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Elkhorn Floods Holt Lowlands

THROUGH PRESENT FOR FIRST MASS

Rev. Gallagher, Newly-Ordained Priest, Honored

One of O'Neill's native sons—a newly-ordained priest—returned to the scenes of his childhood to offer the first solemn high mass in his clerical career.

Rev. Eugene F. Gallagher, son of Mrs. Robert E. Gallagher and the late Robert E. Gallagher, officiated at 10:30 a. m. Sunday at St. Patrick's Catholic church as a throng of relatives, friends and parishoners were in attendance. He was ordained June 18 at the Chapel of the Immaculata at St. Mary's Kans., after 13 years of intensive study and training. Father Gallagher is a member of the Society of Jesus—or Jesuit—order.

Officials of the mass were: Deacon—Rev. Francis Price, of Omaha; Subdeacon, Rev. Clement J. Ryan, of Kansas City, Mo.; Master of Ceremonies—Rev. Richard Hupp, of Clearwater. Rev. B. J. Leahy, of Fremont, delivered the sermon. Father Gallagher entered accompanied by Rt. Rev. J. G. McNamara, the church pastor.

Benediction Follows

Solemn benediction followed the high mass with the same clergy serving.

Miss Mary Froelich, 9, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William J. Froelich, acted as the spiritual bride. Her attendants were Joan Shoemaker, Regina Hynes, Mary Ryan, Dorothea Vitt, Nyla Jazzkowiak. The girls' procession was formed by Jude Ryan, Mary Jo Donlin, Jeanette Harper, Cera Corkle, Dona Lou Turner and Sandra Harper. James Ryan carried the bridal candle and his attendants were Bruce Weier, Jerry Hickey, Matthew Beha, Robert Armbruster, jr., and James Froelich. Thomas DeBacker carried the cross.

Alvin Bosh, John Carney, Donald Graham, Henry Mangán and John J. Frenking, of Omaha, Father Gallagher's cousin, were the altar boys.

Miss Kathleen Flood, of O'Neill, and Miss Joan Frenking, of Omaha, both St. Mary's academy students, sang solos. Miss Frenking is also Father Gallagher's cousin.

Many relatives and friends came from a distance to attend the service and to be present for the breakfast and reception that followed. The breakfast, served in the St. Mary's academy main dining room, was attended by relatives and the visiting clergy, and the reception was held in the academy gymnasium between 3 and 5 p. m. It was a public affair attended by Catholics and Protestants alike. Father Leahy, who is a former assistant pastor at St. Patrick's church here, served as toastmaster. The band was heard in several selections and Miss Frenking sang two solos.

Alumni Sponsors Reception

Arrangements for the reception were made by the St. Mary's academy alumni association headed by Mrs. H. J. Birmingham. The Catholic Daughters Altar Society, and Knights of Columbus cooperated.

Among the out-of-towners present were:

Mr. and Mrs. John R. Gallagher and son, Mr. and Mrs. John A. Frenking and three children. Mr. and Mrs. Edward Johnson, Edward M. Connor, William Daly, Mrs. M. J. O'Keefe, Mr. and Mrs. John C. Mullen, Mrs. Mildred Honke, Miss Mary Cullen, Miss Bea McGinnis, George Abdouh, Joseph Boyle, Mr. and Mrs. Francis Welsh, Mrs. John P. Gilligan, Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Gilligan and son, Mr. and Mrs. John McCarthy, Mrs. Thomas Regan, Thomas Graham, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Bowker, all of Omaha; Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Smiley and daughter, Mrs. Frank Chmeler and Mrs. George Agnes, all of Norfolk; Mrs. C. A. Townsend, Mrs. Lee Taylor and son, of Page; Ted Riddell and daughters of Scottsbluff; Miss Virginia Agnes, of Shenandoah, Ia.; Mr. and Mrs. Robert McCarthy, of Boise, Ida.; Mr. and Mrs. Harry J. Shelton and Mrs. Clara Woodson, of St. Louis, Mo.; Miss Marie Biglin, of Salt Lake City, Ut.; Miss Madeleine Ullom, of New York City; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Chace and Mr. and Mrs. James Berigan, of Atkinson; Mrs. Loretta Doyle, of Evanston, Ill.; and Mrs. G. S. Graybill, of Chicago, Ill.; and Rev. Richard Parr, of Battle Creek, a former assistant pastor of St. Patrick's church here.



A 1936 Ford automobile, one-half mile south of O'Neill. The vehicle is owned by William Miller, of O'Neill. The Frontier Photo by John H. McCarville.



The Dufek farm, situated midway between Neligh and Clearwater, was completely surrounded (above) by flood waters Tuesday as the Elkhorn boiled out of its banks. In the photo below, the high water endangered this farmstead and the Zehner family was evacuated. The river's main channel is scene in the background. — Aerial photos through the courtesy of The Neligh News.



To Altar Via Wagon

CHAMBERS — When Miss Glenaspa Kenny alighted from a farm wagon drawn by two teams of horses, Gordon Brown breathed easier as he waited at a church here. Flood conditions between Amelia and Chambers forced Miss Kenny, Mr. Brown's bride-elect, to resort to horse-and-wagon and go by the high-road Sunday in order to keep their date at the matrimonial altar.

All business and professional houses in O'Neill will be closed all-day the Fourth in accordance with Chamber of Commerce policy.



Rev. Eugene F. Gallagher (in center on altar) returned to St. Mary's, Kans., as a Jesuit priest. He was ordained June 18 at St. Mary's, Kans., as a Jesuit priest. The photo was taken in St. Patrick's church. (See column 3).—The Frontier Photo by John H. McCarville.

Crops Ruined as River Nears an All-Time High

Spreading over thousands of farmland acres in Holt county and elsewhere downstream, the ever-dangerous Elkhorn river rose to what is believed to have been an all-time high this week after a Saturday night cloudburst had deluged this region with one of the heaviest downpours on record.

Crops in the lowland were ruined and the damage that cannot be estimated will mount to thousands of dollars. Many oldtimers rate the flood as the worst in their memory.

In O'Neill only 3.03-inches of moisture was recorded by Government Observer Elmer Bowen, but at Inman, Ewing, Chambers and Amelia up to six inches was received.

The Elkhorn, already swollen because of earlier rains, couldn't accommodate the drain-off from its watershed and by midday Sunday most Holt county lowlands were a veritable sea.

The Charles Abart farm near Emmet was practically isolated Sunday afternoon and many valley residents reported the water knocking at their door.

At Inman the cloudburst transformed the main street and most of the town into a lake. Few properties escaped damage, but no evacuations were required.

The Chambers and Amelia vicinities bore the brunt of the downpour and the South Fork reacted violently, causing damage down the valley. In places the South Fork swelled to a mile in width.

2 Rail Bridges Out

The Northwestern railroad reported considerable damage to its tracks and bridges in the Inman and Ewing areas. One rail bridge east of Inman was washed out and another near O'Donnell's lake was partially destroyed. No trains have operated between Norfolk and O'Neill since Saturday night and prospects are slight that train service will be restored to normal for several more days.

Donald Grimes, residing two miles north of Chambers, had to take the members of his family to safety on horseback. Water in the yard measured three-feet in depth.

Ewing was practically isolated late Monday and early Tuesday as federal highway 275 bridges were snapped on both sides of the town and other approaches were denied because of the high water.

Truck Breaks Through

One highway bridge collapsed while being crossed by a bread truck, abruptly stopping the truck while the rear wheels of the trailer were draped over the breakthrough. The driver was unaware that the bridge had a few feet in front of the truck had already been washed away. The breakthrough is credited with saving the life of the driver, Harold Calkins, of O'Neill.

Travel and communications were snarled as a result of the storm. Telephone and power lines were down in many places and existing facilities were overburdened.

Late today (Thursday) bus service had not been restored to normal on all lines operating out of here. Highway traffic to Neligh and Norfolk was routed over highways 20 and 14. Travel is still impossible south of here to Grand Island.

Tourists Marooned

Scores of tourists and regular visitors were forced to find housing accommodations here as a result of the rail, bus and road conditions.

Reports from Page indicated that four inches of rain fell during the flashflood in the south portion of town water was pouring over highway 108, and numerous homes in the east section received water in the basements.

Bridge washouts on county highways were common through out the territory.

Several O'Neill residents also reported water in basements.

The week's precipitation of 3.70-inches boosts to 10.80-inches the total moisture received here since June 1. The week's summary:

Date	Hi	Lo	Moist.
June 20	70	58	
June 21	71	60	.03
June 22	75	62	3.03
June 23	72	52	.02
June 24	78	55	
June 25	84	55	.62
June 26	82	66	
Total			3.70



Mr. and Mrs. Merton H. Dierks, of Ewing . . . spend half-century together.—O'Neill Photo Co.

Mark Golden Wedding

EWING—Mr. and Mrs. Merton H. Dierks completed a half-century of wedded life with an open-house celebration and a church dinner here June 16.

Mr. Dierks and Miss Letha Glassman, both of the Ewing vicinity, were married on June 16, 1897, and have resided in Holt county continuously since. They ranch in the Goose lake community until 1939, when they entered retirement.

Both enjoying "good" health, Mr. Dierks is now 75; his wife, 70.

Scores of relatives and friends greeted them on their golden wedding date and a family dinner was served in the Methodist church basement by members of the W.S.C.S.

The Dierks are the parents of seven children, all but two of whom were present. Their children are: Mrs. S. E. Adrian, of Wichita, Kans.; Lyle P. Dierks, of Ewing; Mrs. M. M. Maupin, of Frankfurt, Germany; John M.

Dierks, of Nebraska City; Mrs. Walter Tressler, of Ogalalla; Mrs. Wilda Carr, of Ewing, and Robert C. Dierks, of Long Beach, Calif., a member of the Navy. Mrs. Maupin and Robert were the two unable to be present. Robert, the youngest, was in China on the celebration day.

The family moved into Ewing in 1914 but retained management of the ranch until 1939.

HERIFORDS NEW M & M OWNERS

McMillan and Markey Withdraw After 36 Years

Another important change has taken place in the O'Neill business directory with the announcement this week of the sale of the M & M Cafe and Bakery.

The new owners are Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Heriford and Mr. and Mrs. Bennett Heriford. They succeed the McMillan and Markey partnership which has owned and operated the establishment since 1911.

The change took place effective June 16.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. McMillan and Miss Mary Markey came to O'Neill from Chicago, Ill., in January and June, respectively, in 1911 to establish a cafe and bakery in the same building in which the firm is presently located. At that time the building was 60-feet long, owned by T. V. Golden. It had previously been used as a general merchandise Neill.

Heriford Here 36 Years

Today the M & M measures 175-feet in length and for years has been a leading business establishment in the city. Mr. McMillan died in 1933 and Mrs. McMillan and Miss Markey carried on the partnership.

W. H. ("Pete") Heriford, who heads the firm under the new ownership, has been with the M & M for 36 years. He came here shortly after moving from Clarinda, Ia., to Neligh, and has established a wide reputation in this region as a baker.

The McMillan and Markey partnership is withdrawing from the city's business directory at the completion of 36 years.

Mrs. McMillan and Miss Markey will continue to reside in O'Neill.

Report Crash Victims Improve 'Satisfactorily'

The two Stanton women who were injured in an auto accident near here on June 15 are improving "satisfactorily" in the Lutheran hospital at Norfolk, according to word received here by their friends.

The injured are Mrs. Connie Wagner and Miss Kathryn Shoemaker. Mrs. Wagner suffered a fractured jaw, bruises and lacerations, and Miss Shoemaker sustained bruises and lacerations.

They were transferred from the O'Neill hospital to Norfolk three days after the accident.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Downey left Tuesday for Scottsbluff after spending three days with Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Gatz.

FLOOD CREATES MAIL 'DROUTH'

The Elkhorn river flood, which halted rail traffic late Saturday on the Northwestern railroad, created a mail "drouth" in O'Neill and other cities and towns dependent on the line for mail service. The mail that was received here between Saturday morning and Wednesday afternoon was almost negligible.

When trucks were brought in to use and delivered mail at the postoffice here at 2:30 p. m. Wednesday, the situation was mildly reminiscent to many World War II servicemen of the occasions when a long-awaited ship delivered mail to some far-flung military outpost.

Trucks are being used between Norfolk and Long Pine during the emergency. Postmaster Agnes Sullivan said.

STEPHEN W. PRICE NEW GRAND KNIGHT

Stephen W. Price was elected grand knight of the Knights of Columbus council here at a regular session last Thursday evening. He succeeds George McCarthy.

Other new officers, who will serve for one year, are:

H. J. Hammond, financial secretary; Francis Gilg, deputy grand knight; Norman Gonderinger, chancellor; James Mullen, recorder; Clyde Wilson, treasurer; Francis D. Lee, advocate; Frank Clements, warden; Simon Bosh, inside guardian; William Martin, outside guardian, and M. H. Horiesky, trustee.

Rev. Gramley Named Episcopal Pastor

BASSETT — Rev. Luther W. Gramley, of Gibbon, has accepted the appointment as pastor of the Episcopal church in Holt, Rock, Brown and Cherry counties, according to an announcement issued this week.

Twenty years ago he served the same counties while residing at Ewing, became ordained later at Alliance, and served for a time at Holy Trinity church at Norfolk.

From Norfolk, Rev. Gramley went to Omaha where he served as archdeacon in eastern Nebraska.

Ted Malone's Gift for Donna Mae Fuhrer Arrives

Ted Malone's personal gift to Donna Mae Fuhrer, 14, O'Neill's well-known polio victim, was delivered to the bedfast farm girl Friday by two "special emissaries": Gene Loffler and James Allen, both of radio station WNAX at Yankton, S. D.

The gift from the nation's famous radio poet-philosopher is a 1947 Westinghouse portable radio adapted for both farm and city use.

On a nationwide broadcast over the American Broadcast-

ing company network on May 22, Mr. Malone paid a tribute to Donna Mae, who on the next day was to graduate from the eighth grade. At the close of the program, he said he would send the first model of a new set being produced at the Westinghouse factory as a personal gift.

Friday's presentation was transcribed and broadcast early Saturday over WNAX.

Miss Fuhrer continues to receive scores of letters and gifts from newfound admirers.