

Cronin-for-Senate Movement Launched



Senator Griswold known personally by many Holt countyans. (See editorial on page 2.)

Sen. Griswold Dies After Heart Attack

Serves State 3 Terms as Governor

Sen. Dwight Griswold (R-Neb.), three times governor of this state and a member of the United States senate since January, 1933, died early Monday in Bethesda naval hospital near Washington, D. C. He was 60. The senator, who was known personally by many Holt countyans, was stricken while driving Mrs. Griswold home from a dinner engagement.

Senator Griswold suffered a heart attack, lapsed into a coma, and never regained consciousness, dying shortly after midnight.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p. m., Wednesday from the Methodist church in Scottsbluff with Rev. Ward Conklin officiating.

Griswold was active in republican political life for a quarter of a century and was named to several high positions in the democratic administration by President Truman.

He was born at Harrison in the northwest corner of the state November 27, 1893. He attended Kearney Military academy as a youth and was a student at Nebraska Wesleyan university 1910-12. Two years later he received his bachelor of arts degree from the University of Nebraska.

Griswold was in the national guard and emerged from World War I with the rank of field artillery, captain. He was state commander of the American Legion in 1930.

The late senator had been connected with a Gordon bank since the age of 21, working up to cashier. He left banking to become editor and publisher of the Gordon Journal and was president of the Nebraska Press association in 1931.

He served in the state house of representatives and in the state senate before establishment of the unicameral and he made three unsuccessful campaigns for governor before being elected in 1940 with a record-breaking majority.

In 1947 he left the governor's chair after serving three two-year terms to become foreign aid administrator in Greece.

Mr. Griswold married Erma Elliott of Yorkville, Ill., in 1919. They had two children. A son, Dwight, died of polio in 1931.

Survivors include: Widow; daughter—Mrs. John (Dorothy) Gray, who has been residing in Switzerland; two grandchildren and two sisters.

Anyone interested in taking a swimming instructor's course May 17 to May 21 at Wayne is asked to contact Sgt. James Lyons before April 24. The Fred Cross will pay the expenses involved.

The Contract club following luncheon met at the home of Mrs. J. L. Sherbahn.

A movement endorsing Julius D. Cronin, O'Neill attorney, for the United States senate vacancy created by the death of Dwight Griswold was touched off here Monday night and gained momentum throughout the state Tuesday and Wednesday.

Cronin, who is regarded as an outstanding north Nebraska lawyer and who currently is the president of the Nebraska Bar association, would offer no comment.

It is generally known Cronin was an intimate friend and confidant of the late Senator Griswold, who had served three terms as governor of Nebraska. The move was touched off at a Chamber of Commerce meeting. The C of C hurriedly issued a blanket endorsement and the Atkinson Chamber of Commerce, in session simultaneously, unanimously backed Mr. Cronin.

A pile of telegrams and letters began to accumulate Tuesday and Wednesday at the statehouse to await the return of Gov. Robert Crosby, a republican, who had been elected to attend the Griswold funeral. Griswold, republican, took his seat in the senate in January, 1933.

Cronin has been active in state republican circles for many years, and a regular attendee at national GOP conventions either as a delegate or a visitor.

Republican central committees in nearly a dozen counties, including Holt, hastily lined up behind Cronin, plus several other organizations including the Nebraska Junior Chamber of Commerce, headed by Hugh McKenna of Omaha, formerly of O'Neill. The president of the Nebraska Stock Growers' association, Dewey C. Schaffer of O'Neill, gave the O'Neill lawyer his personal endorsement, and scores of individuals throughout the state pledged their support.

Governor Crosby is in a difficult spot. He must make a decision to fill the vacancy and, on the other hand, a highly competitive situation is expected to develop in connection with the GOP primaries in which the party will nominate a candidate for the six-year (long) term.

Among the candidates for the interim senatorial appointment are the governor himself, who may step down as governor to enable the lieutenant-governor to appoint Crosby; Val Peterson, former governor, now head of civil defense in the U. S.; Fred Seaton of Hastings, former interim senator; Dave Martin of Grand Island, state GOP chairman; Warren Wood of Gering, publisher-banker-army officer; John Jiridon of Morrill, businessman, and others.

An announcement from the governor is expected today (Thursday) or Saturday at the latest.

In a telegram to Crosby, the Chamber pointed out that Mr. Crosby would make a "fine statesman and without doubt would make an impact on the national scene." The wire, signed by President G. C. DeBacker, lauded Mr. Cronin's high character, exceptional ability and wide respect.

The telegram pointed out the O'Neill region had not been represented in the Nebraska congressional delegation since Moses P. Kinkaid, who was the author of the homestead act in the early 1900's.

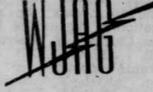
Four-Letter Award Again to Lohaus

The four-letter award, highest honor bestowed by the Ford Motor Co., has been presented to the Lohaus Motor Co. of O'Neill for the sixth consecutive year. The Lohaus firm is one of a handful of Ford agencies in the state similarly honored.

Presentation of a plaque was made to H. J. Lohaus last Thursday evening at a dinner attended by all the employees. (See advertisement on page 3.)

Mrs. Harold Seger and Carol, Mrs. Clair McVey, Charlotte and Barbara and Mrs. J. F. Contois spent last Thursday in Grand Island.

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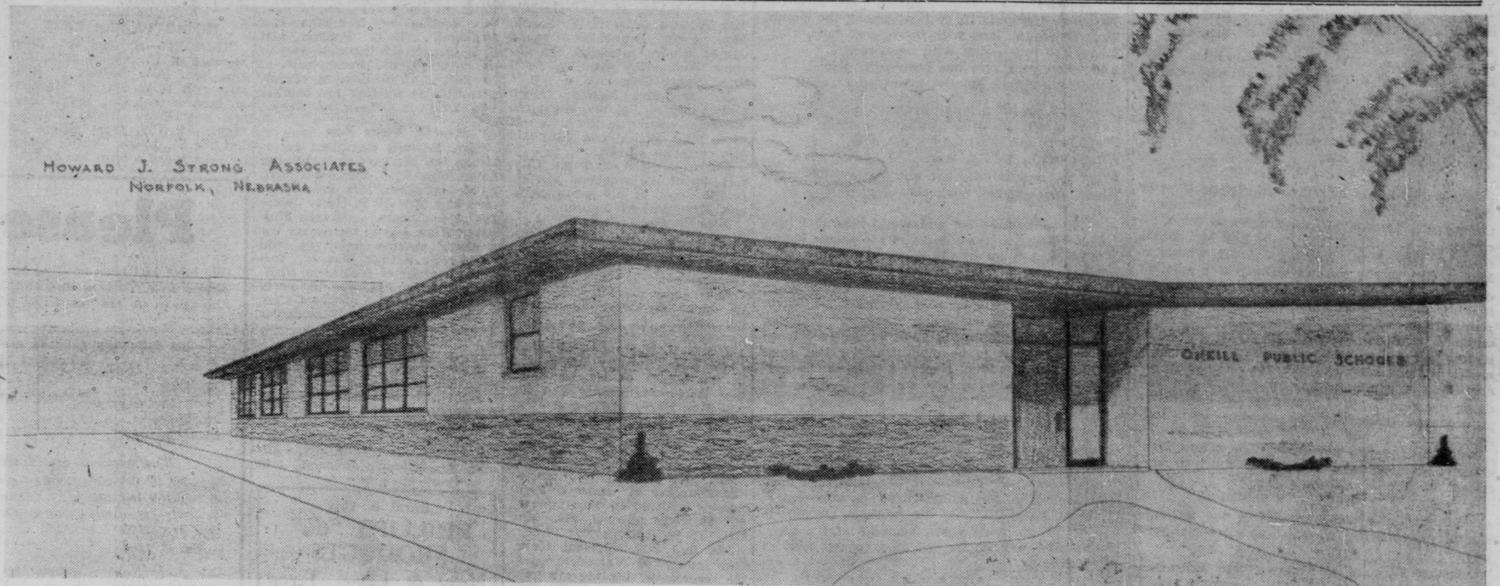
THE FRONTIER

TEN PAGES

North-Central Nebraska's BIG Newspaper

O'Neill, Nebr., Thursday, April 15, 1954.

Seven Cents



HOWARD J. STRONG ASSOCIATES, NORFOLK, NEBRASKA

Artist's conception of new elementary building for O'Neill public school . . . rectangular object in background is present main building on campus.

Propose \$80,000 School 1-Story, 4-Classroom Elementary Building Will Be Voted Upon

Plans for an 80-thousand-dollar addition to the O'Neill public school plant were announced Monday evening in a special meeting of civic, service and church groups. The meeting was called by the O'Neill city schools board of education with President H. J. Lohaus presiding.

Voters in the school district will be asked to authorize a 2 1/4-mill levy for the 80-thousand-dollar bond issue. The bonds would be paid off in 10 years, including 9-thousand-dollars in interest. The building is expected to cost 85-thousand-dollars with furnishings, architectural fees and other expenses expected to amount to about 15-thousand-dollars. The board indicated a special election is planned in May.

Supt. D. E. Nelson told the group about O'Neill's need for additional space, pointing to an average of more than 40 pupils per room in the lower elementary grades.

Surveys show that preschool age population and continued growth of the community dictate "that something has to be done."

The 66 x 80-ft. single-story building contemplated would be located on the southeast corner of the present campus and would be regarded as the first unit in a long-range program. The east side of the rectangular brick structure would be on the lot line marking the boundary between the campus and the H. J. Birmingham property. At a later date a counterpart could be built in the southwest corner of the campus and eventually a "U" shaped building could result with the connection of three units.

(Continued on page 5)

On His Golden Wedding Day 75 Tons of Wood, Broken Finger

"Our health is as good as ever, except we're a little older. That's how Joe Gokie appraised the situation Sunday as he and his wife were honored by members of their family in a golden wedding observance. Mr. Gokie is 74; his wife, 69.

Mr. Gokie was born in Germany and came to America with his parents as a small infant. His parents were the late Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Gokie, who settled first at West Point and later took a homestead near Clearwater. His parents died about 35 years ago and his sister, Katie, also is deceased.

Mrs. Gokie's maiden name was Urwiler. She was born in Illinois and her parents died when she was a little girl. A priest from Nebraska brought her to this state and she was adopted and reared by Mr. and Mrs. Carl Thiele.

When the Gokie wife and the Urwiler girl first met they were children in the same community. They were reared in a pioneer era and were married at Clearwater April 14, 1904, by the late Rt. Rev. M. F. Cassidy.

The couple resided for a time near Stuart, later moving onto a farm northwest of O'Neill where they reared their family. In 1946 they moved into O'Neill to retire.

Sunday's anniversary dinner was held at the Joe Gokie, jr., home with members of the family present. The reception was held at the Clarence Gokie home for relatives and close friends.

The Gokies have nine children: Sons—Carl of Norfolk, Connie of Atkinson, Leo of O'Neill, Clarence of O'Neill; Joe, jr., of O'Neill; daughters—Mrs. Theresa Spahn of Ewing, Mrs. Regina Wilton of Klatskanie, Ore., Mrs. Margaret Keifer of Norfolk and Mrs. Mary Thompson of Grand Island. Only two of the children—Regina and Connie—were unable to be present. Mrs. Spahn baked the anniversary cake. There are 24 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Mr. Gokie's formula for retaining good health is the wood pile. He estimates he has 75 tons of logs neatly stacked in the yard at their residence on North Sixth street.

By coincidence, Mr. Gokie says he has posed only twice in his life for pictures—once on his 21st birthday anniversary and the other time on his golden wedding day.

In Sunday's excitement one of his grandchildren slammed a car door on her grandfather's little finger, right hand. Mr. Gokie carries a memento of the celebration with him wherever he goes—a broken finger in splints.

DORSEY—George Kruse, 53, farmer residing one mile west of the Dorsey Presbyterian church, died last Thursday, April 8, in Sacred Heart hospital at Lynch. He had been in and out of the hospital on several occasions, reentering on April 3.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p. m., Saturday, April 10, from the Dorsey Presbyterian church with Rev. Joseph Walstadt, church pastor, officiating. Burial was in the Scottville cemetery under the direction of the Coulthard funeral home of Lynch. Pallbearers were Richard Marston, William Derickson, Veldon Pinkerman, Edward Herbek, H. H. Miles and Willis Butterfield.

The church could not accommodate the large crowd that gathered for the funeral rites. The late Mr. Kruse was born January 26, 1901, in Germany, near Westerade. He was confirmed in the Lutheran church at the age of 14. He came to the United States in November, 1925, his parents having been killed during World War I. He also was preceded in death by two brothers.

His early years in Holt county were spent in working for Thomas Graham. On November 15, 1932, he married Leta Cookley. They became the parents of four children. Mr. Kruse joined the Dorsey church in 1944.

Survivors include: Widow—Leta; sons—Albert Lee of Grand Island and Walter of Dorsey; daughters—Margaret and Linda, both of Dorsey; sisters—Arna, Dena and Geshe, all of Germany.

Music at the funeral service was provided by Mrs. Lee Bracy, jr., of O'Neill, who sang "The Old Rugged Cross" and "In the Garden," accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Dena Brady.

Between 1907 and 1912 the family lived on a homestead 20 miles northwest of Chadron where Mrs. Harris kept the place going while Mr. Harris was away doing carpentry work. As a widow and over 50-years-old, Mrs. Harris purchased a farm seven miles northeast of Page and she operated the place for a number of years.

For the past 15 years Mrs. Harris made her home at Orange, Calif. In late November she underwent surgery from which she did not recover, gradually becoming weaker and during the last month of her life she was under the care of special nurses.

Funeral services were held at Pasadena with Rev. Russell Robinson, Methodist pastor, officiating. Her remains were cremated and sealed in a marble niche in the mausoleum at Pasadena.

Survivors include: Sons—Glenn and Gordon; daughters—Ruth and Geraldine.

Seven hundred and sixty persons attended the annual 4-H family fun night held Saturday at the O'Neill public school auditorium. Skits and acts were presented by many of the clubs in the county. This was followed by the two district winners of the timely topics speaking contest, Alice Young and Gary Holcomb, who presented their winning speeches. After this awards were presented, which will be published next issue in full. Award winners and leaders receiving recognition massed on the stage to pose for this photo.—The Frontier Photo.

Vote Switch Dramatic

One city councilman's switch in his position on the highway problem created quite a stir Tuesday night. And things have been up in the air since.

A tonight ago Third Ward Councilman Norbert Uhl voted with the majority in a 5-1 decision of the council to take whatever steps are necessary to retain U.S. highways 20 and 201 along their present routes within the city.

In a special meeting Tuesday night, attended by an overflow crowd, Uhl joined Second Ward Councilman M. J. Golden in voting against a motion made by Third Ward Councilman Emmett Crabb.

The motion provided: (a) The city would comply with State Engineer L. N. Ressler's original proposal, to include parallel parking and other traffic reforms along the highway route; (b) option would be left to businessmen to retain diagonal parking by narrowing sidewalks.

The session broke up but the meeting was not officially adjourned or the minutes officially entered.

By late Wednesday the matter was still up in the air. Golden stated his position two weeks ago and did not budge in Tuesday night's session.

Late Wednesday Uhl asked for additional time to reconsider his stand.

R. H. Parker appeared to protest any expenditure to retain the highways. All others who had things to say were enthusiastic for keeping the highways along their present routes.

Uhl's switch denied the three-fourths majority needed.

The state highway department has a bypass plan for highway 20 already surveyed, skirting O'Neill on the northeast.

The annual meeting of the Holt County Tuberculosis association will be held Tuesday evening, April 20, Town House.

2 Sets Twin Calves Born on Same Day

CELLA—Two sets of twin whiteface calves were born on the same day—April 15—at the Milton McKathnie farm, which is located northeast of Atkinson.

The first set of calves turned out to be males; the second set, one bull and one female.

Mr. McKathnie says the offspring are "doing fine."

George Kruse, 53, Expires at Lynch

Rites Saturday for Dorsey Farmer

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Former Resident of Page Locality

Mrs. Verna Harris Dies in California

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Delegates Going to Hearing

Development in Basin at Stake in Capitol; Haynes Quits Post

The reclamation bureau ruled recently that the Niobrara river basin was not included in the original Missouri river basin plan.

Congressman A. L. Miller (R-Nebr.) immediately introduced a bill in the house of representatives providing that the Niobrara river basin be included in the overall Missouri plan and that funds be allocated from the \$98,000,000 appropriated by congress for the Missouri river basin plan to provide for immediate construction of the O'Neill, Ainsworth, Lavaca Flats and Mirage Flats extension units.

Hearings will be held before the subcommittee of the house on Monday and Tuesday, April 26 and 27, in Washington, D.C. Representatives from O'Neill, Atkinson, Ainsworth, Hay Springs and Niobrara will be present to give testimony.

The O'Neill unit contains 66,100 acres of irrigable land or about 46 percent of the irrigable land in the basin. Of these 66,100 acres, 4,200 acres are classed as number 1, and 61,900 acres are classed as number 2.

A 21-year average yield of crops grown in the irrigable area in Holt county shows corn 18 bushels, small grains 16 bushels, alfalfa 1 1/2 tons, other forage 1.3 tons. The value of all crops grown on the irrigable land averages about \$16.00 per acre annually over the 21 year period. The estimated crop yields per acre on the same land if they were irrigated would be about as follows: Corn 45 bushels, small grains 35 bushels, alfalfa 3 1/2 tons, potatoes 210 bushels, sugar beets 13 tons. The total value of the crops produced under irrigation would probably be about \$62.00 per acre, or almost four times as much as under dryland farming.

Irrigation in the O'Neill area would provide a closer source of protein feeds at a more reasonable price. It would introduce more feeding of beef cattle in the area, which would in turn provide a closer outlet for our grassed cattle.

Irrigation in dry years and years of insufficient feed supply would provide the area with additional feed so cattle herds would not have to be reduced as has been necessary in the past.

There are 353 dryland farms containing irrigable land in this area. With irrigation it is estimated that the number of these farm units would be increased to approximately 460 farms.

The addition of 100 farms, figured on a conservative basis would help stabilize the economy of the region. Irrigation in the area would provide employment for the young people of the area, who have been drifting to the industrial centers for employment.

The O'Neill Chamber of Commerce passed a resolution endorsing the Niobrara basin plan. (Continued on page 4)

NEWS, PICTURES

Considerable newsmatter and several pictures have necessarily been omitted from this issue because of a lack of space.



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