

Storm Toll of Livestock Mounts Steadily

24 Out of 60 Head of Cattle Perish on Taylor Place At Chambers

Early today (Thursday) livestock men in the O'Neill area still had no idea how many head of livestock might have perished during the historic March 7 storm—worst in the annals of Holt county history.

But most of the stockmen—large operators and small—conceded that the losses will be "heavy."

Some stockmen, particularly the extensive operators, won't be able to determine the full extent of the losses for days.

County Agent A. Neil Dawes said: "I can't help but think there'll be lots of losses—probably most of it caused by suffocation and smothering."

Monday night's rain set the stage for staggering losses and if the temperature had been lower than it was cattle deaths would have been wholesale.

The rain wet the coats of the animals. Then the ice and snow built up in their eyes and on their nostrils.

Bill Babutzke, who lives 1 1/2 miles east of the O'Neill Livestock Market, was one of the first country people to town after the storm. He reported a loss of 5 head of last fall's calves.

John Storjohan, who has a place south of Spencer, was confident he had suffered losses but hesitated to estimate how many.

Dewey C. Schaffer, who is considered one of Holt's biggest stockmen, told The Frontier he had been unable to contact his ranch and his other places in outer reaches of the county. He said he felt certain his men had exercised every precaution but was prepared to learn of "some losses."

He went to his place about 10 miles south of O'Neill Wednesday afternoon, saw a hole in a snowdrift that resembled a rabbit hole. He kicked away the snow and a husky cow climbed to her feet and walked away.

The Wedigre Bros., near Atkinson, until this morning said they "hadn't found" a number of their cattle.

L. D. Putnam, O'Neill stockman, reported late Wednesday he had no losses on 2 of his places, but cattle there represented only a small portion of his total.

Lloyd Durre, Chambers airman who won fame as a mercy messenger a year ago, was scouring the Chambers and Ewing vicinities by air searching for dead critters.

Connie Funk, of Atkinson, reported that 3 milk cows at his dairy farm 1 mile west of Atkinson, had become blinded and wandered into the Elkhorn river where they perished.

Thirty head of cattle were reported dead at the Golden ranch by Earl Wright. This news was brought to Inman by Gene Clark, mail carrier. Gallagher Bros., who have a ranch near Inman, until this morning told of the loss of 4 head, and Harry Hart, who lives northeast of Inman, said he would suffer "some losses."

Wallace O'Connell, father of Timothy Joseph O'Connell, O'Neill's widely publicized blizzard baby, told today of the loss of at least 2 head of livestock — "possibly there'll be others."

Guy F. Cole, of Emmet, told The Frontier of the loss of one head.

In the Chambers locality losses were heavier. Percentage-wise, Lloyd Taylor, who lives 1 mile east and 4 miles south of Chambers, absorbed one of the heaviest losses in the region. From a herd of about 60 head, 24 were reported dead by noon today.

B. W. Waldo, who lives 8 miles west of Chambers, counted 20 dead. Earlier he had reported the loss of 13.

Four out of a herd of 20 perished at the W. A. Smith place, 1 mile from Chambers. Mr. Smith lives in town.

Louis Vitt, who lives south of O'Neill, said Thursday he had lost 2 calves.

Stories were rampant about other losses, but in making its regional survey by telephone The Frontier has attempted to limit reports to specific instances.

Losses will mount as the snow melts and herdsmen are able to count the noses.

Overshoe Is Springy; Snake Explains It

ATKINSON — Joe Kokes, office manager at the Atkinson Livestock Market, dug an abandoned pair of 4-buckle overshoes out of his basement to wear en route to his work the day after the big blow.

He thought one shoe felt "springy." Removing the shoe, he discovered the reason why.

A small garter snake had been stowed away in the shoe, but was killed by the pressure of the heel. "The snake was in a hibernated condition," Kokes said.

"Voice of The Frontier" . . . 780 on your dial . . . 9:45 a. m. three times weekly—Mondays, Wednesdays, Saturdays.

BLIZZARD SNARLS ALL TRAFFIC

Rails, Busses, Highway Travel Curtailed 40 Hours

For more than 40 hours highway traffic, rail and bus transportation was tied in a knot by the weatherman during and following the storm that swept into the O'Neill and North-Central Nebraska regions early Tuesday morning.

Both the Chicago & North-western and the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroads were hampered by the reduced visibility and the giant snowdrifts which swirled onto their respective right-of-ways.

Both railroads temporarily ceased operations during the storm.

The last train pulled into the C&NW depot here 20 minutes late Tuesday morning. It was westbound. Before normal rail operations, either east or west, were resumed, more than 36 hours had elapsed.

Drifts along the CB&Q rail lines were reported to be in the neighborhood of 7- to 8-foot deep with some of these drifts ranging in length from 200- to 500-feet.

V. J. Towle, C&NW depot agent, said a wedge plow slowly picked its way from Norfolk to Long Pine Wednesday clearing the rail right-of-way. Towle reported to The Frontier the maintenance crew on the plow encountered drifts from 2- to 6-foot deep and were from 100- to 500-feet in length. The rail snowplow crept through O'Neill at noon Wednesday.

The CB&Q's regular schedule has not, up until press time, been resumed. Freight train 96 left Wednesday morning headed for Sioux City but was forced to return when it ran into a 12- to 14-foot drift some 1,650 feet long east of here. It was the Burlington that had such a hectic experience in drifts east of O'Neill a year ago.

It took 17 men and a large wedge type railroad snowplow more than 3 hours to work through the "granddaddy" of the drifts thus far reported in the Tuesday storm.

A crew of 14 men with an engine and snowplow left O'Neill at 7 a. m. this morning (Thursday) and by 12:55 p. m. had reached Brunswick, a distance of only 36 miles.

Bus travel was cut off sharply Tuesday morning as the visibility grew steadily worse. The bus terminal said today (Thursday) that operations ceased after the midnight bus had arrived in O'Neill Monday.

Partial bus service commenced again Wednesday afternoon at 5 p. m. when a United Motor Ways bus traveled south. However, this morning (Thursday) the regular schedule of daily buses was resumed.

Motorists and salesmen were stranded in O'Neill for more than 48 hours as the snow-blocked roads snarled highway traffic.

John D. Osenbaugh, resident engineer for the state highway department, said today (Thursday) that main highways were open in all directions from O'Neill.

The flash blizzard and howling gale-like winds made all roads impassable and virtually all county roads were blocked.

As the blizzard swept into the O'Neill region Osenbaugh announced no maintenance crews would venture out in the driving, blinding snow storm until visibility was "good."

The operation of opening the main highways began early Wednesday.

All equipment that was available was pressed into action to clear the highways. It was about noon on Wednesday that the crews slowly began to carve their way through the mountain-like drifts.

Highway traffic is slow as reported by some observers and there is one-way traffic in various spots where drifts have been cut through.

State Highway Patrolman Faye Robeson reported there was one-way traffic where drifts occurred: From Orchard west on highway 20 and then on highway 275; between O'Neill and Atkinson on highway 20; from Atkinson to Butte on highway 11 and virtually all of highway 281 north.

Since the digging out and opening of the roads began at 7 a. m. Wednesday, rotary and "V" (wedge-type) snowplows have been in continuous operation.

All main state roads are open as reported by Osenbaugh. Highway 20 and 275 east to Ewing was the first piece of road to be opened by crews. This was open to traffic by noon Wednesday. By 5 p. m. Wednesday afternoon the highway east to Norfolk and Omaha was clear.

Highway 20 west to Valentine was opened by 7 p. m. Wednesday evening. The last of the main roads north and south on highway 281 were opened by 1 a. m. this morning (Thursday).



Drifts nearly reached the Royal theater marquee on O'Neill's Douglas street. In case you've wondered, there are automobiles buried under the big snowbank.—The Frontier Photo by John H. McCarrille.



O'Neill was stilled by the paralyzing storm that belted the region for over 18 hours. It was reminiscent of the Recurring Blizzards of 1949. Automobiles are being burrowed out of the giant drifts on Douglas street between the Royal theater and the Tom Tom cafe (bus depot).—Aerial Photo by Lawrence Robinson courtesy Omaha World-Herald.

Wind Rips Roof, 2 Sides Off Barn

EMMET—A 66x100 foot barn here Tuesday was stripped of its roof and 2 sides as the 60- to 100-mile an hour gales spread the debris over the countryside. The barn, owned by Guy Cole, of Emmet, practically vanished from the scene during the historic storm.

The roof gave way about 10:30 a. m. and soon to follow were the two sides. For a while timber and hay were flying through the air and pieces were scattered for several hundred feet.

STAY IN DEPOT

INMAN — As in all cases of flash storms, traveling people seek cover of any town, large or small. The Chicago & North Western railroad depot here served as a haven for nine travelers that were caught in the flash storm early Tuesday morning. All stayed until the roads were cleared early Wednesday.

NO ROOM AT INN

Ironically, M. J. Golden, proprietor of the Golden hotel, couldn't get a room for himself; instead, he slept on a roll-away cot.

Gene Streeter and Clyde McKenzie, Jr., visited in Winner, S. D. Sunday at the home of the latter's brother and sister-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dan McKenzie.

Expectant Mother Marooned 10 Hours

(Continued from page 1) wrapped warm in blankets.

Rescue party members who performed this act of heroism included, besides Godel: Hugh Benson, Walter and Dick McNichols, Sandy McKim, Dale Curran, Charles Yarnell, Virgil Tomlinson, Vernon Gorgen, Byron Grenier, Red McKim, N. O. McCrary, James Donohoe, Don Donohoe, Eldon Waldo, Harold Hubert, Gerald Harding and James Coker.

Radio stations and newspapers throughout the land followed closely the story of the rescue.

Wednesday afternoon Chuck Apper, announcer for the "Voice of The Frontier," and John H. McCarrille, The Frontier's staff photographer, went to Mrs. O'Connell's bedside.

Mrs. O'Connell told her story which was broadcast over radio station WJAG and subsequently over Omaha's radio station KFAB.

Mrs. O'Connell uttered undying words of praise for the 19 men who came to her rescue.

WEATHER SUMMARY

	High	Low	Prec.
March 2	30	28	
March 3	50	15	
March 4	58	15	
March 5	50	35	
March 6	71	32	
March 7	63	12	.90
March 8	27	-3	1.20

Memorial Fund At Lynch Started

LYNCH — An improvement fund for the Sacred Heart hospital here in memory of the late Mrs. Olive D. Guttery, wife of Dr. J. A. Guttery, of Lynch, has been established.

A balance of \$21.25 remained after business people of Lynch collected funds for flowers for Mrs. Guttery's funeral. Dr. Guttery gave the money—plus \$73.75 to make an even \$100—to start a memorial fund.

However, it was suggested the fund be used to convert the front porch of the hospital into a recreation room.

Dr. Guttery stated: "Why not start a fund here at home and

STORM ISOLATES 24 CITIES, TOWNS

Maintenance Crews Forced To Return Because Of No Visibility

Many cities and towns in the O'Neill area were cut-off from their sources of power during Tuesday's historic storm.

Lack of electricity caused considerable hardship for people depending upon power for heating and refrigeration units.

L. C. Walling, O'Neill district manager for Consumers Public Power, estimated line damage in his district "between 15- and 18-thousand dollars."

First towns to be isolated during the early hours of the double-barreled storm were Page, Inman, Ewing and Orchard.

As the storm intensified, many towns' power connections snapped and the communities were without service until Wednesday morning.

Some maintenance crews set out in the teeth of the unprecedented storm but their efforts were abortive. They had to turn back. Visibility was nil and the wind blew them off their course.

During the peak of the tooth-hattering gale that reached near hurricane proportions, these were the towns that were temporarily cut off from the power supply:

Wausa, Page, Inman, Ewing, Orchard, Bassett, Atkinson, Jewport, Emmet, McLean, Clearwater, Tilden, Creighton, Brunswick, Center, Winnetoon, Jagnet, Crofton, Battle Creek, Meadow Grove, Oakdale, Elgin, Petersburg, and Royal.

However, today (Thursday), Walling reported that all lines of these towns were back in operation.

Late Tuesday morning the main line west from O'Neill to Atkinson broke and Atkinson, Emmet, Bassett and Jewport were without power during most of Tuesday and Wednesday. There was, however, some intermittent service to these 4 points.

As the wind grew stronger many power lines in the area were unable to stand the pressure and broke. This was true also of many power lines in the residential sections of O'Neill.

The storm was a stiff test for the new all-weather high voltage line completed last year, linking O'Neill and Norfolk and the main source of power in this region from the Loup river hydro-electric plants.

"The line stood up 100 per cent," Mr. Walling explained.

Workmen have for several months been rebuilding some of the lines that yielded under the stress of Tuesday's winds.

Harry Peterson, Northwestern Bell telephone manager in O'Neill, reported to The Frontier today (Thursday) their damage in this region was small.

Peterson explained there was only minor toll line trouble during the storm. Page and Inman were served from telephone communications Tuesday. Service was restored early Wednesday morning.

"Our local calls doubled the day of the storm and the day following," Peterson said. Toll calls doubled Wednesday. Ten operators, who normally work 8-hour shifts, worked 12 hours during the storm to handle the increased number of calls.

Here's a comparison of the number of calls handled before, during and after the storm:

Monday—3,100 local calls and 473 toll calls.

Tuesday—8,391 local calls and 352 toll calls.

Wednesday—6,173 local calls and 648 toll calls.

Many long distance calls had to take circuitous routings. Line noise, caused primarily by static electricity, was "very bad" during the high wind, Peterson said.

HEADS FRATERNITY

PAGE—Darrel Heiss, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Heiss, was recently elected president of his fraternity at Nebraska U.

further our own resources and still have a memorial to those gone on before us. It might surprise all of us what this memorial fund may accomplish in a period of time and be a real blessing and benefit to all in this area."

When in Omaha

HOTEL CONANT

200 ROOMS \$2 to \$3