

# Johannah Hayes Meals Nears 100 Year Mark; Pioneer Extraordinary

By Maude Silverstrand  
Special Writer for The Frontier

In a few weeks a little white haired lady—a woman of three frontiers will celebrate her 100th birthday.

Mrs. Johannah Hayes Meals and her offspring, are part of a living heritage that we may all enjoy, that we may take part in, and that we may all read about.

Her father, Morgan Hayes, was a personal friend of General John O'Neill, the generally accepted founder of the O'Neill community.



MRS. MEALS  
... frontier lady

Mrs. Hayes, now visiting her daughter in Alaska, is still in an Anchorage hospital with a broken hip bone. She will celebrate her birthday Sept. 23 and said she hopes to arrive home by Christmas.

Grandma Meals, affectionately known by many when she lived from 1836 to 1942 at the home of her son, George, was a staunch Republican, a gay prankster and a challenging character. She laughingly tells how she and her beau stood on either side of the Elkhorn and hollared their conversation across the swollen river. Her hobbies are knitting, crocheting and reading. Like most old people, she recalls the past more vividly than the present but her mind is extremely keen.

## ROYAL THEATER

Thurs. Family Night Sept. 3  
"FRANCIS IN THE HUNTER HOUSE"  
Starring Mickey Rooney, with Virginia Welles, Paul Cavanaugh and Francis "The Talking Mule".  
Adm.: Adults 65c; children 15c. Family \$1.00

Fri.-Sat. Sept. 4-5  
First time on the screen! In Cinemascope and color by DeLuxe. Cannot be seen on TV.  
"SON OF ROBIN HOOD"  
Starring Al Hedison, June Laverrick, David Farrar and Marius Goring.  
Adm.: Adults 65c; children 15c. All children unless in arms must have tickets. Matinee Sat., 2:30.

Sun.-Mon.-Tues. Sept. 6-7-8-9-10  
Warner Bros. presents Audrey Hepburn as Sister Luke, who was not like the others, in Fred Zinnemann's production of "THE NUN'S STORY"  
In Technicolor.  
Co-starring Peter Finch as the cynical Congo Surgeon, Dr. Fortunati.  
Adm.: Adults 65c; children 15c. All children unless in arms must have tickets. Matinee Sun., 2:30.

but it is known that he came to Nebraska with him on his scouting trip for the O'Neill colony he expected to bring later. It is believed that this was around the year 1872 or 1873. He and his son, Michael, came out the next year with team and wagon and a plow. They built a sod house and other sheds and then returned to Iowa to get their 50 head of cattle.

This time they were accompanied by another son, Will. The following fall, Hannorah and their son, Pat, came to Nebraska by train to Sioux City with a carload of household goods and other gear. Following close behind them bringing a covered wagon and 15 head of horses was the rest of the family, our Johannah, her brother, Jack, and her sister, Lizzie. Johannah is not positive about the year but she does remember that they landed in O'Neill on St. Patrick's day and there was nothing there except Haggerty's store. The Hayes settled on a piece of land later home-steaded by Pat and now owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. John Silverstrand. It is located quite close to the Elkhorn River 2 miles south and 1 east of Atkinson.

As a young woman, Mr. Meals taught the first school in Stuart, Nebraska in a sod schoolhouse. The term was for three months at \$15.00 per month.

She remembers the anxious vigil over her father who had accidentally been shot in the left arm. It was 5 days before they could obtain competent help. An army doctor came from Norfolk and by this time it was necessary to amputate the arm. The only relief the injured man had was from cold packs applied by Johannah and other members of the family.

It was at a neighborhood dance held at the Nick O'Connell place south of Atkinson that she met Andrew Jackson Meals.

Andrew led a colorful life all the way from being run off his homestead at the age of 15 by a tough older gentleman, to his job at that time with the Pratt Ferris Co. He had built the first house in Rooks county, Kansas on the Medicine River, driven a stage, located wagon roads, run pack trains, built trains, the last ones at Pioche and other mining camps in Nevada. He then took a job with Pratt and Ferris who held government contracts to haul heavy supplies for the army post at Fort Meade, Fort Robinson and Sturgis up in the Badlands of Dakota Territory.

Andrew was in charge of one of these hauls enroute to Dakota Territory when he made camp that evening near the Nick O'Connell home. They invited him to the dance and there she was, the girl who was to become his wife. They were married July 10, 1881 at O'Neill and moved to their homestead located 2 miles south and one west of Atkinson and now owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. Warren Marr.

About 1885 they moved to O'Neill. Mrs. Meals remembers that she and her husband rode the first passenger train into Rapid City, South Dakota on the

old Fremont, Elkhorn and Missouri Valley Railroad.

The Blizzard of '88 is well marked in her memory. During their years in O'Neill Andrew became county treasurer and served several years in this office during the early 1890's.

In 1898 he and a partner, George Hazlett, went to Alaska and prospecting the Copper river and Copper Center to Chistochena headwaters. They took the first horse, old Keny, across the Valdez glacier. In May of 1899 they found coarse gold on Chesna Creek and located claims for themselves and their relatives and old friends. In the meantime, Johannah, as women have from time memorial, stayed at home but in 1903 Papa decided to take his family to Alaska with him. Capt. Frank Meals says he doesn't recall the exact date they left O'Neill but school was dismissed so that their schoolmates could see them off. Eddie Gallagher, now president of the First National Bank was one of the kids.

Those who have read the history of this period can imagine the trails of the pioneer mother in this raw territory but Johannah was tough, she had pioneered before. She watched and was and has been a part of this territory, from those early days to its present one of statehood.

Mr. Meals died in 1927.

Andrew Jackson Meals and Johannah Hayes Meals had 5 sons and one daughter; 13 grandchildren, 13 great grandchildren.

Owen of Valdez, Alaska. He has lived there for many years, promoted, and now owns and operates the Valdez Power, Light and Telephone Co. When air travel in Alaska became possible he came to Denver, Colo. and studied flying. His wife is post-mistress at Valdez.

Capt. Frank M. Meals USCG (Ret.) of Sebastopol, Calif. The Capt. is doing research on the family tree and it is to him and his brother, George, that I am indebted for most of this material.

John, an accountant and lives in Seattle Wash. One son, William was last heard from when he was in Juneau, Alaska. A daughter, Mary and her family, the Whalens, live in Valdez and Mrs. Whalens cares for her aged mother.

Then there is their son George Meals, who with his twin sons, Melvin and Marvin, owns and operates the Meals farm and ranch 4 1/2 miles south of Atkinson on Highway 11. For several years George was a freighter hauling supplies by sled and wagon to the mining camps at Fairbanks, Alaska.

Other children of George who grew to womanhood in this community are Loretta Meals Black of Denver and Nora Meals Kro-

china of Amsterdam, New York. There are 9 other grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren. Among other relatives in the Atkinson and O'Neill area are Mrs. Nora Andrus Hayes, a sister-in-law; nephew, Lawrence Hayes and niece, Mrs. Leonard Ulrich, the former Nona Hayes and Mrs. John Fox, the former Helen Hayes, all of Atkinson, and nieces and nephews of the Cronin, Grady and Hart families of O'Neill. Johannah, herself, had a twin brother who died at birth and several other brothers and sisters.

## Page News

By Mrs. Ben Asher  
September 7, Labor Day, the American Legion auxiliary will hold their annual smorgasbord. Doors open at 4 p.m.

Mrs. Frank Belik accompanied her daughter, Mrs. Cliff Monical, to Oklahoma City, where she will stay for a couple of months. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Wettlaufer plan to go and bring her home. Mrs. Belik is Mrs. Wettlaufer's mother.

The N.O.K. club met with Mrs. Oate Wiseman on Thursday. Mrs. Carrie Sterner will be the September 10 hostess.

Mr. and Mrs. Edward Sukup were Friday guests at the Delbert Anson home.

Karen Heese and Andrea Wettlaufer were Friday night and Saturday morning guests of Roberta Asher. Friday night Mr. and Mrs. Ben Asher took them and Debbie to the Drive-In.

The last meeting of the 4-H Nifty Needlers was held at the Legion club on Friday afternoon. They finished their record books. The "Let's Cook" and the "Beginning Baking" girls brought cookies. Games were furnished by Roberta Asher.

Mrs. Howard Hill and baby, Leah Renee have been at the Edd Stewart home since their dismissal from the hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Heese plan to move to O'Neill next week.

Gary Bowen left Friday for Omaha where he will spend a few days with friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Gene Mudloff took their son, Norman, to Omaha for X-ray on his back. It's been bothering him for some time.

Connie Nissen and Juanita Ragland had a combined birthday party Friday night at the I.O.O.F. hall. All the freshmen and sophomores were invited. Mrs. Don Nissen and Mrs. William Ragland served lunch.

Norman Wettlaufer did chores for Mr. and Mrs. R. V. Crumly while they were on a trip to Colorado Springs.

Mr. and Mrs. Ted Stevens of Sioux Falls were Friday evening guests at the Kenneth Wettlaufer home.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Walker left Tuesday for their new home in Cairo. Eddie will teach 7th and 8th grade English and coach in the Junior high.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Asher and family, Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Harvey and family and Mr. and Mrs. Ben Asher and family were Saturday night callers at the Frieda Asher home.

Mrs. Frieda Asher and Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Asher and family returned home Friday from their trip. They visited Mr. and Mrs. Albert Snoeck and family in Van Nuys, Calif. They visited many places including Disneyland and saw quite a few friends and relatives. On the way home they stopped at Yellowstone Park before going on to the Richard Asher home in Powell, Wyo., where they spent a couple of days visiting.

On Thursday night they were overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Robbins of Rushville. Kenneth Asher, Mrs. Snoeck and Dick Asher are sisters and brothers, children of Mrs. Frieda Asher.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Heiss left for Powell, Wyo., where they will visit with their daughter and son-in-law and family. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Asher.

The drill squad team of the American Legion have been practicing in preparation for the District 2 convention. The drill squads of Holt county will compete for prizes. The convention will be held at Stuart Monday, September 21.

The Page legionnaires will perform on Community day here at Page.

A picnic was held at the park Sunday afternoon in honor of Dixie Nissen, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Nissen. Dixie will leave September 8 for Lincoln where she will train at Bryan Memorial Nursing school.

Mrs. Otto Madschullat was staying in the Dale Madschullat home taking care of her grand children while Mrs. Dale Madschullat was in the hospital. She and baby, Jan Marie, were released Monday from St. Anthony's.

Mr. and Mrs. William Fink of Denver have been visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Trowbridge of Page and Mr. and Mrs. Bert Fink of Ewing. Their children, who have been spending a few weeks here, will accompany them home.

The Ben Fuelberths of Osmond were Sunday afternoon visitors of Mrs. Frieda Asher.

Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Harvey went to Sioux City Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Wright.

The Golden Rule extension club held their annual family picnic at the Page park Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Parks of Omaha brought their son, Ronnie here on Friday so that he can stay with his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Brian Stevens and go to school in Page.

THE FRONTIER, O'Neill, Nebraska, Thursday, September 3, 1938

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Nissen and family were supper guests at the George Clasey home Friday night. Considerable hail fell in the Page community on Friday. Damage was reported to a number of cornfields.

## Star Community News

By Mrs. Ewalt Miller  
Mr. and Mrs. Bob Tomlinson called at the Ewalt Miller home Friday forenoon.

The Frank Kopejka family moved to Page to make their home instead of to Inman as was reported last week.

Barbara Miller spent several days at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Lysle Johnson and family.

Mrs. Ben Vonasek and daughter, Ruth called at the Lysle Johnson home Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Hibbs and sons were Sunday visitors at the Duane Sukup home near Page.

Mr. and Mrs. Ewalt Miller and Barbara had supper Sunday evening with the Lysle Johnson family.

Soren Sorenson, jr. called on Ewalt Miller Saturday afternoon. Miss Mary Jo Curran of O'Neill, spent the past week with Irma Juracek.

Mrs. Awaft Spangler and daughter, Mrs. Marvin Johnson left this week to visit another daughter, Mrs. Eva Kurtz in California. Mrs. Kurtz has recently submitted to major surgery.

The Gibson, Star and Cedar Corner schools opened this week. The teachers are Mrs. Eileen Lee, Mrs. Iva G. Brady and Miss Ruth Vonasek.

## Amelia News

Crowded Out Last Week's News  
Sp-4 Don Peterson returned home Sunday evening from Ft. Knox, Ky., where he had served two weeks in the active reserves.

Two friends were also at the camp and brought Don to Amelia. They were Pte Gene Atkinson of Medicine Bow, Wyo., and Sp-4 Clayton Neptune from Colorado.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Leach of Omaha came Monday and visited Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Jungman. They plan to attend Hay Days in Atkinson.

Friends here received word of the recent death of an old time Amelia resident, Glen Shively, presently of California. Mrs. Shively was the former Ollie Medina. Richard Flannery of Atkinson helped his uncle, Ed Jungman, in the hayfield Monday.

Little Shelly Miles stayed with her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. M. B. Kennedy, while her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Arlen Miles were in Omaha over the weekend.

Sister Mary Faith of Ogallala is spending her vacation with her mother, Mrs. Blanche O'Malley and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Guy Blake called at Dunk Peterson's Sunday. The Blakes are building a new modern home.

## DANCE

EDDIE STAN  
and the  
Style Band

Music Up-To-Date  
That You'll Appreciate

## PANCAKE DAY

Saturday, Sept. 5

Butte Legion Ballroom  
Admission: \$1.00

## NEBRASKA'S HIDDEN PARADISE

Long Pine, Nebraska

DATE: September 6

BAND: The Esquires

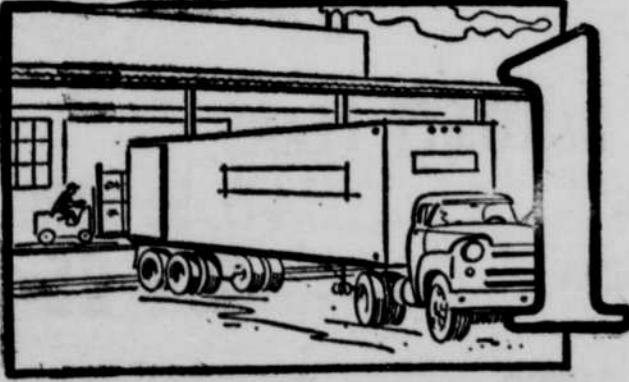
STEAKS, SEA FOOD AND CHICKEN

5-9 p.m. Daily Sundays 11:30-2 and 5-9

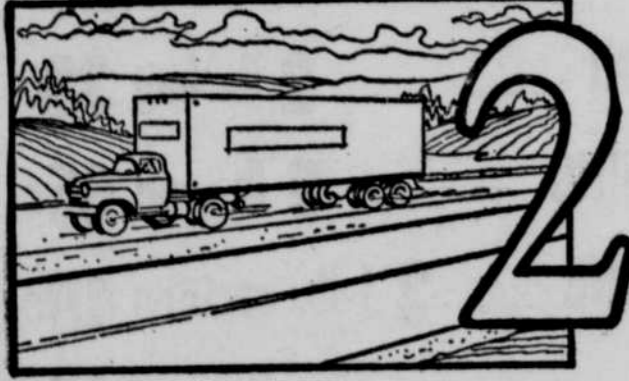
Closed Mondays

# ASK THE MAN WHO USES ONE

If you wonder why trucks are used so much to haul the many kinds of freight, ask any of your home town businessmen. Ask him, whether he be shipping or receiving products of farm or factory. He'll probably tell you—



**Truck Service Is Faster**—Because trucks provide direct, door-to-door deliveries and they enable many, many businessmen to keep smaller inventories (smaller investment) because today's order brings delivery tomorrow.



**Trucks Are More Flexible**—Because they can travel wherever there are roads, serving remote, rural or suburban areas with the same efficiency they serve cities and towns. Most of Nebraska's cities, towns and communities are served only by trucks.



**Trucks Reduce Claims**—Because freight shipments get less handling and easier riding when they go by truck.

So it's easily understood that it's the service they give that has put trucks to work on such a big scale. Trucks are modern transportation. In a sense, their widespread use represents a reaction to the need for a service that never before was available.

One of a Series of Advertisements Prepared by  
NEBRASKA MOTOR CARRIERS' ASSOCIATION, 500 South 13th Street, LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

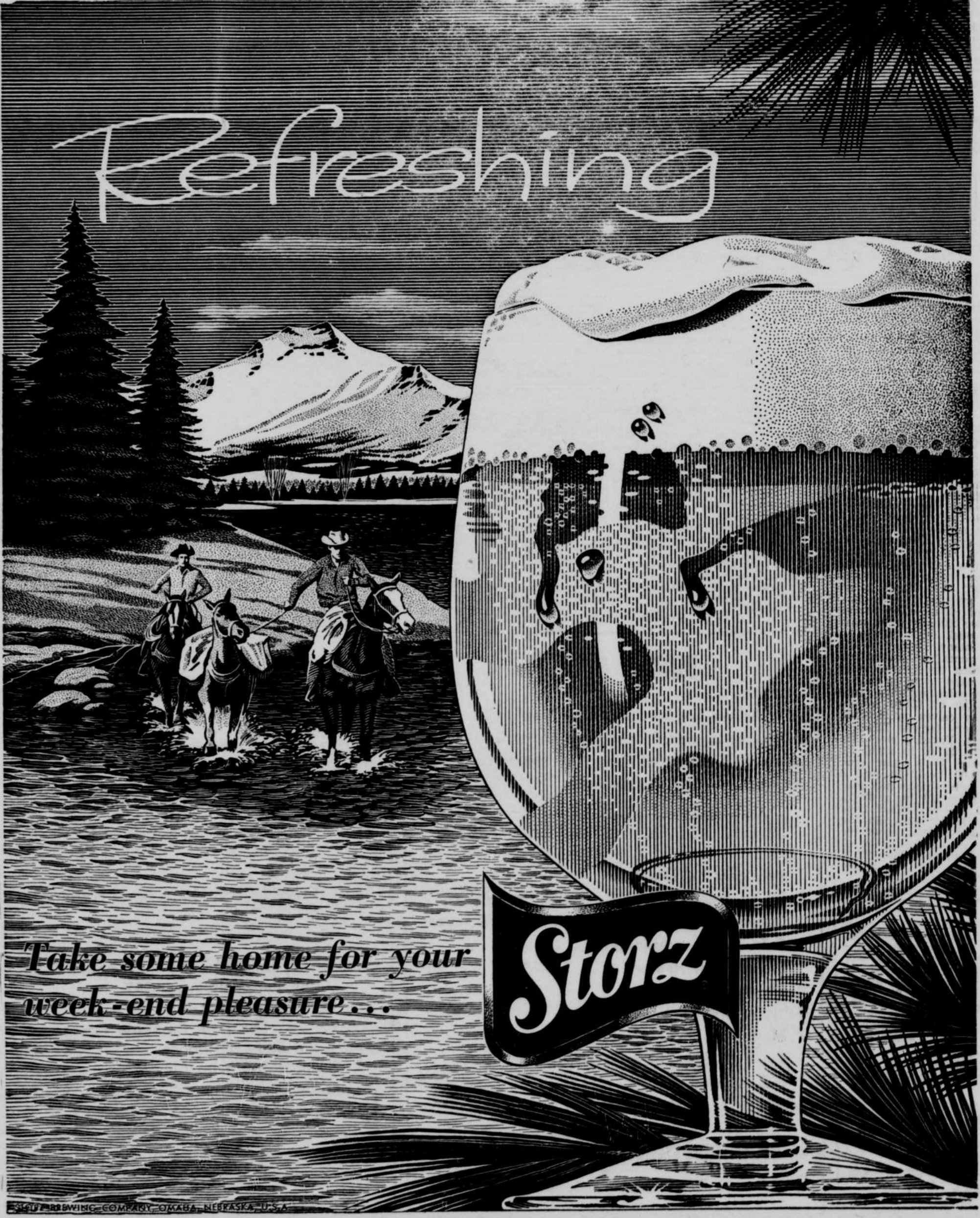
This Space Paid For By

# O'NEILL TRANSFER

JOHN TURNER

Daily Service O'Neill-Omaha

PHONE 578



Take some home for your week-end pleasure...

Storz