

Personal Property Valuations Drop

Assessors Find Fewer Cattle Than a Year Ago

PARTIAL RETURNS

A preliminary survey of personal property assessing, which is currently in progress in Holt county, reveals a sharp drop in valuations. Out of 25 townships where the assessing has been completed, 17 show declines ranging from a few hundred to 43 thousand dollars.

There is little likelihood that the returns yet to be filed by 19 precincts will erase the deficit, and when the assessing has been completed there will be a notable overall drop in valuations on the tangible property in the county.

However, because the county's cash reserves are in good condition, including 250 thousand dollars in government bonds belonging to the county and its subdivisions, it is probable that only a slight tax increase on personal property will be necessary when the county supervisors consider the new tax levies for county general expenses.

Cattle Decrease

County Assessor L. G. Gillespie points out that "roughly three-fourths of the drop is attributable to a decrease in the number of cattle. Some townships," he says, "are showing 900 fewer cattle than a year ago."

With slightly more than one-half of the precinct returns filed in the courthouse here, most of the reports to be received are from townships where there are cities and towns included.

Among those not yet completed are Grattan Township and O'Neill City, Atkinson Township and Atkinson Town, Stuart Township and Stuart Village, Ewing Township and Ewing Village, Inman Township and Inman Village, Verdigr Township and Page Village, Scott Township, and Green Valley Township.

The smallest decrease in cattle in a single township thus far is 500 head.

Cattle Valuations the Same

Cattle are being valued on the same scale as in 1945: calves, 6-months-old, \$10; 6-to-18-months, \$35; 18-to-13-months, \$45. Milk cows, \$75. Stock cattle, \$60. Bulls, \$100.

Another factor in the overall decline is brought about by reduced valuations on automobiles, tractors, combines, haybales, refrigerators, and other similar items. These are being devalued nearly one-third from last year's figure, a normal procedure, but, with most of these items scarce, there is no means of compensating in that category for the loss of tax revenue.

There is virtually no change in the assessed valuations of real estate, except in case where improvements have been removed or added, and where equalization between tracts is considered necessary.

The tax levy for the county general fund has been lowered steadily during the past four years, dropping from 3.00 mills on the dollar in 1942 to 1.80 in 1945.

The total value of tangible property in the county last year, including automobiles and other "special schedule" items, was \$8,720,000.

While most precincts are showing declines in personal property valuations, at least two townships have produced marked increases. Holt Creek increased 204 thousand dollars over the 1945 figure, and Fairview upped its valuation more than 40 thousand dollars.

The comparisons in valuations between 1945 and 1946 in the reports of 25 assessors follow:

Table with 3 columns: Township, 1946, 1945. Lists various townships and their corresponding valuations for both years.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Rickley departed Wednesday to spend Memorial day at Fullerton.

Cochairmen for Golf Tourney Announced

M. J. Golden and A. J. Jaszko-wiak have been named cochairmen for the golf tournament to be held here June 16-18 under the sponsorship of the Country club, according to Dr. L. A. Burgess, club president.

Meanwhile, the club is furthering plans for the 1946 season, which is expected to be the biggest year in its history. The season was formally opened at a dance Wednesday night.

The club members are accepting additional memberships and are especially anxious for out-of-town memberships.

POPPY NET \$177.50

The Poppy day sales netted \$177.50 here, according to Mrs. Dean Streeter, chairman of the poppy committee of the American Legion Auxiliary. The proceeds from Saturday's sale are being turned over to disabled veterans.

BOWENS TO CHICAGO

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Bowen, owners of the Bowen Ben Franklin store here, were in Chicago two days last week on business. They returned Thursday ahead of the railroad strike.

CHECK FORGER PLEADS GUILTY

Orval Elifritz, 30, admits Passing 3 Faked Checks Here

Orval Elifritz, 30, of Ainsworth, admitted writing three checks with forged signatures in a preliminary hearing here Monday before County Judge Louis W. Reimer. After pleading guilty to the complaint filed against him by County Attorney Julius D. Cronin, Elifritz's bond was posted at \$1,000 and he was bound over to the district court. He recently cashed checks totaling \$75 at three O'Neill firms, affixing presumably anonymous signatures to the checks.

During a transaction at the Midwest Motor Company he inadvertently mentioned that a certain motor part he required had been unavailable at the Chevrolet agency in Ainsworth. Later, when the check that he had passed here developed into a bogus one, C. E. Lundgren, of the Midwest firm, contacted the Ainsworth agency and compared notes regarding customers who had been seeking that particular part. Parts that had been purchased in O'Neill were found in Elifritz's possession, and within a few hours he was taken into custody by the Brown county sheriff. He was immediately brought here by County Sheriff A. B. Hubbard, and is being held. The case will not be heard in district court until after District Judge D. R. Mounst returns from a trip to Oklahoma.

4 Public School Teachers to School

Four O'Neill public school teachers will soon begin summer school work. Superintendent Ira George and Principal F. E. Saindon will enroll at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln. Mr. George, however, will spend weekends here and will direct the Municipal band. Miss Alice French, a mathematics teacher, and Miss Margaret Brown, the dramatics and English teacher, will enroll in the summer session at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Miss Teresa Denese, the social science teacher, plans an extended trip through the East.

TOMPKINS TO MEETING

INMAN—Harvey A. Tompkins was a delegate to a two-day University of Nebraska-sponsored institute on small community life, which was held at Lincoln Monday through Wednesday. Tompkins was a member of a special committee that was selected to consider religious life of the community. The institute attracted representatives from communities under 2,500 population. During his stay in Lincoln, Tompkins met with the executive committee of the Nebraska Methodist conference's town and country commission, on which he is a lay representative.

RELEASED FROM NAVY

CHAMBERS—Chet Fees arrived Saturday with a discharge from the Navy. He had been in service more than two years, most of the time spent in the Pacific.

STRIKE CURTAILS RAIL SERVICE

Northwestern Manages 1 Train Per Day Despite Walkout

By recruiting engineers and brakemen from "supervisory jobs," the Northwestern sustained at least one train per day on its Omaha-Chadron line, which serves O'Neill and northeastern and northern Nebraska, during the rail strike which virtually paralyzed the Nation Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Last Thursday, the day the nationwide walkout of Engineers and Trainmen went into effect, the Northwestern's Omaha-bound No. 12 departed from Chadron on schedule, passing through O'Neill slightly behind its 12:57 a.m. (Friday) schedule. Next day, Saturday, the Chadron-bound No. 21 passed through O'Neill at about 9 a.m., manned by an improvised crew and operating several hours behind schedule.

The first train to pass through here after the strike had been settled at 3 p.m. Saturday was a westbound freight, No. 117, which went through at 9:30 p.m. Northwestern Agent R. M. Saunders reported that the total loss of Northwestern service here included one passenger and two freight trains on Friday, and one passenger and one freight on Saturday.

Burlington Is Idle

There was no Burlington service here either Friday or Saturday, according to Burlington Agent H. A. Yocum, who stated that the crews laid-over at Ferry. Only the engineers and brakemen, who are members of the Engineers and Trainmen brotherhoods, were striking. Other railroad employees, including conductors, firemen, agents, section crews, and administrative workers were not involved, and reported for work as usual.

By Sunday morning, normal rail service had been restored. O'Neill suffered no serious effects from the strike, but it caused innumerable inconveniences in delayed mail, freight and express service, and a number of passengers were stranded. Most freight that had been tied up during the short-lived walkout had reached its destination by Tuesday.

No Shortages Result

The strike was a boon to bus and truck lines. Exceptionally heavy truck traffic was noted on the highways, especially the transcontinental highway 20. A shortage of food might have developed if the strike had been prolonged, but there was no immediate concern over the city's food supply.

BISHOP HUNKLER HERE MONDAY

Will Confirm Class of 220 from St. Patrick's, 30 from Emmet

The Most Rev. Bishop Hunkler, bishop of the Grand Island Catholic diocese, will officiate at 9 a.m. Monday in a confirmation service at St. Patrick's church here, it has been announced by Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. G. McNamara, church pastor.

The confirmation class will include 220 from St. Patrick's parish and 30 from the Church of the Epiphany parish at Emmet.

11 Seniors Graduate at Inman High School

INMAN—The commencement exercises at Inman high school were held Wednesday at the school auditorium. Eleven seniors received diplomas following an address by Frank O. McIntyre, dean of Norfolk Junior college. Viola Krutz was valedictorian, and Ruthie Sholes, salutatorian. Those receiving scholarships were: Viola Krutz, state teachers' college scholarship; Ruthie Sholes, state church college scholarship; and Jimmie Harte, Norfolk Junior college scholarship.

Harvey Tompkins, member of the board of education, presented the diplomas to the following: Viola Krutz, Ruthie Sholes, Jimmie Harte, Roland Hughes, Marjorie Lines, Josephine Conger, Robert Stevens, Vivian Stevens, Robert Geary, Janette Hopkins, Helma Kesenholtz. Joseph Coon, grammar room teacher, presented the eighth grade diplomas to the following: Harlen Morsback, Junior Sobotka, Marlene Geary, Elza Kesenholtz and Deritha Smith.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Lester M. Porter, 29, of Dustin, and Miss Bernice Marie Holdren, 17, of Atkinson, May 23.

No April Fooling—April 1st Still the Hottest Day in 1946

In case you've been thinking that the weather has been warm lately, April 1st still rates as the hottest day of the year. The temperature that day in O'Neill was 88.

The 'early summer' began with a 73 in March. Then the Weather Man dished out a 'late winter' that sent the mercury skidding down to 23 on May 11th. The freeze was accompanied by snow, sleet, rain and wind.

The average daily high temperature for April was 68, while the May average (for 28 days) is 66.

The average minimum temperature for April was 42.4, while the May average to date is 41.6.

Total precipitation since the first of the year is 7.94-inches. A total of 1.39-inches of moisture has been received here during the past week, according to Government Observer Elmer R. Bowen. The week's summary, based on 24-hour periods ending at 8 a.m., follows:

Table with 4 columns: Date, Hi, Lo, Moist. Lists precipitation data for days May 23 through May 29.

MEMORIAL RITES IN CITY TODAY

Tribute to Soldier Dead to Be Paid in Service and At Cemeteries

Memorial day rites are being held here today (Thursday) as O'Neill joins the Nation in honoring the war dead.

With stores and offices closed, the day's activity starts promptly at 9:30 a.m. with a parade to the public school auditorium, where a memorial service is planned. Following the service an American Legion firing squad is scheduled to fire three volleys in a brief ceremony at the adjoining Prospect Hill and Calvary cemeteries.

No changes have been made in the program that was announced a week ago by the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars, the two organizations jointly in charge of arrangements.

Val Peterson, Elgin publisher, is scheduled to deliver the address at the 10 a.m. service in the auditorium.

First Municipal Band Concert Saturday

The summer season's first concert by the Municipal band will begin at 8 p.m. Saturday at the bandstand east of the Holt county courthouse annex building. Director Ira George has announced the program as follows: "Star Spangled Banner," Key; march, "On the Square," Pamela; waltz, "Alice Blue Gown," McCarthy; selection, "Tea for Two," Youmans; march, "On Parade," Goldman; vocal solo, "Rose of No Man's Land," sung by Mrs. Earl W. Rayla.

Selection, "American Patrol," Meechain; hymn, "Battle Hymn of the Republic"; Bishop; march, "Stars and Stripes Forever," Sousa.

MRS. HOUCHIN, 30, BURIED AT LINCOLN

Mrs. Keith Houchin, 30, of North Platte, and a former resident of the O'Neill vicinity, died May 13th at North Platte. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. last Thursday at Lincoln, with burial in the Wyuka cemetery near there. Dr. Gerald Kennedy officiated.

The late Mrs. Houchin, formerly Lillian B. Cederburg, is survived by the widower; one daughter, Beverly Jeanne, 6; one sister, Mrs. Harlan Elam, of Lincoln; five brothers, Vinton Cederburg, of Peyton, Colo., Thomas Cederburg, of Wagner, S. D., Harley Cederburg, of Waterloo, Ia., Clarence Cederburg, of Verdigr, and Marion Cederburg, of Middlebranch; and a stepfather, John L. Leisure, of Venus.

12 SENIORS AT CHAMBERS

CHAMBERS—Twelve seniors graduated from Chambers high school May 17. They were: Dolores Albers, Dwayne Bly, Dewey Britzell, Gene Cavanaugh, Richard Farrer, Gordon Fluckey, Donald Gibson, Gordon Harley, Harlan Koch, Marlin Rasmussen, Gordon Rothchild, Larry Tangeman.

Prisoner Saws Way Out of County Jail; Captured

MISS WINCHELL, 50, ILL 6 MONTHS DIES

A Daughter of the Late Ben Winchell Buried Here Wednesday

A native of Holt county and a daughter of the late Ben Winchell, Miss Catherine Lou Winchell, 50, died at the family home here at 6 a.m. Monday. She had been seriously ill more than six months. Funeral services were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the First Presbyterian church with Rev. Kenneth Scott, church pastor, officiating.

Burial was in Prospect Hill cemetery.

The late Miss Winchell was born east of Chambers on July 7, 1895. Her mother was the former Cora A. Sackett, who came to Holt county from Wisconsin.

The late Miss Winchell's father, Ben Winchell, was deputy Holt county treasurer when he died September 6, 1945. Her mother, five brothers, and four sisters survive. They are: John W. Winchell, of Seattle, Wash.; Alva B. Winchell, of Omaha; Vern H. Winchell and Orville H. Winchell, both of Denver, Colo.; Mrs. Mae Harvey, of Orchard; Mrs. Nellie Metcalfe, of Chambers; Gilbert Winchell, Mrs. Beatrice Rouse, and Mrs. Beryl Davis, all of O'Neill.

The pallbearers were J. Ed Hancock, A. B. Hubbard, C. W. Porter, John Harbottle, Arlo Hiatt, and Ned Allendorfer.

Mrs. Guy Cole, Emmet, Honored by Ak-Sar-Ben

The Knights of Ak-Sar-Ben of Omaha Wednesday honored 36 "good neighbors" from over the state for "unselfish and meritorious deeds performed during the past 12 months."

Mr. and Mrs. Claude H. Canada, of Bloomfield, who turned a corn check totaling \$1,030 over to UNRRA for relief purposes, topped the list. Mrs. Guy Cole, of Emmet, was among the honorees for "service beyond the call of duty" as chairman of the women's activities of the statewide salvage campaign, which brought plaudits from the War Production board in Washington. Mrs. G. E. Swanson, of Wausa, was named for her work in "delivering a plant in bloom to virtually every home (in her community) where illness strikes."

NOXIOUS WEED PLAN DEFERRED

Plan Will Be Held Up Until New State Law Goes into Effect

A petition to create a county-wide noxious weed district was heard by the Holt county supervisors in session here Tuesday, with the result that the board voted 4-to-2 to defer the creation of a weed district here until January 1, 1947. Reason for the deferment was because the 1945 Unicameral legislature enacted a law making weed districts mandatory in each county where there was evidence of noxious weeds. This new law will go into effect the first of the year.

Fee for Services

About 40 ranchers and farmers, representing both pro and con views on the proposed district, were present at the hearing.

When the state law becomes effective, each county will appoint weed district supervisors, whose job it will be to combat noxious weeds. A fund will be provided for that purpose, the amount varying in each county according to the needs. The landowner, whose property receives treatment, will pay a nominal fee for the services.

Bindweed eradication is the main objective of the proponents of the district.

A group of ranchers voiced the opinion that the amount of noxious weeds on their grazing land didn't justify the creation of a district.

RETURNS TO U. S.

Clayton Rayla, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl W. Rayla, returned to the United States Tuesday after a year in the Pacific. He is a fireman first-class. He called his parents Tuesday from Anselmo, Ore.

Chinese 'Half-Starved', Writes O'Neill Youth

The people in Tsingtoo, China, are "half-starved," wrote George Janousek, 19, in a letter to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lod Janousek. Janousek is a seaman first-class and a radioman in the Navy.

"They (the natives) even come alongside our ship with their little boats to get our garbage. Three of us rode all over the city in a rickshaw. The place is filthy and stinks terribly. Women come up to you holding their babies and asking for money to feed them.

"I am not going on liberty anymore," he continued, "as I have seen all that I want to see."

Atkinson Girl Wins State Merit Honors

ATKINSON—Miss Jane Chace, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Chace and valedictorian of the 1946 Atkinson high school senior class, won the highest score in the examinations given by the state merit system last month. There were 959 competitors for the honor.

O'NEILL SPANKS NORFOLK AGAIN

Pitcher Helmer's Timely Hitting Helps Indies Win 4-1

The O'Neill Independents trampled the Norfolk semi-pros 4-1 Sunday at Norfolk, making it two-straight over the same opponents. Donny Helmer, O'Neill moundsman, poked out a timely single and double that brought in three O'Neill counters, and he scored the fourth tally himself when Left Fielder Charley Richter singled.

The Indies bunched six of their eight hits in two innings.

Helmer, who struck out 14 Norfolkans in a seven-inning contest here a week earlier, won by O'Neill 7-3, was not as effective this time, although he struck out seven and allowed only five scattered hits. Meanwhile, Hundt, Norfolk hurler, struck out six and yielded seven hits.

A large Sabbath day crowd witnessed the event in Norfolk's Athletic park. The boxscore:

Boxscore for O'Neill (4) vs Norfolk (1). Lists players and their statistics.

NORFOLK (1)

Boxscore for Norfolk (1) vs O'Neill (4). Lists players and their statistics.

Totals 36 7 4

O'Neill 000 020 200—4 8 1
Norfolk 001 000 000—1 6 1
Score by innings:

Undefeated St. John's, Deloit, Here Sunday

The unbeaten St. John's baseballers of Deloit will tangle with the O'Neill Independents at the public school field here Sunday.

The Chambers Sun Resumes Publication

The Chambers Sun, which was forced to suspend publication more than two years ago due to wartime causes, resumed publication on May 23.

Editor C. E. Alderson, who served in the Navy, announced to his readers that the new Sun has been enlarged from four to five columns in width, and that a larger press has been installed.

280 ATTEND CLASS NIGHT

A crowd of 280 persons attended the St. Mary's Academy senior class night exercises held in the public school auditorium.

John J. Beha departed for his home in Omaha Sunday after a visit with his brother, W. G. Beha, and family.

Schilousky Descends from Top of Courthouse with Improvised "Rope"

CAUGHT IN NORFOLK

A midday break from the Holt county jail, the first since the new courthouse was built in 1936, was made Sunday by Raymond P. ("Pat") Schilousky, 29, of Ewing, who had been under confinement since January 3.

The prisoner sawed his way through a barred window on the third (top) floor of the courthouse, presumably by using a knife which he had converted into a filing device.

He dropped to the roof of the second floor, and descended to the ground with use of a mattress cover which he had cut into strips and knotted the strips. No witness reported seeing the bold daylight escape.

County Sheriff A. B. Hubbard and Deputy Sheriff John Lansworth were in the courthouse at the time of the break, but they were not in the cell section, which occupies the top floor.

Occurs At Noon

Hubbard said that the break occurred between 12:25 and 12:30 p.m. Lansworth went off duty at 2 p.m. and when Sheriff Hubbard went to the cell block he discovered what had happened. Orval Elifritz, of Ainsworth, another prisoner, told Hubbard that he was asleep during the affair, and knew none of the details.

The cells in the jail are generally regarded as escape-proof and are of the latest barred-window type. Schilousky had been the only prisoner until three days before, and it is believed that he had been making preparations for the break for sometime. He made his exit at a time when one of the narrow-paned windows was open. After sawing, he had a clearance of about 13 inches.

Schilousky had been held after having been committed to the Norfolk state hospital.

Hubbard sponsored a radio broadcast for the escapee, and Tuesday Schilousky was taken into custody by Norfolk police, who turned him over to state hospital authorities.

Mrs. Bernard J. Matthews New Head of St. Mary's Alumni Group in Omaha

Mrs. Bernard J. Matthews was elected president of the Omaha chapter of St. Mary's Academy Alumni at the annual election of officers held in conjunction with a dinner at 6 p.m., Sunday in the Paxton hotel in Omaha. Mrs. W. P. Wagner was named vice-president; Mrs. Joseph Schwartz, secretary; and Mrs. Thomas Regan, treasurer.

Heading the program was an address by Rev. Daniel Brick, who is a former assistant pastor at St. Patrick's Catholic church in O'Neill. Rev. F. R. Price, a former O'Neill resident and son of Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Price of near here, was the toastmaster. Vocal selections were presented by Mary Fitzsimmons Massie; a duet was sung by Miss Madge Matthews and Jack Davis, and "Home Again," a paper, was offered by John Robert Gallagher. The Omaha chapter will sponsor a picnic in Benson park, Omaha, on Sunday, June 9, to be attended by all former residents of O'Neill now living in Omaha. A basket supper will be held in the park pavilion.

Marvin Holsclaw Wins Regent's Scholarship

Marvin Holsclaw won the regent's scholarship to the University of Nebraska at O'Neill high school this year, with Gordon Hiatt chosen as the alternate. They were among the 37 seniors receiving diplomas at the commencement exercises Thursday night.

Irene Searles was awarded the state teachers' college scholarship, and the state church school award went to Joan Brady. Jennie Beth Mellor won the Norfolk Junior college award.

The scholarships were presented by Principal F. E. Saindon, Dr. L. A. Burgess, president of the board of education, presented the diplomas. Val Peterson, Elgin publisher, delivered the commencement address. He admonished the graduates to "learn to evaluate between true and false," and he pointed out that a formal education as such was not sufficient. He said that too frequently persons with college educations gave no evidence of it ten years after graduation.