

Fire Destroys Big Hay Barn

\$7,000 Building, 157 Tons of Hay Lost in 10 Minutes

EMMET—A strong southeast wind fanned a blaze of unknown origin late Tuesday and within 10 minutes following the first outbreak of smoke a big hay barn here was engulfed in flame and reduced to ruin.

The barn, measuring 66 ft. by 100 ft., was owned by the Emmet Hay Co., headed by Guy Cole and sons, Owen ("Bud") and Robert ("Bob").

Building loss was estimated at \$7,000, Mr. Cole said, of which \$3,000 was covered by insurance. Based on present values replacement of the huge frame structure would cost about \$10,000.

Contents included 157 tons of hay, about three tons of cotton cake, some bags and a truck rack. The contents were fully insured and totally destroyed.

Possibility that sparks from a passing train might have caused the fire was ruled out. It is possible, however, that children playing with matches in or near the barn might have been responsible for the blaze.

Mr. Cole and son, Bud, and R. G. Rocky, of Ewing, were visiting outside the Emmet Hay Co. offices, several hundred feet away. A petroleum truck driver, Robert Stevens, of O'Neill, exclaimed that smoke was oozing out the center of the barn on the west side. The barn was situated immediately south of the North Western railroad tracks on Emmet's main north-south street. Mr. Rocky, who, by coincidence, is Ewing's fire chief, said the outbreak was at 5:10 p. m.

A long diesel-powered west-bound freight train entered Emmet a few moments after the smoke was sighted and ironically the Coles and volunteer firefighters could not reach the blaze with extinguishers and garden hose until after the train had passed.

"It seemed like an hour before that train got through town," Mr. Cole stated. "Actually it was only a few minutes, I guess."

Firemen from O'Neill and Atkinson were summoned. The O'Neill department responded with its number two truck. Atkinson firemen manned the new rural truck.

Mr. Rocky said he saw no one emerge from the building, except five fire-fighters who had gone in.

Throughout Emmet's long history fires have inexorably whittled down the town. It was once a bustling town with a hotel, livery stables, stores, bank saloons and various types of business.

Mr. Cole, who has been in business in Emmet for 30 years, says he does not contemplate rebuilding.

The barn that was destroyed Tuesday evening was practically demolished on March 7, 1950—the day of the historic hurricane blizzard. The roof was blown off and strewn about the village and portions of the building collapsed. The Coles rebuilt the barn and used asbestos shingles. Mr. Cole speculated that the village some of the other structures would have been consumed.

Firemen kept a watchful eye on an elevated 300 feet away on the north side of the tracks. They played water on small fires that broke out near the elevator and on the platform of the railroad station.

Emmet does not have a municipal water system although some of the homes have use of garden hose.

The intense heat caused a big Consumers Public Power district transformer in the vicinity of the barn to "explode." Rocky said the purple ball of fire was colorful.

Both power crews and telephone crews restored service in the south end of the village later that night although the wires had been severed.

Elgin Ray New Lions Club Head

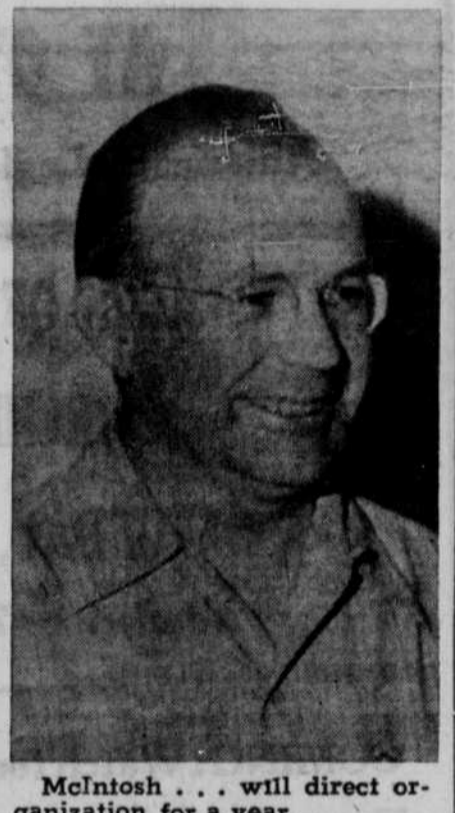
Elgin Ray, manager of the Spelts-Ray lumber company, Tuesday evening was elected president of the Lions club for the new year. He succeeds A. H. Doering.

M'INTOSH NEW CHAMBER HEAD

Succeeds DeBolt; Rodman Becomes First Vice

William W. McIntosh, head of the McIntosh Jewelry firm, Tuesday noon was elected president of the Chamber of Commerce for the new year, June 1, 1952 to May 31, 1953. He succeeds D. D. DeBolt, who was first vice-president and filled the unexpired term of L. M. Diehlman and later served a year as president.

Other new officers: Earl Rodman, first vice-president; Don Petersen, second vice-president; Woodrow Melena, treasurer; Marvin Johnson, Burl Munsell, and William C. Watson, members of the board.



McIntosh... will direct organization for a year.

of directors. Johnson and Munsell were elected to three-year terms; Watson, one-year term. Watson will fill the unexpired term of Eugene Cantlon.

President McIntosh Wednesday announced the committee appointments for the year:

Retail trade committee: Melvin Ruzicka, chairman, Burl Munsell and Marvin Johnson.

Niobrara river valley development: James W. Rooney, chairman, Carroll W. Stewart, and Lyle P. Dieker.

Membership: Joe Stutz, chairman; Cletus Durr, Ed Willson, William Watson, and Richard Behrend.

Auditing: John C. Watson, chairman, James W. Rooney, G. C. DeBaker.

Noted Speakers At Stock Meeting

The Nebraska Stockgrowers' association will hold its 63rd annual convention at Gordon starting today (Thursday) and continuing through Saturday.

The convention will be highlighted by several outstanding speakers. Dr. T. O. Brandenburg will speak on animal health. He is one of the nation's foremost authorities on the subject.

Harry B. Coffey, president of the Union Stockyards company, of Omaha, will speak on the "Cattleman's Heritage." Mr. Coffey has always advocated that stockmen keep up the fight to prepare free enterprises.

Jerry Sotola, associate director of Armour's Livestock bureau, will speak on incidents from his recent tour of Europe.

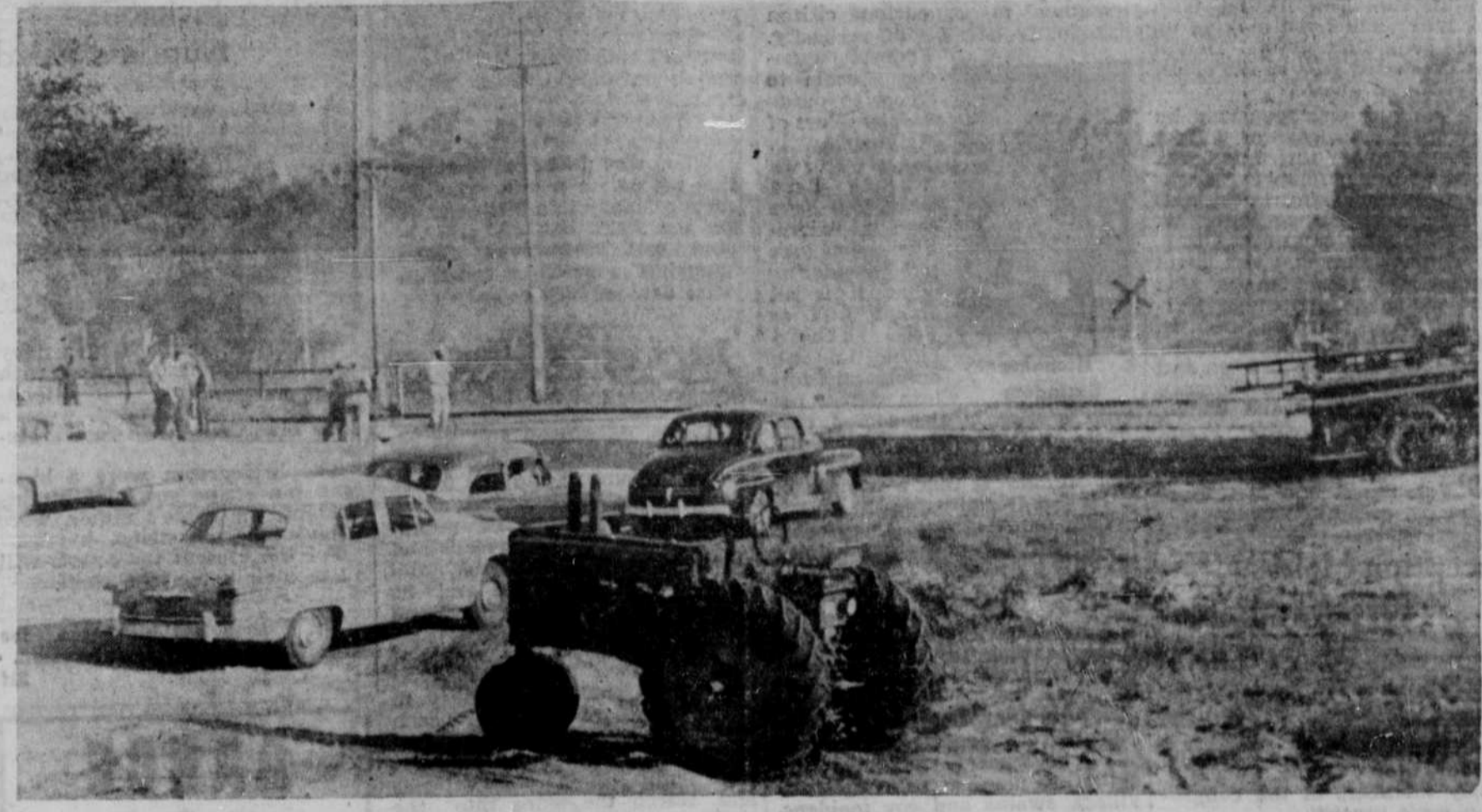
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Within 10 minutes after the outbreak of fire at the Emmet Hay Co. barn the big structure was reduced to ruin. Firemen and volunteers who quickly gathered at the scene helplessly looking on.

BLANKET TAX LAW RULED INVALID

Supreme Court Rules in Favor of Petersen

The blanket four-mill school tax levy law, tested in the courts by Charley W. Petersen, of Atkinson, an extensive Holt county rancher, Friday noon was ruled unconstitutional by the state supreme court. The high court entered an unanimous decision.

The law passed by the 1949 legislature provided for a minimum levy on all elementary school districts in the county, but not to exceed four mills, to provide two-thirds of the cost of operation. Distribution was limited to districts having five or more pupils.

Petersen balked on paying the blanket tax and took the matter into court. He asked the Holt county district court to restrain Holt County Treasurer J. Ed Hancock from collecting the blanket tax in rural district 231.

District Judge D. R. Mounts upheld the law after hearing arguments of the attorneys: Julius D. Cronin, of O'Neill, and Daniel Stubbs of Lincoln, for the plaintiff, and William Gleason, assistant Nebraska attorney-general and William W. Griffin, of O'Neill, Holt county attorney, who were defending Hancock, the nominal defendant.

The case was subsequently heard by the supreme court following an appeal.

Sens. Glen Cramer, of Albion, and Dwight Burney, of Hartington, were introducers of the law, LB 388, which was passed 30-10 with three state senators not voting.

Among the 10 salons voting against the bill was Frank Nelson, of O'Neill. A freshman that year in the senate, Nelson was one of the lawmakers who took to the floor to oppose the bill.

Nelson told his colleagues the bill had some good features but it would not stand up in its present form. The state senate, however, declined to amend the bill and it went on the books.

The supreme court's unconstitutional ruling plunged the county treasurers and school district officials into a quandary. In Holt alone the four-mill tax had accumulated \$97,000, which, of course, could not be touched from the moment the unconstitutional edict was issued. On a statewide basis the money involved will run to several million dollars in a single year.

Some Holt school boards in session Monday had to revise their planning because the blanket tax money could not be used in computing their budget for next term.

When passed in 1949 the bill had the support of a rural school district association and testimony given at public hearing on the measure stressed two benefits from its enactment.

1. It would encourage consolidation or reorganization to eliminate the economically unsound districts with less than five pupils.

2. It would bring on the school tax rolls lands that had been escaping all school taxes.

Witnesses testified that in the large ranching area, big operators would not employ help with children because they would have to provide school facilities.

In other districts witnesses said no taxes had been levied for years because of the small school population and the children were sent to other districts by contract or by paying tuition.

Mr. Petersen, the Holt county rancher, brought the test suit on constitutionality of the law. It was upheld by the District court which is now reversed by the Supreme court.

Attorney General C. S. Beck said that he will immediately file a motion for a rehearing so that it can be heard on June 21 when the court will sit to hear motions before the summer recess.

HOLT PIONEER, 80, EXPIRES AT INMAN

Charles Edward Morsbach Suffers 18 Months Illness

Charles Edward Morsbach, 80, died at his home in Inman Friday, June 6, after an 18 months illness.

The late Mr. Morsbach was born February 1, 1872, in Spring Green, Wis. He came to Holt county with his parents in 1889.

In September of 1901 he married Elizabeth Moore in Salina, Kans.

Mr. Morsbach was a veteran of the Spanish-American war.

Survivors include: widow; sons—David, of Inman; Levi, of Ne- h- ligh; William, of Clearwater; daughters—Mrs. Martha Scholz, of Inman; Mrs. Fern Hackett, of Wichita, Kans.; Mrs. Rena Johnson, of Omaha.

The funeral was held Monday at 2 p. m. in the Latter Day Saints church, Inman. Rev. Soderstein, of Clearwater, officiated. Burial was in the Inman cemetery. Big- lin Brothers were in charge.

Pallbearers were: E. L. Watson, Elwin Smith, Harry McGaw, L. E. Stamp, Mel Harkins and Herbert Neilson.

First Death in Family in Half-Century

Rev. Samuel D. Lee received word Wednesday of the death of his sister, Mrs. Myron Bellain, of Griswold, Ia. Survivors include the widow and five children.

The death is the first in the Lee family in 50 years. Originally there were nine sons and daughters.

A family reunion had been planned at Stella next Tuesday at the home of another of Reverend Lee's sisters.

Funeral services will be conducted at Griswold at 2:30 p. m. Saturday, June 14.

TELEVISION AT DELOIT

DELOIT—The first television set in the community was installed recently in the Lambert Bartak home. Reception is reported to be good.

Use of Polio Funds Discussed

The executive board of the Holt county chapter of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis met in the assembly room of the county court house Tuesday, June 10.

Stanley Lambert, of Ewing, chairman, was in charge of the meeting.

Miss Francis Rotherham, of Ewing, gave a report on a chapter workshop meeting held in Omaha, Wednesday, June 4. Proper patient care and wise use of chapter funds were discussed.

Dr. W. F. Finley was appointed by the board to be medical advisor for the Holt chapter.

Rev. C. D. Ankeny, of Chambers, was appointed publicity director.

Mrs. Lester Reige, of O'Neill, was appointed chairman of the women's activities committee.

Those in attendance were: Mr. Lambert; John H. McCarville, vice-chairman; Mrs. Gene Sanders, secretary; Miss Francis Rotherham, treasurer; Miss Alice L. French, Mrs. John Walter and Rev. C. D. Ankeny.

Robert Day, state representative, was present. Mr. Day answered questions regarding organizational policies and guided the board in appointing various committees to serve the chapter for 1952.

BAND CONCERT

Saturday, June 14

Invercargill, march.....	Lithgow
The Klaxon, march.....	Fillmore
Two Moods, overture.....	Grundman
Moonlight Madonna.....	Fibich
National Emblem, march.....	Bagley
Hymns.....	
Semper Fidelis, march.....	Sousa
"Little" Rhapsody in.....	
Blue.....	Gershwinn
Waggery for Wood-.....	
winds.....	Walters
Wheel of Fortune.....	
Trombone Toboggan.....	Weber
On Parade, march.....	Goldman

Reelect Chambers Auxiliary Head

CHAMBERS—The American Legion Auxiliary, of Chambers, post 320, met Friday evening, June 6, at the home of Mrs. Anna Albers with 13 members present. The president, Mrs. E. H. Medcalf, presided. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Steve Shavlik, secretary; Mrs. Gordon Harley, treasurer; Mrs. Cleo Alderson, historian; Mrs. Don Dankert, sergeant at arms.

The president, Mrs. Medcalf, and the vice-president, Mrs. Charles Fauquier, were reelected as well as the chaplain, Mrs. J. W. Walter.

A report of the carpet tray committee was heard. Lunch was served by Mrs. Albers, Mrs. Gordon Harley and Mrs. Earl Heorie.

Maryland Houseguests of Miss Carney

Vice-Admiral and Mrs. L. C. Stevens, of Annapolis, Md., were houseguests Saturday of Miss Mary Carney. They were close friends of Miss Carney's brother, the late Captain James V. Carney.

WEATHER SUMMARY

	Hi	Lo
June 5	89	56
June 6	88	58
June 7	92	65
June 8	88	64
June 9	85	48
June 10	87	62
June 11	90	67

31ST ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT AT HAND

Former Residents Are Arriving Here to Participate

The 31st annual golf tournament will be held at the O'Neill Country club Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, June 14, 15, 16. The event will attract many out of towners and former residents. Because it falls on father's day it has been designated as a dad's day tourney.

Among the former residents who will return are: Clear Golden, of Cheshire, Conn.; Frank O'Donnell, of Dallas, Tex.; Dr. Robert Biglin, of Chico, Calif.; Ed Campbell, Jr., of Green Bay, Wis.; Lt. John Lee Baker, Las Vegas, Nev.; Gene McKenna, of Cleveland, O.; Jim Golden, of Pittsburgh, Pa.; John McCarthy, of Scottsbluff; C. V. Sullivan, of Lincoln, and others.

Two old standbys who have attended for 25 consecutive years are: Joe Baldwin, of Ainsworth, and George Lightner, of St. Edward. Mr. Baldwin won the tourney in 1925.

The original Country club was started about 1918. The first tournaments in 1922 and '23 were held there. H. C. McDonald won the first, with Parnell Golden winning in 1923. Mr. Golden started the tournaments.

Mr. Golden laid out a new course and the tourney was moved to the new site in '24. Nothing has been changed since Mr. Golden's original layout. Others who helped in those first years included H. J. O'Donnell and his uncles, Jim and P. J. O'Donnell.

Others who have been prominent in conducting the tourney are P. C. Donohoe, H. J. Birmingham, Ed M. Gallagher, Max Golden and A. P. Jaskowiak.

Doug Dale, of Ord, who won the championship last year, will be on hand to defend his title. The winner in 1949, Kermit Mortenson, of Albion, has also entered the '52 tournament.

Details for the dedicatory rites are still in the making, according to Mr. Brady.

Frontier Want-ads bring results.

Atkinson Lake Dedication Set for July 1

ATKINSON—The old mill dam at Atkinson, which has been restored during the past three years and the 28-acre lake are now one of north-Nebraska's fine recreation spots, will be dedicated July 1.

Frank J. Brady, of Atkinson, chairman of the state game commission, announced this week that the state conservation department will open the lake for fishing upon the dedication. The lake has been stocked with bass, pike, crappie and catfish.

The original dam was built years ago with a tail race. It was the project of Murphy & Reberg, who operated a grist mill and later developed power for the town. At the peak of the mill's career it was supplying flour for much of Holt county and virtually all the settlers in Boyd county.

The dam and lake were allowed to deteriorate. Under Brady's direction, a new earthen dam was constructed with interlocking steel sheets and piling used for reinforcement. A year ago the new dam was damaged by high water.

bet," says Brady. "It already has demonstrated it can handle all the water brought downstream by the Elkhorn river."

The site of the lake is about 1½ miles west of Atkinson. The entire park measures about 55 acres.

The depth varies up to 10½ and 11 feet in depth. There are lots of trees—willows, cottonwoods, and a few pine trees in the area.

The park is equipped for recreational purposes. Recently several hundred boys scouts camped there over the weekend. The park facilities already are in popular use although fishing has been forbidden.



Elkhorn river water rushes over the dam... outlet for the new Atkinson lake

Flying Maniac Still At Large

Earl Ross, 24-year-old St. Peter (Minn.) mental hospital escapee, is still at large. Holt Sheriff Leo Tomjack said Wednesday he had been advised that Ross, described as a dangerous sex maniac, had been sighted in Omaha.

Ross stole an airplane at Brookings, S. D., landed the plane near here and hitch-hiked to Omaha. He was the object of a manhunt in the Ewing vicinity June 1, 2 and 3.