

# THE FRONTIER

Editorial & Business Offices: 10 South Fourth Street  
O'NEILL, NEBR.

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Entered the postoffice at O'Neill, Holt county, Nebraska, as second-class mail matter under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1879. This newspaper is a member of the Nebraska Press Association, National Editorial Association and the Audit Bureau of Circulations.

Established in 1880—Published Each Thursday

Terms of Subscription: In Nebraska, \$2.50 per year; elsewhere in the United States, \$3 per year; abroad, rates provided on request. All subscriptions are strictly paid-in-advance.

## Hurricane Blizzard of March 7, 1950

The great Hurricane Blizzard of March 7, 1950, already is history. It will not soon be forgotten.

In the annals of American history catastrophes brought about by the elements sooner or later are referred to and are generally known by a definite title, i.e.: Jamestown Flood, Galveston Hurricane, Blizzard of '88, etc.

The Frontier wishes to propose a title for last week's memorable storm: Hurricane Blizzard of March 7, 1950.

Blizzard connotes a violent windstorm with driving snow and intense cold. Last week's onslaught was more than that. It was a land-hurricane with wet snow driven so hard that it pulverized. In almost every respect that 24-hour debacle was different and consequently will deserve special attention from the historians.

It was preceded by a day that found pedestrians in late spring attire; the storm struck with such surprise that vain weather prophets were utterly dumbfounded; it rivalled (if not surpassed) all other storms from the standpoint of violence and intensity; snow was borne by a hurricane wind that mounted up to 100-miles-per-hour; in a wink mountainous drifts grew to heights comparable to last winter's cumulative snow and the Recurring Blizzards of 1948-'49 have their own chapter; it was a "quickie" in relation to many other notorious storms, lasting only 24 hours; the calm after the storm was as unreal and insincere as the calm before the storm.

Yes, the Hurricane Blizzard of March 7, 1950, stands alone in most respects—save perhaps in the matter of cold. Temperatures throughout most of the day hovered between 12 and 5 degrees above zero. It was a blessing, of course, that temperatures didn't drop lower. Temperatures were sufficiently cold to freeze to death one man, who was attempting to walk to town from his abandoned car, and hundreds of cattle, which were without ample protection.

If temperatures had been 20 degrees lower—as in the historic January 12, 1888 blizzard—the O'Neill region would not yet have counted all its dead residents, not to mention livestock and poultry.

The Tuesday, March 7, storm was terrible in every sense of the word. It will be talked about as long as there are people living who remember that dreadful day.

Now, more than a week later, folks in the O'Neill region are only beginning to be dug out from under the powdery, sugar-fine snow. Number of country people who got into town last week very nearly could be counted on your fingers. Those that were successful certainly were the harder type, their errands were important, and many of those traveled by horseback or walked a considerable distance.

Stockmen are still counting dead critters. These are to be seen along fence lines, under snowdrifts, in plum thickets, bored into haystacks, in lowland ponds and streams. It is generally agreed that more livestock perished during the weatherman's bludgeoning of Holt county than during all of last winter, when stock was subjected to short rations and severe weather over an extended period of time.

Somehow out of chaos and devastation there emerges a normalcy. Just how this comes to pass we cannot say. But weather-hardened Holt countians have a way of facing their problems, serious and grim as they may be at the time; surmounting them, and eventually becoming the champion.

The populace was staggered by the Hurricane Blizzard, but rural folk and townspeople alike bounced back with characteristic gusto and spirit, and it can be said they're now on top of the situation.

In retrospect The Frontier views the incident—and that's what the history books will call it—as a trying ordeal of relatively short duration; a winter storm so severe, so weird that at the time folks rightfully asked themselves: How could it be worse?

But today it is history.

Damage to livestock and other personal property will mount into hundreds of thousands of dollars for Holt countians alone. Only one life was lost. It might have been worse for everyone, except for the family of the 23-year-old man who stumbled to the ground and died near the end of his mission; it might have been worse, too, for the expectant mother who, heroically rescued, gave birth to a son in the warmth of O'Neill hospital.

Today the Hurricane Blizzard of March 7, 1950, belongs to the historians. But it will be talked about as long as there are Holt county men and women living who remember the date.

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### Lost: 4 Sale Days

Regular Thursday sales at the O'Neill Livestock Market will be resumed March 23. Sales were interrupted for 4 weeks following the disastrous fire which destroyed the pavilion on the night of February 18.

Hundreds of country folk and most business people will welcome the resumption of activity at the mart. It is a known fact that absence of a sale on the past 4 Thursdays—February 23, March 2, 9 and today—had a marked effect on retail business in this city.

It's an old custom—marketing. Old World cities usually were built around a market place or a market square. Even today in many provincial European towns the livestock are driven into the heart of town where they are sold at auction. This form of trade is not restricted to cattle, hogs, sheep, goats and poultry. The markets are filled with garden truck and a thousand-and-one other items changing hands, some for the 'umpteenth time.

O'Neillites have experienced in recent weeks what it means to be without a livestock market.

The new, enlarged pavilion will make the O'Neill facilities

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even better. Naturally, the new structure won't be completed by any means, but there will be a sale and business can be resumed as usual.

Fires are terrible things. And the February 18 blaze was a severe blow to Verne and Leigh Reynoldson, new managers of the plant, as well as to the O'Neill Civic club, owners.

The Reynoldsons have been undaunted and in a week they're resuming their auction—good weather or bad. Patrons of the market will be provided every possible facility and comfort that can be devised under the circumstances.

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### Folks Like Our Service

Dozens of persons have expressed interest in and gratitude for The Frontier's service during and immediately following the memorable Tuesday, March 7, storm. These manifestations alone amply repay us for our effort spent in conveying immediate, on-the-spot news coverage in our three-way method: Printed word, pictorial and audible word (radio).

The avalanche of letters that we have received, many of them containing requests for extra copies of our Blizzard Edition, are tangible evidence that our efforts were appreciated.

To work up a dozen special radio broadcasts, ranging in length from 2- to 23-minutes—all on an emergency basis; to provide a steady flow of vital news and pictures to the outside world; and to produce a special Blizzard Edition within hours after the crisis was over imposed a tremendous burden on The Frontier's relatively small staff, which is geared to producing a 12- to 16-page paper once a week and do 3 routine quarter-hour broadcasts.

Probably the greatest satisfaction we derived from our whole effort was the opportunity to sign up several rural families for a subscription almost before the storm had petered out. We'll swear by oath that a handful of new subscriptions that walked in our front door last Thursday and Friday were gratitude propositions. And, folks, if you do like our service there's no better way to show it. At the same time you'll be assured of more than your money's worth in the year ahead.

### Prairieland Talk —

## Death Takes Child from Clutches of A Maddened North Platte Mother

By ROMAINE SAUNDERS

LINCOLN — North Platte has had its tragedies. Two-gun men, gamblers, reckless devils on horseback, Indians, and stagecoach bandits. All or any of these would have blushed at what a mother out there is accused of doing to her 4-year-old child.



Romaine Saunders

The story is a little one died as a result of beatings administered by a heartless or insane woman, the story of one whose actions read like a story from the enemy's concentration camp.

The father and a daughter testified to unbelievable cruelty of a mother for her offspring that would bring the blush of shame even to devils.

Reports tell of the husband testifying that he had told the mother he would "beat hell" out of her if she did not let the child alone.

Why didn't he? Death took the child from the clutches of a maddened mother—mother, to whom the whole world looks for tenderness and solicitous care for the little ones.

What the coroner's jury determined, what the post mortem report disclosed may be of little note. That there has been such a mother in a Nebraska city in a civilized age must shock the community into doing something to prevent the repetition of such a tragedy.

The CIO now assays the role of authority on taxation with an envious eye on corporation and stockholder profits. Without corporations and organized business enterprise there could be no CIO or other labor organizations.

If "big business" is taxed to death the CIO's will go with it. The workman has his time and the labor of his hands invested in his job. The capitalist has his money supporting the job and his business ability directing the operations. Both are interested in its success.

Each are entitled to compensation according to their investment. If taxation becomes confiscation both CIO and capital are ruined.

Ruth Bryan Rhode was in town to illuminate and elucidate the picture hidden behind the scenes of the United Nations. It was homecoming for the distinguished lady. It was here, in the days when her gifted father captured the presidential nomination with his "crown of thorns and cross of gold," she caught the glitter of romance in the eye of a young artist. One of the big churches opened its doors for the occasion. I haven't felt it was worth a dollar to listen to anyone talk, not even a gifted daughter of her illustrious dad.

Another anniversary of our beating up the Japs on Iwo having roll around, Governor Peterson by official proclamation declares the week beginning the 19th to be a period in observance of that event. The governor does not say whether we are to greet it with 100 guns at sunrise, sound the bugles, go to church or take the week off on full pay.

A Pennsylvania matron had a birthday anniversary last month, the 112th for her. And her name is O'Neill.

Judge Meyer, of Alliance, touched the tender spot in an address at the Lincoln Bar association gathering. It is the pressure groups clamoring for federal funds for localized interests that blocks the way to government economy. Judge Meyer said there are some cracks in our temple of freedom and it is time representative government should be administered for the welfare of the country as a whole irrespective of the pressure groups. Many of these represent powerful organizations. Too often for favors from the White House members of congress are influenced in their actions.

Now comes a story out of Minnesota telling of a potato grower's deal with the government parity price fixers. He was paid \$1.46 per hundred weight for 160,000 pounds of spuds. The parity boys then didn't know what to do with them, so the grower bought his crop back at 1 cent per hundred pound weight. And not a potato had been moved off his place.

School men either outlive their usefulness to a community or seek other fields to labor in after a few seasons at the most. Not so with Ira George. He has headed the O'Neill schools for a longer period than any who have been in service there. I wonder if it is not because he is solid with the kids. The board of education having raised the pay of the force of 22 teachers indicates that body of distinguished citizens feels they had better hang onto a good thing when they have it.

Mr. Acheson says he didn't mean it. Has he had his ear to the ground to learn what America thinks of the Alger Hiss affair. Will the Honorable Secretary enlighten us on what he means when side-stepping his earlier statement by now saying, "One must be true to the things by which he lives. The counsels of discretion and cowardice are appealing."

The scientist under lock and key over in old London for betraying us is said to be the brainiest of them all. Brains without a heart constitute a world menace. The last of the Hebrew prophets saw unclean spirits that looked to him like frogs emanating from some intellectual sources. The reaction of the extra smart is that of the low-brow creak. Both want to be good when caught.

The supreme court reverses the railway commission's findings denying railroads requests to abandon unprofitable train service. If citizens want to hear the train whistle it is up to them to furnish the business to the railroads, which may be on the way out everywhere as more-and-more the rubber tires take over.

Daily hearings are being held by the senate finance committee on House Roll 6,000 that revamps the social security setup and may get at the job of passing or revising the measure within a few weeks. As the house passed the measure there are substantial increases provided for those on the receiving end.

Nebraska is included in the zone regarded as least vulnerable to attack for the location of centralized industries. Let us discourage the defacing of our fair landscape by the introduction of factories belching smoke like volcanoes with attendant labor troubles and the picket lines of malcontents and n'er-do-wells.

Hugh Butler has not ranked among the stellar lights of the U. S. senate, but there are few in that body who consistently saw wood and exercise the solid good sense on legislation and national policies as does the senior senator from Nebraska.

## Gray Infant Dies; Burial at Valentine

PAGE — Funeral services were held at the Catholic church at Valentine at 3 p.m. Friday afternoon, March 10, for Michael Duane Gray, 6-months-old. Rev. Blair had charge of the services and also carried the casket.

Michael Duane, son of Mr. and Mrs. Duane Gray, was born at Valentine August 16, 1949, and passed away at 7 o'clock Monday morning, March 6, at the Valentine hospital following a short illness.

Survivors include: parents; sisters — Velia and VaReane; grandmothers — Mrs. Evelyn Gray, of Page, and Mrs. Mike Lewier, of Butte, and other relatives.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Baber, of Plainview, Mrs. C. E. Walker, of Page, and Ralph Gray, of Inman, attended the funeral services at Valentine. They returned to their homes Saturday.

Mrs. Evelyn Gray had received a message Sunday evening, March 5, telling of the serious illness of her grandson. Mrs. Gray and her son, Ralph Gray, of Inman, drove to Valentine that night. Mrs. Gray is still staying at the home of her son at Valentine.

Grass promotes rapid absorption of rain water.

DIES AT BRISTOW LYNCH — Funeral services for Theodore Londquist, 44, will be today (Thursday) at Bristow. Mr. Londquist passed away at the Robert Bowman home in Bristow early Tuesday morning, March 7. He had been bedfast for several months. His widow survives.

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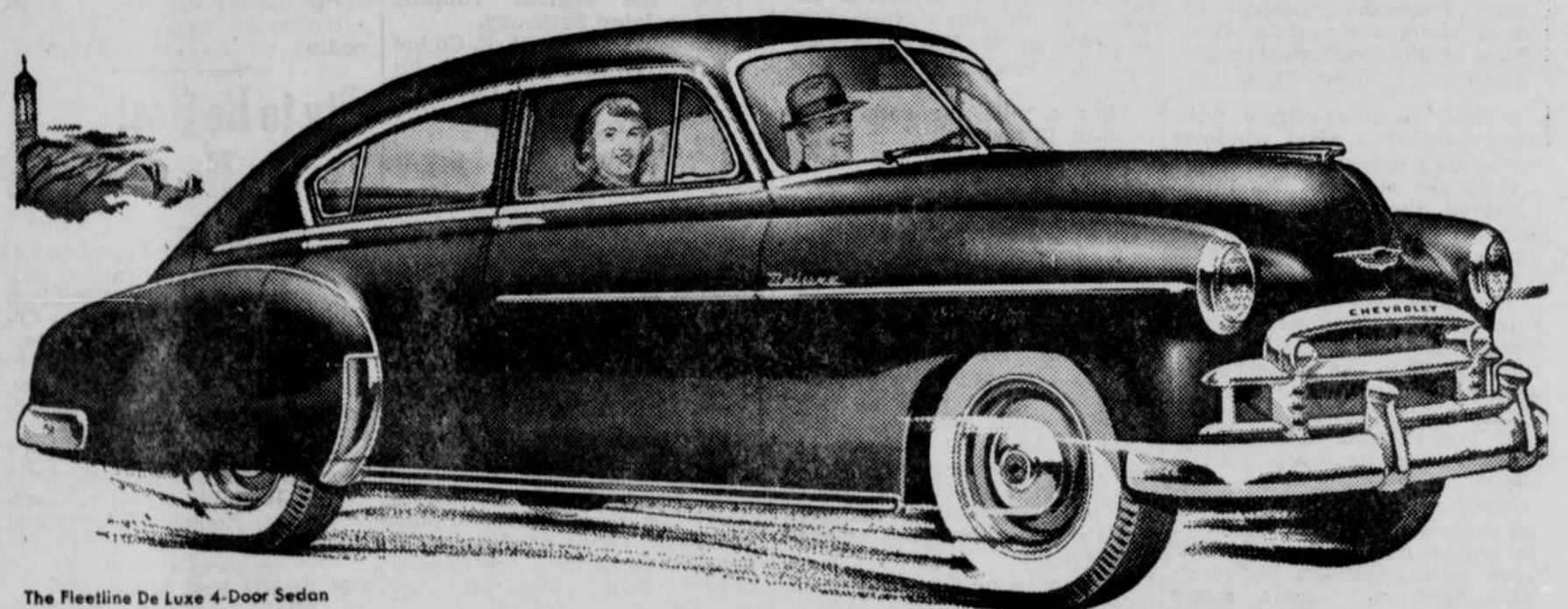
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