

**Natural Dams Formed  
By Wind In Dry Creek**

Last fall several duck hunters reported that out in Carr's pasture, 12 miles southwest of O'Neill, wind which whipped in here from South Dakota last spring and summer had scooped out sand dunes near Dry creek in this pasture and had dropped the sand at several points in the creek basin, forming dams that held all the creek flow back and resulted in formation of lakes up to nine feet deep, 60 feet wide and one-half mile long.

Holt county is known the world over for production of things contrary to the hard and fast laws of nature, yet this construction work of nature, especially her alleged conservation of water when she kept her oceans in miserly fashion last summer when pumps wheezed and vegetation charred as tho to be at least worth close investigation before it should be given the world as fact. A personal investigation resulted in finding the facts given herewith.

A visit was made to Patrick O'Connor, veteran hay man just north of the Carr pasture. Pat admitted the part of the county he has lived in almost half a century is mysterious, ghostly, a section where almost anything may happen to man and beast. The scenery there is exceptionally fascinating, especially to those whose spirits are swayed by the charm of the desert.

Carr's is not all a shrieking desert. Mr. O'Connor said the pasture is about three miles square and the part interest here lies in a narrow strip running thru it from southwest to northeast, a few dunes flanking the creek. Most of the acreage is the finest grazing ground in the world.

As soon as one enters this great cattle pasture there is a sense of an uncanny atmosphere. Hardly a sign of civilization can be seen on any side. Once a party of O'Neill hunters became lost there with the sun shining and traveled in a circle several hours before direction were properly identified.

The elaborate works of nature, thru the agency of winds, are in the west part of the pasture. Hunters say there are others on southwest, up the creek.

Dry creek, normally about seven feet wide, six inches deep and seldom if ever dry in summer in Carr's, has been dammed by wind blown sand at one point so thoroly

no water has run in the creek bed below for about one mile. Only this lower dam was inspected.

Down the creek about one mile water springs from the ground and the creek is near normal. The sand dunes on the north have been literally gutted by violent winds. On the south bank of the creek, about a city block away from the dam, the winds performed an operation on a round sand due dome that must be seen to believe it possible.

This dome, containing perhaps several hundred tons of sand, must have been a gopher, badger or coyote hole in its northwest side. There the winds entered and, finding a way out on the top, carried off a hundred tons or so of the sand, leaving a large natural basin and a one foot hard sand wall five feet high, nice and even and with the original, though perhaps enlarged hole, one foot in diameter, still there.

Mr. O'Connor says the nature-built dams will be washed away as soon as spring floods occur.

The lower dam is so wide and flat pictures failed to show the extent of the work. It is flat and takes in a 100 yard wide basin and vegetation, the sparse, give the impression the ground has not recently been disturbed, altho new earth there in places must be up to 10 feet deep. A fence nearby tells the story. The posts run into an edge of the dam and a few inches of their tops show. Some of the posts and wire are buried entirely.

Southwest of the lower dam the winds have dropped sand on the prairie where it lays like drifted snow. An automobile nosed in on an old trail and came to a stop in a foot of the stuff. The hills from whence this sand came are torn like some giant went on a rampage with the intention of destroying the earth.

Down the creek, south side, were high hills. Winds have cut the loose stuff from these, leaving houses, garages, stores or whatever one's imagination fancies. Strewn about them are broken knives, spears, scrapers, tomahawks and pottery pieces of some race that enjoyed the paradise lost hundreds or thousands of years ago.

One of the most deadly sink-holes in Holt county is in this pasture at the northeast side. Wild ducks rest on this place and hunters by day often shoot birds down only to see them flounder out where

they cannot get them. Attempts at wading are met with several feet of sticky black mud and several tragedies were averted only after long and hard work fighting out of this mud. Animals have been fast there for hours and now they do no wading in the place. A few years ago the hole came close to swallowing a saddle horse and a boy.

A fine grove of trees, believed volunteers, has grown up just east of this sink-hole and on east to the McCarthy land. Some of the finest duck ponds in Carr's of a few years ago are gone but compensation is found in those back of the sand dams.

**BREEZES FORM  
THE SOUTHWEST**

(Continued from page 7.)  
Tom Baker sold 30 head of 300-pound calves to a buyer from Pendler last week. The steers of the lot brought four and a half cents and the heifers four cents. A few days previous a horse buyer from Ord put up a little less than \$140 for one of Tom's fine work horses.

Two new families have taken up their abode in this community during recent weeks. Mrs. Bertha Van Lom has leased her place to a family by the name of Young, who came here from Kansas and have stocked the place with Polled Angus cattle. Mrs. Van Lom disposes of her personal holdings by sale today—Thursday—and it is rumored a romance is connected with her

leaving. She had one of the best ranches in this section and has had the sole care and management of its operation which she has done very creditably, and will be missed in this neighborhood, but her many friends wish her the best there is. The family of Ernie Hall, from the neighborhood of Basset, have come to the John Bower ranch of 1,800 acres and Mr. Hall will be associated with Mr. Bower in the operation of the ranch.

Many wagon trails were cut across the prairies in the days of early settlements. A few of these are of historical significance. The old timers around O'Neill will recall the homesteaders of the 80's referring to "Custer's trail." This was said to be the route of Custer's army going west and meandered across the country just north of the "Michigan settlement" northeast of O'Neill. An old military road winding across the east edge of Swan precinct from north to south is still well defined in places. It was the artery of travel for the military forces between Ft. Randall at the north end and Ft. Hartsuff, near Burwell, at the south end. This latter fort was abandoned about 1884 and Ft. Randall in South Dakota some ten years later. At the time of the movement of troops across this section there was either the need of precaution that they did not run into an ambush of warriors or the country was much under water. The trail follows the

ridges, apparently the higher the better, and at some spots along the route deep blow-outs of shifting sands mark where the wheels of the military trains of a by gone generation have passed. About a mile west of this trail and one and three-quarters miles south of the north line of Swan precinct is Clear lake. About its shores are found many evidences of a once numerous population of Indians. Many flint arrow heads have been gathered here, mostly small ones used for shooting birds, which leads to the conjecture that Clear lake was a favorite hang-out for ducks and geese, whither the Indians came on hunting trips. High bluff-like embankments on the northeast of what must have been a considerable body of water would give the wary hunter a fine opportunity to approach unobserved, and one may visualize the doughty red skin squinting along his arrow shaft ready to twang the bow string and knock the head from an unsuspecting duck, or possibly bring down an antelope.

Charles N. Thompson had a sale of stock and personal property at his 7-section ranch last Thursday, cattle selling from \$30 to \$41—a lone cow bringing the latter figure. Thus closed one of the most picturesque careers of the southwest. Mr. Thompson is 90 years of age but he is by no means a helpless old man. He drives a car about the country, handles heavy stuff

like a 40-year-old and seems always in good health. His wife died eight years ago but he has continued to reside on the ranch much of the time by himself, though of the 13 sons and daughters, many of them live near by. He came to Holt county in 1880. For a short time resided in the Inman neighborhood but soon came to the Swan lake country where he has lived and toiled for over 50 years. A photograph taken by A. H. Corbett at O'Neill a quarter century ago makes an interesting family group of fifteen—parents and children. They drove to O'Neill from the ranch, over 40 miles, in wagons in the dead of winter to have the picture taken, and the undertaking required two days.

Doris Carpenter, after an operation performed some weeks ago at the Dr. Wilson hospital at Stuart, for a cyst in a bone of one of her arms, and from which she had suffered much for many months, is now completely recovered and is able to carry on her school work at Amelia with regularity, and free from the pain and suffering it had long caused her. R. S.

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**REPORT OF THE CONDITION OF  
The O'Neill National Bank**

of O'Neill, in the State of Nebraska, at the close of business on  
December 31, 1934.

ASSETS	
Loans and discounts	\$ 63,105.21
Overdrafts	56.88
United States Government obligations, direct and-or fully guaranteed	224,254.00
Other bonds, stocks, and securities	83,396.34
Banking house, \$3,200.00. Furniture and fixtures, \$1,600.00	4,800.00
Real estate owned other than banking house	1.00
Reserve with Federal Reserve Bank	\$179,936.46
Cash in vault and balances with other banks	157,780.39
Outside checks and other cash items	529.45
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer	2,500.00
Other assets	2,752.09
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$719,112.32</b>

LIABILITIES	
Demand deposits, except United States Government deposits, public funds, and deposits of other banks	\$327,311.91
Time deposits, except postal savings, public funds and deposits of other banks	114,432.82
Public funds of states, counties, school districts, or other subdivisions or municipalities	57,815.36
United States Government and postal savings deposits	1,575.25
Deposits of other banks, including certified and cashiers' checks outstanding	37,065.76
Total of above five items:	
(a) Secured by pledge of loans and-or investments	\$ 38,427.81
(b) Not secured by pledge of loans and-or investments	499,773.29
(c) Total Deposits	\$538,201.10
Circulating notes outstanding	50,000.00
Capital Account:	
Common stock, 500 shares, par \$100 per share	50,000.00
Surplus	50,000.00
Undivided profits—net	30,911.22
130,911.22	
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$719,112.32</b>

**MEMORANDUM: Loans and Investments Pledged to Secure Liabilities**

United States Government obligations, direct and-or fully guaranteed	\$ 86,000.00
Other bonds, stocks, and securities	10,000.00
<b>Total Pledged (excluding rediscounts)</b>	<b>\$ 96,000.00</b>
<b>Pledged:</b>	
Against circulating notes outstanding	\$50,000.00
Against public funds of states, counties, school districts or other subdivisions or municipalities	46,000.00
<b>Total Pledged</b>	<b>\$ 96,000.00</b>

State of Nebraska, County of Holt, ss:  
I, S. J. Weekes, President of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.  
S. J. WEEKES, President.  
Sworn to and subscribed before me this 4th day of January, 1935.  
[Seal] MARJORIE DICKSON, Notary Public.  
My Commission expires June 5, 1935.  
Correct—Attest: Emma Dickinson Weekes, E. F. Quinn, F. N. Cronin, Directors.  
(This bank carries no indebtedness of officers or stockholders.)



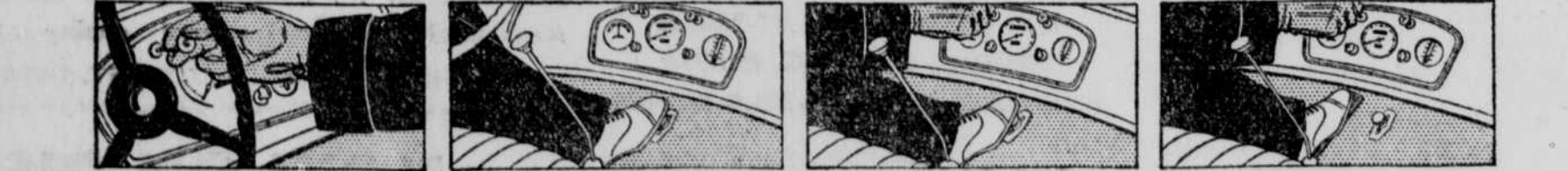
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1. Leave ignition OFF. Pull choke out all the way. Push down your clutch pedal and keep it down.
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