

# Fire Rages 10 Miles in Tinder-Dry Meadows

## A. H. Marquardt Succumbs in Sleep Rites Held Monday for Civic Leader

EWING—Funeral services for A. H. Marquardt, 70, who died Friday, October 9, were conducted Monday afternoon, October 12, from the Ewing Methodist church by Rev. Charles Mitchell, pastor.

"In the Garden," "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" and "Beyond the Sunset" were sung by Mrs. Harriet Wake and Mrs. Vera Anson with Mrs. Wilbur Spangler at the piano.

Mrs. Gail Boies, Mrs. Archie Tuttle and Mrs. Durward Loughrey were in charge of the flowers.

Pallbearers were Ralph Munn, John Wanner, Julian Solka, Clifford Hahlbeck, Gail Boies and Durward Loughrey. Burial was made in the Ewing cemetery.

Mr. Marquardt was well-known in the Ewing vicinity as "Art." He made his home here with his family for the past 35 years. He was active and interested in all civic affairs.

In later years, fishing became his hobby and many a vacation was spent "where the fishing was good." He also was an avid gardener.

Mr. and Mrs. Marquardt quietly celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on October 1.

Arthur H. Marquardt was born January 19, 1883, at Scribner. He was united in marriage to Marcia E. Caulkins October 1, 1902, at Scribner and to this union was born one son.

Mr. Marquardt engaged in farming at Scribner until 1919, when he and his family moved to a ranch west of Ewing. About 12 years ago, he moved to Ewing and took up the real estate business. Although in failing health for the past few years, he continued in business until the time of his death.

Survivors include: Widow; son—Victor of Tekamah; grandchildren—Victor, jr., of Omaha and Joan Huddleston of San Antonio, Tex.; brothers—Carl of West Point, John of Pine Bluffs, Wyo., Ray of Los Angeles, Calif.; sister—Anita Schirmer, also of Los Angeles, Calif.

His parents, one sister and one brother preceded him in death.

## Busy Fall Schedule Looms for Chamber

A busy fall schedule has been mapped by the Chamber of Commerce and plans were heard at Monday night's October meeting held at the M&M cafe.

Six metal 3-ft. stars and yule rope have been ordered as a starter on new Christmas decorations.

James W. Rooney reported on the Nebraska Stock Growers' meeting to be held here December 3. Sessions will be held at the Royal theater with banquet and dance in the Legion auditorium.

Cal Stewart reported on the Niobrara basin development congressional hearing held Friday at Ainsworth. The annual meeting of the Niobrara Valley Basin Development association will be held at Hay Springs Tuesday, October 20.

William McIntosh indicated a U.S. Highway 281 association membership drive will be launched soon.

Secretary Laurence Haynes told the group one hundred business and professional firms had joined the Chamber—a record high in late years.

County Agent A. Neil Dawes was heard in a report on the stocker-feeder show and sale held Wednesday, October 7, and also reported that 250 women had attended the achievement day program here the following day. The Chamber financially endorses both programs.

G. C. DeBacker, president, reported on the air tour reception at the airport Friday and announced that November 20 has been fixed as the date for yule window unveiling. Turkey day, he said, would be December 7 and Santa will make his usual visit here December 14.

Mr. and Mrs. Emmet Crabb attended homecoming at Wayne college on Saturday.

A fire touched off by the exhaust of an automobile belonging to a door-to-door salesman raged for about four hours Tuesday afternoon before it was finally brought under control about sundown.

The flames swept up the Cedar river valley, starting near the Wheeler-Garfield line on the old Gables ranch. Traveling faster than a man could run, the fire-front rolled up the tinder-dry valley, consumed about one hundred haystacks and by coincidence missed all buildings in the neighborhood.

An estimated five hundred persons, many of them from the Chambers and Amelia communities, rushed to the battlefront to check the blaze, which was imperiling southwestern Holt county.

The fire swept out of the valley and up the sandhills, heading for a time in the general direction of the village of Amelia.

Burwell, Ord and Chambers fire departments fought the fire and every available man, tractor, plow and truck in the vicinity was rushed into the fight.

The prairie conflagration was checked with the "back-firing" technique and the plowing of wide strips of ground. Trucks pulling common hand plows were extensively used, many tractor rigs and even one bulldozer. Water was hauled in cream cans and dampened burlap sacks were employed in stamping out the fire where it crossed the plowed corridors.

The Malmin ranch, owned by a J. C. Penney company vice-president, the Sam Cassidy ranch and the Charles Smith place were heaviest losers. The fire was finally checked about 14 miles southwest of Chambers.

Two fire alarms were sounded in Chambers—the second about 4 p.m., when all able bodied men were summoned.

The O'Neill and Atkinson firemen neared the scene shortly after 6 o'clock but their services were not needed.

The fire broke out about 2:30 p.m., presumably caused by the exhaust of an automobile driven by an Omaha World-Herald circulation solicitor. Smoke could be seen filling the sky for as far as 75 miles away. Smoke filled the air at O'Neill, approximately 45 airline miles from the blaze.

There was another grass fire in Wheeler county at the same time, starting from a trash pile near the Red Top school 6 1/2 miles north of Bartlett. This fire traveled a half-mile before it was brought under control.

Four Amelia men who assisted in combating the big blaze were describing the conflagration on the Wednesday morning "Voice of the Frontier" program. They were B. W. Waldo and sons, Harold and Lloyd, and Billy Sammons.

B. W. Waldo said the burned-out area was three miles in width "at the east end and about 10 miles long."

A general alarm was sounded on the Chambers and Amelia telephone lines.

"I've experienced a lot worse fires," explained the elder Mr. Waldo, "but this one was bad enough."

## Slaymaker's Hand Caught in Pulley

SOUTH OF STUART—Wesley Slaymaker suffered a painful hand injury Monday afternoon when his hand was caught in a block and tackle while moving hay. His glove became caught and pulled his hand into the pulley.

The tip of his little finger was taken off and the next finger was mashed badly.

Fred Tasler, who was helping Wesley move the hay, heard Slaymaker's anguish and quickly stopped the tractor before the rest of his hand was caught.

Mrs. Slaymaker, a registered nurse, administered first aid and Wesley was taken to Dr. James Ramsay where several stitches were taken in his fingers.

Slaymaker was wounded in Japan during World War II, being injured in the arm.

To Estes Park—Mr. and Mrs. John Harbottle and daughter left Sunday on a two week vacation. They will visit Mrs. Harbottle's brother, Paul Henry, at Estes Park, Colo.

"VOICE" OF THE FRONTIER  
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## Niobrara Squabble Is Aired

### Congressional Group Says 'Differences Must be Resolved'

(Photos at right)

AINSWORTH—A five-member congressional subcommittee sat for 2 1/2 hours Friday afternoon in a packed city auditorium at Ainsworth and listened to a parade of proponents and opponents of the proposed Niobrara Basin Development plan. Only controversy in the overall basin plan centers on the Merritt reservoir in Cherry county and the 53-mile canal which will deliver water to Snake river valley to the rich farm valley adjoining Ainsworth.

A spokesman for the congressional group told The Frontier:

"These farmers and ranchers will have to resolve their differences before the Ainsworth irrigation unit can be recommended for congressional appropriations."

The hearing was called by Nebraska's Fourth district congressman, A. L. Miller of Kimball, who is chairman of the house of representatives interior and insular affairs committee.

The 66-thousand-acre O'Neill unit in the overall basin plan will receive its water through a 70-mile canal from Pine creek (near Long Pine). A delegation from O'Neill was present at the hearing because to a limited extent the canal techniques are similar. Attending were James W. Rooney, who is chairman of the Chamber of Commerce irrigation and agriculture committee, Mayor J. E. Davis, Ira H. Moss, Ted McElhenny (who transcribed all the testimony), and Cal Stewart.

Rep. William Harrison (R) of Wyoming, subcommittee chairman, presided. Other congressmen hearing the testimony were Reps. Wesley D'Ewart (R) of Montana, E. Y. Berry (R) of South Dakota and Wayne Aspinall (D) of Colorado.

Both sides were studded with names of well-known Nebraskans working under the guidance of William C. Smith, jr., of Ainsworth, attorney for the Ainsworth Irrigation district, and Lynn Heth Valentine, attorney for the Cherry county rancher delegation.

Four hundred persons attended, including 50 closely knit Cherry ranchers aligned against the scheme. Enthusiasts for the Ainsworth project—and overall development of the basin—came from most communities along the Niobrara and as far east as O'Neill and Niobrara.

Dr. A. L. Lugin, consultant geologist to the University of Nebraska for the past 27 years, and Sam McKelvie, former governor of Nebraska and recently retired large scale Cherry rancher, were principal opposition speakers.

Lugin contended the soil at the site of the proposed Merritt reservoir is "porous and permeable" and he told the congressmen he seriously questioned the reservoir could contain 70,000 acre feet of impounded water without exhorbitant seepage.

He did concede the Snake river contained sufficient water but was willing to risk his reputation that the seepage from the reservoir and canal would render them impractical. He traced for the congressmen the composition of the sandhills in geological terms, describing the evolution of the hills from the ice age.

McKelvie delivered an impassioned testimony in behalf of his first love—"God's cow country." He declared that the proposed reservoir and canal would alter

(Continued on page 5)

## Postmaster Exams Given 8 Persons

Eight persons took the civil service postmaster examination test here Saturday as applicants for the postmaster vacancy here. The job pays \$5,370 for the first-class O'Neill office.

Anthony O'Donnell, civil service secretary, administered the tests during both morning and afternoon sessions.

Competing were Mrs. Helen Sullivan (acting postmaster), Ira H. Moss, Laurence Haynes, Jack Arbuthnot, J. Ed. Hancock, Algie Q. Cavanaugh, Howard Manson and Keith Abart.

Earlier Ralph Flowerer, William S. Mattern and James Lyons had applied for examination papers but they did not appear for the test.

## Pancake Crews Await Workout

### Personnel to Serve in 3 Shifts

All is in readiness for O'Neill's second annual Pillsbury pancake day to be held Wednesday, October 21, on the main floor of the Knights of Columbus building.

Serving will be between 1 and 7 p.m., according to Henry Lofflin, general chairman, who is assisted by Wendell Nelson, Melvin Ruzicka and Marvin Johnson.

Business and professional personnel assigned to the arrangements include:

Shift I (noon until 3 p.m.): H. J. Lohaus (cooking and serving), Joe Stutz (table waiters and cleaners), G. C. DeBacker (dish washers and wipers), Laurence Haynes (butter cutting, mixing and errands) and the following assistants—Arlo Hiatt, Floyd Wilson, Leo Brady, Charles Ridgeway, Rev. J. L. Jay, Rev. W. B. Smith, D. Brewster, Allan Van Vleck, Herbert Kaiser, Shelhamer Produce, Fred Heermann, Hugh Benson, C. J. Gatz, O'Neill National bank, James Towle, Standard Oil Co., Seger Oil Co., Johnson Drug, Harry Grutsch, James Kelly, Clarence Hamilton, Benoit Bright, Frank Murray, Singer Sewing Center, W. B. Gillespie, Ben Gilligan, Bartley Brennan, Rev. R. W. Olson, Matthew Beha, L. D. Putnam, Edna May Risinger, Bill White, C. R. Hull, Neil Dawes, R. Henley.

Shift II (3 to 5 p.m.): John H. McCarville (cooking and serving), Darrel Slaymaker (table waiters and cleaners), C. W. Baker (dish washers and wipers), George Peterson (butter cutting, mixing and errands), and the following assistants—Rev. Kenneth Carl, Rev. Wayne Hall, Rev. John Thomas, Rev. Melvin Grosenbach, Victor Halva, postoffice, Francis Gilg, Howard Manson, Harden Anspach, Merle Hickey, John Grutsch, Francis Hickey, George McCarthy, Marlin Wichman, Ralph McLvain, Shelhamer Equipment, Harry R. Smith, William Artus, John Stuijbergen, A. P. Jaskowski, George Hammond, William McIntosh, Midwest Furniture, Dale Fetrow, Ira H. Moss, Judge D. R. Mount, Rev. Roy Baumeister, C. D. Harmon.

Shift III (5 to 7 p.m.): Dale Foree (cooking and serving), Don Petersen (table and cleaners), John C. Watson (dish washers and wipers), Paul Shierk (butter cutting, mixing and errands), and the following assistants—William Griffin, Eugene Van Every, American Gear, New Outlaw Grocery, Paul Beha, Earl Hunt, James Earley, O'Neill Auto Supply, Tri-State Produce, Biglin Brothers, Loocher, Inc., Dr. George Cook, O'Neill Cleaners, Jas. Davidson & Sons, William Mattern, Leigh Reynolds, John R. Gallagher, H. L. Lindberg, Thompson Tobacco Co., O'Neill Transfer, Consumers Public Power, O'Neill Grain Co., D. D. DeBolt, Jack Arbuthnot, J. Ed. Hancock, Bob Stevens, Palmer Skulborstad, Tony Asimus, Golden hotel, Lew White Motor Co., Lyle Dierks, Leo Tomjack, Norman Gonderinger, R. V. Lucas, William Watson, Booth Transfer.



Harrison, neutral; Rooney, pro, and McKelvie, con . . . the problem will have to be resolved. —The Frontier Photo.



Congressmen Harrison, D'Ewart, Berry, Aspinall . . . hear both sides. —The Frontier Photo.

## McLain, 19, Confesses Slaying

### Talbot Mystery Solved When Grid Star Gets Detector Test Here

A second floor office in the Holt county courthouse was the scene of the confession of Duane McLain, 19, who admitted slaying pretty Karen Talbot, 13, who disappeared from the streets of Rushville the night of August 20.

McLain, who had been in the company of the girl on several previous occasions, had been questioned several times by Sheridan County Sheriff Wendell Hills, but had declined to take a lie detector test.

Finally, Hills and Sgt. Leo Knusen of the Nebraska safety patrol induced him to take the test. An appointment was made with Holt County Sheriff Leo Tomjack to use the facilities at O'Neill.

Capt. Harold Smith and Lt. Robert Nickols, who headquarter with the patrol at Lincoln, brought the lie detector machine here and behind closed doors Nickols privately gained the confession.

The confessed slayer, who was an all-conference end on Rushville's football teams in 1950 and 1951, signed a statement admitting he killed Karen Talbot.

About 10:30 p.m. (CST), the officers whisked their prisoner out of O'Neill and went to a point eight miles south of Rushville where the decomposing body was dug from a shallow grave on a sandhill.

McLain was spared watching the exhumation, which authorities had agreed with him to do.

At 5:30 p.m. (O'Neill time), he was arraigned in Sheridan county court and charged with first degree murder. He was bound over to district court and it's possible his trial won't come until the spring term. After the arraignment, authorities spirited him away to an undisclosed jail because feeling was running high in Rushville.

County Attorney John Kerlekedes, and Sheriff Hills deserve much of the credit for solving the case. It was Hills' hunch which led to the questioning of McLain on Monday, October 5. Five days later the mystery was solved.

McLain had gone to the theater and seated himself in front of Miss Talbot and her girl friend. The girls later separated near their homes and McLain picked up Karen almost in front of Sheriff Hills' residence. They drove to the Niobrara river, later to a shack on his grandparents' ranch south of Rushville. She resisted his advances, started to run, and he tackled her. Later he struck her with his hand then with a hammer. McLain then went and got a rifle and shot her in the head.

He buried her in a shallow grave and burned her clothes.

Enroute to O'Neill, Sheriff Hills said McLain talked freely about cattle prices, football and stock car racing. Hills said, "prospects of having the right fellow were not very encouraging."

McLain was president of his senior class and graduated last spring.

Holt County Sheriff Tomjack described McLain as a good-looking, healthy, normal boy.

## James C. Boham Burial at Orchard

ORCHARD—Funeral services were conducted at 10 a.m., Monday, October 12, for James C. Boham, 91, who died Saturday, October 10, in Inman.

Burial was in the Bazile Mills cemetery with Rev. Lisle E. Mowman of Page officiating. Pallbearers were Otto Retke, Merwyn French, Ed Harvey, John Harvey, Henry Leiding and Lewis Kopecky.

Mrs. Kopecky was pianist. Rev. Walter Millett and Mrs. Bertha Dixon sang.

The late Mr. Boham was born in Franklin county, Ohio, July 13, 1862, a son of Basil and Nancy Boham. He moved to Iowa with his parents, later to Chadron.

He was united in marriage to Edna May Risinger on July 2, 1898. They became the parents of seven children.

His wife, one daughter, Frances, and four sons—Marion, Clarence, Ira and an infant son—predeceased him in death.

Survivors include: Son—Basil of Newport; daughter—Emmura Fairbanks of Inman; sister—Mrs. Jane Fahrenstock of Hawthorne, Calif.; five grandsons—Cpl. John C. Boham, who is stationed in Korea; George Fairbanks of White River, S.D.; Ray Fairbanks of Stuart; Walter Boham of Verdigris and Myron Boham of Newport; six granddaughters—Lorraine Boham of O'Neill; Deloris Boham of Verdigris; Pauline, Ann and Lois, Boham, all of Newport, and Edna Fairbanks of Inman.

He joined the Methodist church at Chadron in about 1892, later transferring his membership to the Winnetoon, Venus and Page churches. He was bedfast during the past year.

## Braasch, Kamphaus Next on Calendar

The Frontier's sale calendar includes the following bookings:

Monday, October 19: Kenneth Braasch, residing 6 miles north and 1 1/2 miles east of Emmet, will offer farm machinery and household goods; Col. Ed Thorin, O'Neill, auctioneer; O'Neill National bank, clerk.

Wednesday, October 21: Kamphaus ranch closeout, southwest of Chambers; Col. Ed Thorin, O'Neill, and Col. Ed Evans, Randolph, auctioneers; Chambers State bank, clerk; Mrs. Juliana Kamphaus, administratrix.

Friday, October 23: Holt County Aberdeen—Angus Breeders' association will offer 21 males and 23 females in its first annual fall registered Angus sale to be held at the Atkinson Livestock Market. Catalogs are available through Secretary Freeman Knight, O'Neill.

Saturday, October 24: Annual fall sale of Holt County Hereford Breeders' association, O'Neill Livestock Market, James W. Rooney, O'Neill, secretary and sale manager.

Saturday, November 14: North-Central Nebraska Hereford Breeders' association annual sale, Bassett, Nebr., 64 bulls; Tug Phillips, secretary-sale manager.

## To Hear Report on NCCW Meeting

St. Patrick's Altar society was represented at the Omaha archdiocesan meeting of the National Council of Catholic Women, held Tuesday, October 6, in Norfolk, by Very Rev. Timothy O'Sullivan, Rev. Kenneth Carl and about 35 guild members.

The senior class of St. Mary's academy also attended and presented a number which centered around the convention theme, "Building for Christ."

Thursday evening, October 15, the society will meet with St. Cecilia's guild entertainers. Mrs. Charles Richter, chairman, has announced that the program will feature reports of the highlights of this convention by the chosen delegates—Mrs. L. A. Becker and Mrs. L. D. Putnam.

## Start Putting Club Addition

Work has started on the construction of a 14 x 28-ft. annex at the Country club, it was announced this week by President M. J. Golden.

The addition, being constructed on the north side of the present club house will provide showers and rest rooms.

## ENLISTS IN ARMY

Edward Bridges, son of Mrs. Alice Bridges, enlisted Monday in the army and Wednesday was to reach Ft. Riley, Kans., for processing and training. He will serve three years. Edward's older brother, James, is stationed at Ft. Bragg, N.C., and recently was here on furlough.

## Halls to Minnesota; Grady's Buy Residence

Mr. and Mrs. John Hall will leave Monday for Blue Earth, Minn., where they will make their residence. The Halls three years ago purchased the Elja McCullough residence. They are parents of Rev. Wayne A. Hall, pastor of the Assembly of God church.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Grady have purchased the Hall residence and will be moving in next week.

## Passes State Board

INMAN—Miss Delores Nielsen spent the weekend of October 3 visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Nielsen, and family. She recently received notice that she passed state board tests and is now a registered nurse. She is employed at the Methodist hospital, Omaha.

## Now in Alaska

Pvt. Don Lanman is now stationed in Alaska at Ft. Richardson, which is two miles from Anchorage, a city of 50,000 population. His address is Pvt. Don L. Lanman RA1736711, Hq. Hq. Co., Ft. Richardson, APO 948, c/o PM, Seattle, Wash.

## Return to Colorado

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Jones of Denver, Colo., departed Wednesday after a six-day visit with relatives here. Mrs. Jones is the former Kathleen Stannard.



Franciscan Nuns Emerge from Funeral Rite

Sisters of St. Francis emerge (above) from St. Patrick's Catholic church here following funeral services for Mother M. Erica, 57, superior of St. Mary's academy. Mother Erica died Wednesday, October 7, following a stroke. For 12 years she was superior of the Denver (Western) province. She helped direct the St. Anthony's hospital movement here and in July, 1951, became superior at the academy. Franciscan nuns from many points came here for the solemn high funeral mass.—The Frontier Photo.



Lloyd Waldo, B. W. Waldo, Billy Sammons, Harold Waldo . . . fire fighters. —The Frontier Photo.