

## Sarah E. Norton Rites Are Held

STUART—Funeral services for Mrs. Evaline Norton, 87, were held Thursday, March 27, at the Stuart Community church with Rev. Orin Graff in charge of the service. Pallbearers were Harry Cadwallader, Charlie Ahlman, Harrison Hovey, Fred Stracke, George Stracke and Henry Hutchinson. Interment was in the Stuart cemetery.

Mrs. Norton died Saturday, March 22, at the home of her son, Asa Norton. She had been blind for the past six years and suffered a stroke about three years ago, being confined to her bed since that time.

Sarah Evaline McCartney, daughter of James and Susan McCartney, was born March 29, 1864, near Beatrice.

On July 26, 1883, she was united in marriage to George W. Norton. To this union 14 children were born, four of whom died in infancy. One daughter died in 1941 and a son, Harvey, was killed in World War I. It was for him the American Legion post in Stuart was named.

The Norton family came to Stuart in 1890 living northwest of town.

Mr. Norton died in 1936 and Mrs. Norton went to Sargent Bluffs, Ia., to make her home with a son there. In August, 1949, she returned to Stuart.

Survivors include: Daughters—Mrs. Sadie Kaiser, of Rawlins, Wyo.; Mrs. Jack (Alice) Lesline, of Jefferson, S.D.; Mrs. Martha Alhouse, of Stuart; sons—George, of Colonee, Wyo.; James, of Sargent Bluffs, Ia.; Quince, of LaFara, Colo.; Sam and Asa, both of Stuart; brother—John McCartney, of Alamosa, Colo.; sister—Mrs. Ida Fowler, of Sargent, 45, grandchildren, more than 80 great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

### Other Stuart News

James Nelson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Nelson, has been chosen by the American Legion post to go to boys' state in Lincoln early in June. "Jim" is vice-president of the student council, is on the staff of The Wrangler, the school paper, and has been a member of the dramatic club for three years. He plays a trombone in the school band, has been a member of the "S" club three years, and has played basketball three years. Don Fuller, son of Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Fuller, was named as an alternate.

Marcia Bigelow, 16, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dana Bigelow, has been chosen by the Legion auxiliary to go to Cornhusker girls' state on the University of Nebraska campus in Lincoln June 3-9. Marcia is a member of the student council and treasurer of her class. She plays the bells in the high school band and has been a member of the high school glee club for three years. She also has been in the pep club three years and has played on

the girls' volleyball team two years. Corrine Sweet, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Sweet, was named as alternate.

Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Sill, of Newport, spent Friday evening, March 28, at the Wilfred Seger home.

Mrs. Wilfred Seger and Kathy, Mrs. Jim Seger and Miss Doris Davis spent Thursday evening, March 27, at the Leonard Bazelman home in O'Neill. Mrs. Bill Farr accompanied them.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Cowles went to Lincoln on Wednesday, March 26, to see "Street Scene," a play given by University of Nebraska students. Their daughter, Miss Nan Cowles, was production manager. They returned home Thursday.

Miss Bernelda Engler came from Omaha Friday night, March 28, to spend the weekend with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. B. C. Engler. Miss Engler is a civil service employee and will receive a promotion and be transferred to Ft. Randall, S.D., next week.

Paul McMunigal, of Wakonda, S.D., visited at the B. C. Engler home over the weekend.

Mrs. Harold Johnson came last week for an extended visit with her mother, Mrs. Katherine Pape. Her husband has been inducted into the armed service.

Mrs. James Nachtman, Ruth and Adolph, were shopping in O'Neill Saturday.

Mrs. Art Reynolds was no less to the TFM club on Tuesday afternoon, March 25. Mrs. F. P. Murphy and Miss Minnie Haskins won prizes. A lunch was served.

Miss Ruth Nachtman was a Sunday, March 30, dinner guest at the home of Mrs. Mabel Fox at Newport. The dinner was in honor of Don Fox, who is entering the armed forces next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Hardt and Miss Dorline Kramer, of Lincoln, came on Friday evening, March 28, to visit with the ladies' parents, Mr. and Mrs. August Kramer.

Orville Gilpen, George Kohlc Max Kunz and Martin Miksch came Friday for a 10-day furlough with home folks, from the marine camp at San Diego, Calif.

## Soil Service Has Smooth Efficiency

The Soil Conservation Service was designed primarily to aid farmers and ranchers in their planning, application and maintenance of a given combination of conservation practices on their own places. The goal of conservation practices on this combination of these practices as put into operation is this: Use each acre of agricultural land within its capabilities and the treatment of each acre of agricultural land in accordance with its needs for protection and improvement.

Another goal, although unwritten and much less frequently publicized, is the efficiency with which the Service operates. As a whole the Soil Conservation Service stands high among government agencies in its efficiency and every employee has a deep sense of pride in perpetuating this position.

One outstanding example of efficiency is one group of specialists in various fields of activity for the entire region. Instead of placing these highly-trained men in each state or even smaller areas they have in this case, six states to serve, namely Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.

These specialists have a variety of duties. The first of which might be listed as keeping current on the most efficient and effective way to do their job.

In addition, it is their responsibility

to get new and current information to technicians in the field as soon as possible so that it may be put into practice. Another and equally important fact is that if the local technicians have a problem they feel is too difficult or complex to handle they may call upon these specialists for assistance. The surprising thing to most people is that these regional specialists do not sit behind a desk and try to give assistance from the interior of the four walls that comprise their office.

Instead they go to the area requesting help, look over the situation in the field as it actually exists and then take the necessary steps to do what is needed to solve the problem.

That is what happened in the Holt district last fall when Mr. Quackenbush, from the regional engineering office, and Ollie Sherrer, ground water specialist, were called to the county to assist in making plans for a possible solution to the drainage problems in Holt county.

In April when memorandum 1278, the directive of the secretary of agriculture to coordinate the activities of the various branches of the department was published, the local PMA office had on file 123 requests for drainage in the county. Under the new directive the Soil Conservation Service was responsible for the approval, layout, and checking of all permanent practices, of which drainage was one. Because of the heavy work load it was mutually decided that all drainage requests would not be checked unless additional requests were made to either office. In checking these requests it was found that they varied considerably.

A few actually intended to be signing up for grass waterways, some drainages could be put into effect by merely plowing a furrow, some involved only one farm and after the surveying was completed were found to be very practical. Some involved large areas, with numerous land owners, most of them with varied opinions on what could or should be done. Some were either impossible or impracticable.

All in all it presented quite a variety of problems to the local staff, many of which could be solved locally and many others that needed further study.

Some of the questions that needed answering were:

What are the laws more than one owner is involved in drainage? What are the rights of individuals under the law if they desire to establish a drainage system when some of the people within the drainage area are not in favor of draining? Conversely, what can an individual do to prevent water from being drained on his property? Is this just a few years in a cycle in comparison with normal drier years? How much larger scale drainage should it be done? Does even the Elkhorn river provide a suitable and adequate outlet. Will draining now cause a more serious problem in times of drier years? Should control structures be provided? What type should they be if they are installed? Is the cost of drainage justified? For many of these problems the local staff felt that they did not have all the answers, thus a request was made to the regional office for assistance.

On Monday, November 26, the regional specialists arrived and spent the first three days of the week looking over the drainage situation in Holt county. They made a first hand inspection of many of the problem areas, saw some of the work that had been done. One-half day W. D. Whitver, of the local SCS staff, flew them over the areas involved.

On Thursday a public meeting was held at Stuart. About 75 farmers and ranchers interested in drainage from Rock, Brown and Holt counties attended. After a short introductory session the meeting was opened for discussion. Many of the questions were answered.

It was pointed out that there were primarily two types of drainage in the county — one, excess surface water; and the other, ground water. The excess surface water would be of very little consequence in most cases if in connection with it there was not an excess of ground water, or in other words an exceedingly high water table. The heavy snows of 1948-1949 is now having its effect. Coupled with above average rainfall there are now problems that have not existed for many years.

"If in effecting a drainage system the normal ground water table is lowered then the composition of the grass in these broad valleys in this area and the good hay meadows will be changed and the result will be a variety of grass that would probably make even a poor quality grazing range," Mr. Sherrer warned. A large scale drainage project for the county where the water was allowed to rush off uncontrolled and stream beds and drainage channels allowed to deepen unchecked would be out of the question as a solution to any of the problems of drainage in this area.

Each drainage problem is different and needs to be studied on its own merits. Some problems

are probably of a temporary nature and it would be impractical to try to do anything with them.

Others are of such a nature that improvements could be made and the cost could probably be justified.

One thing to keep in mind is to conform to the original (Continued on page 15)

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