

THE FRONTIER

"The Voice of the Beef Empire"

Ten Pages

In This Issue

THE WEATHER

Partly cloudy today, high near 22 degrees. Low last night near 2 above.

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O'Neill, Holt County, Nebraska, Thursday, January 21, 1960

Seven Cents

Landholders, Businessmen Invited To Irrigation Meeting Tuesday

Members of the O'Neill Irrigation committee, together with a group from Atkinson and a small number of interested ranchers, met in O'Neill Monday night to hear Gordon Wendler and Gib Johnson, Bureau men from Ainsworth, tell more about the proposed irrigation project.

Larry Donnegan, representative of the Portland Cement company, and Val Kuska, a retired Burlington railroad representative who is well-informed on irrigation problems, could not attend because of the weekend snowstorm. Those two men were scheduled to be the main speakers.

According to Dale Wilson, committee chairman, a general meeting will be held Tuesday, Jan. 26, at the assembly room of the courthouse here in O'Neill. Wilson said that all land owners, business men and anyone interested are invited to attend this public meeting.

Donnegan and Kuska will be at this meeting as well as Wendler, Johnson and Ed Sevcik, a soils expert stationed at Ainsworth.

Wendler and Johnson, at Monday's meeting, repeated the basic information which they presented to the O'Neill Chamber of Commerce at an earlier meeting held in December.

They turned the meeting into a question and answer period following their presentation and a number of interesting questions concerning the project were raised.

The following is a presentation of some of the questions asked the night. An answer follows each question.

How much land can each farmer own? The maximum number of irrigable acres allowed each farmer is 160. Any one rancher can own as many other dry land acres as he might wish to own.

How long will it take to get water to the land and landowners will have this ten year period to sell their land. A farmer and his wife may have a joint tenancy and hold 320 acres of irrigable land. A farmer with five boys could own as much as 1,120 acres of irrigable land.

Do ranchers have a right to lease the land? Yes, but the limit on the number of acres owned is still 160 acres. There is some agitation in congress to increase this amount of land each farmer can own.

Does the number of acres allowed apply the same to all three classes of land? Yes. Ranchers who hold class I, II, or III land are bound by the limit. In some cases, however, the repayment schedule is based on the class of land irrigated.

Does a rancher have to use the water whether he wants it or not? A rancher does not have to use the water but he must pay for it.

Can a land holder with a well irrigated farm join with the gravity irrigated land holders? (Farms that are already irrigated are not considered in the proposed project.) Landholders with present irrigation facilities can petition the irrigation district board for admittance to the district.

What is the cost of land leveling for gravity irrigation? The estimated cost for land in this area is \$45 per acre. Land in the project does not have to be improved for at least 10 years after the water reaches the land and in some cases the cost of leveling may be supplemented by the government under soil conservation practice payments.

March of Dimes Concert at Page
The annual Page winter band concert will be held Monday at the Page school auditorium. The concert, under the direction of Leonard Sawyer, is held to raise funds for the March of Dimes.

Mother's March Tonight at 6:30; Porch Lights On

O'Neill mothers will conduct their annual "Mother's March" tonight (Thursday) in O'Neill as a part of the polio fund drive. Mrs. M. B. Marcellus is a city chairman and Mrs. Verne Reynoldson is co-chairman of the event.

The march will begin at 6:30 p.m., kicked off by the blowing of the fire whistle. Residents are requested to turn on their porch lights at this time. Personal questionnaires will also be given to donors with questions relating to the crippling diseases to be used for research by the polio foundation.

Mrs. Marcellus announced that in the coffee day that was held Monday, over \$25 was collected in proceeds for the polio fund. Plans are now being made for a benefit at the O'Neill public school on January 31 given by grade school band and music students with Mrs. W. D. Melina's dance class participating. Watch next week's Frontier for more details on the benefit.

There are presently four O'Neill women soliciting O'Neill businesses for polio fund donations. They are Mrs. Earl Hunt, Mrs. John Stauffbergen, Mrs. Bill McIntosh and Mrs. H. L. Lindberg.

Chadron Youth Wins Chadron Scholarship

Arland Charles Tangeman of Chadron has been chosen as a recipient of a tuition scholarship at Chadron State Teachers College sponsored by the Nebraska Congress of Parents and Teachers. The scholarship is awarded on the basis of financial need, character, aptitude for teaching and academic record. The Nebraska PTA Congress this year awarded 44 scholarships to students at the University of Nebraska, University of Omaha, and the four teachers colleges at Chadron, Kearney, Peru and Wayne.

High Honor to Brother of Nun

Army Col. (Chaplain) John K. Connelly, brother of Sister M. Claire of St. Mary's Academy, recently received two outstanding honors.

As command chaplain of the U.S. Army's Southern area command in Europe, headquartered at Munich, Father Connelly has been appointed by the Catholic church's Joseph Cardinal Wendel as the official American representative and coordinator of church, U.S. forces and American guests at the International Eucharistic Congress to be held this summer in Munich, and he has been chosen "chaplain of the year" (1960) by the U.S. Army Reserve Officers Association.

He will be honored by the reserve association at a banquet to be held February 5 at Washington, D.C.

Father Connelly entered military service in 1935. He has received the following military honors: Purple heart, legion of merit, bronze star with four oak leaf clusters, and he is holder of the soldier's medal—the army's highest peacetime award.

Father Connelly and Sister Claire considered Sacramento, Calif., their last family home.

Sister Claire, a registered nurse, is sacristan at St. Mary's.

Maude Hebler Services At Bristow Today at 2:00

BRISTOW—Funeral services for Maude Emma Hebler, 79, will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday (today) at the Jones Funeral chapel in Spencer with Rev. Harold Jansen officiating. Burial will be in the Bristow cemetery.

Mrs. Hebler was born December 21, 1880 in Spokane, Wash. She died at her home in Bristow on Tuesday Jan. 19. Mrs. Hebler has resided in this community for over fifty years.

Pallbearers will be Ivan Hiatt, Maurice Korb, John Lightfoot, Marvin Fueselman and Con Thorell.

Surviving is a daughter, Miss Salina Hebler, who lived with her mother, and a sister, Mrs. Jennie Brokotsky of Lodi, Calif.

Edward Ferris Died In Omaha Last Tuesday

Funeral services for Edward William Ferris, who died January 12 in University hospital in Omaha, were conducted at 10 St. Anthony's church here in O'Neill.

Rev. Don Olmstead conducted the services. Pallbearers were George Kileon, Paul Closson, Louis Reimer, Frank Grenier, Ray Osborne and Pete Weber.

Edward Ferris was born the son of Anna and the late Peter Ferris at Neligh on October 22, 1905. He moved with his parents to Emmet when he was 14.

He married Mary Ann Clark of Page on October 29, 1929 at Neligh. To this union seven children were born—four daughters and three sons.

Mr. Ferris had been an invalid for the past ten years due to an electrical accident suffered in 1930. On December 31 his condition became such that he was taken to St. Anthony's hospital and on January 7 he was transferred to Omaha.

Survivors include his wife, three sons—Ralph L. and Virgil D. of O'Neill and George of Nebraska City; three daughters—Katheryn (Julia Lee) of O'Neill, Mrs. Edward (Evelyn) Brown of Honolulu, Hawaii, and Mrs. George (Marjorie Ann) Ridenour of Lincoln, and one step-daughter, Ida House, of Norfolk.

His mother, Anna Ferris, of Emmet also survives as do five grandchildren, seven brothers and one sister. The brothers and sisters are Arthur of Manville, Wyo., Walter and Gerald of Atkinson, Frank, Robert, Sr., and Joseph of Inman, Fred of Clarion, Ia., and Mrs. Robert (Elsie) Davidson of Yuma, Calif.

Preceding him in death were his father, two brothers, one sister and a daughter, Neva June.

Thomas Is Held In Holt Jail; Trial Not Set

William Thomas, former local radio station employee charged with issuing a "No Account" check, is being held in Holt county jail until a trial date can be set. Bail bond has been set at \$500.

Thomas was dismissed from St. Anthony's hospital last Thursday morning following hospitalization for injuries received in an automobile accident on January 6 near Chadron.

District Judge Lyle Jackson, Neligh, will probably hear the case.



This frontal view of the snowplow, which headed a stranded two-engine Burlington freight train, testifies to the depth of the snow near McLean. The O'Neill-bound freight was liberated Wednesday afternoon after two days in a snowbank. The snow measured from 15- to 20-ft. in depth. Snow in foreground had been removed by bulldozers. Photo was taken a short time before the breakthrough which resulted after two additional engines came from behind to the rescue.—The Frontier photo and engraving



It's anybody's ball as Fred Crook, 30, Page center, and Dale Adams, 5, Chadron center go up for the ball to open the final period of play Tuesday night in the Holt county basketball tournament. Page won the game, 50-41.—The Frontier photo and engraving

Jazz Pianist To Appear Sunday

Red Camp, famous jazz pianist, will appear in a jazz concert Sunday at 8 p.m. in the high school auditorium as the second of the O'Neill Community Concert Association series.

Camp had played with such greats as Jack Teagarden, Paul Whiteman, Pee Wee Russell and Bob Crosby even before his education was completed. He received his B. A. from the University of Texas and a Master's degree from Columbia University where he studied under Dr. Harold Morris, eminent American composer.

Following study with Julliard School of Music, he headed the Laredo Junior college's music department in his hometown of Laredo, Tex. He now has his own studio in Corpus Christi. His wife holds a master's degree from the American Conservatory in Chicago.

Mr. Camp divides his program into two parts, one labeled "Jazz Now and Then," and the other "Jazz Here and Now." He is known for his sensitive interpretations and his technical perfection.

The New York Times reviewed his performance as unique, frequently impressive and always entertaining. He has been referred to as "the most articulate jazz pianist alive" by the United Press.

O'Neillites To Attend Fund Raising Dinner

Mrs. Guy Cole announced yesterday that a group from O'Neill is planning to attend the Senator Barry Goldwater fund raising dinner to be held in Omaha Tuesday, Jan. 26.

Mrs. Cole stated that some tickets are still available for interested parties or for anyone who might be in Omaha on Tuesday.

NAMED TO COMMITTEE
Julius D. Cronin, O'Neill attorney, has been appointed to the judiciary committee of the Nebraska State Bar Association. He will serve until the annual meeting this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Leigh Reynoldson and Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Laursen returned Tuesday from Denver.

Holt County Tournery Scores

| | |
|------------|----|
| Ewing | 62 |
| Atkinson | 60 |
| St. Joseph | 69 |
| Stuart | 38 |
| Page | 50 |
| Chadron | 41 |
| St. Mary's | 39 |
| O'Neill | 34 |
| Ewing | 44 |
| Inman | 36 |

Heinie Conard Held On Stabbing Charge

J. (Heinie) Conard is being held in the Holt county jail this week following the stabbing with a jack-knife of his cousin, Pat Conard, late Friday at a local tavern. The two had been playing cards earlier.

The wounded man is in St. Anthony's hospital. Exploratory surgery following the incident disclosed the knife did not penetrate deep enough to cause abdominal damage, authorities said.

Charges against "Heinie" were filed by Police Chief Chris McGinn. In preliminary hearing Monday morning in Holt county court, the defendant pleaded guilty to the assault and was bound over to district court. The defendant is being held in lieu of five hundred dollars bond.

Also being held is James C. Hayes of Atkinson on charges of writing a check with no account. Hayes, held on four hundred dollars bond, wrote the check December 7 for \$10 and negotiated the check at the IGA store in Stuart. The check was drawn on the Tri-County Bank of Stuart. At the time, officers said, Hayes had no account in that bank. He also admitted guilt Monday in county court and was bound over to district court.

John Luben, telephone company manager at Crawford was transferred this week to Chadron. His parents are Mr. and Mrs. William Luben.

Weather Halts Train In Snow Near Osmond; One Killed In Rescue Try

Bus Service Halted As Snow Area Digs Out

Only bus service in operation Monday during the height of the weatherman's week of unpleasantness was the United Motors run from Valentine to O'Neill and return. Normally the bus continues from O'Neill to Grand Island and return, but that segment of the run was halted.

The Winner (S. D.) O'Neill-Norfolk bus made the eastbound trip to Norfolk Monday morning, but annulled the return that day.

There was no Sioux City-O'Neill-Sioux City bus service Monday. All bus service got back to normal on Tuesday.

Trains on the mainline Chicago and Northwestern freight-line-only railroad continued to operate unphased by of man winter's antics. A Burlington freight train was marooned more than two days. (See story elsewhere in this issue).

U.S. Highway 275 was closed part-time Sunday and most of Monday because of a truck-actor snarl in hills east of Norfolk. Late Monday afternoon snowplows and wreckers cleared the highway and one-way traffic in numerous places.

U.S. Highway 20 between here and Sioux City was kept open but reduced to one-way traffic in many places, particularly between Orchard and the junction of U. S. Highway 20-81 west of Randolph.

U.S. Highway 281 was closed for a short period Monday both north and south of Grand Island, and then opened for one-way traffic.

U.S. Highway 20 west of O'Neill and U.S. Highway 281 north of here never closed.

State Highway Department crews here worked around-the-clock to keep highway traffic flowing. By far the heaviest snowfall fell east of here. The Burwell-Ord areas received up to 14 inches of snow last week and Sunday and Monday received more snow.

Many cancellations of engagements were necessitated because of the condition of county roads. Many rural schools cancelled classes last Thursday and Friday and also Monday.

Courthouse To Close Saturdays—Begin Feb. 1
The Holt County courthouse, the Assistance office and the County Attorney's office will all be closed on Saturday's beginning February 1, it was announced this week.

The closing of these offices results from legislative action in 1955 and 1959 holding that courthouses and courts and offices could be closed on Saturday, Sunday and other legal holidays, including Monday's following a Sunday holiday.

After February 1, the courthouse offices will be open from 8 to 12 a.m. and 1 to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

The Superintendent of Schools said her office will be open during the school term from 10 to 12 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. on Saturdays to accommodate rural school teachers.

Mrs. J. L. Sherbahn was hostess last Wednesday to Wednesday afternoon Bridge.

A westbound Burlington freight train, enroute to O'Neill, was liberated about 3 o'clock Wednesday afternoon after having been marooned more than two days in a 1,400-ft. long snow bank one mile west of McLean—about midway between Osmond and Randolph.

Before the 15-car double-header freight, with elaborate snowplow attached up front, was freed one of the rescuers had lost his life.

Dead is Dorrance P. Gibson, 33, an employee of the Theisen Bros. contracting firm. He had taken a huge D-8 crawler-type tractor-dozzer to the train to help move snow. While working alongside the freight cars, the machine overturned and killed him instantly.

Acting Pierce County Coroner Eugene Curtis of Plainville, who had difficulty reaching the scene, said Gibson was crushed to death.

Gibson was dispatched to the scene of the marooned train at noon Tuesday after another Theisen crawler became mired while trying to liberate the help-

less train.

The accident took place about 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. Another crawler was needed to extricate Gibson's body.

Gibson, whose original home was at Humphrey, had resided at Pender prior to moving to Osmond for the winter as a shop mechanic for Theisens. He was married and the father of two children. Funeral services will be conducted at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Catholic church in Humphrey. Rosary will be recited at 8 o'clock tonight (Thursday) at the funeral chapel in Osmond.

Gibson was dispatched to the scene of the marooned train after another crawler got mired down while trying to liberate the stranded train.

Sorrowing workers carried the broken body through the deep snow most of the distance to McLean.

Gibson and his family lived in a house trailer at Osmond. In summer he worked outdoors with Theisen construction equipment. He was considered an experienced operator.

The train, number 95, departed from Ferry Junction (South Sioux City) early Monday and was due in O'Neill at 2 p.m. Pushing the heavy adjustable-type plow, the two diesels hitled their way to Randolph, falling several hours behind schedule. It was 3:30 p.m. before the train left Randolph and a few minutes later ran along the big drift. The train was three-fourths of the way through the snow 15 ft. deep. The cut is at mile post 61. Snow was so deep the telegraph pole crossbars barely protruded.

Because of the continued snow and drifting no effort was made to free the train on Monday. The crew was comfortable in the "way car" and they trudged into McLean and to nearby farm homes to obtain supplies.

Two additional engines pushing another plow were dispatched from Ferry early Wednesday and reached the scene about 2 p.m. The belonged train was pulled back onto a McLean side track. After several successive jobs into the mountain of snow, the cut was cleared by 4:30 p.m.

The relief crew brought the train on to O'Neill after battling more giant drifts in the Royal and Orchard localities. Conductor H. Sandeau, Engineer Harry Butterfield and other members of 95's crew returned to Ferry with the relief train to prepare to bring another scheduled train into O'Neill today (Thursday).

Train 95's diesel engines sat idling throughout the enforced inactivity, and fuel supplies ran low.

The 2½-day-overdue train reached O'Neill at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday. It was train 95, equipped with two steam engines and "V"-type snowplow, that became marooned five miles east of O'Neill during the recurring blizzards of 1948-49. That train was abandoned at that time and lay inert and almost obscured by snow for five weeks before aid came. Part of the difficulty 10 years ago came about when one of the locomotives became partially derailed.

Mail Service Curtailed By Bad Weather

Mail service was seriously disrupted at O'Neill and other points east and west of here because of the week's adverse weather.

Until mid-afternoon Tuesday only two truck loads of the principal mail from the Omaha terminal had reached here since last Thursday.

Friday's load was annulled because of a combination of mechanical and weather difficulties. Friday's load did not reach O'Neill until 11 a.m. Saturday, and Saturday's mail was a half-day late.

Monday's mail did not arrive until 5 p.m. Tuesday—virtually 35 hours late. Tuesday's mail also arrived at 5 p.m.—more than 11 hours late and much too late for city and rural distribution.

Boxcars for O'Neill arrival of the principal Omaha terminal mail load since December 1 shows: —Two days of complete annulment. —Two days of late afternoon arrival (amounting to annulment). —Four days of delay up to a half day. —Almost daily behind schedule arrivals.

The principal load is due here at 5:30 a.m. and seldom arrives on time. Originally the schedule provided for 5:15 a.m. arrival but because the truck consistently was late the schedule was revised to provide more time.

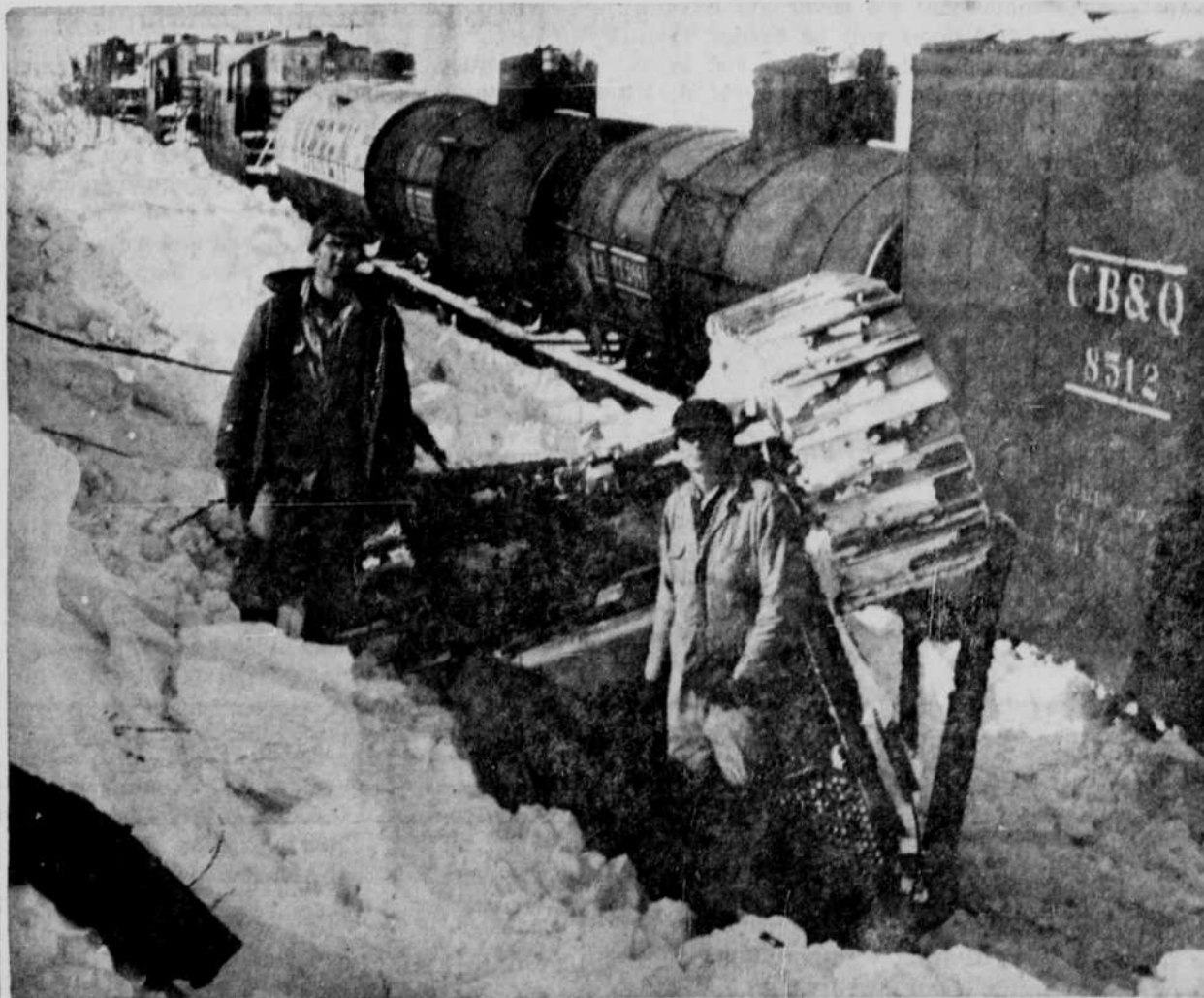
During the period the truck jackknifed once, became bogged in an icy-hill traffic jam east of Norfolk on one occasion, and had mechanical trouble on another.

An Omaha contractor is responsible for the run.

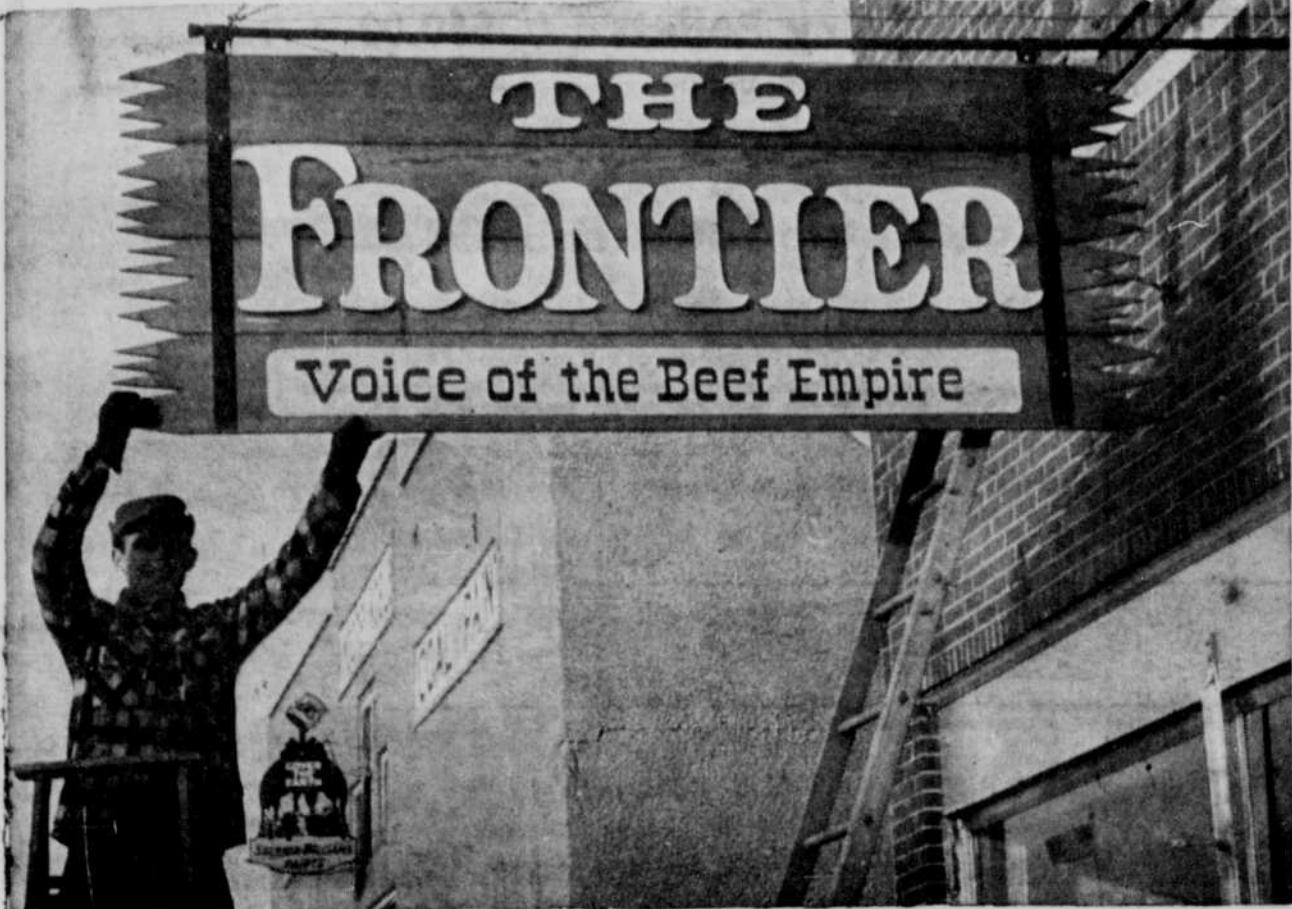
Meanwhile, Holt county motorists and various supply trucks managed to make the O'Neill-Osmond-O'Neill run even though mail was not getting through.

Lesser star routes continued to operate, but the bulk of the inbound mail is the early morning arrival.

The O'Neill postoffice "works" mail for points west of here, where the successive delays created worse inconvenience.



Dorrance P. Gibson, 33, of Osmond was killed when the crawler-type tractor-dozzer he was operating overturned and crushed him. He was working midway back on the train on the steep snowcut about one mile west of McLean. At the scene of the accident are Norris Pfanstiel, McLean farmer (left), and Ray Timmerman of Osmond. Crawler is a D-8 Caterpillar owned by Theisen Bros. Contractors of Osmond.—The Frontier photo and engraving



Jim Jankiewicz, linotype operator at The Frontier, helps install The Frontier's new sign hung Tuesday at the new location just north of The Golden Hotel. Evidently the work was too much for Jim as he ended up Wednesday in the hospital and was operated on for appendicitis Wednesday afternoon.—The Frontier photo and engraving