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# THE FRONTIER

TWELVE PAGES

This Issue

North-Central Nebraska's BIGGEST Newspaper

O'Neill, Holt County, Nebraska, Thursday, September 6, 1956.

Volume 76.—Number 19.

Seven Cents.



### Robbers Enter Two Places

Holt County Sheriff Leo Tomjack is probing the breaking and entering of the New Outlaw grocery store at O'Neill and the Chudomelka service station at Inman. The break-ins took place late Monday night or early Tuesday morning. The dial was knocked off the Outlaw's safe and a hacksaw was used in a futile attempt to saw into the 10-inch walls of the iron vault. Owner Phil Cohn said the effort "appeared to be the work of amateurs." Some orange pop was consumed by the intruders and some gloves were taken and used. Robert Asher (kneeling) points to the damaged dial and Richard McNichols indicates where a vain hacksaw attempt was made. At Inman, the thieves gained entry by forcing the rear door. There have been no arrests, Tomjack said.—The Frontier Photo.

### Sparks Rites to Be Held Saturday

#### World War II Vet, Ill Several Years, Dies of Rifle Wound

Funeral services for Cecil James Sparks, 44, a World War II veteran, will be conducted at 10 a.m., Saturday, September 8, at Biglin's chapel. Very Rev. Timothy O'Sullivan of St. Patrick's Catholic church will officiate. Pallbearers will be Virtus Sheets, Gene Strong, Derold Strong, James Sheets, Larry Conarro, Ronald Conarro and Gerald Elsberry.

The late Mr. Sparks died Monday afternoon or evening on a section line road near the Elkhorn river about 3 1/2 miles southeast of here. He was seen about 4 p.m., to approach in his car that location, near a favorite fishing spot. A 22-gauge rifle was found near his body, according to Holt County Sheriff Leo Tomjack, who investigated. County Coroner William W. Griffin said there would be no inquest.

Mr. Sparks, who had been in ill health for several years, had left his home in the afternoon. When he failed to return, authorities were summoned because relatives felt he had been despondent.

Sheriff Tomjack, assisted by five men, conducted a search until after midnight. The body was found after daylight Tuesday morning. The bullet had entered the head.

The late Mr. Sparks was born August 25, 1912, at O'Neill, a son of Warren J. and Nellie Cavanaugh Sparks. He was reared here, attended O'Neill public school, where he was graduated from the eighth grade. At the age of 16 he entered the civilian conservation corps (CCC) at Eugene, Ore. He was released after several months because of ill health. He entered the army during World War II and spent 42 months in service. During nearly one-half of his service career he was hospitalized.

He was stationed at Birmingham, England, 22 months with the service of supply. On November 18, 1940, he married Irene Nelman of Herrick, S.D.

He was preceded in death by his father and by one brother.

Survivors include: Widow — Irene; mother — Mrs. Nellie Sparks; sisters — Mrs. Elmer Strong, Mrs. Lester Sheets, Mrs. Don Elsberry, Mrs. Joe Conarro, all of O'Neill.

### Lad, 3 1/2, Chases 'Puppy' Up Tree

BUTTE—Douglas Schochenmaier, 3 1/2, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elvin Schochenmaier, who reside in the west end of Boyd county, protested to his mother the "puppy" he had chased from the hog shed to near the house "ran up a tree." The mother investigated. She summoned the boy's father. The father put an end to the "puppy"—which turned out to be a coon.

'GRANDMA' HULL 101 "Grandma" Sarah Hull, "the grand old lady of northern Holt county," today (Thursday) will be celebrating her 101st birthday anniversary.

### State Education Board Renews Stand

#### Amelia, Nine Other Schools Listed

The state board of education Tuesday in Lincoln reaffirmed its decision last spring to drop 10 high schools from the state-approved list. These are Amelia, Bingham, Fordyce, Grafton, McLean, St. Ivelena, March, Pleasant Dale, Union and Westerville. Amelia and Westerville have appealed to the courts to keep their two-grade high schools in operation. Right now an appeal is in the hands of the Nebraska supreme court, which is in adjournment until sometime in October.

At Amelia, the 1956-'57 school term is underway, as usual.

Meanwhile, the board of education renamed Freeman B. Decker as state education commissioner and increased his salary \$1,500 per year. His new annual wage will be \$10,500.

### Hydro Dam Repairs Nearing Completion

Extensive repairs at the Spencer hydro electric dam, owned by Consumers Public Power district, are nearing completion by about 20 workmen who are engaged by a contractor.

H. E. Asher of O'Neill, who is directing repair for Consumers, said the finish date will be "about September 15."

Holes below the spillway and power house have been filled with rock and new concrete skirts for water direction have been built. The dike also has been reinforced with stone.

### Long Pine TV Drive Is Underway

J. F. Contois of O'Neill, member of the North-Central Nebraska Television committee's governing body, said Wednesday the fund-raising for a television station to be erected near Long Pine is now underway. Mr. Contois is in charge of the drive in Holt, Boyd, Garfield and Wheeler counties. (Details in advertisement on page 6.)

Mrs. Anna Brown is in Louisville, Ky., this week attending the national convention of the USWV being held there.

## 539 Students Enroll in Public School

A total of 538 pupils are enrolled in the O'Neill public school for the 1956-'57 term, including 184 in high school and 354 in the grades. The high school students number eight more than a year ago, according to Supt. M. J. Baack, and the grade school figures are "slightly higher" than last year.

Several late registrations are expected because of a number of students being at the state fair, Mr. Baack said Wednesday. In addition, 10 St. Mary's academy girls are enrolled in vocational home economics and 13 SMA boys are enrolled in vocational agriculture.

Today (Thursday) will be the first full day of high school courses.

The Parent-Teachers' association will meet Monday evening, September 10, and the board of education will be in session simultaneously.

The meeting will be held in the band room and a program will be presented. Parents of both grade and high school students are urged to attend, a spokesman said.

A North-Central conference meeting of athletic coaches and school administrators will be held at Bassett Saturday, and O'Neill high will be represented.

Enrollment figures:

GRADE SCHOOL	
Kindergarten	60
First	47
Second	45
Third	44
Fourth	39
Fifth	32
Sixth	29
Seventh	24
Eighth	36
HIGH SCHOOL	
Freshmen	62
Sophomores	38
Juniors	34
Seniors	40

### 225 Register in SMA Grade School

Two hundred fifty-five pupils have registered in the grade school at St. Mary's academy for the 1956-'57 term, it was announced Friday by Mother M. Agnesine.

Meanwhile, one more high school student registered after last week's publication of high school enrollment, boosting the total to 176. Total number of students in the entire school: 431.

Band pupils from the fourth grade through the ninth and their parents are urged by Band Director Duane Miller to witness the display.

Athletic Meeting Set—All persons interested in the continuance of an athletic program at St. Mary's academy are asked to attend a meeting Friday, September 7, at 8 p.m., in the auditorium.



Sparks... photo taken in England, 1944. (Story at right.)

### 4,000-Acre Barthel Ranch to Be Sold

The 4,000-acre L. W. Barthel ranch will be offered at referee's sale on Monday, September 24, starting at 1 p.m., at the Holt county courthouse here. John R. Gallapher of O'Neill is referee; Leo P. Clinch of Burwell, attorney.

The big ranch, in four tracts, is located in southwest Holt. The sale under district court order is to partition the estate. (Details on page 11.)

### Diffusion Days Are Over

By a Staff Writer

The dictionary defines diffusion, as it applies to physics, as "the gradual permeation of any region by a fluid, owing to the thermal agitation of its particles or molecules."

That's a lot of fancy talk. Let's find out about diffusion, O'Neill style, 1956.



Dr. Frank Record (left) and Dr. Harrison Cramer, Massachusetts Institute of Technology scientists, conceived approaches to diffusion problems back in 1949. Both participated in the air force-sponsored wind turbulence test here in 1953 and their experimentation this summer has been the heart of Operation Prairie Grass.—The Frontier Photo.

An average of 40 persons—scientists, technicians and yeomen—have been at O'Neill since mid-May engaged in carrying out a basic research project designated as Project Prairie Grass. And the over-riding purpose of the project has been certain problems concerning this thing called diffusion.

Sponsored by the Air Force—Cambridge, Mass. J. Research center, in cooperation with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, University of Wisconsin and Texas A&M college, the mechanics of the operation have meant little to the average O'Neillite, who was happy to have the scientific visitors in his midst.

Except for the handful of military vehicles plying the streets and the six miles on the Opportunity road to the operations site, there has been little evidence of military or military in the community. They've been wonderfully good citizens and, in several instances, their families have made a long holiday of the whole affair.

These are interesting fellows all. To mention a few encountered at the outset: Harry Vaughan, instrument specialist; George Fontes, Harry Geary, Robert Carr and Richard Ormerod, laboratory technicians.

Some "locals" have been on the scene, too: Marvin Miller of O'Neill high, who directed a corps of school boy "runners"; Robert Loomer of Inman, Richard Bohm and Richard Smithson, both of O'Neill, laboratory assistants.

Diffusion, as tackled by these. (Continued on page 5)



Tuesday was the first day in school for these three kindergartners at O'Neill public school, but it was an eventful day for their mothers, too. Left to right: Mrs. Glenn Cass and son, Ricky; Mrs. Egon Kirschman and daughter, Voneta Lee, and Mrs. Donald Loy and daughter, Diann Lynn. All the children are 5-years-old. Ricky's dad is in charge of the meat department at Council Oak; Voneta Lee's father is pastor of the Assembly of God church, and Mr. Loy is employed by the New Deal Oil Co.—The Frontier Photo.



Four states are represented in this quartette of boarding students at St. Mary's academy for the new term: Seated—Lois Connot of Dallas, S.D., junior, and Lorraine Keller of Crookston, senior; standing—Roberta Flattery of Manson, Ia., sixth grade, and Pauline Hawley of Dubois, Wyo., freshman. Miss Hawley's home is 700 miles away; Miss Flattery's about 300.—The Frontier Photo.

### Bassett Wins But There Is Question

The Bassett entry in the North Central day-and-night league knocked off the O'Neill Rockets, 5-1, Sunday night in Carney park here in the first of a two-out-of-three playoff series for the loop crown.

Bassett used Marion Hicks on the mound and Mr. Hicks whiffed 17 O'Neill batsmen.

Mr. Hicks has had seven innings of league competition to date and Manager Dick Tomlinson of the Rockets said the conference rules insist on 25 innings of play before a pitcher is eligible for playoff participation.

O'Neill filed the protest before the game started, played it under protest, and Bassett outbid O'Neill, 10-5. Four O'Neill regulars were absent. Larry Heiss pitched for O'Neill.

O'Neill submitted a written protest to league secretary Al Hamik and league president Gene Hoffman.

### Vernon Whitaker Named Mail Carrier

CHAMBERS—Vernon Whitaker recently received notice of his appointment as rural mail carrier on route 1 out of Chambers. He will start Friday, September 7.

Gordon Harley has been carrying the mail as a substitute for about two years until the appointment became effective.

### William A. Wells Expires at Lynch

LYNCH—William A. Wells, 80, pioneer resident of northern Holt county, died suddenly Thursday morning, August 30, at his home in Lynch. He was sawing wood in the yard when he was stricken.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m., Sunday, September 2, at the Wesleyan Methodist church in Lynch. Burial was in the Scottville cemetery. Rev. Paul R. Meyers officiated.

The late Mr. Wells resided many years in the Redbird community, moving into Lynch about four years ago.

Survivors include: Widow — Etta Mae; four sons, four daughters, several brothers and sisters.

### Pool Is Closed; 300 Learn to Swim

Three hundred persons, mostly children, learned to swim during the just-ended season at the Municipal pool. Lessons were provided by the Holt county chapter of the American Red Cross.

The season officially ended labor day and the pool has been drained. Equipment is being "winterized."

The initial season — 1954 — stands as the record for receipts, largely because of a bigger sale of season tickets, according to Park Board Chairman A. P. Jaskowiak.

L. E. Axtell of Atkinson visited Tuesday with Colmer Ross.

### Noted Personalities Visitors in Holt

Two well-known American personalities last week visited Holt county.

Mrs. Lorena Thomas Whitham, 90, who organized a literary entertainment troupe during World War I, visited her cousin, Mr. and Mrs. O. O. Hendrickson, at Stuart. She still is associated with the University of Minnesota and has published several books of poems.

The other visitor was Tim Holt, veteran of 108 Western-type movies. He called at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hanson, south of Atkinson. The Hansons have known Holt a number of years.

### Gideons to Convene Here September 14

Gideons from many parts of Nebraska will come to O'Neill on Friday, September 14, when the local camp will play host at the annual banquet and rally, beginning at 7 p.m. The affair will be held in the Methodist church.

### Chace Leave

ATKINSON—Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Chace and family moved Saturday to Montevideo, Minn., where Mr. Chace will be manager of the Chamber of Commerce.

Army Pvt. Richard Nelson, who has been stationed at Ft. Chaffee, Ark., arrived during the August 26 weekend for a visit with his wife, the former Frances Reimer.

## 4 Concerts Planned for Season

### Tucson Boys' Choir to Be Headliner; Kickoff Is Scheduled

The O'Neill Community Concert association will hold its third annual kick-off dinner Monday evening at 6:30 o'clock at St. Mary's academy gymnasium. Over 120 officers, captains and workers are expected to attend.

At this time the annual one-week membership campaign will get underway.

The organization once again has fixed its membership goal at 1,000 members. Last year the membership exceeded the goal by 38 members.

This season the group will bring to O'Neill the internationally-famous Tucson (Ariz.) Boys' Chorus, a group of young lads ranging in age from 8 to 16 years, who will present a program of old favorites. Their repertoire includes songs from famous American shows, cowboy songs such as "Home on the Range," "Blue Prairie," "Lie Low, Little Dogies," and others.

The goal of the association is to have four concerts as in the past. However, the remaining three concerts will not be decided until after the close of the week's membership drive.

Community headquarters will again be the Golden hotel lobby. Anyone wishing to join may stop in at the lobby desk between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., or contact the community representative in your community:

- Spencer—Mrs. J. M. Pucelik.
- Butte—Mrs. William Brennan.
- Lynch—Mrs. Joseph David.
- Chambers—Mrs. Kenneth Adams.
- Verdel—Mrs. Byron Lower.
- Page—Mrs. Merwyn French, jr.
- Neligh—Mrs. William Bowen.
- Stuart—Miss Alvira Ramm.
- Atkinson—Mrs. Alan Hughes.
- O'Neill—Mrs. James Rooney, Mrs. Winnie Barger, Mrs. John Watson, Mrs. Louis Reimer, Mrs. Allan Jaskowiak, Mrs. Robert Evans, Mrs. D. A. Kershenbrock, Emmet—Mrs. Robert Cole.

### Koch Farm Home Destroyed by Fire

EWING—The farm home south of Ewing belonging to Mrs. George (Minnie) Koch, was destroyed by fire Wednesday night, August 29.

Mrs. Koch's husband was fatally injured Monday, August 13, in a runaway of a team of horses drawing a spring buggy. The horses became frightened. Mrs. Koch was also hurt in that accident as the couple was enroute to their home from a shopping trip to a country store.

After the death of her husband in the O'Neill hospital on Wednesday, August 15, Mrs. Koch abandoned the farm home and went to Wood River to reside with her son, Arthur.

No one was at home when the house and all the contents were completely destroyed. Ewing rural firemen received a call at 7 p.m. and extinguished a prairie fire at the Lyle Mittels farm. It was the same fire that destroyed the Koch residence.

The Koch place is located seven miles south of Ewing and 3 1/2 miles west.