

THE FRONTIER

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No. 14

Call Meeting to Deal With Fire Hazard

The county board has taken action to meet the fire hazard now menacing the county and has asked the precinct officers of the various precincts to meet in O'Neill Saturday, August 22, to put in effect a concerted effort covering the entire county for the saving of the hay from fires.

Already considerable loss has been sustained in the destruction of what must amount to a few hundred stacks of hay. The very dry grass is easily set aflame by the thoughtless dropping of a burning cigarette, sparks from tractors and cars, constituting a real menace that will be present until moisture falls. Almost daily fires are reported that destroy hay stacks, one of our main dependents for income this season.

It is hoped by a united effort to get fire guards plowed and burned along roads and section lines so when local fires break out they can be kept under control.

Something country residents always fear is possibility of fires set by hunters and the governor will be asked to declare Holt county closed this season for hunting. The game warden has made an order giving Holt an open season but in view of the tremendous hazard from fires citizens here desire a closed season.

A return to the methods of the early settlers when every homesteader surrounded himself with fire guards will be necessary to make the country reasonably safe.

A heavy black and wide streak between the Northwestern and the river gives promise that the highway south will soon be completed with the oil surfacing. Highways to the east and south have been torn up much of the summer and autoists and truck haulers have their troubles getting through. The very hot weather added to the much detouring has rendered the hauling of great loads of hay and racks crowded with live stock no pleasure trip at any time this summer. Particularly, with a load of bales that just about scrape the telephone wires drivers must move with caution.

With a huge concrete mixture in operation preparing the mixture and rubber-tired dump carts in use hauling from the mixing machine the few feet to a hoist much of the former laborious process of handling the heavy concrete is eliminated and makes possible rapid progress in building construction at the court house. A great quantity of concrete is used in constructing the vaults and this has had to be hoisted from the ground upward as the building progresses. The old hod carrier seems to be completely replaced by men with dump carts mounted on pneumatic tired wheels.

NOTICE

Holt County Farmers' Union will hold its Annual Picnic on Wednesday, August 26, 1936, 2 miles east of the O'Neill cemetery, 1 mile south and 80 rods west, on the south banks of the Elkhorn river. A nice grove and a good road in. State President H. G. Keeney, of Omaha, will be the speaker. A ball game and other sports will be on the grounds. All are welcome. Turn out and hear Mr. Keeney.

W. E. Snyder, President.
J. B. Donohoe, Secretary.

James McManus arrived Monday from Chicago for a visit with his brother P. J. and sisters, Mrs. S. A. Horiskey and Miss James. Forty-four years ago James left O'Neill and for forty-two years conducted a large meat and grocery business in Chicago with a racing stable as a side line. Two years ago he retired from business after making a fortune and now has large real estate holdings in the city.

Marriage Licenses

William Peters and Gertrude Serlmeier, both of West Point, married at Atkinson the 12th by Rev. William G. Vahle.

Surviving the wreck of time are three signs on O'Neill buildings put there by the brush of painters in the long ago. Across the top of the Gallagher store building on the south side is still visible the sign of the old Keeley Institute that was in operation here back in the latter eighties. On the bricks of the same building in bold letters is the Pfund & Wagers sign, merchants of a bygone day. "Sliver" Triggs claims an interest in these signs as one of the painters who put them there. Another faded sign barely discernable on an old wooden structure is "Neil Brennan." That was painted some forty years ago by Mike Kirwin, for long the only sign painter in these parts.

2300 Hogs at Tuesday Sale

Report of Atkinson Livestock Market, Tuesday August 18, 1936:

Hogs: Receipts 2300 head, about 500 head of which were fat hogs and butcher sows, the balance of 1800 head were feeder pigs and thin sows. The market ruled firm to higher on all kinds, or at about the best prices for over a month. Best butchers brought from 10.85 to 11.00, heavy butchers at 10.00 to 10.50, best sows at 9.15 to 9.60 or equal to Omaha top for the same day. Fair to good sows at 8.50 to 9.00; thin sows at 7.50 to 8.50; heavy shoats at 8.00 to 9.50; medium weights at 7.00 to 8.00 and lightweights at 5.50 to 7.00. Feeder pigs were bought for shipment to Georgia, Illinois, Iowa and California.

Cattle: Receipts 700 head. Most cattle were bought to go to eastern Iowa, with a few to Nebraska and Illinois. The feature of the auction were 165 head of two year old steers sold by Henry Hookstra of Atkinson. They sold for 5.30 to 5.90 a hundred, every one of them going to an Iowa feeder. The market on all classes was from 35 to 50 cents a hundred higher. Best fat cows brought from 5.00 to 5.50; fair to good ones at 4.00 to 4.75. Canners and cutters at 2.85 to 3.85; best fleshy heifers at 5.25 to 6.45; fair to good heifers at 4.00 to 5.00; common kinds at 3.50 to 4.00. Heavy steers at 5.30 to 5.90; best yearling steers at 5.00 to 6.00; fair to good steers at 4.00 to 5.00. Bulls at 4.00 to 4.50. Selling continued until nearly 10 o'clock at night.

OBITUARY

The people of Inman and community were deeply grieved Sunday morning at the passing away of little Margaret Harte here at the home of Mrs. Lizzie Colman where she was being cared for.

Margaret Joan Harte, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Harte, was born in Inman February 7, 1926, and passed away Sunday morning August 16, 1936, at the age of 10 years, 6 months and 9 days, after an illness of several weeks.

Margaret became ill early in the summer and was taken to an Omaha hospital for treatment and it was found that her condition was very critical. However, after returning home she showed marked improvement and high hopes were held for her recovery, until last week when complications set in resulting in her death.

Margaret was a bright, loveable child and was a general favorite in the community. She was a student in the Inman schools and was to have entered the sixth grade this fall. She will be missed by all who knew her for she was loved by old as well as young.

Margaret is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Harte, her little brother, Jimmie, her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Donnelly and a host of other relatives and friends.

Funeral services were held Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock at St. Patrick's Catholic church in O'Neill and interment in Calvary cemetery. The floral offerings were many and beautiful.

James F. O'Donnell was an early morning driver yesterday going south on a business trip to southern Holt and points in Wheeler county.

WHEN THE CHAFF GETS IN HIS EYES



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STREET SCENERY

Privileged to look into a nicely furnished "house on wheels" a half million they say are now in use in America, as it parked on our streets it seemed somewhat unusual to find on the table not the card deck and ash tray but a beautifully bound copy of the Bible.

It is none of the writer's, readers' or public's business but that does not reduce the bump of curiosity as to why a beautiful young woman in the full bloom of health should add a full length coat to adequate and becoming summer attire on a blistering day, fanned only by a hot wind.

Watch most any group of four or five men congregated on the street. A word from one is all that is necessary. Immediately all are thirsty. Four abreast they go to the nearest bar. That's what pays the licenses and tax, with a profit added for the folks behind the bar.

From time immemorial the First National bank corner has been the hangout of all shades of citizenry—from the common poltroon to distinguished representatives in various lines. Athens had its areopagus but O'Neill has its bank corner. Politics, religion, crops, weather, industrial and social problems, profanity and coarse gossip, the preferable type of automobile, live stock markets, price of gasoline and predictions on baled hay, with an occasional flash of poetry and art all find proficient handling. When the shadows begin to lengthen the first arrivals appear and as the cool of evening drops its merciful mantle the sages of the community join in. A sort of backwater to catch the driftwood of current history and shape it up for free discussion.

The daily street parade furnishes endless amusement and study to the one interested in types. There is the smart young man with the funny little hat tied to the side of his head, the circumference of which seems out of proportion to its contents; possibly better fitted to the size of the hat. The feminine element furnishes the greatest variety in attire. Rather

Hay Destroyed by Fires

A prairie fire in the Opportunity country last Saturday afternoon destroyed 90 stacks of hay and burned over a strip of country one mile wide and two and a half miles long, when it was finally smothered by a large army of fire fighters. It is estimated that there was 500 tons of hay consumed and, at an estimate of \$10 per ton, it entails a loss on northeast Holt county farmers of about \$5,000.

It is supposed that the fire started from the backfiring of a tractor. The blaze was noticed at noon and it raged for about two hours. The O'Neill fire department went out and joined the large army of farm-ers and other residents of the city who went out to do their mite in getting control of the fire fiend, and it was finally extinguished about 3 o'clock.

We have been unable to get a complete list of the losers in the fire but it is reported that Mr. Soukup was the heaviest loser having 32 stacks of hay burned. Another farmer lost 15 stacks and Judge Harrington, of this city, lost 6 stacks. The rest of the hay was owned by different farmers in that section of the county.

Mr. and Mrs. Archie Stone, of Coleridge, visited at the Kersenbrock home early in the week.

Mrs. J. A. Erwin, of Norfolk, visited at the home of Mrs. J. P. Gallagher on Sunday.

flashly colored and bedecked pants are worn by some of the young ones; still younger ones, but no longer mere children, in semi-nude attire that would have made our mothers scowl for cover. The predominant type are clothed in same summer garbs and pass along in graceful dignity. Fellows from off the prairies clump along on hot day in their high-heeled boots and big hats, and an occasional 200-pound dandy stumps by on 3-inch heel shoes that sag badly. The kid in his bare feet and pants held by a strap across one shoulder is probably the happiest of all the types.

BRIEFLY STATED

Dick Kerns, of Walnut, was an O'Neill visitor Tuesday.

Herman Medlin, lately employed in the meat department at the Barnhart market, has taken a similar job with a concern at Grand Island.

A lone workman was put on the job yesterday cleaning the grounds of shrubbery and otherwise getting things ready for construction work for the post office building on upper Fourth street.

Mrs. Bauman, Miss June Anderson and George Johnson, all of Gregory, S. D., were guests of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Mills last Saturday, going from here to Plainview and returning to Gregory on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Blinco were here Monday from Yankton, S. D. Both were residents of O'Neill in an earlier day. Mr. Blinco's primary object of this recent visit was to give their cemetery lots some attention.

A fire started by a tractor on section one, one mile south of town, was quickly extinguished. Haying crews are watching the situation closely in their respective fields of operation as the fire hazard is a real thing this season.

Superintendent McClurg is back to his office after some ten days spent at Dallas, Texas, and points west of there. He says weather conditions have been favorable throughout that section this season, good cotton crop about Dallas and through the cattle country further west plenty of feed being available.

Increasing amount of traffic on the streets may render it necessary sooner or later to employ traffic officers at certain intersections. A near crash every day and an occasional real crash at one or the other of the busy intersections suggests the need. An evening recently at Third and Douglas such occurred with disastrous results to the cars but no one much injured. Unless someone is killed little attention is drawn to a car crash so common are they.

It would be interesting to know how many citizens of the county, now residing in the county, who held certificates and taught school under the administration of Bartley Blain, one of the very early county superintendents of public instruction. O'Neill has one such citizen in the person of M. H. McCarthy, long since retired from the teaching profession. Mike attended his first institute in Holt county held by Bartley Blaine in 1885 at Atkinson, where he, Mr. McCarthy, was then residing. A short time later he came to O'Neill and one of his first schools was what they called the Dwyer district northeast of town.

Second Raid at Emmet

For the second time in recent months, the Emmet State bank was robbed Monday night. The loss is reported at \$60, all in silver and nickles, the usual amount of small change kept in the bank.

Entrance was made to the building by lowering the upper sash of a window and removing an iron bar. The outer enclosure of the vault was opened in sledge-hammer fashion but the robbers failed of access to the inner recesses of the vault containing the bank's supply of currency and other valuables. The small change was secured by opening the outer doors. The job is said to be similar to the one a short time ago, leading to the belief that the same fellows did both jobs. Some local talent is under suspicion and it is believed by getting the finger prints the guilty ones will be run down.

OFFICE BUILDING POLL GIVES LANDON LEAD

The Stuart building national political poll closed Wednesday, Aug. 12, with a landslide vote for Gov. Alf Landon and Frank Knox. The poll showed a marked advance of voters on the republican ticket from the election in 1932. The actual count was as follows:

Landon and Knox 170
Roosevelt and Garner 36

The number of votes cast, although not complete coverage, seems to give a representative sample of the way votes from the Stuart building will be cast in November. Plans are being made to conduct another vote later to determine any change that might arise during the campaign.—Stuart Building News, Lincoln.

A truck of Holt county bales pulled out of O'Neill Tuesday for Eklaka, Mont. The truck driver had come here with Ben Jones who brought in some horses, contemplating himself, we are informed, returning to this county. That section of Montana has been dealt with harshly and ranchers have had to dispose of their stock or move it into other communities. The load of hay going out of here for that point was merely incidental to having come here with a load of horses and taking a load back.

Miss Maxine Harrington returned Sunday night from a two week's visit at the home of June Carol White at Bristol. Miss June came back with her and will visit here for a week.

Mrs. Walter Patras and family and Mrs. Keith Craig and family, of Clearwater, are visiting this week at the home of their sister, Mrs. Clyde Keller.

Judge and Mrs. R. R. Dickson returned Monday night from Lake Okeboga, Iowa, where they had been enjoying themselves for a few days.

Frank Riser, of Friend, accompanied by his mother from Milford, arrived here Friday for a visit with relatives and old friends.

Chester Calkins is taking a week off from police duties. Bill Lewis is clothed with the badge of police authority in the meantime.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd France, of Lynch, visited here Sunday. Mr. France is a brother of Mrs. H. W. Tomlinson.

September 8 Free Day in the Old Town

Tuesday, September 8, has been definitely decided upon as the O'Neill Free Day. Mayor Kersenbrock informs us. Much effort has been put forth by the mayor and others to bring the proposal to a conclusion, raise the necessary money and get those interested to agree upon a date. September 8 seems to be satisfactory to all. Last year's program was put on late in September and very unfavorable weather prevailed at that time. It is hoped to avoid such an experience by holding the event early in the month.

The program was not fully worked out yesterday but a number of things have been decided upon. A parade in the morning in which various business houses of the city will be represented with attractive floats. Several have indicated their desire to participate in this event, for which prizes will be awarded. Mayor Kersenbrock desires all those that expects to have floats in the parade to get in touch with him as soon as possible so that the number participating in the opening event will be known. Corps and Pierce German band Corps and Pierce German band will be here. Free rides for the children on gliders and merry-go-rounds, races of various kinds, a prize fight, ball game between Atkinson and Red Bird and a pavement dance are on the program as now being arranged and those sponsoring the effort are doing their level best to put on a day's entertainment that will be enjoyed by the anticipated crowds.

Hospital Notes

Jean Roberston, 8, of O'Neill, had her tonsils and adenoids removed on Wednesday.

Miss Frances Sands, of Ewing, came in last Thursday for medical treatment. She is convalescing nicely at present.

John Harte, 6, had his tonsils and adenoids removed Thursday, the 13th. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Harte, of Inman.

Donald Kallhoff, 9, of Ewing, had his tonsils and adenoids removed Tuesday, the 18th. He went home the following day.

Mrs. Gladys Green, of Chambers, came in Saturday for medical treatment. She is gaining in strength rapidly and will soon be able to return to her home.

William Mohr, from north of town, came in Sunday evening and was operated on for ruptured appendix at once. He is improving much better than was expected.

Mr. and Mrs. William O'Neill and Mrs. Rudy Eggerth, of Madison, Neb., were brought to the hospital August 13 suffering from an auto accident, which occurred seven miles northwest of the city. They were quite seriously injured but were able to return to their home Tuesday. Their 8-month old daughter, LaRue, was injured so badly she died before reaching the hospital.

School Notes

In view of the fact that a few of our schools will start on the 31st of August, pre-opening day will be held on Saturday, August 29. The meeting will commence at 9:30 at the High School auditorium. I am making this announcement because a number of districts have not reported teachers hired for the coming school year.

Teachers who are securing certificate renewals must have their certificates registered prior to the beginning of the school year. No teacher will be excused from pre-opening day unless they present a legitimate excuse.

Clarence J. McClurg,
County Superintendent.

CARD OF THANKS.

We wish to thank our good friends and neighbors for their many kindnesses during the illness of our dear little Margaret, also for their loving kindness when she died and for the beautiful flowers.—Mr. and Mrs. James P. Harte and Jimmie.