

2 Help Battle Colorado Fire

Atkinson Soldier Forced To Flee Wall of Flames

A timber and brush fire — fanned by winds of more than 65-miles-per-hour — spectacularly raged for many hours last week in the Colorado Springs, Colo., area. More than three thousand soldiers battled a wall of flames and one thousand civilians joined in the fire fight before the conflagration was brought under control.

Several persons died and more than a score of soldiers were hospitalized with burns.

At least two persons with Holt county connections were in the center of the activity—E. C. Bourne and Robert Humphreys.

Mrs. Floyd Whitaker, of Chambers, received word Saturday from her sister, Mrs. E. C. Bourne, of Colorado Springs, assuring her that she and her husband were "okay" and that their daughter and family and their son and family, all of whom live in the vicinity, were "safe."

Relatives at Chambers were concerned about the families when it was known that Camp Carson and Cheyenne mountain were being consumed by flames.

Mr. Bourne is a caretaker of the animals at the Cheyenne mountain zoo. At one time the smoke was so intense and the danger so great that the attendants were ready to shoot the frenzied animals. But the fire was brought under control before the drastic action was necessary. The Bournes wrote that five soldiers lost their lives.

Mrs. Bourne is a sister of E. R. Carpenter, of Chambers.

Pfc. Robert Humphreys is the second son of Mrs. C. F. Humphreys, of Atkinson. A veteran of two years in Northern Italy during World War II, he has been at Camp Carson since September.

He wrote: "I came through the fire and windstorm okay. Never in my young life have I ever been in such a spot."

"Evening before I'd gone to a movie, got back to Camp and noticed the wind was blowing terrifically."

"About 1:30 in the morning I was awakened, noticed the sky was as bright as a Summer morning. I was speechless when I saw the whole mountain aflame."

"About 2:45 we were alerted to go fight the fire. By morning we were on a five-mile front. I had a wet sack and a shovel. "We watched the fire come slowly up through the trees, then dip into the valley. We knew that when the fire got out in the open again it would go like the devil. We prepared for the worst. When it got about 800 or 900 feet from us all hell broke loose."

"The wind seemed to lower and just that quick the flames were upon us. A few hundred of us started to retreat for the open road about a mile and a half away. Flames were being carried by the wind and I can honestly say my back end was quite warm all the way."

"Only one of the unlucky fellows—in our group—was not found. Rest of them caught are still in the hospital."

"When we reached the road again the fire died down for a few seconds, giving us a chance to breathe. It was hard to see for the smoke, dust and rocks. The wind carried a million needles."

"The fire leaped the road and headed for camp. It was on a 10-mile front by now and going like mad. We piled into trucks and got in its path again. We were told to stop it if we could—but he had to give it the benefit of any doubt."

"The fire left a bare spot in what once was a portion of Camp Carson. It is still burning in some places (this letter was written on Friday). I'm all right. It seems like a bad dream."

WINS HONORS

C. Vincent Jones, 35, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Jones, of O'Neill, has been named outstanding young man of 1949 at Columbus. The announcement of the selection was made at the annual employer-employee dinner at the Columbus city auditorium which was attended by 1,600 persons. Jones, an official of the Behlen Manufacturing company at Columbus, has been active in civic organizations and projects and state organizations.

HOUSE BURNS

EWING—A fire of undetermined origin early last Thursday morning caused considerable damage to the house in which Mr. and Mrs. James Marink, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Kline-tobe and Mrs. Ada Secrist, all reside. The establishment is the property of County Judge L. W. Reimer, of O'Neill.

CENTRAL FINANCE MARKS BIRTHDAY

B. E. Adkins, of Norfolk, Founded Corporation In 1930

Saturday, January 21, marked the 20th birthday anniversary of the Central Finance corporation, of Norfolk, O'Neill and Ne-ligh.

B. E. Adkins, president and founder of the corporation, started the firm with \$25,200 capital and a secretary.

In spite of the depression of the 1930's, the corporation made rapid strides in progress during its infant years. By 1940 the firm had established branch offices in Neligh, O'Neill, Sioux City, Valentine and Vermillion, S. D.

When World War II came on many of the personnel in the branch offices joined the armed forces, all offices were liquidated with the exception of those at Norfolk and O'Neill.

C. E. Jones was appointed manager of the O'Neill branch in December, 1939. First offices in O'Neill were located in the First National bank building until they were moved to their present location in the Harmon building on North Fourth street early in 1946.

Prior to coming to O'Neill, Jones was at the Columbus branch for five years.

Following the late war, the Neligh office was reactivated and today the main offices at Norfolk and the branch offices at O'Neill and Neligh are in full operation.

The Central Finance corporation today has 18 persons employed in its offices. Its capital structure is \$318,827.21 and in 1949 the firm handled approximately 2 1/2-million dollars in loans in Northeast Nebraska.

Officers of the corporation, in addition to President Adkins, are: Robert W. Adkins and John J. Adkins, vice-presidents; Ruth Rouse, secretary-treasurer. Directors are: B. E. Adkins, John Casey, R. W. Adkins, Ruth Rouse, C. E. Jones, John J. Adkins, and Emil Reutzel, sr.

President Adkins predicts that Northeast Nebraska has more opportunities and a brighter outlook for the future than at any time since he first established his home in this territory 22 years ago.

O'Neill branch personnel includes: C. E. Jones, manager; Thomas D. Anderson, Doris Smith and Mrs. Marie McDonald. The office is spacious, modern, well-equipped and one of the most comfortable in the city.

Mounts Elected N-C Scout Head

District Judge D. R. Mounts, of O'Neill, was elected chairman of the North-Central district of the Covered Wagon council of the Boy Scouts of America Monday evening at a meeting held at the Holt county courthouse.

Sixteen representatives from Stuart, Atkinson, Ewing, Chambers, Butte and Spencer attended the election.

Other officers elected were: H. J. Lohaus, of O'Neill, vice chairman, and Harry Peterson, of O'Neill, commissioner.

Committee chairman appointed at the affair were: A. Neil Dawes, organization and extension; Richard A. Perry, camping and activities; John H. McCarrville, jr., leadership training; L. M. Diehlman, advancement, and J. E. Davis, finance.

Oil Burns Fatal To Sargent Banker

ATKINSON — Mrs. John Ward, wife of the superintendent of the Atkinson public school, was called to Ord Saturday to be with her brother, George Satterfield, 50, who died the following day.

He suffered burns Saturday night at the Farmers State bank at Sargent where he was cashier. The late Mr. Satterfield was county treasurer of Taylor county for a number of years and about six months ago took the post in the bank.

Mr. Satterfield's clothes caught on fire when flaming oil shot out of the stove. The bank was not damaged. Mr. Satterfield rushed into the street where passersby smothered the flames with an automobile blanket.

BEGIN BASEMENT

ATKINSON — Brown and Deniska, building contractors from Broken Bow, are making a basement under the Verzal liquor store building. Soon the basement will be dug for the new Pelcer & Spence super market building adjoining.

Meusch Family Wins \$1,015 Award

By A Staff Writer

A singular honor was formally bestowed on a Holt county farm family here Monday night.

Mr. and Mrs. William J. Meusch and their daughter, Evelyn, 19, and Carmon, 8, and their son, Donald, 16, were named as Nebraska winners in radio station WNAX's farmstead improvement contest. With the honor goes one-thousand-dollar in merchandise awards provided by the Yank-ton-St. Louis City radio station.

Chris Mack, WNAX's farm reporter, made the presentation in an after-dinner ceremony at Slat's cafe while 59 relatives, friends, extension workers, newspaper reporters and other well-wishers looked on.

Mr. Meusch, who is known as "Bill" among his friends, told The Frontier the improvement program was a family proposition and was an accumulation of a lot of ideas and a lot of plans.

He said it was "accidental" the project was launched in time to be eligible for the WNAX award, but insisted that the WNAX contest improved the extensiveness of the improvements and the timeliness of the finish. The award was based on a 12-months' interval between July 1, 1948 and June 30, 1949.

Mr. Meusch estimated the family spent \$82,500 on the house alone.

"It was on old house when we brought the place 13 years ago from the Federal Land Bank," he said. "The farm, situated on the Holt county side of the Niobrara river, had been owned by the late George Gray."

"We leased it for awhile, but it wasn't exactly the kind of a place I wanted at all."

"When our children began to grow up my wife and I realized that if we wanted to keep them at home and keep them happy we had some improvements to make—besides making life easier for ourselves."

So the Meuschs—father, mother, Evelyn, Carmon and Donald—went to work.

They did most of the work themselves—except that which required strictly skilled labor.

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One thousand dollars in merchandise prizes were heaped on the William J. Meusch family for being Nebraska winner in WNAX's 1949 farmstead improvement contest. Left-to-right:

Wayne C. Whitney, of Lincoln (who judged the Meusch farm), Mrs. Meusch, Mr. Meusch and Chris Mack, WNAX's farm reporter making the presentation.—The Frontier Photo.



Other members of Meusch family (left-to-right): Mrs. Anna Meusch, Mr. Meusch's moth-

er; Carmon, 8; Evelyn, 19; and Donald, 16.—The Frontier Photo.

COUNTY SHERIFF JOB IN DEMAND

3 More GOP Filings This Week for That Post

Business is brisk for County Clerk Ruth Hoffman as far as the forthcoming primary election is concerned.

Five more have filed for nomination for county posts—three for sheriff and two for assessor.

Earlier three had filed for the unicameral legislative seat from the Twenty-eighth district, two had filed for assessor, one had filed for sheriff and one had filed for county attorney.

Filings this week for sheriff include Laurence Haynes and Ben Oetter, both of O'Neill, and Lawrence Hamik, of Stuart. All are Republicans. Hamik at present is deputy sheriff.

Thomas Sullivan, of O'Neill, Democrat, and Gordon Harper, of O'Neill, Republican, have filed for nomination as county assessor. L. G. Gillespie, of O'Neill, Republican, incumbent, and Joe Winkler, of Emmet, had posted their filing fees earlier.

Primary this year will be in August.

A. B. Hubbard, Republican incumbent sheriff, has not indicated to The Frontier whether or not he will be a candidate for reelection. John Kersenbrock, former O'Neill mayor, earlier filed for the Democratic nomination for sheriff.

To Observe National Youth Week—

Most Protestant churches in O'Neill will join in the observance of national youth week from January 29 through February 5, according to Rev. Ralph Gerber, of O'Neill.

Special chapel services will be held at the O'Neill public school from 8:30 a.m. until 8:50 a.m., each school morning during youth week. Rev. Melvin Grosenbach, Rev. V. R. Bell, both of O'Neill, and Rev. Orin Graff, of Stuart, will be in charge of the special chapel services at the O'Neill high school.

Atkinson School Feels Coal Pinch

ATKINSON — One cannot say for sure that the pupils of district 21, Atkinson public school, heaved a sigh of relief Saturday, but it is certain that members of the board of education and a few merchants did.

The long overdue rail car load of school coal had arrived, and it would not be necessary to use the school as had been anticipated earlier in the week.

Because of an acute fuel shortage in some of the business places and a few homes, the school authorities and merchants decided to use half of the coal for the school and to distribute the rest where most needed.

It takes nearly 2 1/2 tons to heat the building on an extremely cold day. For several days the past week the children wore their coats and sweaters during school hours. The car of coal had been ordered long ago but had evidently been held up until a tracer was sent out. Another car has been ordered. However, strike conditions make delivery uncertain so the sigh of relief may be short-lived.

Former Resident Dies in Oregon

The body of the late Emery Peterson, about 50, a former resident of the Inman and O'Neill communities, will arrive here Friday from Portland, Ore., according to Biglin Brothers funeral home.

Funeral arrangements are incomplete.

The late Mr. Peterson was born in Inman, a son of Rev. and Mrs. Michael Peterson. He was graduated from the Inman high school and was employed for a number of years as a mechanic with the state department of roads. Prior to going to Portland, Ore., during 1948, he operated an automotive repair business at Atkinson.

Mr. Peterson had been farming a small acreage on the outskirts of Portland when he died. Survivors include: widow, Mary; cousins—Mrs. Harry Dempsey and Mrs. Robert Cook, both of O'Neill, and an aunt—Mrs. Jennie Crosser, of Inman.

Organize Cub Scout Committee

A pack committee meeting of 35 parents interested in Cub Scouting for O'Neill boys was held Monday evening at the O'Neill public school. The group heard Ernest Endsworth, of Stuart, district field representative of the Boy Scouts of America, outline the aims and purposes of Cub Scouting.

Don Gibson was elected Cub Scoutmaster with Richard Perry as assistant. Committee chairman elected is Raymond Eby, and committeemen are J. H. Doerning and Lee Osborn.

Officials of the Cub Scout committee indicated it would take another meeting before the unit is fully organized and ready to operate.

Nine Cub den mothers were selected. They are: Mrs. T. J. Sullivan, Mrs. Verne Reynolds, Mrs. Stanley Holly, Mrs. Donald Knight, Mrs. A. L. McMaster, Mrs. D. O. Lyons, Mrs. Ralph N. Leidy, Mrs. Sanford Gamel and Mrs. Charles Richter, jr.

Age group for the Cub Scouts is 8 to 11.

Rev. C. J. Werner Is Transferred

Rev. Cyril J. Werner, assistant pastor at St. Patrick's Catholic church here for the past three years, is being transferred. Effective today (Thursday) Reverend Werner will become assistant pastor at St. Francis church in Omaha.

Rev. Alex J. Onak, who has been assistant pastor at St. Francis church in Omaha, succeeds Reverend Werner.

Father Werner, as he is known to many, was reared at Creighton and studied in Appleton, Wis., prior to entering Kennerly Seminary at St. Louis, Mo. He was ordained during 1945. Reverend Werner and Reverend Onak were classmates at Kennerly and were ordained at the same time.

Reverend Werner served for two years at the Holy Angels parish in Omaha before coming to O'Neill as assistant pastor during 1947.

WALKER RITES HELD AT PAGE

Heart Attack Is Fatal to Well-Known Page Woman

PAGE — Funeral services were held at the Methodist church in Page Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock for Mrs. Edwin A. Walker, 64, who died suddenly as a result of a heart attack at her home in Page on Wednesday evening, January 18.

Rev. T. O. Brownfield officiated at the services and burial was in the Page cemetery under the direction of Biglin Bros. of O'Neill.

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POLIO DRIVE IN FINAL STAGE

Benefits, Parties On Tap To Aid in All-Out Final Drive

The annual March of Dimes campaign to raise funds for combating infantile paralysis is in the final stretch.

Windup will include a series of social events highlighted to-night (Thursday) by the President's ball. (See advertisement on page 3).

The ball, under the sponsorship of Simonson post 93 of the American Legion, will feature Skippy Anderson and his orchestra at the Legion ballroom. All proceeds—above bare expenses—will go to the Holt county chapter of the National Infantile Paralysis Foundation.

A benefit blue rock shoot will be sponsored Sunday by the O'Neill Gun club at the club grounds South of the city. Prizes will be awarded and net proceeds will go to the polio cause.

The Tom Tom cafe in O'Neill will donate gross proceeds from the sale of all cups of coffee (except those that accompany regular meals) on Saturday, January 28. The benefit coffee will be sold at 10 cents per cup.

Meanwhile, individual and organizational contributions continue to come in.

Mrs. Ralph Brown, of O'Neill, Holt county chairman of the March of Dimes, said that of the three thousand contribution cards sent to the rural residents at the outset of the campaign, 175 have been returned and their total contributions amounted to over \$300.

Mrs. M. E. Jacobson, O'Neill director, revealed late Wednesday that O'Neill contributions have hit \$800 but many of the house-to-house solicitations as yet have not been tabulated. Mrs. Jacobson also said that coin collectors and money raised through benefits will not be collected or turned in until near the end of the drive.

Mrs. Brown paralleled Mrs. Jacobson's fund collection thought in that directors in county towns will not turn in funds that have been contributed until the end of the drive.

Holt's goal in five-thousand-dollars.

A "kigmy" (from the Lil' Abner comic strip) booth will be sponsored by the O'Neill chapter of the Lions club. Anyone who wishes to "blow off" steam can do so by "kicking in" a dime to kick the "kigmy."

The Starlight extension club will hold a benefit card party Friday evening at the Legion club lounge. All kinds of cards will be played and prizes will be given. Proceeds will go to the March of Dimes. The Elkhorn extension club is also staging a benefit card party Sunday evening at the same place and proceeds likewise will go to the Holt polio chapter.

The Parent-Teachers' association staged a novel stunt at a recent basketball game. Coins were tossed from the crowd into a hat in the center of the ring at halftime and the P-TA turned over the "take" to the Infantile Paralysis foundation.

Meanwhile, in Lincoln, Gov. Val Peterson has agreed to throw his hat into the polio fight.

The individual or organization in the state making the largest contribution to the March of Dimes during the current campaign will receive, for permanent possession, Governor Peterson's 10-gallon Stetson.

Weed District to Pick Directors

Election of two district directors of the Holt county noxious weed district will be held at its annual meeting Thursday, February 2, beginning at 3 p.m. in the assembly room of the Holt county courthouse.

The expired terms of Luke Rakow, of near Page, of dist. 2, and that of Cal Allyn, of Stuart, of district 5, are to be filled.

E. H. Archer, chief of the noxious weed division of the department of agriculture at Lincoln, will be on hand to give control information and to outline statewide weed control.

President of the noxious weed district, E. A. Boska, of Stuart, urges all county farmers and ranchers to attend the meeting.