

3 Youths Killed in Auto-Train Crash

Clearwater Men Die As Speeding Streamliner Strikes Car

SPECIAL TO THE FRONTIER.

CLEARWATER—Three young men, all born and reared in a rural community northeast of Clearwater, were killed almost instantly early Monday near Valley when the Union Pacific railroad's City of Denver streamliner crashed into their automobile.

The dead are:

- DONALD R. MICHAEL, 21.
- DUARD HAAKE, 21.
- KENNETH HOEFS, 20.

Reynold Liss, Union Pacific station agent at Valley, gave this version of the accident:

A westbound freight was pulling through Valley on a branch line about 1:15 a. m. The east-bound City of Denver was approaching on the main line, which runs parallel with the branch. The auto in which the three youths were riding turned south on Valley's main street, which intersects the railroad tracks.

Liss said the car stopped at the main line tracks. Another car was in the area between the main and the branch lines, he continued, and the driver of the car bearing the three men apparently decided to get into the space between the two lines also.

He started to drive across the tracks and had almost cleared them when the streamliner clipped the rear of the vehicle. The impact hurled the car across the street and against a metal lamp post, about 25 feet away. The post was sheared off.

Car Travels 30 Feet

The car, still on its wheels, stopped 30 feet away from the tracks.

A hole was ripped in the rear of the car and it is believed that Hoefs and Haake were hurled through the hole. The bodies were found 51 and 54 feet from the car.

Michael's body was found 20 feet south of the car. He is believed to have been driving and was thrown through the left front door.

The acting Douglas county coroner, George Sullivan, said the warning signals were working.

Haake and Michael were visiting with Hoefs, a Midland college student and World War II veteran, at Fremont.

The three were lifelong friends and had been confirmed in the same class at Concordia Lutheran church at Clearwater.

The Hoefs funeral service was to have been held today (Thursday) at 2 p. m. at the Trinity Lutheran church in Fremont with burial in Memorial park there.

Tentative plans have been made for double funeral rites for Haake and Michael. The services are scheduled for 2 p. m. Friday at Concordia Lutheran church.

Young Hoefs' survivors include: Parents—Mr. and Mrs. O. Hoefs; sisters—Rachel Hoefs and Mrs. Wilmer Westphal, both of Fremont.

Survivors of young Michael: Mother—Mrs. Anna Michael; brothers—Lawrence and Harold; sister—Mrs. Emil Ahlers, all of Clearwater.

Surviving young Haake are: Parents—Mr. and Mrs. Henry Haake; brothers—Marlin and Lyle; sisters—Louetta, Louella and Lyla, all of Clearwater.

The Snider funeral home, of Clearwater, is handling arrangements for the double funeral.

MRS. CONRAD, 72, DIES AT ATKINSON

ATKINSON—Mrs. Dorsey S. Conrad, 72, a Holt county resident since 1919 and formerly of O'Neill, died at noon Tuesday at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Ina Stoeker, in Atkinson.

Mrs. Conrad and her husband lived in O'Neill for a period of nine years, operating a tourist camp business. They left O'Neill eight years ago.

Mabel May Weaver was born at Prairie Center, Ill., and reached Nebraska on January 13, 1888, the day following the historic blizzard. She lived at Schuyler where she was educated and on December 31, 1895 she was married to Rev. Conrad. The Conrads left Schuyler in 1919 and moved onto a ranch 18 miles south of Atkinson.

Rev. Conrad served as a Methodist pastor at Long Pine and Crookston. Both Mrs. Conrad and her husband were active in Nebraska Children's Home society work.

Survivors include: Widower; daughters—Mrs. Stecker, Mrs. Iola Lowery, of Houston, Tex., and Mrs. Gertrude Brown, of Milwaukee, Wis.; sister—Mrs. Edith Wicklund, of Burwin.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 2:30 p. m. at the Methodist church in Atkinson with Rev. W. C. Burmingham officiating. Burial will be in Wood Lawn cemetery.

Fishers to California—Dr. and Mrs. F. J. Fisher departed Wednesday for Los Angeles and San Francisco, Calif. They will be gone three weeks.

CRASH VICTIMS



Donald R. Michael, 21, of Clearwater . . . believed to have been driver of ill-fated car.



Duard Haake, 21, of Clearwater . . . a passenger.



Kenneth Hoefs, 20, of Fremont . . . also a passenger.

STUART WOMAN SUCCUMBS HERE

Mrs. Wefso, 77, Mother of Mrs. J. P. Brown, Buried Tuesday

STUART—Mrs. Frederick Wefso, 77, a Holt county resident since 1892, was buried at 2 p. m. Tuesday in the Stuart cemetery following funeral services at the Wefso home.

She died at noon Saturday in O'Neill at the home of her daughter, Mrs. J. P. Brown, following a year's illness. For several months she had made her home in O'Neill with the Browns.

Born at Good Hope, Ill., on November 21, 1870, Alice Clark came to Holt county with her parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. William Clark, in 1882. She was then a girl of 12.

On August 6, 1889 she married the late Frederick Wefso. They became the parents of four sons and four daughters.

Mr. Wefso died in 1930. Survivors include: Sons—Robert F. Wefso, of Rushville; James and William Wefso, both of Stuart; daughters—Mrs. Alice Burke, of Bassett; Mrs. J. P. (Sophia) Brown, of O'Neill, and Mrs. Margaret Anderson, of St. Paul, Minn.; and Mrs. Frances Stuart, of Stuart. One son, Charles, is deceased.

Four of the pallbearers were grandsons of the deceased.

Pallbearers at the funeral services were: Robert Wefso, Jr., Frederick Wefso, James Burke, Brooke Stuart, Dow Holiday and Robert Derming. Rev. Orin C. Graff, of Atkinson, officiated, and Biglin Brothers, of O'Neill, were in charge.

Going to Philly—Dr. W. F. Finley will depart Saturday by air for Philadelphia, Pa., where he will visit the Stephensons. He will return January 8.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Parkins spent the weekend in Omaha visiting their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. John N. Parkins.

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FORMER RESIDENT CRASH VICTIM

Mrs. Louis R. Jones, 53, Nee Lauretta Murray, Dies in Montana

Mrs. Lauretta R. Jones, 53, the former Lauretta Murray, died December 7 in a Miles City, Mont., hospital as a result of injuries suffered in a highway accident December 5 in Miles City.

Her automobile collided with a truck while she was enroute to Holy Rosary hospital to visit her husband, who was a patient.

Rt. Rev. Thomas Henessy officiated in the funeral rites at 9 a. m. on December 10.

Since the accident Mrs. Jones had been in a grave condition and never regained consciousness. She was on her way to see her husband at the time and Jack Martin, driver of the railway transport truck, told highway patrolmen her car had pulled onto the highway from a side street and he was unable to stop his vehicle on the icy road. She was thrown from her car and dragged 75 feet under the truck.

Born at O'Neill

Mrs. Jones was born April 30, 1894 in O'Neill, where she spent her girlhood and attended school. Her parents were Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Murray. She was married 37 years ago at O'Neill and to this union were born six children who survive their mother. Their father passed away some time ago. She had also made her home in Buffalo, S. D. Since the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Jones in 1937, they have made their home in or near Miles City.

Survivors in addition to Mr. Jones include six children: Mrs. Agnes Jennings, Walter Burshek, Mrs. Frances Smith, Clifford Burshek, Lauretta Burshek, all of Miles City; Clarence Burshek, of Bozeman.

Also in Miles City for the funeral rites were seven sisters: Martha Soukup, of Sheridan, Wyo.; Mrs. Dean Streeter, of O'Neill; Mrs. Ernest Perkins, of Ainsworth; Mrs. Anastasia Williams, of Sheridan, Wyo.; Mrs. Clyde Streeter, of O'Neill; Mrs. J. Matthews, of Lincoln; Mrs. Ellen Blomberg and children, Dixie and William, of Gill, S. D., and one brother, George Murray, of Leeds, S. D. Her parents and one sister preceded her in death.

White Christmas Seen; No Moisture This Week

A relatively "mild" first-half of December prompts some of the self-styled long-range weather prognosticators to predict a white Christmas.

Except for near-zero readings on two separate days, the mercury has hovered in the 10's and 20's so far this month with the minimum readings.

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

	Hi	Lo	Moist.
Dec. 11	30	10	
Dec. 12	30	10	
Dec. 13	35	13	
Dec. 14	42	22	
Dec. 15	45	10	
Dec. 16	25	10	T
Dec. 17	35	11	

Leave for California

Mr. and Mrs. R. M. Kurtz departed Friday for Pasadena, Calif., where they will spend the winter. They made the trip by automobile.

PRILL CHARGES ARE DISMISSED

City Fails to Convict Page Farmer on Two Counts

Charges of resisting an officer and disturbing the peace, filed by the city of O'Neill against Ralph Prill, Page farmer, were dismissed Friday by County Judge Louis W. Reimer following a three-hour hearing in Holt county court.

The action grew out of a Thanksgiving day incident in West O'Neill in which Assistant Chief Police Joseph West arrested Prill and took him to jail, where he was held for 45 minutes.

On the witness stand Wert testified that he slapped Prill. Three witnesses for Prill told the court that Prill was not disturbing the peace. Defense witnesses were: Tony Asimus, James McDermott and Alvin Ott.

City Attorney William W. Griffin represented the plaintiff and Raymond S. Hill, of Sioux City, was counsel for the defendant.

More than 50 persons were in the district court room for the hearing.

L. M. Merriman and James R. Lyons were on business in Grand Island Monday.

Santa to Use Supersonic Jet Plane to Keep Dite Here

BULLETIN—SPECIAL TO THE FRONTIER.

NORTH POLE—One of Santa's helpers Wednesday announced that the Jolly Ol' Fellow was neck-deep in work in preparation for Saturday's date with the kiddies at O'Neill. He is sandwiching in the O'Neill visit as a last-minute stop before he begins his annual run of Christmas deliveries.

"That's where my new Supersonic Blitzen jet plane will come in mighty handy," he declared. "Tell the kids I'll see them at 2:30 and I'll try to talk to every one of them!"

Meanwhile, in O'Neill the Chamber of Commerce officials are making final preparations for Santa's arrival. Rain, snow or sleet, Santa expects to keep his engagement with the youngsters here.

Details on how he'll arrive have not been received, but he'll be met outside the city by a fire truck and city officials. Treats for his junior friends will be transferred on to the fire truck and will accompany him to the south front door of the O'Neill public school building.

There will be candy and fruit for the children. Christmas buying in the O'Neill stores has continued brisk all week and Chamber officials explain that there are still ample gift selections in most stores. Many items are being advertised in this issue of The Frontier.

O'Neill stores will remain open until 9 on Monday and Tuesday evenings, December 22 and 23.

CORA JOHNSON RITES FRIDAY

Widow of the Late 'Mike' Johnson Dies; Here Wednesday

Mrs. Cora Belle Johnson, 69, widow of the late Morris ("Mike") Johnson and a Holt county resident for 66 years, died at 9:45 a. m. Wednesday at her home here. She had been seriously ill for six months.

Funeral services will be held at 2 p. m. Friday at the Methodist church here with interment in Prospect Hill cemetery. Rev. Lloyd W. Mullis, church pastor, will be in charge and the following have been selected as pallbearers: Ray Eidenmiller, Walter Calkins, Chester Calkins, H. A. Yokum, Merle Hickey and Charles Fleming.

Born in Ohio

Born at Greenfield, O., Cora Belle Brown came to Holt with her parents the late Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Brown, in 1881, settling on a homestead 25 miles southwest of O'Neill. She was reared and educated there and was a schoolmate of the man she was to marry later on May 5, 1892.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnson became the parents of one son, Roy V. Johnson, Sr., and one daughter, Mrs. Ralph (Cora) Kilpatrick, both of O'Neill.

Besides the son and daughter, other survivors include: six grandchildren; two great-grandchildren; sister—Mrs. Alice Sawyer, of San Francisco, Calif.; and Mrs. Ethel Moran, of Los Angeles, Calif.; brother—William Brown, of Plainview.

Mr. Johnson, who died July 25, 1945, was employed for many years as a maintenance man with the Burlington railroad.

Families Prepare for Student Homecomings

Christmas, the time families get together for fireside chats and fondly visits, finds O'Neill with a great many families preparing for homecomings.

Among the students returning are: University of Nebraska, Lincoln—Anthony and Gerald Toy, Edward Condon, Marjorie McElhane, Polly Ann Rickly, Mr. and Mrs. Warren Burgess. Lois Ann Her, Fred Halva, Shirley Schaffer, Eugene McKenna, John Baker, Donna Gallagher, and Lois Cole, of Emmet; John Allen.

Creighton university, Omaha—Edward Campbell, James Merriam, George Janousek, Robert Shoemaker, Stephen and Robert Wallace, Paul Kubitschek, Robert Allen.

Doane college, Crete—Joan Brady; St. Mary's college, Leavenworth, Kans.—Kathleen Flood; University of Chicago, (Ill.)—Neil Brennan; Clark college, Dubuque, Ia.—Devine Brennan; University of Denver, (Colo.)—William Brady; University of South Dakota, Vermillion—Wayne Ralya; Wayne State Teachers' college, River Forest, Ill.—Elizabeth Gallagher and Patricia O'Donnell; Barat college, Lake Forest, Ill.—Mary Louise Birmingham and Helen Kubitschek; Colorado Women's college, Denver, Colo.—Joanne Burgess; Wesleyan university, Lincoln—Robert Bowen; University of Chicago medical school, Chicago, Ill.—Nadene Coyne; Omaha technical school, Omaha—Joseph Biglin; Mt. St. Gertrude academy, Boulder, Colo.—Marylyn Moore; St. Benedict's college, Atchison, Kans.—Thomas DeBacker; National Business institute, Lincoln—Dorothy Rae Clemm; Lincoln—Dorothy Rae Clemm; Lincoln—Dorothy Rae Clemm; Lincoln—Dorothy Rae Clemm.

Following a surgical operation in a Council Bluffs hospital, his condition was described as "satisfactory."

The parents of the injured man left Inman early Tuesday to be near their son, and to visit with Mrs. Miller and three children. Mrs. Miller is the former Bessie McClurg, of Stuart.

The Harold Millers had recently moved to Council Bluffs from Atlantic, Ia.

Schoolmates Visit—Friday overnight guests of Mrs. Vannie Newman were Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Smith, of Gibbonsville, Ia. Mrs. Newman and Mrs. Smith were schoolmates.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Juracek were guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Derickson, of Star.

2 CHANGES ON ZONING P L A N

Two amendments were added to the citywide zoning proposal Friday night at an adjourned meeting of the city council. Both amendments result in important changes to the zoning ordinance, which has not yet been enacted but has been under consideration for several months.

One amendment eliminated the proposed business building restrictions on east-west Douglas street—the city's main thoroughfare—from one end of the city to the other. In the original proposal, Douglas street was intended to be both residential and business.

The original draft of the ordinance confined the building of hateries to the so-called industrial area, which would be the vicinity of the railroad tracks. An amendment adopted at Friday's session would permit hateries to build anywhere in the business or industrial area. This amendment was unanimously voted.

A half-dozen citizens appeared at the meeting.

Blanche Spann Pease Radio Show Winner

CELIA—Mrs. Blanche Spann Pease has received a letter from Tom Brenneman of the coast-to-coast "Breakfast in Hollywood" radio program. Mr. Brenneman told her she had been judged a prize-winner and that her wish would be read on his program.

She received one of the famous "orchid wishing rings" as a prize.

ENROLLS AT U'

Edward J. Condon, of O'Neill, has enrolled at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln after qualifying as a regular student in the naval reserve officers' training corps program.

The purpose of the NROTC is to provide a source from which qualified officers may be obtained for the Navy and Marine corps, the Naval reserve and the Marine corps reserve.

BUY REGISTERED BULL

Mr. and Mrs. Emmett Moore went to Hurley, S. D. Monday where they purchased a registered shorthorn bull, whose sire is Smi-a-Bor Mercury of Smi-a-Bor farms at Grain Valley, Mo. His grandsire is the famous Edilyn Campeon Mercury selected as the most outstanding and valuable shorthorn sire of 1946.

HAROLD MILLER'S SKULL FRACTURED

Injured in Accident at Council Bluffs; Surgery Needed

INMAN—Harold Miller, about 40, of Council Bluffs, Ia., a son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Miller, of Inman, suffered a fractured skull early Monday in an accident in Council Bluffs. The mishap occurred while he was working for a farm implement firm. An object is believed to have fallen on his head.

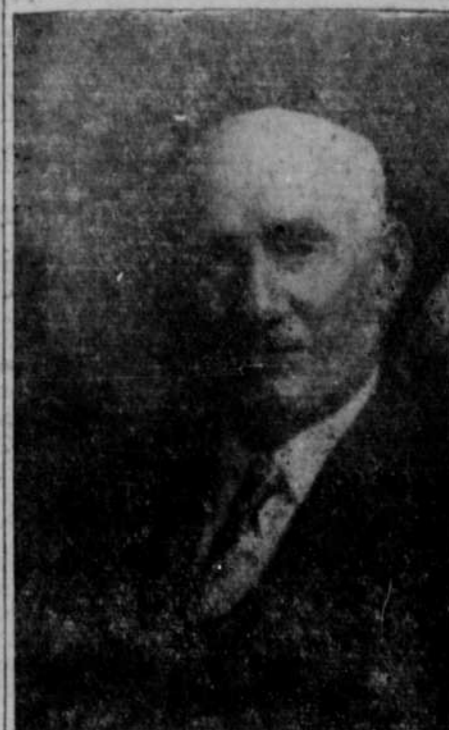
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Daniel J. Cronin . . . married 59 years. (See story at the right.)

DANIEL J. CRONIN DIES SUDDENLY

Heart Attack Fatal to Former Holt Official in Omaha

A heart attack at about 11 a. m. Sunday claimed the life of Daniel J. Cronin, 56, a former Holt county official and a well-known resident who left O'Neill in September. He was residing at the home of a daughter, Mrs. E. I. Johnson, when he was fatally stricken.

His death came unexpectedly to four members of his family, who were near him when he died. They were his wife; Mr. and Mrs. Johnson, and son, John Cronin.

Relatives said that the Sunday morning was one of the few in which he failed to attend church, but he had showed no signs of a serious illness.

The body was shipped to O'Neill Tuesday and funeral services were held at 10 a. m. Wednesday in St. Patrick's Catholic church with Rt. Rev. J. G. McNamara, church pastor, officiating. Interment was in Calvary cemetery.

A large crowd, including many longtime friends, attended the rites.

Came in 1880

The late Mr. Cronin was born at Danville, Ill., a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Cronin. He came to O'Neill with his parents in 1880, 67 years ago, and helped them homestead six miles north of O'Neill. On February 13, 1888 he was married to Miss Mary Morrison in St. Patrick's church here. They had been married 59 years.

The Cronins lived for a number of years on Blackbird creek, on the place now occupied by Alfred Drayton, and began rearing their family of six daughters and three sons, all of whom are living. Mr. Cronin farmed and ranched for many years.

In 1901 Mr. Cronin was elected Holt county treasurer, serving two terms. Upon becoming county treasurer the family moved into O'Neill where Mr. and Mrs. Cronin resided until three months ago, when they moved to Omaha to make their home with Mrs. Johnson.

Widow Survives

Survivors include: Widow; sons—John and William, both of Omaha; Philip, of Chicago, Ill.; daughters—Mrs. F. J. (Mary) Roach and Mrs. E. I. (Loretta) Johnson, both of Omaha; Miss Julia D. Cronin, of Cheyenne, Wyo.; Mrs. G. F. (Margaret) Berkenkotter, of Denver, Colo.; Mrs. Al J. (Nona) Sauser, of O'Neill, and Mrs. J. L. (Grace) Guinan, of Missouri Valley, Ia.; 14 grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; sisters—Mrs. Dennis Hunt, of Lincoln, and Mrs. John Hayes, of Arlington, Calif.

Out-of-town relatives attending the funeral, besides the widow, sons and daughters, were: Mrs. Hunt, of Lincoln; F. J. Roach, E. I. Johnson and William Johnson, all of Omaha; J. L. Guinan, of Missouri Valley, Ia.; Mrs. W. J. McCormick and Joseph McGraw, both of Dallas, Tex., and Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hart, of Inman.

Among out-of-town friends attending the funeral were: Romaine Saunders, of Lincoln; Patrick Kilmurry, of Atkinson; Mr. and Mrs. William Fallon and son, Harold, of Gregory, S. D. The pallbearers were: H. J. Hammond, P. C. Donohoe, P. J. O'Donnell, Leo Matthews, Dean Streeter and Thomas Greene.

MRS. MARTFELD DIES IN COLORADO

Former Jessie Pruss Pneumonia Victim; Rites Today

Mrs. John S. Martfeld, 61, the former Jessie Pruss, died at 2 a. m. Tuesday at Longmont, Colo. She had been seriously ill with pneumonia for only a few days.

Funeral services were to have been held today (Thursday) at Longmont with burial there.

A brother, Henry Pruss, of O'Neill, and two sisters, Mrs. Dan Crandall, of Chambers, and Mrs. Leslie Caster, of Norfolk, were among those relatives summoned due to Mrs. Martfeld's critical illness and subsequent death. They remained for the funeral.

Mrs. Martfeld was born at Glidden, Ia., on December 26, 1886, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charles Pruss. She was reared and educated in Holt county, having come here in 1900.

On June 17, 1909, she was married to Mr. Martfeld, a building contractor. The family left O'Neill in 1942.

Survivors include: Widower; sons—Dale, of Longmont, and William, of Arkansas; daughter—Elaine, of Longmont; five grandchildren, one brother, and two sisters.

English Boy Honored—John Smith, who came here from near London, England, last summer, was honored recently at a birthday party. School friends joined him in the celebration of his anniversary at his home.

They sat down to jello, and cake and the English boy told his friends it was the biggest party he had ever had.

PLAN JOINT PROGRAM CELIA—The Celia school and Hendricks school are rehearsing a Christmas program which they plan to put on together.

