

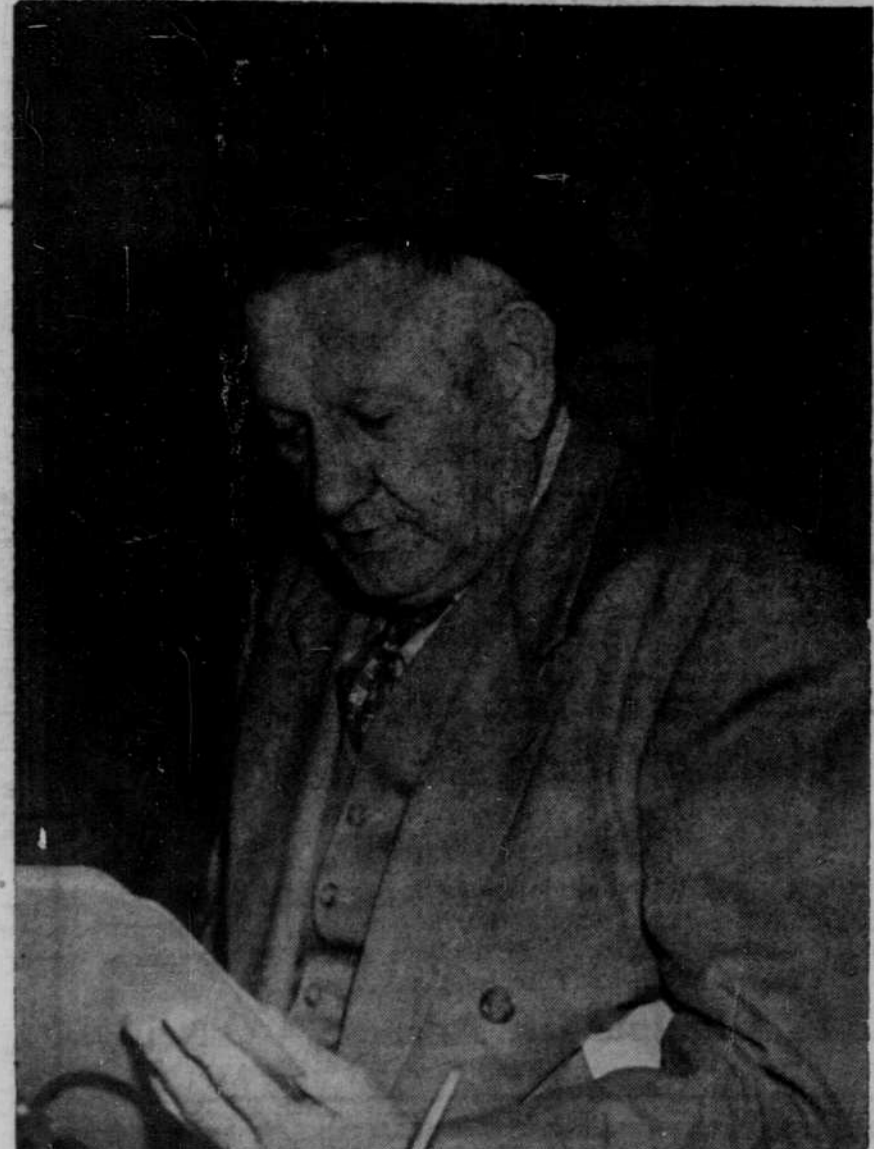
# THE FRONTIER

North-Central Nebraska's BIGGEST Newspaper

O'Neill, Nebraska, Thursday, July 14, 1955.

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Seven Cents



'Herb' Hammond . . . resembled the late Will Rogers. — The Frontier Photo.

## Well-Known Land Abstractor Dies

### Henry Murray, 70, Dies Suddenly

#### Heart Attack Fatal to Farmer

Henry Murray, 70, farmer living alone 13 miles northwest of O'Neill, was stricken Sunday, July 10, with a fatal heart attack while doing chores at his home place where he had resided for many years.

The late Mr. Murray had attended church in O'Neill Sunday morning and had visited briefly at the home of his son, William, in O'Neill. He declined an invitation to stay for lunch.

It was not determined exactly when Mr. Murray died, but his lifeless body was found in a hog lot about 7 o'clock in the evening by the son.

He died sometime during the afternoon.

Mr. Murray had suffered a heart ailment "four or five years," relatives said.

A rosary rite was conducted Monday evening at Biglin's funeral chapel. Funeral services were conducted at 10 a.m., Tuesday, July 12, from St. Patrick's Catholic church. Rev. Thomas Hitch officiated and burial was in Calvary cemetery.

Honorary pallbearers were Edward Earley, James Earley, James Curran, John Grutsch, Levi Yantzi, William Clausen and Herbert Jansen. Active pallbearers were James Conway, John Grutsch, Robert Gallagher, Clarence Murphy, Jack Murphy and Ardell Curran.

The late Patrick Henry Murray was born June 13, 1885, at Leigh, a son of the late Patrick and Catherine Doyle Murray, who were immigrants from Ireland.

He came to Holt county with his parents in 1897—at the age of 13—and spent his entire life on a farm.

On April 23, 1906, at Bassett he married Cora Ratliff. They became the parents of two sons and two daughters. Mrs. Murray died August 27, 1939. One son died in infancy.

Survivors include: Son—William Thomas Murray of O'Neill; daughters—Mrs. Elaine Marie Ballew of Sioux City and Mrs. James (Kathryn Ellen) Murphy of O'Neill; seven grandchildren and one great-granddaughter.

Among out-of-town relatives attending the funeral were: Mrs. Elaine Ballew of Sioux City; Mr. and Mrs. Henry Waldrop of Weatherford, Okla.; A. J. and Mrs. John Long of Beusselor, Man., Kan.; Mr. and Mrs. Donald Murphy of Sioux City; Mr. and Mrs. Alex Cleary, Mr. and Mrs. Clemment Cleary and Mrs. Norbert Schaaaf all of Atkinson.

### Alvia Brobst, 85, Formerly of Stafford, Expires in Omaha

PAGE—Alvia H. Brobst, 85, retired Chicago & North Western railway station agent and a resident of Omaha since 1942, died Tuesday morning, July 12, after an illness of two months.

The late Mr. Brobst was for several years depot agent at the now extinct town of Stafford. He recently visited in the Merwyn French home at Page and was featured in a picture story in the June 16 issue of The Frontier.

Survivors include: Widow—Ada Elizabeth; sons—A. M. and E. L. Brobst, both of Havre, Mont.; E. H. Brobst of Omaha; and W. H. Brobst of La Mesa, Calif.; daughter—Mrs. Neosha Norman of Havre; seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Services will be held today (Thursday) at 2 o'clock from the Cutler chapel in Omaha. Burial will be at Chadron.

## Teacher, 26, Ill Several Years, Dies

### Rites Held Saturday for University of Colorado Graduate

Miss Joann Burgess, 26, daughter of Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Burgess of O'Neill, died at 1:50 a.m., Thursday, July 7, in St. Mary's hospital at Rochester, Minn.

She suffered a lingering illness and had been hospitalized on numerous occasions. She had been a patient in Rochester since the first of the year. Her parents were near her when she died.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m., Saturday, July 9, from First Presbyterian church. Rev. J. Olen Kennell, church pastor, officiated and burial was in Prospect Hill cemetery under the direction of Biglin's.

Pallbearers were Edward Campbell, P. C. Donohoe, M. H. Horiskey, H. E. Coyne, Joseph Dufek, Dr. W. F. Finley, Lyle P. Dierks and Dr. L. A. Burgess.

Prospect Hill cemetery under the direction of Biglin's. Pallbearers were Gene Porter, Alvin Vorce, William Artus, Roy Berner, Larry Schaffer, Robert Cole, G. Owen Cole and Dale French.

The late Herbert James Hammond was born October 24, 1887, at O'Neill, a son of the late Arthur J. and Sarah Fitzsimons Hammond. His father was an immigrant from England, and his mother was a native of Illinois.

He was rearred and educated in O'Neill. He joined his father in the abstracting business on October 24, 1903—his 16th birthday anniversary. His father had established the A. J. Hammond Abstracting Company in 1885.

The senior Mr. Hammond died in 1918, and the firm name subsequently was changed to Hammond Abstracting Company.

The late Mr. Hammond was noted for having "covered" virtually every parcel of land in Holt county in paper work. Early abstracting was done painstakingly by hand.

About a year ago Mr. Hammond retired as financial secretary of Charles Carroll of Carrollton council of the Knights of Columbus here—a position he had held without interruption for 44 years.

He was a member of St. Patrick's Catholic church and Knights of Columbus, and fishing was his hobby.

(Continued on page 12)

Survivors include: Parents—Dr. and Mrs. L. A. Burgess of O'Neill; brother—Warren L. Burgess of Lincoln.

Among relatives and friends from a distance here for the funeral were:

Mr. and Mrs. Warren Burgess of Lincoln; Mrs. Laura Walker of Hyannis; Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Johnson and Dianne of Hyannis; Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Miller of North Platte; Mr. and Mrs. K. A. Miller of North Platte; Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Crandall of Fremont; Mr. and Mrs. Ed Bright of Orchard; Mr. and Mrs. Charles Burgess of Polk; Mr. and Mrs. Christine Stoffer of Hastings.

Mrs. Fred Bedding of Polk; Mrs. Dale Perkins of Bradshaw, Dr. William Burgess of Omaha; Mrs. Eber Newman of Julesburg, Colo.; Wallace Switzer of Denver, Colo.; Mrs. Henry C. Switzer of Denver, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Fowler and Nancy of Enid, Okla.; Mr. and Mrs. Cordis Walker of Page; Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Fickling of Plainview; Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Pucelik of Spencer.

### Jim Storms New Conoco Agent

James E. ("Jim") Storms, formerly of Winner, is the new Continental Oil company bulk agent at O'Neill. Mr. Storms, who served in a similar capacity at Winner, has been moved to O'Neill with his wife and their infant daughter, Gail, and they are residing at 114 West Clay street. (See formal announcement on page 6.)

Cpl. Paul Moseman, jr., arrived home Saturday, July 2, after being discharged from the army. He has been stationed at Ft. Monmouth, N.J. He will be employed at Cedar Rapids, Ia., after the first of August. All employees of that firm are now on vacation.

Entertain Guests—EWING—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Kruntord were hosts at a family dinner on Sunday at their home in north Ewing.

To Enter Hospital—Fred Bazelman, who last week visited a hospital in Sioux City for medical attention, Wednesday was called by Doctor Leiter to report at once to enter a hospital for treatment of cancer.

## Search Spreads for Child Slayer

Federal bureau of investigation agents and state and county law enforcement officials Wednesday continued the search for the abductor and slayer of Donna Sue Davis, 2, a Sioux City infant.

The child was snatched from her crib Friday night within minutes after her parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Davis, had tucked her into bed.

The raped body of the blue-eyed child was found late Monday afternoon in a farm field near South Sioux City.

Wednesday's "Voice of the Frontier" radio program (WJAG, 780 k.c., 9:30 a.m.) was interrupted by a bulletin from Dakota County Sheriff Tony Goodsell. The Dakota county sheriff asked residents of northeast Nebraska to be on the lookout for Otto Weenkamp, 28, a Thurston county farm laborer who could be anywhere in the area. Weenkamp is wanted for questioning in connection with the child's slaying.

Goodsell said Weenkamp is 5 ft. 8 in. tall, weighs 150 pounds, wears a butch haircut and usually appears in levis or bibless overalls.

A warrant has been issued for his arrest in connection with theft of a car from Emerson. The machine was a black four-door Ford with a Dixon county (Nebraska) plate on the rear and a Woodbury county (Iowa) plate on the front, 97-18851.

Goodsell speculated the driver of the car might be trying to steal gas, another car or transferring gas.

The FBI agents on the case are working on a "John Doe" warrant for the kidnapper's arrest.

## 'Grandma' Fuchs Burial at Bristow

### In Failing Health Past 5 Months

Mrs. Frances Fuchs, 84, affectionately known as "Grandma" Fuchs, died at 4:30 a.m., Thursday, July 7, at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Adolph Sedivy, in O'Neill. She became ill in February, 1955, and her health failed rapidly.

Funeral services were conducted at the Lutheran church in Bristow at 2 p.m., Saturday, July 9, with Rev. Donald Johnson officiating. Music was furnished by a mixed quartet composed of Keith Pierson, Mrs. William Stanton, Mrs. Walter Boetcher and Ivan Hiatt. The piano accompanist was Mrs. Ernest Chore.

Pallbearers were Harry Ruda, Clyde Beckner, Clifford Nelson, Guy Hull, Ted Crawford and Rudolph Johnson.

Burial was in the Bristow cemetery near the grave of her husband, the late Peter Fuchs.

The late Mrs. Fuchs was born in Bohemia and came to the United States at the age of 17 with her brother. In 1891 she was united in marriage with Mr. Fuchs and the ceremony was performed in Omaha.

They became the parents of five children. One daughter died in infancy.

In 1912 the family came to Boyd county. Following the death of her husband she made her home with her daughters. While she enjoyed good health she spent considerable time crocheting.

Survivors include: Daughters—Mrs. Leonard (Emma) Ferner of Mission, S.D.; Mrs. Barbara Ferner of Bristow; Mrs. Adolph (Mary) Sedivy of O'Neill; son—Frank Fuchs; sister—Mrs. Barbara Jones of Center; 12 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Fred Bedding of Polk; Mrs. Dale Perkins of Bradshaw, Dr. William Burgess of Omaha; Mrs. Eber Newman of Julesburg, Colo.; Wallace Switzer of Denver, Colo.; Mrs. Henry C. Switzer of Denver, Colo.; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Fowler and Nancy of Enid, Okla.; Mr. and Mrs. Cordis Walker of Page; Dr. and Mrs. J. E. Fickling of Plainview; Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Pucelik of Spencer.

## Caroline Mikus, 71, Dies in Atkinson

ATKINSON—Mrs. Caroline Mikus, 71, who was born in Czechoslovakia and came to the United States as a married woman at the age of 17, died early Friday morning, July 8, shortly after midnight. She had been in poor health about five years.

Funeral services were conducted Monday afternoon, July 11, from the Methodist church with Rev. E. G. Hughes officiating.

The late Caroline Vidra was born June 14, 1884. She lived in Pennsylvania before coming to the Amelia locality with her family in 1914. The Mikuses resided on a ranch.

In 1929 she moved into Atkinson where she continued to reside until her death.

Survivors include: Sons—Steve of Holdrege and Leonard of Norfolk daughters—Mrs. Leo (Ann) Penry of Atkinson; brother—Carl Vidra of Norfolk grandson—Keith Mikus of Holdrege.

Ed Kirkpatrick, O'Neill contractor at work on a job, dashed to his car to get out of the rain. When the storm was over, he recovered some of his lumber material several hundred yards away.

An oil switch exploded at Norfolk and that city was without light or power for seven hours. Norfolk received only a few sprinkles while O'Neill was being belted, but counted 27 of an inch early Wednesday morning.

The Hoerle station, south of O'Neill, (Continued on page 12)

## Ex-Holt Youth Drowns in Norway

### Richard McIntosh Is Victim

PAGE—A/c Richard McIntosh, 23, formerly of Page, was drowned Sunday in an accident in Norway.

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd McIntosh of Tekamah, who recently moved from Holt to Burt county, do not know the details concerning the mishap. Mrs. Nell McIntosh of Page, the airman's grandmother, received word Tuesday morning.

The airman's mother is reported to be ill with a heart ailment at the home of a sister. The airman's father, Floyd, and one brother, Walter, have been employed at Tekamah.

Richard was educated at Page school and was graduated in 1951. Richard enlisted in the air force in the fall of 1952. He received several promotions.

His grandmother told The Frontier the young man was sent to Norway on air force duty this spring. She did not know the nature of his work or his location.

The next-of-kin were not told the cause of death. They can only speculate it was an air accident, a swimming or boating mishap.

Richard participated in athletics at school.

Survivors include: Parents; brothers—Walter and Robert, both of Tekamah; grandmother—Mrs. Nell McIntosh of Page.

## Hay Days, Town's 75th Birthday to Be Celebrated

ATKINSON—The Atkinson Whisker club has begun plans for the 1955 Hay Days celebration. August 7 the town will observe its 75th anniversary. Present plans call for that day, Sunday, to be included in the three-day celebration honoring old settlers and pioneers.

Highlights on the Sunday program will be special services at all local churches, followed by a homecoming reunion and old settler's picnic at the city park. The afternoon program will feature entertainment by local talent, an address by one of the county's prominent old-timers, and a band concert.

Sunday evening the planned feature will be a rodeo.

Monday, August 8, there will be a parade, stock car racing, rodeo and pony races with dancing in the evening.

Tuesday, August 9, will be farmer-rancher day. Proposed activities include street sports, stock car races, pony races, a free barbecue, coronation of the 1955 hay queen, entertainment and dancing.

# Hurry-Up Storm Delivers Damage



Mrs. Floyd Long was busy closing windows in a trailer house 40 feet away from the Ryan barn, a neighbor told her what had happened.—The Frontier Photo.

## Ryan Barn Destroyed; Power, Phone Lines Snapped by Wind

What may have been a small twister swished through O'Neill about 3:20 p.m., Tuesday. Damage was not great and nobody was hurt. Within a four-minute span, more than a half-inch of rain fell in torrents, accompanied by some hail and intense wind.

A hay barn on J. B. Ryan Hay company property near the railroad tracks was completely demolished, power and telephone lines were snapped within the city, and at least two automobiles were damaged by falling trees.

All of the city was without power for 58 minutes and electricity was not restored to other sections until later.

Long distance telephone circuits from O'Neill to Norfolk and to points east were snapped in several places within two blocks of the telephone office. Long distance calls were rerouted for several hours until the broken circuits could be mended.

Mrs. Fred Bazelman, 315 E. Fremont st., said she saw the twister touch down and blow to smithereens the Ryan barn which had been situated about 75 feet away. Mrs. Bazelman said the wind broke a large tree nearby "like snapping a twig."

Mrs. Floyd Long, who lives in a trailer house in the Bazelman backyard, was busy closing windows when the hurrying storm swept in from the south. Mrs. Long's trailer was parked only about 40 feet from the barn which was reduced to shambles.

"I was so busy closing windows I didn't realize what had happened," Mr. Long explained. "I knew it was something terrible, but Mrs. Bazelman came and told me about the barn."

Gutters in O'Neill overflowed and couldn't accommodate the deluge. The rain was driven so hard visibility was restricted to just a few feet.

Scattered thunder showers had been forecast by the weather bureau.

Mr. Harold Calkins, who was driving in a car with her two children and several others, was within 50 yards of the Ryan barn when the blow hit.

"Gave me the feeling someone had lowered a curtain around me," she explained. "I could tell we were in a sort of vacuum because of the sudden change in air pressure."

Most residential properties in O'Neill suffered tree and shrubbery damage.

At the W. J. Froelich residence on the north side of town, two large-size trees were snapped off. At the nearby John R. Gallagher residence one-third of an enormous tree buckled and was draped across the yard.

At least two automobiles were damaged. A large cottonwood fell on a 1953 car owned by Mrs. Lois Harman. Her car was parked on East Fremont street across from and within a half-block of the dilapidated Ryan barn. John Grutsch, who lives near the corner of First and Douglas, suffered damage to his car when a tree fell on it.

Home Davis reported numerous uprooted trees, scattered timber and five windstrewn haystacks on his farm, which is located south of the O'Neill livestock market.

The intense wind (nobody can guess how hard the wind actually was blowing) ripped awnings, toppled television antennae and ruthlessly twisted power and phone lines.

Within a few minutes after the short-lived storm had subsided the streets were filled with curious people—many of whom expected to find considerably more damage. All were happy to settle for what they saw.

The official precipitation measurement of the main storm was .55 of an inch with showers continuing. By nightfall the sky had cleared.

Ed Kirkpatrick, O'Neill contractor at work on a job, dashed to his car to get out of the rain. When the storm was over, he recovered some of his lumber material several hundred yards away.

An oil switch exploded at Norfolk and that city was without light or power for seven hours. Norfolk received only a few sprinkles while O'Neill was being belted, but counted 27 of an inch early Wednesday morning.

The Hoerle station, south of O'Neill, (Continued on page 12)

## Omaha Firm Buys Atkinson Bonds

ATKINSON—Bonds for Atkinson's new \$155,000 elementary school building were sold at public auction last Thursday afternoon to the Kirkpatrick-Pettis Co., of Omaha.

Their bid of a net interest rate of 2.728 percent was lowest among those submitted by representatives of the six bond houses attending the auction.

It is expected that the new building will be ready for use in the fall of 1956.

FIREMEN SUMMONED O'Neill firemen Monday were called to the Vern Grenier home where a shed in the rear of the home had caught fire. The blaze was discovered on the roof. Damage was minor.

MARRIAGE LICENSES John W. Kersenbrock of O'Neill and Florence Schultz of O'Neill, July 2.

Edward Francis Walnofer, 19, of Stuart and Darlyne Viola Olson, 16, of Atkinson, July 7.

Richard Lyons Keilholz, 24, of West Lafayette, Ind., and Lois Ann Maxine Miller, 19, of Star, July 8.



Mrs. Lois Hartman (at left) views her damaged car which was created by a falling tree during Tuesday's storm. Her vehicle was parked in front of her home on East Fremont street, one-half block west of the city hall. A drainage problem caused the street to be filled with water for nearly a block.—The Frontier Photo.



This is a view of the demolished Ryan hay barn, one-half block west of the J. B. Ryan company office building. This was the only building badly damaged by Tuesday's wind, which was described by several eye-witnesses as a small twister.—The Frontier Photo.