

Lease - Holders Biding Time

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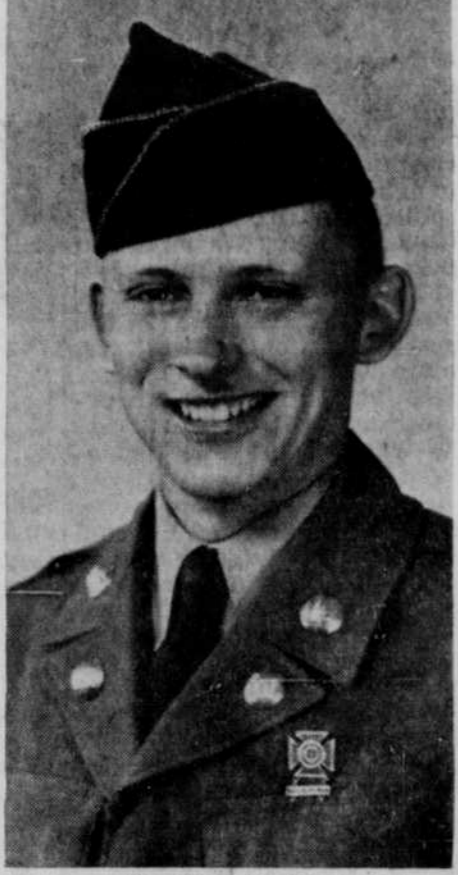
O'NEILL, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1951.

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Adopt 'Wait - and - See' Attitude on Sales

(See statement on page 11.) Holt county's school land leaseholders are biding their time this week while marshalling strength for a legal battle, if necessary, to stop the sale of school land leases.

Their organization, the Holt County School Land Lease-Holders' association, has retained William P. Kelley, of an Omaha law firm, Matthews, Kelley, Matthews and Delephant.



The Frontier Engraving
Private Boyer... a Page high school graduate in 1945.

No action had been filed until Wednesday. The Holt people are awaiting the outcome of a restraining order being sought in federal court in Lincoln.

The plaintiff in the federal court action is a Grant leaseholder, who says he is testing the selling of the leases in behalf of himself and about 2,300 other lease-holders in the state. The Grant man wants to restrain the state from going ahead with the sales.

A week ago the Holt organization met and reelected Ira C. Watson, of Inman, president; James W. Rooney, of O'Neill, secretary-treasurer.

Harold Cowan, of the Omaha World-Herald's staff, spent Tuesday and Wednesday in Holt getting "the other side" of the lease sale story.

The state board of educational lands and funds has set about to sell at auction about 2,300 leases renewed throughout the state since 1947. These are being sold because a recent state supreme court ruling invalidates the 1947 law, which stated that the current lessee had the absolute right to renew the lease at the expiration of the term.

These leases since 1947 are 12-year agreements. During the interval many lease-holders have geared their operations large and small, to a 12-year plan. In many instances they have built or made improvements.

The supreme court held an unconstitutional automatic renewals.

There are 193 Holt county leases and 166 individuals affected by the court's ruling, which means their 12-year agreements with the state of Nebraska are worthless.

Twenty-one leases are to be offered for sale here next month. Only 3 are for full sections.

In auctions already conducted in the western Nebraska wheat areas, without exception the leases have been for entire sections.

Most of Holt county's 166 leases are not regarded as "big operators." In some instances real hardship will result if the sales are conducted as scheduled.

Rooney was quoted in Wednesday's World-Herald as saying, "That's a regular little dictatorship at Lincoln. Lessees are at the mercy of the board and the governor."

Watson claims "the state board was 'too hasty in starting to sell the leases. I don't believe anyone around here would have objected if the leases were allowed to run their course. Nobody objects to the policy of auctioning leases. But to renege on a contract places the lessee in an awful predicament."

There is a widespread idea in the state that school land leaseholders have been making a killing.

"This is not true in the hay country," Watson explains. "A typical hay land lease-holder last year had about \$12 invested in every ton of hay, including rent and operational costs. And, if he got rich, it was not on school land," he said.

One lessee with a half-section near O'Neill told The Frontier he would be happy to lose his school land lease.

"We're paying too much for it; we can rent other land for less," he explained.

Officials of the Holt association are anxious for the public and prospective bidders to know exactly what they are buying when the Holt auctions begin October 12. Rooney has prepared a statement on page 11.

(See legal notice on page 7 for description of school land leases and sale dates.)

Sam Barnard Fractures Hip

Sam Barnard, 91, father of Mrs. C. E. Yantzi, fell and fractured his hip last Thursday morning.

He was taken to Clarkson hospital in Omaha in Biglin Bros. ambulance.

He was accompanied by Mrs. Stanley Soukup, R. N., and his granddaughter, Margaret Jean Metschke. His condition is reported as "very good."

Danceland Is Being Torn Down

The pavilion at Danceland, located 1 1/2 miles northwest of the city, is being razed this week.

The corner, at the junction of U.S. highways 20 and 281, will be the site of a drive-in theater.

The property was surveyed a week ago.

Frontier for printing.

PAGE SOLDIER KILLED IN KOREA

Pfc. Gerald F. Boyer Overseas Short Time: Here in April

PAGE—Pfc. Gerald F. Boyer, 23, a Page high school graduate in 1945, has been reported killed in action on August 27.

News of the casualty reached relatives this week.

He was a son of Oscar Boyer and Mrs. E. C. Wilbur, who formerly lived at Page but now resides at Fremont.

Private Boyer was inducted December 5, 1950, at Ft. Riley, Kans. In February of this year he went to Ft. Belvoir, Va., for further training with the army combat engineers.

In April he was home on furlough for 2 weeks after which he went overseas. He was a member of the Second infantry division.

Boyer was not inducted from Holt county.

Survivors include: Sisters—Mrs. Leo (Ruth) Wiseman, of Page; Mrs. Joseph Kencil, of Madison, and Betty Ann Boyer, of Fremont; brothers—Ernest Boyer, of Fremont, and Pfc. Richard J. Boyer, of Presque Isle, Me., who is in the air force.

Sunset Members Feted at Ewing

EWING—The 31st annual sunset banquet was held Thursday evening, September 20, at the Ewing Methodist church parlors, sponsored by the Women's Society of Christian Service.

At 5:30 the registration of the members and guests began. Each member was tagged with the state or country in which he or she was born.

On the program were: Rev. John Graham, toastmaster; Rev. Charles Chappell, prayer of thanks; Mrs. R. B. Crellin, welcome; Miss Anna Van Zandt, response; songs, by A. A. Alden, accompanied by Mrs. Chappell at the piano; music, by R. B. Crellin, on his accordion with Andrew Olson on the autoharp; interviews by Wm. Spence; presentation of prizes, by Mrs. Harold Harris; Rev. P. F. Burke, benediction.

Interviews began with James Gunter, who was born in Holt county before Ewing was on the map. W. A. Brown reviewed highlights of important state and national events; Mrs. Nellie Conner began a chain of stories which might have been called an "old-timers' roundup." Mrs. Leota Butler, Mrs. Minnie Primus, Mrs. J. C. Kay and her brother, George Davies, of Lincoln, told of incidents which occurred during the terrible blizzard of 1888.

School days were recalled when a teacher received \$15 a month and often was the person in the community with the best education. Prairie fires, a serious menace in those early days, were thoroughly rehearsed. George Davies said pioneer Nebraska was a sportsman's paradise.

Many of the sunset club members have wandered far from the place of their birth. Countries represented were Belgium, Denmark, England, Wales, Germany and Canada. States represented were Illinois, Kansas, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Indiana, West Virginia, New Mexico, Iowa and, of course, Nebraska. Nels Jacobson, 87, born in Denmark, was the eldest present.

DIES IN KOREA

Pvt. Charles Vance, of Naper, was killed in action in Korea on August 15. This word has been received by his mother, Mrs. Hatie Vance. The soldier's father was the late Harry S. Vance.

WRITES TODAY FOR MRS. RENTSCHLER

Death Claims Another Member of Pioneer O'Donnell Family

Death Tuesday, September 25, claimed the life of another member of the pioneer O'Donnell family.

Mrs. F. M. Rentschler, 78, nee B. O'Donnell, died at 10:15 a.m. at the O'Neill hospital, where she had been a patient since Friday when she suffered an apoplectic stroke. She was not unconscious following the attack.

On July 14 her brother, Patrick, died suddenly.

Funeral rites will be conducted at 10:30 a.m. today (Thursday) at St. Patrick's Catholic church. Burial will be in Calvary cemetery. A rosary rite was held Wednesday evening at 8:30 o'clock at the O'Donnell residence.

The late Mrs. Rentschler was born September 10, 1873, at Audenried, Pa., a daughter of the late John P. and Ellen Brennan O'Donnell. She was reared at O'Neill.

In July, 1918, she married F. M. Rentschler, of Springfield, at O'Neill. She lived in Springfield until Mr. Rentschler's death, whereupon she returned to O'Neill.

Survivors include: Brothers—John O'Donnell, of Palo Alto, Calif.; M. F. O'Donnell, of Dallas, Tex.; Edward L. O'Donnell, of Salina, Kans.; sisters—Mrs. E. J. Lyman, of Omaha; Miss Anna L. O'Donnell, of O'Neill, and Mrs. Susan Deaver, of O'Neill.

Biglin Bros. are in charge of funeral arrangements. Pallbearers will be H. E. Coyne, P. C. Donohoe, F. N. Cronin, P. B. Harty, Bennett Gilligan, Joseph Gallagher, Harry Harte and Edward Campbell.

Cub Trophy Award to Stanley Cobb

Monday night, September 24, at the courthouse in O'Neill, the Boy Scout district held its first meeting of the school year. Forty-four Scouts and Cubs representing every town in the district were present, also all of the assistant scoutmasters and all but one of the scoutmasters.

Excellent participation was reported by Dick Miller, field executive.

The scouting roundtable discussion was conducted by Richard Perry, of O'Neill, and the Cub scouting talks were led by William Yost, of Stuart.

The district meeting, which preceded the roundtable sessions, was led by J. E. Davis, of O'Neill, who acted in the absence of District President Judge D. R. Mounts.

The program of the district meeting covered the following items: A commissioner's flag, to be donated by Mr. and Mrs. Don Lyons, of O'Neill, the flag to be passed each month to the troop which has had the largest increase in membership during the preceding month; a contest was originated whereby all Cubs and Scouts in the district will submit designs of the proposed flag during the next 30 days, the boy submitting the winning design will receive a wall plaque; and, finally, the presentation of the Cub trophy to Stanley Cobb, of Stuart. This trophy was presented on the basis of increase in membership during August.

Final plans were discussed for a camporee to be held October 5, 6 and 7 on the Scout "40", 4 miles east of O'Neill. Good participation is expected. Discussion of the fall roundup also took place. The boys are "going all-out for it," according to Miller. Additional prizes have been added besides the pony. These include: a bicycle, a set of luggage and a television set.

Refreshments were served after the Monday meeting. Husbands, wives and friends are invited to the next district session, Miller added.

Nick Baker Honored on 78th Anniversary

REDBIRD—A community birthday party was held recently for Nick Baker on his 78th anniversary. A large crowd of neighbors and relatives gathered at the Baker farm home to surprise him.

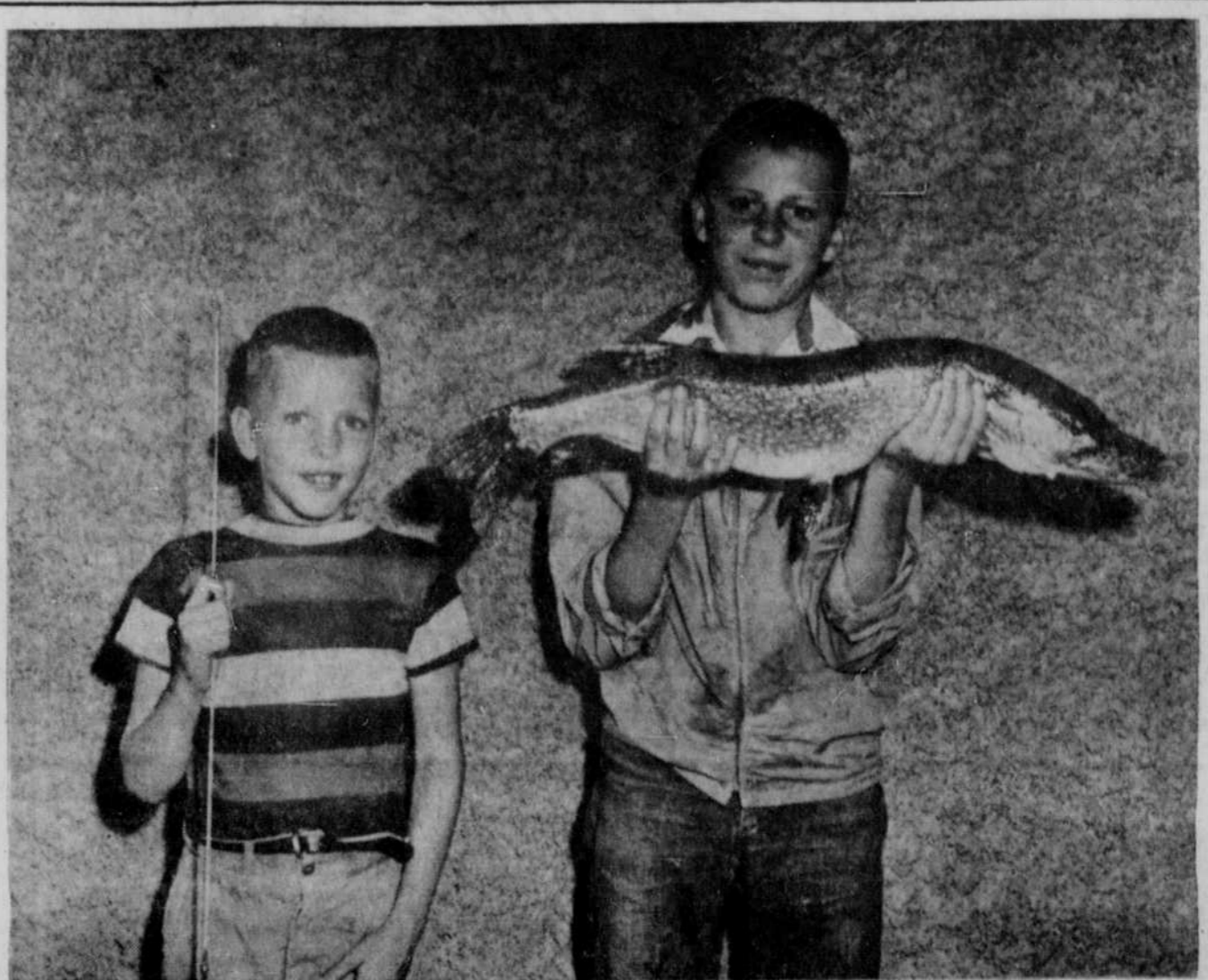
Progressive pitch was played. Nick opened his many gifts.

DELINQUENTS NEXT WEEK

First publication of the Holt county delinquent tax list will be made next week. Taxes that are to become delinquent next week must be paid by noon Saturday, September 29, to avoid publication and accompanying costs.

Attend Ordination

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Manson attended the ordination of Ronald Burt at the Clay Center Christian church on Sunday.



LADS LAND 30-INCH NORTHERN... James ("Buck") McAdams, 15 (holding fish), and his brother, John, celebrated John's 8th birthday anniversary Friday by landing a 30-inch 7 1/4-pound northern pike in an Elkhorn river bayou. They have lived in O'Neill only a short time. "Buck" has consistently been pulling out big fellows since his arrival, uses pork rind for bait, improvising it to resemble frog legs.

ATKINSON MAN DIES IN STREET

Heart Attack Fatal to Claus Dierks, 64; Rites Tuesday

ATKINSON—Claus Dierks, 64, Atkinson resident for more than half a century, was stricken with a heart attack on the streets of Atkinson in the early morning hours Sunday and is believed to have died immediately.

His body was discovered about 8 o'clock by Simeon Ames, who was enroute to work. The body was found north of the Ames residence.

Mr. Dierks had been seen about midnight and was enroute home when he died. Dr. N. P. McKee said death was caused by a heart attack.

Funeral services were conducted Tuesday, September 25, at 2 p.m. at the Presbyterian church. Burial was in Wood Lawn cemetery. Rev. Orin C. Graf officiated.

Survivors include: Brothers—Henry, of Atkinson; William, of Scottsbluff; sisters—Mrs. Ed (Margaret) Clausen, of Atkinson; Tina, of Omaha, and Anna, of California.

The late Mr. Dierks was born at Scribner. He was a laborer for many years in the Atkinson community.

Doubt U.S. 281 Finish in 1951

Although a contract for gravel surfacing on about 5 miles of U.S. 281 between Camp and Eagle creeks, north of O'Neill, was awarded September 18, state highway officials doubt that the construction will be completed in 1951.

Lee & Johnson, Inc., of Sioux City, has an \$8,528.50 contract for supplying and placing 4,160 cubic yards of gravel on the 4.8 miles of highway. Contracts for grading and constructing culverts on this portion of 281, the last project in rebuilding the highway from O'Neill to the Spencer corner, were awarded in June, 1951. According to highway department construction reports, as of September 15, only 11 percent of the culvert work and only 34 percent of the grading work was done. This grading work percentage includes that done on the detour as well as on the highway.

The extremely wet summer just past has made normal construction progress impossible, according to Harold L. Aitken, state engineer.

"It's no easier for contractors to use their heavy grading equipment when the ground is soaked than it is for farmers to plow their fields when they are muddy," Aitken said.

He declared that the grading and culvert work on this portion of 281 could be finished during November "only if the weather if practically perfect every day between now and then."

Laying the gravel will require about a month after the grading and culvert work is completed. The highway most likely will not be completed until the spring of 1952.

Postmaster Exam Being Reopened

The civil service commission has announced that competitive examinations for the O'Neill postmastership are being reopened. Examinations were given earlier this year to 3 candidates: Acting Postmaster Thomas J. Sullivan, John Hynes and Lester Jonas. Examinations are being given again in order that at least 3 candidates can be graded.

Sullivan has been acting postmaster since January 1, when Mrs. Agnes E. Sullivan retired. There is no relation between the Sullivans.

Region Escapes Damaging Freeze

Corn raisers in the O'Neill region have kept their fingers crossed this week.

The weatherman has threatened a freeze on at least 3 occasions, but thus far the region has escaped frost.

The weather during the week has been characterized by dampness, cloudy skies, chill winds and late autumn-like atmosphere. Lowest temperature during the week was 36, posted early Saturday morning. There were no reports of frost damage, however, in the immediate area.

Showers Sunday afternoon and evening netted well over an inch of moisture. There were traces of moisture on several other occasions.

Average date for a killing frost here is about September 12.

County Agent A. Neil Dawes estimates Holt's corn needs from 2 to 3 weeks of good weather to mature and he doubts seriously if Mr. Freeze will hold off.

Many farmers probably will realize more out of their corn by cutting it for silage. Denting has only nicely begun.

Week's weather summary, based on 24-hour periods ending at 6 p.m., daily, follows:

Date	Hi	Lo	Prec.
September 19	75	50	
September 20	80	47	
September 21	51	44	
September 22	69	38	
September 23	52	36	
September 24	68	38	1.03
September 25	60	45	

Forbearance Asked in Mail Deliveries

Postal officials here this week urged forbearance on the part of patrons on the new door-to-door mail delivery routes, which go into effect October 1.

The transition from box and general delivery to door-to-door service involves considerable detail work, explained Assistant Postmaster Harold E. Weier, and "we'll be several weeks getting all the wrinkles ironed out."

The carriers will be John Hines and Jerry Spittler. Hines, presently a clerk, will work the main route in residential and business sections in the forenoons. Spittler will handle the afternoon downtown district delivery and handle parcel post deliveries throughout the city.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

Joseph Francis Hansen and Miss Kathleen Dolores Flood, both of O'Neill, on September 24. Ronald Everett Borg, of O'Neill, and Miss Rosemary Kramer, of Stuart, on September 24.

FORMER HOLT OFFICIAL DIES

John C. Gallagher, 59, Rites Today at St. Patrick's

A former Holt county clerk, John C. Gallagher, 59, died Monday, September 24, at 8:30 p.m. at his home here. He had been in failing health for several years and had been critically ill several days prior to his death.

Funeral services will be conducted at 9 a.m. today (Thursday) in St. Patrick's Catholic church. Burial will be in Calvary cemetery with Biglin Bros. in charge. A rosary was offered Wednesday evening at 8 o'clock at the Gallagher home.

Pallbearers will be Leo Carney, P. B. Harty, M. J. Golden, Jack Arbuthnot, M. H. Goriskey and John Sullivan.

The late Mr. Gallagher, son of William F. and Fannie Murphy Gallagher, was born October 16, 1891, at O'Neill. He graduated from O'Neill high school in 1909.

On June 4, 1924, he married Fannie H. Harper at Kirksville, Mo. They became the parents of 4 sons and 1 daughter.

The late Mr. Gallagher was employed 1909-12 by the late R. R. Morrison store; 1912-16 by the J. P. Gallagher store and from 1922-26 he operated the Grand cafe here. He was elected Holt county clerk in 1930. Between 1917 and 1925 he was O'Neill city clerk. In recent years he served as night clerk at the Golden hotel. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Survivors include: Widow; sons—John, Jr., of Gothenburg; William, of O'Neill; Jerome, who is in the army stationed at Ft. Monmouth, N.J.; James, of O'Neill; daughter—Miss Mary Ann, who is in nurses' training at St. Catherine's hospital, Omaha.

All of the children were to be here for the funeral.

Manford Ross, Wife Married 62 Years

Mr. and Mrs. N. Manford Ross on Saturday, September 22, celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary.

They were married at Boone, Ia., in 1889.

Mr. Ross came to Holt county in May, 1904, serving as the vanguard for the family. He brought with him household goods and livestock.

Mrs. Ross, the former Anna Louise Forslund, and the children followed later. The family farmed northeast of Midway, about 20 miles north of O'Neill, for many years. Later, Mr. Ross was a mason.

They have 2 sons and 1 daughter: Elmer, of O'Neill; Mrs. Martha Miller, of Fremont, and John, of Atkinson. There are 5 grandchildren.

Neither Mr. or Mrs. Ross enjoys good health.

Spencer Pair Wed 51 Years—

SPENCER—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Kayls, of Spencer, Sunday, September 23, celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary. Mrs. Kayls was bedfast a year ago at the time of their golden wedding. They observed open-house at the Community hall.

A daughter, Mrs. Frank Weder, was receptionist.

ENTERTAINS EDUCATORS

ATKINSON—Superintendent of Schools Harold Hutcheson, of Atkinson, will be host to approximately 75 educators from north-central Nebraska today (Thursday) at 4:30 p.m. The group will make plans for teachers' conventions in October and discuss educational problems.

COLLISION AT CORNER

There was an automobile-truck collision at the corner of Seventh and Douglas streets about 7 o'clock Sunday evening. Vehicles belonging to Roy Shelhammer, of O'Neill, and Mr. Van Fleet, of Royal, were damaged, but no one was injured.

PHONE HEARING SET

Friday, November 2, has been set as the date for a hearing in Lincoln by the state railway commission. The complaint of the Page Improvement club, charging that telephone service at Page is "poor and inadequate," will be heard at that time.

HAY STILL IN WATER

DELOIT—It soon will be corn-picking time but ranchers west of here are still trying to get their hay out of the water. Rain fell here Friday and Sunday. The corn crop will be good if the frost stays away at least another 2 weeks.