

THE FRONTIER

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When You and I Were Young . . .

200 Acres Beets Will Be Raised

50 Years Ago

Miss Mollie Hanley, who has been teaching the Benson school, has closed a six months term in that district . . . William Robinson, the crack chicken hunter of the South Fork, accidentally discharged a Winchester shotgun and tore off half of his left hand . . . Officers of the Norfolk sugar factory were in O'Neill and made arrangements with the irrigation company to put out 200 acres of beets on the irrigated lands south of the Elkhorn river . . . Mrs. S. Smith enjoyed a visit from her daughter, Mrs. Walrath (nee Coila Utley), of Atkinson. Miss Nevada Hall accompanied Mrs. Walrath.

25 Years Ago

Work is progressing rapidly on the bridge across the Niobrara river . . . Miss Margaret Sullivan accompanied her father, Supervisor John Sullivan, to Omaha . . . Mrs. R. H. Murray was called to Sioux City by the serious illness of her daughter, Mrs. Dean Streeter . . . Harry Haffner went to Omaha on business . . . T. V. Golden went down to his ranch at Ewing . . . Miss Roberta Arbutnot returned to her studies at the state university.

10 Years Ago

C. E. Lundgren and Herman Rahn made a business trip to Yankton, S. D. . . . Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shierk went to St. Charles, S. D., to visit Mrs. Shierk's mother, Mrs. Marie Petranek . . . Alex Cleary, of Atkinson, has accepted a position at the J. C. Penney Store . . . About 100 of Holt county's young manhood leaves Friday for induction in the army.

1 Year Ago

The J. M. McDonald company store completed an interior decoration project . . . O'Neill firemen were summoned at 3:05 p.m. to a grass fire at the Pete Peterson place in West O'Neill . . . A sign of spring: Charlie Caywood, goes fishing.

DR. H. L. BENNETT

VETERINARIAN

Phones 316 and 304

O'NEILL

.. DANCE .. AT O'NEILL

American Legion Auditorium

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

MUSIC BY

ACES OF RHYTHM ORCHESTRA

Admission: Adults 75c, Students 50c

Season's Opening ...

SNO-CREME DRIVE-IN

West O'Neill

SATURDAY, APRIL 5TH

FREE CONES

for Kids and Adults

LIMIT: One Per Person

Open Daily

Noon to 11 P.M.

Sundays

10 A.M. to 11 P.M.

STUART HARTIGAN, Owner

1951 Narrative Report

of the

Holt County Soil Conservation District

Practice	1951	Today
Tree planting	214 acres	1,109 acres
Woodland management	167 acres	2,180 acres
Seeding of range	604 acres	4,487 acres
Seeding of permanent hay	205 acres	1,670 acres
Rotation of hay and pasture	911 acres	8,529 acres
Range properly stocked	7,156 acres	62,577 acres
Range improvement	9,207 acres	23,701 acres
Strip cropping	777 acres	11,018 acres
Stubble mulching	1,903 acres	24,484 acres
Approved crop rotations	3,230 acres	10,685 acres
Farm and Ranch Ponds	26 (Number)	63 (Number)

	No.	Acres	No.	Acres
Basic conservation plans	27	13,584	363	224,369
Applications received	98	104,873	566	440,729
Active applications on file	184	198,010		

Cooperation with Other Agencies—

The U.S. Soil Conservation Service has worked hand in glove with the local district activities. The local staff has done an efficient job of getting sound conservation practices on the land and has made a sincere effort to put first things first. However, with a work load nearly double what they are able to accomplish not all of the needs can be filled. We as a board feel that the local office would be in a better position if two additional full time professional employees could be added to the staff.

Cooperation with the extension service has been pretty good. In the preparation of news releases, and special meetings or tours the activities of the two agencies have been good. However, more must be done in the future. Both the extension service and the local district must make more definite strides to work with groups interested in doing conservation, and must in general increase the conservation education activities.

The fish and game commission has supplied fish for a number of farmers' and ranchers' farm ponds this year and the wildlife area plantings have continued.

The county supervisors continue to provide good office space at a cost possibly below the cost of light, heat and janitor service. Some of the county supervisors attended the drainage meeting held at Stuart last November, and it appears that they will be willing to cooperate on drainage problems where they are involved.

The directive of the secretary of agriculture to coordinate the activities of the various branches of the department of agriculture was given the test last year. This year it may work better because of the experience gained and being able to set up the machinery during the winter months. However, it does not appear to be the answer to efficient spending of the tax money. It is our belief that payments should at least be limited to only a few of the most important permanent practices.

Government spending is continually growing with no apparent end in sight. It may be of small consequence to the national budget, but it seems a good move to make a start in the reduction of federal expenditures. Perhaps if farmers and ranchers and their organizations will unite in an effort to reduce these expenditures we will have made a start in the right direction. Surely to see that this money is spent where it will do the most good and bring back the largest return is in the interest of every American citizen.

District Equipment—

In the early months of 1951 a 167D Clipper cleaner was purchased and put into operation. It was too late to get a big run of grain cleaning, but all of the grass seed harvested the previous summer and fall was cleaned. Some custom work on alfalfa, sweet clover and brome grass was accomplished.

During the spring months five men (three with trucks) were hired. Two crews of two men each operated the tree planters and one man with a truck took care of grass seeding.

During the summer the combine was operated—first on small grain, later on crested wheat and vetch, and then on to the native grasses, sand lovegrass, switchgrass and Indian grass. Although the prospects for a large big bluestem crop looked good, it did not mature and none was harvested.

Beginning September 1, F. S. Brittell was hired as a full-time employee, serving as equipment manager. In this way someone is always available to operate the cleaner. He will also be able to take a considerable load of seed and tree handling off of the local staff, keep machinery in good repair and in many ways better the quality and efficiency of the district's operations.

It has been the aim of this district to make equipment available to cooperators that it is not profitable for individuals to own. For example, the two tree planters planted over 200,000 trees on more than 75 cooperators' farms or ranches. Grass seeding equipment is not available on many ranches, so the drill and seeder treader is used exclusively to aid the grass seeding program. Realizing that generally speaking each year enough grass seed was produced, but not harvested, in Holt county to more than supply local needs, the district purchased a combine in 1950. Then came the problem of cleaning. The decision rested on a large mill so that custom cleaning could help pay the cost of the mill and encourage the planting of more uniform, weed-free grain, grass and legume seed.

The advantage of seeding clean seed is many fold. Seeding is much less of a problem where there is no trash to contend with. The rate of seeding can be determined more accurately. Where fertilizers are used for increasing the yield, it is sheer folly to plant weed infested seed. For more profit and pleasure cleaning is certainly a worthwhile investment.

Did the government finance the purchase of this machinery? No, not one cent of tax money was used. The district is purely a local, countywide organization. It receives no federal or state appropriations—it levies no taxes. The only federal funds used are for the local staff—their equipment, pickups, survey instruments, office supplies, etc. All this is provided by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service in cooperation with the local district. In fact, the Holt Soil Conservation District and the U.S. Soil Conservation Service are two distinctly separate organizations. Yet, because they work so closely together, they are spoken of and thought of as one and the same thing by a large majority of the people.

Oh yes, the equipment—where did the money come from? From a growing business—your Soil Conservation District. From the sale of trees and seed and the rental of equipment. "Will the Holt district expand to all phases of equipment for conservation farming?" Definitely not! Especially where private contractors are filling the need. Terracing equipment, dam building and, in most cases, drainage equipment is available from private contractor sources. In nearly every case the contractors are very willing to cooperate with the local technicians in getting the job done right. These contractors knew long ago that quality work meant larger demand for their work.

Publicity—

The district is indebted to a lot of people for helping promote the work of conservation farming and ranching. This report will be carried in the third annual soil conservation edition of The Frontier. In each edition The Frontier has featured the annual report and carried a large amount of material on conservation in the area. Also, every newspaper in the county has cooperated wholeheartedly in the frequent articles prepared by the local staff and the county agent. Countywide coverage of the stories concerning the development of the conservation program has done much to acquaint the townspeople as well as rural folk with the great need for conserving the soil and what is being done about it.

Operations Program—

The tree planting program reached an all-time high for Holt county with over 200,000 trees planted. Of these 109,000 were purchased from a private nursery, 44,450 from U.S. Soil Conservation nurseries, 23,700 from Clarke-McNary, 5,100 from the game commission and 10,000 cottonwoods were gathered locally.

No records were broken on the seeding program, but considering the wet spring it was more than expected.

More farm and ranch ponds were built than in the last year, but not as many as would have been had it not been so wet. Contractors were kept busy by road repair work much of the time, which resulted in less dam building.

There was much interest in drainage and some projects were completed. However, most of them involving a number of landowners were unable to reach an agreement so that proper easements could be drawn up and the jobs completed. Considerable technical

time was spent on drainage where the projects were not completed. Zone technicians spent three days in the county looking over drainage problems. The fourth day was spent by holding a public meeting in Stuart.

Several more grass increase plots were seeded this year. Such grasses as intermediate wheat, sand lovegrass, switchgrass and Indian grass were seeded for seed producing purposes. Two cooperators, M. G. French, of Page, and Jim Allyn, of Stuart, harvested their old stands of certified switchgrass. A grass variety plot was established on the Ryan estate. It is located on the south side of highway 20, six miles west of the Danceland corner. Plots of every kind of grass seed available were planted last spring. The county agent assisted with the establishment of the plot and started some fertilizer checks on it. Additional fertilization will be made from year to year.

Recognition Programs—

Forty-three cooperators were entered in the Sioux City permanent agriculture contest. Joe Wagman, of Atkinson; Frank Beelaert, of Page, and E. J. Revell, of Star, were selected to represent the district in area competition. Wagman and Beelaert attended the banquet in Sioux City the last of November.

Also in 1951 the Holt district won the Omaha World-Herald's award for the second time. In a new type of contest initiated by the World-Herald in 1950, only districts that have won previous awards were eligible. Competition was based on progress of the district. Although this reflects supervisor activity, the large part of the credit goes to the cooperators of the district and the many organizations and individuals who have helped promote the local program.

A banquet was held at the American Legion club in O'Neill on November 22 to celebrate the winning of the award. All of the present supervisors and their families as well as all of the past supervisors and their families were present. W. W. Derrick was the featured speaker of the evening. The World-Herald representative, E. T. McClanahan presented the chairman of the board with a bronze plaque. The district did not receive a \$500 award as was erroneously stated in a local paper and in a World-Herald release.

The district is deeply appreciative of the award and wishes to take this opportunity to thank the World-Herald. Their program of recognition among districts in Nebraska and southwestern Iowa has meant much more than the monetary value of their awards. It has created a spirit of competitiveness among districts and has been an outstanding means of telling the story of conservation to countless numbers of people in the midwest. May we say thanks for a job well done to you, the people of Holt county, for helping the district win the award, and to the World-Herald for promoting so effectively a worthwhile venture?

Four supervisors attended the annual state conference in Lincoln during December. The other member had made arrangements to go but because of illness was compelled to make a last minute change of plans.

Technical Service—

With all the publicity that has been given "complete" soil conservation plans a large majority of people contacting the technicians for the first time do so for one particular problem, such as tree planting, grass seeding, drainage, dams, terraces, fertility problems, etc. Most of them are surprised to find that for the most effective use of any conservation practice it must be joined with all practices applicable to their particular units and their ways of operation. However, after complete plans are developed a majority realize the importance of the completeness of the program and strive to put it into operation. Generally they find that many of the established practices exemplify their good management and fit perfectly in their overall plans of complete and sound soil and water conservation.

We, as supervisors of the local district, sincerely believe in the district program as a democratic means of uniting to combat the forces of erosion and apply the needed conservation measures to make an even greater and more productive American agriculture.

Financial Statement—

Cash balance on hand	253.76
Equipment and real estate	5,505.07
Materials	1,821.84
Bills receivable	200.16
Total, assets of district	7,780.83
Bills payable	455.01
Net worth of district	7,325.82
Total receipts for year	11,850.50
Total expenditures for year	14,215.56

Golden Keys Boys TO Erect Birdhouse

The Golden Keys club met on Friday, March 28. Jerry Schaaf called the meeting to order. Roll call was answered with our favorite newspaper. Next week we will answer it with our favorite Indians.

Donna Perry gave a book report. Kathleen Grothe will give one next week.

The girls popped some popcorn this week.

The boys are going to make a birdhouse.

"Voice of The Frontier" WJAG . . . thrice weekly, 9:45 a.m.



It's Spring House Cleaning Time!

Springtime means a general session of painting and polishing throughout our state.

Homes are scrubbed inside and out. Yards, gardens and fences are prepared for summer enjoyment. Spring housecleaning is a good American custom which enhances the appearance of our neighborhoods.

Housecleaning is not confined to homes, either. Your tavernman does a Spring clean-up, paint-up job, too! He takes pride in his place of business.

Encouraged by the brewing industry, your tavernman endeavors to operate a neat, attractive place where you can relax in clean, wholesome surroundings.

This clean-up, paint-up, maintenance drive is further evidence of the continuing educational program carried on by the brewing industry.

NEBRASKA DIVISION

United States Brewers Foundation

710 First Nat'l Bank Bldg., Lincoln



Pardon Me—

but did you say, 'over

12,000,000* dollars'?

Yes, Sir! In fact, approximately 12,939,000* dollars or, nearly thirteen million* dollars in bonds have been retired by your Consumers Public Power District in the relatively short period of its existence!

Your Consumers Public Power District is constantly retiring its debt with funds derived solely from earnings!

These earnings come from the sale of electric power on rates that are among the lowest in the nation! Your Consumers Public Power District, a taxpaying, self-supporting organization, receives not one cent in benefits from either Federal, State or Local taxes!

*Includes Funds Reserved for Bond Retirement

Serving Nebraska Electrically — Economically!



CONSUMERS PUBLIC POWER DISTRICT