher and members of the American Legion. Pallbearers were: John Grutsch, Dorrance Crabb, Ralph Young, Jr., Robert Moore, Edward McManus and Kenneth Oetter.

Color guard was formed by Jack Arbutnot, Charles Yarnell and Fred McCort. Biglin Bros. were in charge of arrangements.

Hail Strikes in Western Holt

Hail Tuesday afternoon struck in a locality between Atkinson and Stuart—the first hail report of the season. The stones were accompanied by more than an inch of rain, some observers reported.

Meanwhile, South east of Bassett showers netted from one-fourth to one-half inch of moisture. O'Neill received only enough rainfall to dampen the sidewalks. Showers both Monday and Tuesday were largely local affairs. Wind, about 6 p. m. Tuesday, caused damage at the John Fernholz place North of Spencer.

Rainfall is needed in many sections of Holt county, according to County Agent A. Neil Dawes. Small grain, he says, is "doing well" and alfalfa "looks good."

Reports from farmers indicate that corn planting is in full tilt—most of them getting the seed into the ground as rapidly as possible.

The week's weather summary, based on 24-hour periods ending at 8 a. m. daily, follows:

Date	High	Low	Prec.
May 12	80	53	
May 13	83	55	
May 14	84	55	
May 15	75	53	
May 16	75	53	
May 17	76	58	.08
May 18	77	56	.03

NIORARA BASIN MEET SLATED

Burdick and Lang to Be Heard Tuesday in Open Meeting

Progress Report

A progress report on Niobrara river basin development will be heard Tuesday, May 24, in a meeting to be jointly sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce and the Niobrara Valley Basin Development Association. Meeting will be held at Slat's Cafe, beginning at noon.

Clyde Burdick, area engineer for the Bureau of Reclamation, will bring the audience up-to-date on the basin picture in general, particularly in regard to activity during the past year. Roy Lang, secretary-treasurer of the Nebraska Reclamation association, will discuss the Niobrara basin in its relationship with the state and national reclamation movements.

Lang formerly worked with the state department of the American Legion.

Similar meetings will be held Tuesday night at Ainsworth and the next day at Valentine.

The O'Neill session will be open to the public and all persons interested in reclamation and Niobrara development are urged to attend, according to E. A. House, of Ainsworth, president of the Niobrara association.

House and Vern P. Lindholm, also of Ainsworth, secretary-treasurer of the organization, were in O'Neill Wednesday making arrangements for the meeting.

Interested farmers and businessmen from Holt, Boyd, Knox and Antelope counties, as well as several South Dakotans are expected.

Members of the board of directors of the Niobrara River Basin Development association include:

Holt county—Tony Asimus, of O'Neill; Ed Matousek, of Atkinson; Lyle Dierks, of Ewing.

Knox county—J. J. Jacot, of Verdigris; John D. Forsyth, of Niobrara; David Johnson, of Walnut.

Boyd county—John Krotter of Spencer; Launce Gibson, of Bristow; W. L. Brennan, of Butte.

Antelope county—Dave McGee of Clearwater; M. H. Sneider, of Clearwater; Joe Conतोis, of Clearwater.

Lyle P. Dierks, besides being a director from Holt county, is vice-president of the association.

Annual meeting of the Niobrara River Basin Development association will be held July 15 at Ainsworth. Mr. Sloan co-author of the Pick-Sloan plan, will be present.

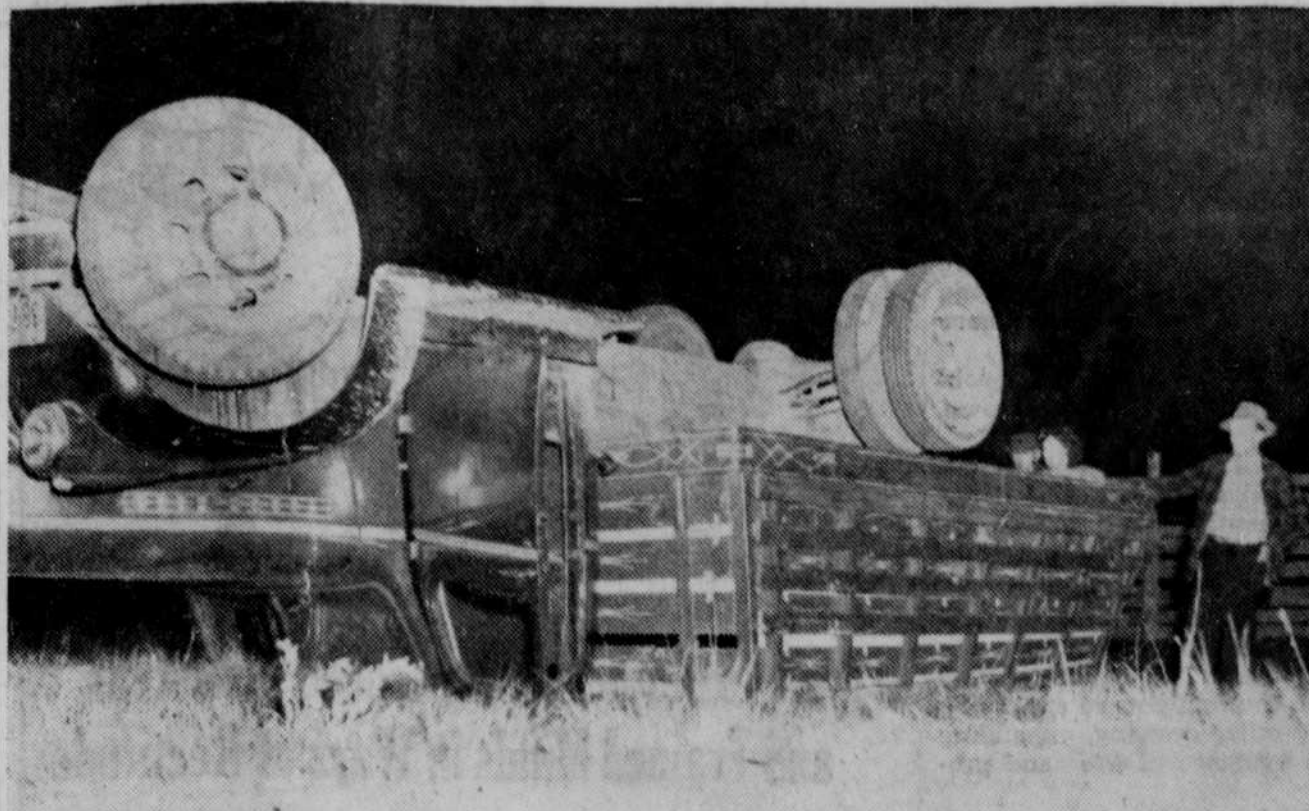
Sixty-seven thousand acres in the O'Neill-Atkinson-Stuart localities are considered "irrigable in the class I category," President House said.

Next largest possibility is near Ainsworth.

Preliminary Curb, Gutter, Paving Surveys Being Made

Donald Price, of Lincoln, O'Neill's city engineer, has been working out a preliminary study of curb, gutter and paving possibilities.

Curb and gutter requirements are being considered in various sections of the city, while the paving is being confined to areas near the Holt county courthouse, schools, churches and other public buildings.



WHERE YOUTH DIED . . . James Patrick Boyle, 14-year-old O'Neill youth, died under this wreckage last Thursday night when the truck overturned. Young Boyle, accompanying five other O'Neill boys, was riding in the rack when the truck left the road. Photograph was taken shortly after the accident.—The Frontier Photo by John H. McCarville.

C. V. WICKS, 71, ATKINSON, DIES

Retired Atkinson Lumberman to Be Buried Today at Woodlawn

ATKINSON — Funeral services will be conducted at 2:30 p. m. today (Thursday) in the Presbyterian church here for C. V. Wicks, 71-year-old retired Atkinson lumberman, who died late Sunday.

Rev. W. C. Birmingham, of the Methodist church, will officiate in the absence of the Presbyterian pastor, Rev. Orin C. Graff.

The late Claude Vinton Wicks was born in Sherburne, N. Y., on March 17, 1876. He was a foster son of Samuel and Mary Wicks.

Mr. Wicks came to Nebraska on February 28, 1899, at the age of 21. On November 21, 1900, he was united in marriage with Altheria Louise Frink. To this union five children were born.

For 28 years Mr. Wicks was active in the lumber business, retiring in the Spring of 1936. He was general manager of the Walrath & Sherwood Lumber Co. His retirement was brought about because of ill health.

While in business in Atkinson he also served as city marshal, chief of the fire department and city clerk.

Survivors include: Widow—Altheria; son—Claude Deverne Wicks, of O'Neill; daughters—Mrs. Lafa (Doris) Lewis, of O'Neill, and Mrs. George A. (Leona) Mentzer, of Atkinson; 11 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Two daughters, Marjorie Bell and Gladys Alvira DeLay, preceded him in death. One grandson, Joseph DeLay, was killed in action in Germany in November, 1944.

Survivors also include one sister, Miss Katherine Moore, of Norwich, N. Y.

Pallbearers will be: C. G. Funk, Herbert Bitney, George Frohart, Charles Withers, Clyde Davis and Charles Balloun.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Johnson and family were dinner guests Saturday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. L. McMasters.

"Voice of the Frontier" . . . Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays.

Temporary Office for Hospital Move

A temporary downtown office for the hospital movement is under construction this week at the Moore-Noble Lumber & Coal Co. yards here. When completed, the small frame building will be located as near the main intersection as possible, according to James M. Corkle, chairman of the hospital committee.

After the building has served its period of usefulness as a drive headquarters, it will be sold and proceeds will be turned in the hospital fund. It is a gift from the Moore-Noble firm.

Until Wednesday afternoon, Mr. Corkle said no personnel had been selected to staff the downtown headquarters.

Meanwhile, plans are going ahead for a final push in the hospital move. A minimum of 46 thousand dollars will be raised to insure a modern, 40-bed hospital in O'Neill, intended to serve the Sand Hills region.

WALTER POKORNY DIES AT ATKINSON

ATKINSON — Funeral services will be held at 9:30 a. m. today (Thursday) in St. Patrick's Catholic church here for Walter E. Pokorny, 52-year-old Atkinson rancher, who died about 10 p. m. Tuesday at his home, 15 miles South and two miles West of Atkinson.

The late Mr. Pokorny became seriously ill last Fall. Once during the winter he was evacuated by air and flown to Rochester, Minn., for medical treatment. He suffered from cancer.

Mr. Pokorny was born July 6, 1897, at Petersburg, Va., a son of John and Rose Pokorny.

On June 2, 1933, he married Helen B. Sladek at Atkinson. They became the parents of three children.

Survivors include: Widow; son—Donald; daughters—Elsie and Edith, all at home.

Father Urbanski, of Emmet, will officiate in the burial rite. Pallbearers will be: Edward Brezina and James Mazanec, both of Bellwood; John Peters, of O'Neill, and Earl Coxhill, of Atkinson.

The body was taken to the Seger mortuary in Atkinson.

JUBILEE PARADE BEING PLANNED

Life in O'Neill Colony 75 Years Ago to Be Theme

A parade will highlight O'Neill's Diamond Jubilee celebration here on the Fourth of July.

Theme for the parade will be life in the O'Neill colony 75 years ago.

John Daly has been appointed chairman of the parade committee. Serving under him are John H. McCarville, R. V. Lucas, James G. Fredrickson, Bennett Gilligan, N. O. McCrary and Harold Buman. The committee met Monday night at Osborne's Shoe Store to draft preliminary plans for the parade.

Parade divisions and prizes follow: Band (no prize). Oldest pioneer in this vicinity, \$25 (only one prize). Old time float, first—\$50; second—\$25; third—\$15. Saddle horse, first—\$25; second—\$15; third—\$10. Best decorated float, first—\$25; second—\$15; third—\$10. Best club or organization float, first—\$25; second—\$15; third—\$10. (This division to include entries from G. H. clubs, schools, churches, edge and fraternal groups, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, etc.)

Best clown, \$10 (only one prize). Best decorated bicycle, first—\$3; second—\$2; third—\$1. Pets, first—\$3; second—\$2; third—\$1.

Daly said that all individuals and organizations are invited to participate in the parade and details will be announced later.

Persons with old carriages, automobiles, wagons, bicycles, household and business furniture, farm implements, and clothing fashionable in the 19th century are urged to participate, Daly added.

Business firms are urged to participate, but there will be no prizes issued in the commercial division, it was pointed out.

Meanwhile, R. H. Shriner and H. J. Lohaus, co-chairmen in charge of arrangements for the jubilee celebration, have made the following committee appointments:

Booster trip: M. E. Jacobson, chairman.

Fireworks: M. H. Diehlman, chairman.

Speaking stand and seats: J. Leo Moore, chairman.

Program: L. C. Walling, chairman.

Baseball: Richard Tomlinson, chairman.

Games: H. J. Lohaus, chairman.

Arrangements are being made for a jubilee ball to be held in the American Legion auditorium.

Sewer Inadequacy Poses Problem

The inadequacy of the municipal sewer system in South O'Neill and near the point where the sewer empties into the Elk-worn river is posing a serious problem for city authorities.

Because the facilities are more than 36 years old, the installation is no longer capable of handling the city's sewerage, which is "backing up" in the pipes, seeping out of manholes, and spreading out in Carney park.

O'NEILL BOY, 14, HIWAY FATALITY

'Jim' Boyle, Pinned Under Overturned Truck, Dies Immediately

56th Traffic Death

A 14-year-old O'Neill youth, James Patrick ("Jimmy") Boyle, son of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Boyle, died almost instantly about 11 p. m. last Thursday evening when the truck in which he was riding overturned, pinning him under the truck rack.

There were five other occupants in the machine and one of the others suffered minor injuries.

Young Boyle and his companions were enroute to Atkinson in a truck owned by J. B. Ryan. At a point about two miles West of Emmet the machine left the road and overturned. The Boyle boy and two others were riding in the rack.

Only the head and shoulders of the Boyle boy were protruding from under the truck when help arrived.

It was believed the truck in which the youth was riding overturned while attempting to pass another truck.

Among the first passersby along the highway were Bill and August Troshynski, both



James Patrick Boyle . . . head and shoulders protrude from overturned truck.

of Atkinson, who were enroute from O'Neill to their home.

Leo F. Seger and Dr. N. P. McKee, both of Atkinson, said the boy probably died instantly.

The body was brought to O'Neill by Biglin Bros.

Driver of the ill-fated machine was Morris Parks. Ages of the youths involved in the accident ranged from 11- to 16-years-of-age. Other occupants were: Ralph Ferris and Ralph Kilcain, both riding in the rack with Boyle; Donald Lindquist and Larry Tibbetts, both riding with Parks in the cab.

The Ferris youth was taken to O'Neill where two toes on an injured foot were amputated.

The survivors were badly shaken.

The youths were reported to have said they were enroute to Atkinson to "help tear down a circus" which had played there that day. Purpose of the trip was to earn some spending money, one of them explained.

Earlier in the evening several of the youths had attended a school function in O'Neill.

Funeral services for the Boyle youth were held at 10 a. m. Monday in St. Patrick's Catholic church. Burial was in Calvary cemetery with Rt. Rev. J. G. McNamara officiating.

"Jimmy," as he was affectionately known, was born March 2, 1935, in O'Neill.

He was reared on a farm Southwest of O'Neill where he attended grade school in district 194.

The family moved to the South edge of O'Neill in March, 1948. After that date, "Jimmy" attended the O'Neill public school where he graduated from the eighth grade last year. This term he was a freshman in O'Neill high school.

Survivors include: Parents—Mr. and Mrs. James P. Boyle. Brothers—Cpl. Donald Boyle, of Ft. Eustis, Va.; Cpl. Edgar Boyle, of Ft. Lawton, Wash.; and Gaylon Boyle, of O'Neill. Sisters—Mrs. Marian Boyle Trowbridge, of Omaha, and Patricia Boyle, of O'Neill.

The Boyle fatality was the 56th traffic death in Nebraska this year.

Pallbearers were: Gene Carr, Donald Godel, Donald Calkins, Orville Bels, Dale Bellin and James McKenny.



SURVEY CAMPING SCENE . . . These Girl Scouts, all from troop II, in full regalia are studying a pioneer camping scene in miniature at the second annual Scout-sponsored mother-daughter banquet. The affair was held Tuesday evening at the American Legion auditorium. In the photograph (left-to-right) are: Sharon Hancock, Marilyn Lindberg, Betty Harmon, Carolyn Moseman, Carolyn Lindberg, Kay Allendorfer, Mildred Crabb and Marilyn Carroll. In the left-center foreground is Mary Fetrow.—The Frontier Photo by John H. McCarville.