



The Claude Hancocks . . . 50th wedding anniversary to be observed Christmas day.

Claude Hancock, Wife Soon Wed 50 Years



Miss Arbuthnot . . . one of nation's highest-ranking senior students.—O'Neill Photo Co.

SMA Senior Gains Merit Competition

Mother M. Agnesie, principal of St. Mary's academy last Thursday announced to the student body that Miss Cecelia Ann Arbuthnot, a senior, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Arbuthnot, had been named a semifinalist in the national scholarship competition.

Miss Arbuthnot is listed among the 7,500 high scorers on the scholarship qualifying test. These semifinalists outscored 300,000 fellow seniors in the nation and thus moved a step closer to merit scholarships. Merit scholarships are sponsored by over 60 business and industrial firms, as well as by professional, societies, foundations and individuals.

The semifinalists now face a rigorous three-hour college board examination to be given in test centers throughout the country on January 11. Miss Arbuthnot will go to Omaha to take this examination. If she survives this second hurdle, she will become one of about 7,000 finalists in the final phase of the competition, the high school grades, extra-curricular attainments, and the leadership and character of the competitors will be evaluated. About May 1 the top 800 will be named the merit scholars of 1958.

Miss Arbuthnot has attended St. Mary's academy for 12 years. Besides keeping her rating as an "A" student, she takes part in all extra-curricular activities.

The honor is the same as won by Michael Liddy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Liddy. He is an O'Neill high senior and his high rating was announced in last week's issue of The Frontier.

Next Week's Issue to Press Monday

Next week's issue of The Frontier — December 26 issue — will go to press 48 hours ahead of schedule because of the Christmas holiday falling on Wednesday.

The early publication will enable all subscribers to receive their papers in the area ahead of the holiday and will enable the members to spend Christmas eve and Christmas day with their families.

Next week's issue will feature season's greetings from business and professional firms as well as general advertising.

Correspondents and news contributors are urged to keep the unusually early publication date in mind. Bulk of the general news should be in the hands of the editors on Saturday.

A heavy volume of advertising in this issue necessitated some newsmatter omissions which will appear in the next "short-week" issue.

Prominent Area Medic Dead at 65

Kriz Rites at Lynch Attended by 800; Gave Pool to Town

LYNCH—Dr. R. E. Kriz, 65, prominent physician and surgeon here since 1921, died about noon Friday, December 13, in Clarkson Memorial hospital at Omaha.

He had been hospitalized at Sacred Heart hospital in Lynch before being transferred last month to the Omaha hospital. Last week it was reported his condition "improved" but he declined rapidly the day of his death.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m., Tuesday, December 17, attended by an estimated eight hundred persons. The rites were held at the Lynch ballroom.

Rev. Hugh O. Dowler of Spencer officiated. Burial was in Pleasant Hill cemetery at Lynch. Masonic and graveside rites were conducted at the graveside.

A quartette from Rosedale Covenant church of Bristow sang and Mrs. Lee Brady of O'Neill sang a solo.

Members of the Holt-Northwest Medical group were honorary pallbearers.

Hundreds View Remains
Hundreds of persons paid respects as the remains lay in state at the Jones funeral home here.

Pallbearers were Harvey Kriz, Robert Kriz, Dr. Gene Gross, Guy Anderson and Donald White, all nephews, and Rudy A. Classen, a grandson.

The late Rudolph Edmund Kriz was born October 8, 1882 at Lodgepole, a son of Anton and Anna Hladjek Kriz. He was educated at Weston high school where he was graduated in 1910. He attended Fremont Normal where he received a bachelor of science degree in 1913. He attended medical school at Creighton university and the University of Nebraska college of medicine, Omaha, where he received his doctor of medicine degree in 1917.

He married Rose Chase March 23, at Wahoo.

During 1917-'20 he served as navy medical officer at the Mare Island base hospital, and later as a navy lieutenant (medical officer) at Guantanamo, Cuba.

Separated from the service, he practiced medicine during 1920-'21 at Norfolk, and established a practice at Lynch in 1921. He was (Continued on page 6.)



Boyd county last week lost two prominent citizens: Dr. R. E. Kriz (left), Lynch physician and surgeon, and L. W. Gibson, Bristow banker. Stories in columns 1 and 5. (Kriz photo courtesy O'Neill Photo Co.)



Studying the petitions at the meeting of leaders of the Nebraska School Improvement association here are (left-to-right): Seated—Frank Pierce of Verdigré (Knox county supervisor), Mrs. Barbara McDonald of Blue Springs, State Sen. Frank Nelson of O'Neill, Vic Mares of Schuyler, S. H. Brauer of Stuart; standing—Floyd Kelley of Bristow, Leland Chaffin of Burwell, President Clyde Widman of Amelia, Jerry Spencer of Brewster, Woodrow Packard of Taylor, Ford Garwood of Bassett, Clarence Lanz of Newport.—The Frontier Photo.

School Group Meets Here—

Statewide Petition Drive Underway

The task of soliciting 57,000 valid signatures on petitions to be circulated statewide dominated the discussion Monday evening at the Town House when 70 members of the Nebraska School Improvement association convened here.

Present were officers, directors, county chairmen, assistant county chairmen and other leaders of the organization.

The association seeks to submit to the voters at the next general election—November 4, 1958—a proposal to make the office of commissioner of education an elective post. At present the chief

administrative officer for education in Nebraska is the appointive office of commissioner of education (a position now held by Freeman B. Decker).

A constitutional change four years ago established a state board of education (with members elected by districts on a staggered basis). That change eliminated the state superintendent's office and, at the same time, created a state commissioner of education (Decker) appointed by the elected board.

President Clyde Widman of Amelia told the group the goal of signatures would be one hundred thousand, allowing margin of error for any signatures that might be found invalid.

Proposed amendment of article VII, section 16, constitution of Nebraska, would read:

... the commissioner of education shall be elected in November, 1960, and every four years thereafter and his term of office shall be four years . . . the commissioner shall be the executive officer of the state board of education and the administrative head of the state department; . . . the board shall appoint all employees of the state department on the recommendation of the commissioner; the salary of the commissioner shall be fixed by the legislature.

Widman pointed out Decker's salary virtually has doubled in the few years since he was elected state superintendent of public instruction.

Widman reported the association has 25,000 members throughout the state and active county organizations in 44 counties.

State Sen. Frank Nelson of O'Neill said:

"I believe the closer you can keep government to the people the better government you will have. Critics of this association call the object of this petition movement a 'backward step'. I say it was a backward step when the choice of chief administrative officer in education in Nebraska was removed from the ballot largely under the auspices of the professional teacher group.

"The result is an elected board of education. If the people of Nebraska do not like the policies of the appointed commissioner, and

of the board, it will take years to change the composition of the board because the members are elected on a staggered basis.

"Our forefathers in this land conceived many possibilities when the government was formed. Certain elements of self-rule were reserved for local subdivisions of government, and the chief of these was conduct of the schools.

"Whenever a high state official does not want to face the people at the polls . . . whenever you lose the right to choose . . . you have lost and a backward step has been taken."

Regaining his health he returned to Valentine and resumed his profession. Eleven years ago the family moved to O'Neill after living briefly at Cody.

Mr. Steele belonged to the small fraternity of glass blowers who create colorful signs. Much of the signwork in north-Nebraska was his craftsmanship. He was recognized as the best sign artist in north-Nebraska.

His artwork annually highlighted the O'Neill public school kindergarten productions.

Survivors include: Widow—Norma; sons—Emerson, 16, and Evan, 10; daughters—Yvonne, 14, and Rita, 8; foster brother—Arthur Johnson of Foley, Minn.; foster sister—Mrs. Calvin Stotts of Foley.

Physicians at the hospital were given permission to perform an autopsy.

Safeway Manager

Thomas Cronin (above), Safeway manager at Neligh 5½ years, has been named manager of the new O'Neill Safeway store now in final construction changes. Opening is scheduled in about a month. Mr. Cronin went from Council Bluffs, Ia., to Neligh. He is married and is the father of four children. He will terminate at Neligh January 4 and assume duties at O'Neill January 11. His family will follow when living arrangements are completed. At Neligh Mr. Cronin was president of the Lions club and Chamber of Commerce director. He was in charge of the Antelope county eye bank program.—The Frontier Photo.

O'Neill Wind Study Now in Book Form

Dr. Heniz H. Lettau, World War II chief weather officer for the German high command and director of the 1953 O'Neill wind test, sponsored by the air force, has advised The Frontier a New York City publishing firm now has a book off the press relative to the 1953 test.

The book is entitled, "Exploring the Atmosphere's First Mile". Publishing firm is Pergeman Press, Inc.

The O'Neill project, a low-level minute study of wind turbulence, is considered a milestone in meteorology. Lettau is now a scientist with the U.S. air force research center at Boston, Mass.

Heart Attack Is Fatal to Artist

Steele Shipwrecked During War

A heart attack and complications following pneumonia claimed the life of Shorty Lee Steele, 44, well-known O'Neill artist-sign painter and head of a neon lighting firm. He died at 2 a.m., Monday, December 16, in the Veterans hospital at Grand Island following a two month's illness.

He entered St. Anthony's hospital shortly before Thanksgiving and was transferred to Grand Island where he was hospitalized two weeks.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m., Wednesday, December 18, at the Methodist church in Valentine with Rev. James Irwin, church pastor, officiating. Burial was in Mt. Hope cemetery at Valentine. Pallbearers were Junior Cleveland and James Holsclaw of O'Neill, Richard Mulm of Norfolk, Clifford Belleville, Curtis Young and Lester Dooley, all of Valentine.

The late Mr. Steele was born

December 1, 1913, at Guadalupe, Mexico. He was reared by foster parents, both of whom are deceased. He studied art in a Chicago, Ill., institute.

In July, 1940, he married Norma Steele at Valentine. They became the parents of four children—one of whom was born at O'Neill.

He entered the navy during World War II and, in the months immediately after hostilities ended, was aboard a minesweeper clearing shipping lanes off the Aleutian islands. The vessel struck a mine, causing the ship to explode. Mr. Steele was critically injured in the shipwreck and suffered amnesia for several months.

Surgeons mended his injuries and inserted a steel plate in his head.

Hurt Christmas Eve
The shipwreck in which he was hurt took place on Christmas eve, 1945.

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Remter, 87, Dies; Boyd Homesteader

BRISTOW—Gustav E. Remter, 87, a retired farmer in the Bristow community, died at 2:15 a.m., Friday, December 13, in Sacred Heart hospital at Lynch.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m., Sunday, December 15, at Trinity Lutheran church here. Rev. Benard Nelson, church pastor, officiated. Pallbearers were Delwin Ruda, Robert Johnson, Elvin Allen, John Kocian, Edward Hood and Harold Swanson. Biglin's were in charge of funeral arrangements at the Bristow cemetery.

The late Mr. Remter was born in Schiefelbaen, Germany, March 5, 1870, a son of William and Carlona Schueneman Remter.

He lived in Lincoln briefly before coming to Boyd county as a young man, homesteading here in 1890.

He married Johanna Marquardt June 1, 1900, at Spencer. His wife died in 1956.

Survivors include: Daughter—Mrs. Rudolph Ruda of Bristow; sons—Arthur of O'Neill, Lawrence of Bristow and Ronald of Spencer; sister—Mrs. Anna Dutton of Denver, Colo.; brothers—Robert of Lincoln, Emil of Gregory, S.D., and Otto of Denver, Colo.

WAKING TO WAUSA

Holt County Clerk Kenneth Waring Tuesday attended a state highway advisory commission hearing at Wausa relative to an improved portion of highway 59, which the state wants to drop from its system. Highway 59 is a projected O'Neill-Creighton-Cole-ridge-Sioux City route. Waring was the first witness heard. (See editorial on page 2, "Wanna Buy a Bridge?")

Bowling Alley to Open Saturday

One of eight automatic pin-setting devices is being lowered into position by a boom as O'Neill's new bowling alley prepares for Saturday's opening. The firm will be known as Ten Pin Alley. Technicians today will be putting the finishing

touches on the elaborate equipment. The new bowling headquarters, finest in north-Nebraska, reportedly represents an 80-thousand-dollar investment.—The Frontier Photo.

