(Continued from page 1.) The Star postoffice was established in 1882 at the request of settlers. It was named Star to round out a triumvirate with (Knox county), both nearby.

name. Downey's home was more Star postoffice was established in a sodhouse, situated 26 miles northeast of O'Neill (land now owned by Robert Miller). Only remainder is a clump of cottonwood trees.

Mrs. Kesar was the first postmaster and she held the position until 1885. Fred Kelly was the first mail carrier, bringing the mail in by horseback or carriage from Orchard, via Mars, Venus, Middlebranch and Hainesville. Lewis Downey and Frank Butterfield were later carriers.

## MILLER THEATER ATKINSON -

Fri -- Sat.



Mon.-Tues.-Wed. Feb. 10-11-12



Wed .- Thurs.



This coupon and one paid admission will admit two ad ults, Feb. 13-14.

-BEN FRANKLIN

Emory Downey started the O'Neill-Niobrara stage in 1885 and moved the postoffice one-Are About to Close quarter of a mile to a store op-

Downey & Kelley, contractors for the O'Neill-Niobrara to purchase horses, carriages and a livery outfit. The business venture was spurred by the government land office in Niobrara, an upper Missouri

Charles Downey and Fred Kelheavenly titles-Mars and Venus ly, stage drivers, stopped nights at the Star hotel (now the Charles Downey proposed the home of Mr. and Mrs. William ("Bill Hansen). Traces of the than a mile from where the first beeline from O'Neill northeast, old stage route, which took a are still discernible to the old-

timers who know where to look. The Downeys moved to Inman in 1890, recalls Louis Downey of Page, who is one of the few living persons remembering the

stage in its heyday. Various renters of the Downey land-the Johnson, Cobb, Harris and Bates families-kept the postoffice.

In 1899, Henry Theirolf purchased the property, which is still owned by members of the

Mr. Thierolf was postmaster until 1910 when he moved to Creighton.

Mr. Cole, who did research for this article by interviewing Louis Downey and others, said his father, Elvin Cole, was appointed postmaster in 1910 and the office was moved to the present site on Sunny Slope farm. Elvin Cole retired in 1939 and his daughter-in-law, Mrs. Charles V. (Floramae) Cole, received the appointment and carried on until her death

Mr. Cole, the present postmaster, has been in charge since 1947, assisted by his daughter, Miss Cleone-

Prior to World War I, Frank Phillips had the route changed in order that mail would come from O'Neill (instead of Orchard). There would be a meetting of the star route carriers from O'Neill and Lynch and the interchange of mail. Star thus erved as a distributing point.

In the pioneer days it was an rduous job of getting the mail Star across the windswept, treeless, roadless plains. The advent of the model T flivver improved the service and a few road grades and culverts helped. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer of O'Neill

**Big New Selection** 



James E. Wiley, postmaster at Dorsey since 1918, and his wife are counting the hours when the death knell will sound at the historic old Dorsey postoffice and they'll no longer sort mail for the 43 families the office has been serving.- The Frontier Photo.



The William Hansen home (above) was an important stopping point in pioneer days. It was known as the Star hotel. First room inside the door was the lobby when the place was owned by the Downey family. Hansen plans to tear it down someday and build a new home, using much of the maple that was shipped in from Michigan.-The Frontier Photo.

She and her parents had just lo-

While a dozen grizzly, rough- rier looking men looked on, she gleefully withdrew some currency from the envelope

Fearful she had made a hor-Meanwhile, back in the thirties, rible mistake in revealing the the National Association of Star contents, she ran all the way Route Mail Carriers was found- ne-a distance of several

Postmaster Cole recalls an an-dote his mother used to tell re-Cole and the children came

The 28 families who proudly cated in Nebraska. She went to boasted of the Star address unsoddie postoffice to claim til now henceforth will have an a letter that had just arrived O'Neill address. Mike Troshynski of O'Neill is the present car-

W. V. McElhaney was the first postmaster in the Dorsey

community. Initally the community was known as Mineral then Apple Creek and later

Apple Creek wouldn't do for a name because there were other

lowns similarly named. In the beginning the mail man prought mail to Dorsey from Running Water, which was the end of the railroad. The distance was 25 miles.

John Emerson, second postbecame irriated when mail addressed to . Omaha, the young state's metropolis, and omeral, the bustling inland community in northern Holt, frequently got mixed up.

Emerson appealed to Washington for an official designation for the Holt community. Just because there was a phontic ring that was similar, these airielanders weren't going to play second-fiddle to the ponforous big Missouri river town furnish hich already had horsedrawn treetcars, a packing plant or vo, and the mainline of severrailroads.

Thus the postoffice department settled on the name Dorseynamed for Congressman George

Dorsey was the midway point on the O'Neill-Niobrara route.
For more than 50 years inbound mail has come from Lynch and O'Neill. Years ago the mail also came in from Verdigre.

For years there were two mail arrivals and dispatches daily at Dorsey-to and from Verdigre

"Old Dorsey", as oldtimers remember it, was located about a half-mile east from the present postoffice and down a big

location have disappeared.

The second Dorsey was situatof the street, drug store, black- Water dwindled off. smith shop, hotel, general store

and a number of dwellings. It was William Davidson who instigated the third location-up north on top of the hill. He moved his drug-store there and added a general store. time has done the rest. Coral McElhaney (father of

O'Neill's Ted McElhaney) was ostmaster for a time and operated the store, selling to Lettie Heuerman. Moses Elliott, also an auctioneer, was the next postmaster and he was followed by Mrs. Thomas (Martha) Davis. In Dorsey's heyday it was a busy trading center and a famil lived on every quarter section (or less). At its peak it counted four stores, two hotels, a livery, church, school, bank, blacksmith shop and even a

newspaper, The Dorsey News, edited by Joseph Coombs. The bank was a branch of the Bank of Verdigre and Jack O'Donnell of O'Neill headed it for many years, assisted by Fred Pilger and Phoebe O'Donnell.



Louis Downey . . . helped material for accompanying story .- The Frontier

Imported

Damask

Cover

FIRM

Featherweight or...

HEAVYWEIGHT

Balance

Means

Sleeping

SUPPORT

hill. Traces of that hopeful | THE FRONTIER, O'Neill, Nebr., Thurs., Feb. 7, 1957 .- Page 5.

Even before World War I the routed through Lynch. Don Aled a quarter of a mile south of tide had changed for Dorsey and len of Lynch has been the carthe present site with portions of other inland rural communities. rier. The Dorsey office, in the town on both sides of the When the land offices closed, the drawing its last breath, has been There was a block of commercial intercourse between serving 47 families. wooden sidewalks on both sides O'Neill and Niobrara-Running Dorsey maintains a telephone

exchange, a Presbyterian church When the Wileys took over the (served by the Niobrara pastor) Dersey pestoffice in 1918, with and a rural school (Holt dismany of the young men off to trict 4).

the war, the commercial pulse of The motor car and truck long Dorsey was growing faint-and ago sealed the fate of communithe same applied to other out ties like Dorsey.

posts. The inexorable hand of The postal inspector with a Scotch tweed suit, horned-rimmed glasses, a slide rule and a map can rub out the names of Dorsey and Star; the girl clerk in that Washington office can seal the files in the big iron vault; During the past two years all but no one can erase the mem-

## **USED** TRUCK TIRE

Actually, both Dorsey and

Star postoffices have done well

to retain their identities down

of the Dorsey mail has been ories.

through the years.

**New Retreads** Original Hi-Treads

 $1000 \times 20$  $750 \times 20$ 1000x22 825×20 900x20 1100x20

O'KEEFE Tire Sales

Sioux City, Iowa Phone 5-1611

OVER 33% Englander **BODY BALANCE SET** 

59.50 Quality!

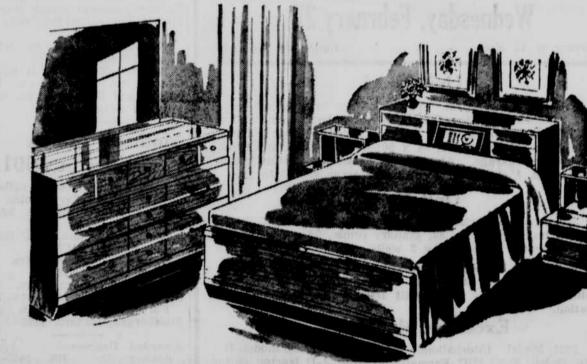
**Mattress or Box Spring Full or Twin Size** 

Get the best in sleep support at best savings! Body balanced scientifically designed unit keeps 2 weights on same sleeping level. Englander is extra firm, provides the proper support that doctors have proved best. Exclusive Englander cover, too—a rich imported damask in decorator gold and tan! Buy both units now at exclusive Gambles

**EXCLUSIVE AT GAMBLES** 

Other Innerspring Units as low as \$2495 Comfort!

SAVE\$30 ONBEDROOM SUITES



6 Drawer Double Dresser • All Drawers Dust-Proofed

\$129.95 Value

From the beautifully beveled plate glass mirror to the polished brass hardware, this luxurious suite bespeaks quality through and through. Come, see for yourself. The low price tag will amaze you!

3-Pc. Suite, Regular 159.95 NOW 129.50

SEE YOUR STUDEBAKER DEALER TODAY ALWAYS BETTER BUYS AT GAMBLES

Look for this sign when you

Craftsmanship in a

A good buy in a used car!

Phone 562



SMART FOLDER STYLE

2 for 5c and 5c ea.

10 ASSORTED CUTOUTS

In cello bag 10c



25 ASSORTED CUTOUTS

In pliofilm bag 25c

42 ASSORTED CUTOUTS

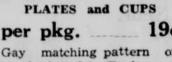
In pliofilm bag 39c

Sweetheart

Candy Mixes

Tiny conversation hearts with darts, cupids! Lots

of tasty, tangy flavors.



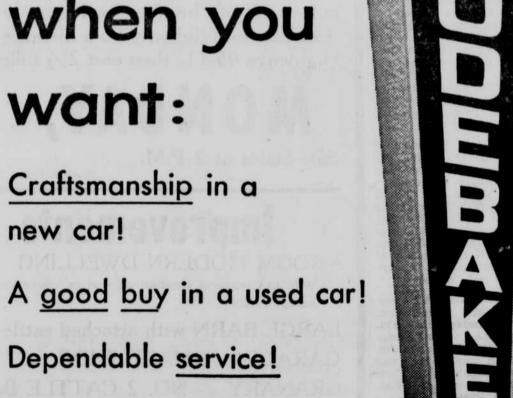
Gay matching pattern on sturdy boards! Package of six 8-in. plates or six hot-

- (B) Paper NAPKINS (C) HEART boxes
- (D) Paper CUPS (E) Paper party HATS 10c (F) Party MOTTOES



WE GIVE TOP **VALUE STAMPS** 

BEN FRANKLIN LOCALIT CWNED T NATIONALLY M NO WALL



O'Neill, Nebr.