

THE FRONTIER

North-Nebraska's Fastest-Growing Newspaper

VOLUME 71.—NUMBER 17.

O'NEILL, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, AUGUST 30, 1951.

PRICE 7 CENTS



Postmaster H. V. Rosenkrans . . . the trunk laden with books was floating around the room.—The Frontier Photo & Engraving.



The Truax family . . . Eva, Hilda, Richard and Fred . . . the high water mark can be seen 18 inches above the ground. — The Frontier Engraving.

Water Hits Redbird

8 - Inches of Water in Postoffice After Cloudburst

(By a Staff Writer)

REDBIRD—A flash-flood late Sunday in the Redbird creek watershed sent a 14-foot wall of water roaring down the valley in the early hours Monday, inundating the Redbird school and several homes and driving some of the residents to higher ground.

At the postoffice, members of the H. V. Rosenkrans family saw the water rush into their home about 1:30 a.m. and rise to about 8 inches in depth. Furniture and other objects floated about the room, including a large trunk filled with books.

At the Fred Truax home the water rose to 18 - inches surrounding the house and filled the rooms with water and muck measuring 6 inches.

Mr. and Mrs. Mike Hull, who are elderly, were unable to seek safety on higher ground and watched water pour into their house. They climbed onto chairs and tables.

The Redbird school, district 3, taught by Mrs. Wills Scholmeyer, was damaged by mud. Workers spent Monday cleaning the school and readying for classes which begin next week. Oldtimers say it's the highest water ever seen at the Redbird village.

Four pigs were drowned at the Art Bessert place. Others reported drowning of chickens and cows.

The Rosenkrans say the water reached its height after 1:30 and by 2:30 had begun to recede.

The Redbird creek drains most of northeast Holt county. Its tributaries include the Blackbird and drain the area up to within about 2½ miles of O'Neill. Rainfall in the basin varied from 3 to 7 inches in depth in the flash-flood.

Wind Raises Havoc in North-Holt County

A tornado swept across the north-Holt county flats Sunday evening causing an untold amount of damage. Nobody was hurt but some livestock perished.

At the Frank Turay estate, 12 miles northeast of O'Neill, the tornado touched down and demolished a hog house, lifted a steel grain bin from its moorings (leaving the grain to spread out over the yard), took the top mechanism off the windmill, wrapped a hay rake around the porch of the house and damaged virtually every roof on the place.

Dick Marston, who made an aerial tour of the region the following day, reported that virtually every haystack in a 6- or 7-mile stretch was toppled over by the wind.

Joe Madura, living north of Turays, lost a windmill and several stacks of hay. There was wind damage also at the Orton Young place.

One bridge on the Lynch highway, south of Redbird, was practically washed out and a large

(Continued on page 4.)



Orphans no more. . . these 5 smiling children, whose ages range from 4 (left) to 11 (center) are now happily at home on the

Vincent Jackson farm, near Venus.—The Frontier Photo & Engraving.

Venus Couple Seeks to Adopt 1, Gets 5

3 Brothers and 2 Sisters Abandoned 2 Years Ago

Other pictures on page 9.

(Note to other editors: Please do not reproduce this story. It is the express wish of the Vincent Jacksons that the story appear in no other newspapers. Read it and you'll understand why.)

By CAL STEWART
Editor, The Frontier

VENUS—If you are a parent you can imagine the transformation that has taken place at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Jackson, northeast of here.

The Jacksons have been married 12 childless years.

For sometime they'd had an application on file at a midwest Catholic orphanage. They wanted a little boy—4-years-old would be just fine.

Last week the orphanage wrote, "We have a boy for you."

Arriving at the orphanage the Jacksons were moved when they encountered a family of 5 children—3 boys and 2 girls. These youngsters had been abandoned by their parents 2 years ago. Tough proposition for orphanage officials to place 5 children—in fact.

Mr. Jackson and his wife, the former Alice Ickler, went into a huddle. In a few moments they announced they'd like to take home all 5. Orphanage officials were delighted. They knew the Jacksons would provide a happy home. Papers were fixed.

Imagine 5 children just about as sweet and handsome as kids could be; 5 children who have been starving for love and affection. Bright kids, too. The girls have long dark hair, brown eyes, braids. The boys are fairer.

Orphanage care had been fine, food had been good. But

unless you've been an orphan yourself you don't know how lonesome, how empty the world can be.

The Jacksons? Well, they live on a farm, 21 miles east and 3 north of O'Neill. They're tenants, good ones. Mrs. Jackson's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Fred Ickler, of Royal. Vince was reared at Creighton. Both came from sizeable families.

Hearts of childless couples certainly are right when they seek to adopt a child. But this reporter runs out of superlatives in writing about the Jacksons.

While the real parents of the 5 children have relinquished all legal rights to the children, the father and mother are still alive. They live "not too far away." To avoid any dramatics any time in the future, the names of the children are being withheld and publicity is being confined to the O'Neill area.

Their Christian names will remain the same, but we are free

to change them if we wish," explained Mr. Jackson.

Only clothing the kids had when they left the orphanage was the clothing they had on.

Saturday night the Jacksons—now 7 of them—were in O'Neill making the rounds of the stores filling wardrobes.

The sudden expansion in the size of the family created certain inconveniences at home that gradually are being worked out. The girls, ages 7 and 8, are sleeping on the davenport until the new bed comes. There weren't enough chairs at the table, but that has been worked out. The boys' ages are 4, 6 and 11.

There's considerable competition among the 5 to determine who sits by their new-found mom and pop at the table, in the car and in church (the family attends St. Patrick's Catholic church in O'Neill).

Pop Jackson's leisure moments are over. There's a big demand

for his attention in helping read books and funnies.

Mom Jackson has discovered she has 2 of the best kitchen helpers that God ever created. It's up from the table and in nothing flat the table has been cleared and dishes done. They're helping gather eggs, too.

I've written lots of stories, many of them routine, mechanical. This is one of those tender, heart-warming stories that could fill a volume, and you find it difficult to tell it in a few short paragraphs.

If you can imagine city orphan kids being transplanted into a congenial home on a farm; if you could see the radiance in those little eyes; if you had an opportunity to witness the displays of love and affection that I've seen in this wonderful home, then you'd have trouble finding words, too.

Mr. and Mrs. Jackson—generous and charitable Christians beyond all bounds! And I think they're lucky.

Peterson to Test Blanket Tax Law

(The following story concerning Charley W. Peterson's test case of the 1949 "blanket tax" school law was written by The Frontier's editor, Carroll W. Stewart, at the request of the Omaha World-Herald and appeared in the Sunday, August 26, issue of the Omaha paper. It is reproduced here in full.)

A suit which will test the constitutionality of the 4-mill "blanket tax" school law adopted by the 1949 legislature was filed here last week.

Charley W. Peterson, extensive Holt county landowner and cattleman, filed an action against J Ed Hancock, Holt county treasurer, seeking to restrain the latter from collecting the "blanket tax" in school district 231.

Mr. Peterson is a substantial owner of land and personal property in the district.

Mr. Peterson, through his attorneys, Julius D. Cronin, of O'Neill, and Daniel Stubbs, of Lincoln, contends that district 231, in which his ranch home is located, had an enrollment of less than 5 pupils during the 1949-1950 and 1950-1951 terms.

Mr. Peterson's suit claims that because of the small number of pupils they will not participate in any distribution of the \$943.98 levied against the Peterson land under the "blanket tax" law.

The assessed valuation of Mr. Peterson's property in district 231, both real and personal, for 1951 is \$235,995. In addition, Mr. Peterson's holdings dominate a number of other districts.

Mr. Peterson charges that under terms of the "blanket law" the money is distributed among all other school districts in the county without any benefit to district 231.

"The tax is not levied uniformly and proportionately and is gross discrimination against the plaintiff and others similarly situated in favor of taxpayers in the larger school districts," the petition declares.

Specifically it charges that the law violates Section 4, Article 8; Section 5, Article 8; Section 6, Article 8, and Section 14, Article 3, of the state constitution.

Section 6, Article 8, provides that no bill shall contain more than one subject and the same shall be clearly expressed in the title.

Mr. Peterson claims that the title to this act does not disclose that elementary school districts with fewer than 5 pupils may not participate in the distribution of the tax levied.

The ruling of the court on this matter will affect a large number of districts in the state.

Mr. Peterson also charges that the law "provides for a tax levy without regard to the needs of the school district" and points to a lack of expenditures in previous years.

Depopulation of districts by expansion of ranch units has caused some district schools to be abandoned and to enter consolidations. There are 35 districts in Holt county with 5 pupils or less.

Mr. Peterson claims that Nebraska law specifically requires a school board to levy a tax in each district necessary for maintenance of schools each year. He maintains that the sections to which he objects are changed and amended . . . without reference to the original sections" with the result that "an intelligent levy could not be made without commingling the provisions of the law."

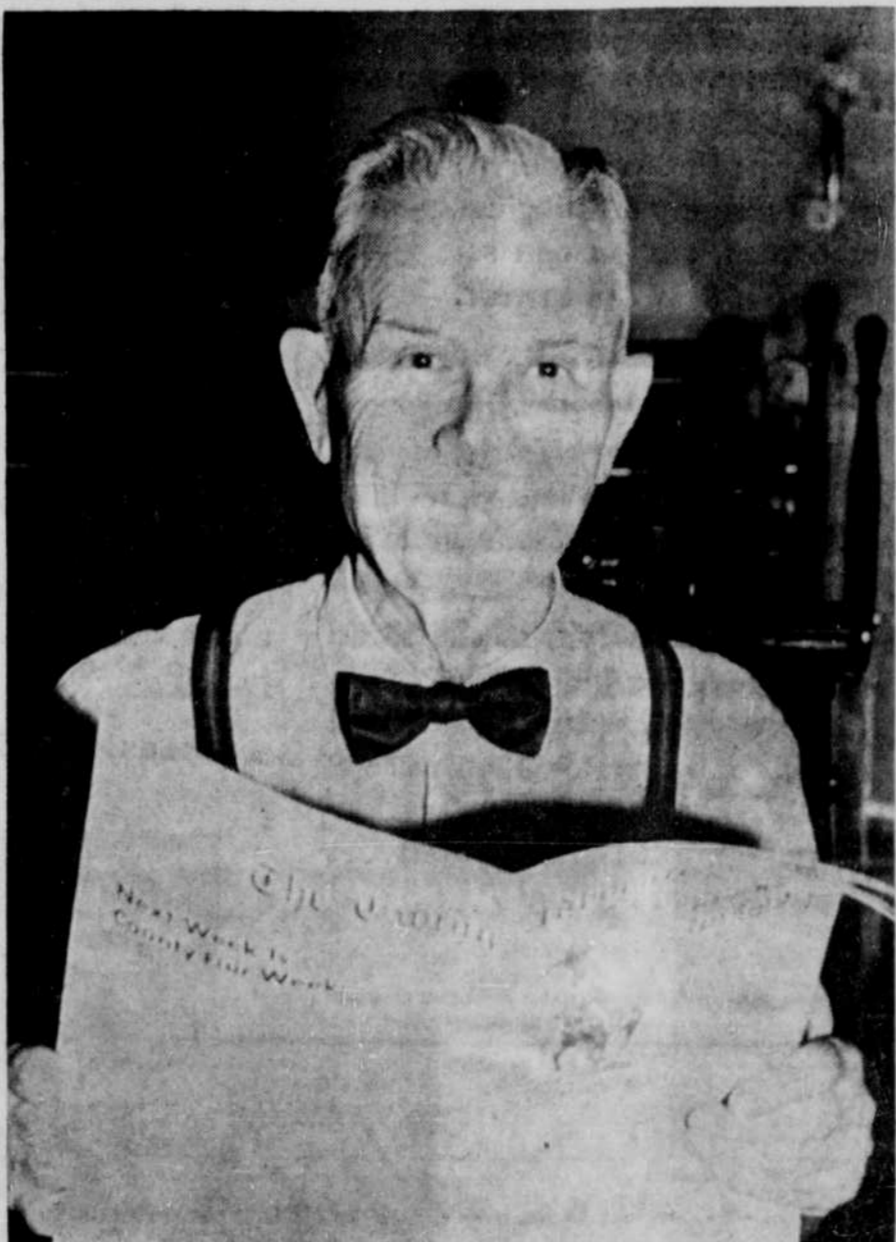
District Court Clerk Ira H. Moss said Saturday the court probably could have "a determination within about 6 weeks if attorneys want to hurry the matter along."

Houser Signed to Teach Music

Charles B. Houser, 33, of Des Moines, Ia., Wednesday was signed to become instrumental music teacher at O'Neill high school. Announcement was made by Supt. D. E. Nelson.

Houser has a bachelor of music degree from Coe college, Cedar Rapids, Ia., and a masters of music from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. A World War II veteran, he is married and has been teaching instrumental music in the Des Moines public school system for 2 years.

Frontier for Printing!



Ray B. Crellin . . . embarked on law career, switched to publishing.—The Frontier Photo & Engraving. (Story at right.)

Weather Warm and Humid for Fair

CHAMBERS—Warm and humid weather is forecast for today (Thursday), opening day of the 59th annual Holt county fair.

Registration Wednesday indicated the 1951 exposition will rank high in quality of livestock, farm produce and handiwork exhibits.

Today is judging day and Friday and Saturday will be packed solid with entertainment. There will be a rodeo both Friday and Saturday afternoons, grandstand acts and dancing each night.

2 Auctions on Frontier's List

Two sales of livestock, farm and having machinery and household goods are listed on The Frontier's sale calendar.

Don Hill, living 5 miles south of O'Neill, 1 mile west and a quarter of a mile south, will auction his personal property, including 80 head of cattle, on Friday, August 31, beginning at 1 o'clock.

Mrs. Alice Matthews, whose son, Robert, will go to the army next week, has set Friday, September 7, as her sale date. She lives at the northeast edge of O'Neill. Her husband, the late Ed Matthews, died several years ago and she and her son have been carrying on farming operations. (See advertisement on page 6.)

Col. Wallace O'Connell will auctioneer both sales.

Crellin Ends 30-Year Career

Ewing Publisher Retires with This Week's Issue

(By a Staff Writer)

EWING—The Ewing Advocate goes to press today for the final time under the guidance of Ray B. Crellin, 64, retiring editor-publisher. Next week Thelma E. Drayton's name will appear on the masthead. As new owner, she takes possession Saturday, September 1.

"A lot of water has gone down the Elkhorn during the 30 years that I have been publishing The Advocate," writes Mr. Crellin, who has been dean of Holt county publishers since the death of Dennis H. Cronin in 1947.

"All good things must come to an end and so it happens to us. It has been a most enjoyable ex-

perience. We have shared the joys, successes and sorrows of the Advocate readers. We are forced on account of our health to turn the job over to new hands. The work has been entirely too much for us the past couple of years and with insufficient help we simply overworked."

Mr. Crellin was born at Lyons, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Crellin. His parents later operated a newspaper at Plainview. It was there "R. B." learned the trade.

He began a law career at the University of Nebraska at World War I interrupted his education. After the war he went to work in the mechanical department of the Norfolk Daily News in 1921 he bought the Advocate from Gary Benson.

The Advocate was a handset. (Continued on page 4.)

John T. Bennan Expires in Utah

John Thomas Bennan, 67, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Neil Bennan, died at his home in Salt Lake City, Utah, Monday, August 27.

He was born in O'Neill and attended All Hallows high school and college in Salt Lake City.

As a young man, he operated a general dry goods and grocery store in O'Neill for several years and, after moving west, he went into the advertising business which he continued until a year ago when he suffered a stroke. He had not been well since that time.

Survivors are: Widow, Caroline; son, John; and daughter, Caroline, all of Salt Lake City; 9 grandchildren; 2 brothers—Neil, of Gering, and Thomas, of Lincoln; 2 sisters—Mrs. J. A. (Margaret) Pfeiler, of Hot Springs, S. D., and Miss Bernadette Brennan, of O'Neill. A brother, Col. F. M. Brennan, and 2 sisters, Mrs. Edward (Neil) Donahue and Mrs. J. B. (Sarah) Ryan, preceded him in death.

Roy Lowry, Wife Plan Observance

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Lowry on Tuesday, September 4, will celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. They plan an open-house observance from 2 until 5 p.m.

Miss Thelma E. Drayton . . . newcomer to journalistic field.

