

Music - Lovers Await 'Messiah' Presentation

George Frederick Handel's crowning masterpiece, the sacred and immortal Christmas hymn, "Messiah," will be presented by the O'Neill Civic chorus at 3 p.m., Sunday, December 14, in the O'Neill public school auditorium.

This marks the second annual presentation of the oratorio with its message of "Glory to God."

The chorus of 50 voices is to be assisted this year by Mrs. Clara Peacock, soprano; Mrs. Phyllis Johnson Loy, alto; R. W. Johnson, tenor, and John L. Schwartz, bass.

The chorus, a strictly non-profit volunteer organization, is made up of people from O'Neill and surrounding communities who enjoy the chance to meet and sing. A cultural asset to the O'Neill community, the chorus gives these talented people a chance for creative expression which many have missed since their graduation from college or high school.

Much credit for the work of the chorus goes to the accompanist and assistant conductor, James G. Bastian, Jr. He has given freely of his time in the evenings, Saturdays and Sundays to work with soloists and to prepare the difficult accompaniment for this Sunday's performance.

During rehearsals on Monday and Wednesday evenings, Mr. Bastian coached the tenor and bass sections as the chorus spent this time in hour and half long sectional rehearsals. Mr. Bastian, vocal music teacher in the O'Neill public school, spent the past summer in graduate study at Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., where he studied with the head of the piano department.

O'Neill is indeed fortunate to have the services of John L. Schwartz, Atkinson band director, as bass soloist. Mr. Schwartz sang the bass solos with the Alliance community chorus in 1951.

A graduate of the University of Nebraska, Mr. Schwartz majored in piano, studied voice with Dale Ganz, sang with the University Singers, played violin in the University Symphony orchestra and flute in the University band.

The O'Neill Chamber of Commerce has again consented to underwrite expenses for music and incidentals as it did in 1951.

No admission is to be charged. Since April 13, 1942, when the "Messiah" was first performed at the Music hall in Fishamble Street, Dublin, Ireland, with the composer conducting, audiences the world over have been profoundly moved by this majestic music, so appropriate to the Christmas season.

A custom was established by King George II of England, connected with the stirring "Hallelujah Chorus." When the king was to be crowned, the king was so moved that he spontaneously stood up in his box, beginning a tradition that persists to this day whenever this glorious music is rendered.

'Fatima' Film Coming to Royal

"The Miracle of Fatima," a Warner Bros. color film which is receiving widespread attention, has been scheduled at the Royal theater here Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, December 14, 15 and 16, according to Mrs. Georgia Rasley, manager.

The film stars Gilbert Roland and Susan Whitney, an 11-year-old starlet. Mrs. Rasley has announced revised admission charge for this show only—adults, \$1; children over 12, 50 cents; children under 12, 25 cents. These prices include the tax. Children under 12 will not be admitted free at this picture when accompanied by parents, Mrs. Rasley said. Ordinarily children under 12 are admitted free when with parents. (The admission prices quoted in the advertisement on page 5 are in error.)

The three-day showing of the "Fatima" film will begin with a matinee Sunday at 2:30 p.m.

The grade and high schools of St. Mary's academy and O'Neill public school were guests of Mrs. Rasley for a film, "Dickens' Christmas Carol," shown in the morning and afternoon on Wednesday at the Royal.

Unemployment Highest Since May, 1952

NORFOLK—The count of employment office job seekers on December 1 was 197, a gain of 130 per cent over the number applying for work on the first day of November.

This is the highest level of unemployment registered with the Norfolk employment office since May, 1952 but is approximately 15 percent under the count one year ago. About 23 percent of the job seekers were women, and 27 per cent were veterans.

Shortage of fully qualified workers continued in some important occupations.

Hershiser Elected IOOP Noble Grand

The Elkhorn Valley IOOP lodge, 57, met in regular session last week with a large attendance. The meet was the election of officers for the coming year. They are:

Francis Hershiser, noble grand; Elmer DeVall, vice grand; Clay Johnson, Jr., secretary; John C. Watson, treasurer; Lowell Johnson, trustee (2-year-term); Darrel Baker, trustee (3-year-term).

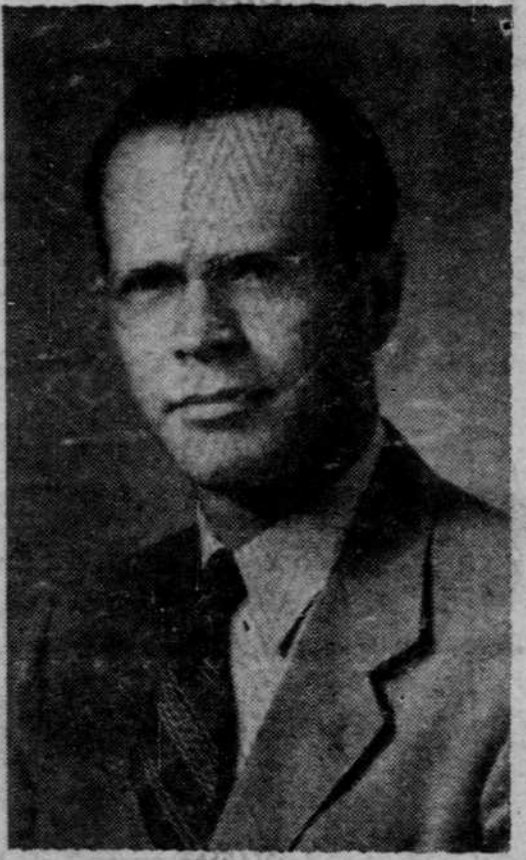
After the meeting a lunch was served including ice cream, cookies and coffee made by John Watson.

It is believed that railroad sleeping cars were first used in 1873 in England.

SOLOISTS



Johnson . . . tenor.



Schwartz . . . bass.

Strausser Facing Kidnapping Charges

Prosecution Fixing Route of Flight

A parade of witnesses filed in and out of the Custer county, S.D., courtroom at Custer, S.D., as the prosecution attempted to establish the route taken by Sherwood Franklin Strausser on a flight with a 14-year-old girl.

The man, who is facing kidnapping charges, and the girl, Ruby Bond, spent Thursday, September 11, in O'Neill.

Principal witnesses were Nebraska police officers connected with Strausser's arrest September 13 and a Sidney, Neb., physician who examined Ruby.

A number of other witnesses testified to having seen Strausser and the 14-year-old girl whom the defense has maintained was never forced to accompany him against her will.

Testimony concerning a physical examination of the girl, ordered by Custer county States Attorney Floia Hoagland, was taken from Dr. Jason B. Roche of Sidney.

The physician said his examination would lead him to say Ruby had been molested. The examination took place the night of September 13, shortly after Strausser's arrest.

The state case was nearing its end Monday.

The girl sat in an O'Neill beauty parlor most of the afternoon the day spent in O'Neill. Mr. Strausser, however, always lingered nearby.

The fact that they had stopped here was learned when Strausser passed checks on a local bank. He signed his rightful name but had no account.

Spencer Polio

SPENCER — Darlene Prokop, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Prokop, who has been a polio patient at St. Francis hospital, Grand Island, the past two months, has returned to her home here.



MARKS 73D ANNIVERSARY . . . Mrs. William Grothe, Sr., (above) recently celebrated her 73rd birthday anniversary. She and her husband reside north-west of Emmet, (Story on page 20.)—O'Neill Photo Co.

The Frontier's 7th Annual

SHOPPERS GUIDE



Santa Claus has come to town, his great bag overflowing with glittering, glamorous and useful things for giving; his eyes twinkling a heart warming invitation for everyone to lose no time in coming to O'Neill to see his wonderful collection of gifts.

Santa Claus came to town very early indeed this year—far in advance of the exciting holiday itself—to give everyone the best possible opportunity to choose what they will give their loved ones and friends with care and consideration.

Santa Claus has come to town so early that none need lack the chance to make the 1952 yuletide the most perfect in all history for their friends and loved ones. There are 12 full shopping days until Christmas.

A great corps of assistants has unloaded the contents of his overflowing gift pack, spread them on gaily bedecked counters and shelves in stores of our city, to await your admiring inspection.

Show windows scintillate with myriad suggestions for giving that you will find multiplied tenfold inside the stores themselves.

The Chamber of Commerce retail trade committee has announced that O'Neill stores will be open until 9 Thursday evenings, December 11 and 18, and Monday and Tuesday evenings, December 22 and 23, in addition to the customary Saturday evenings. On Saturday evenings, however, the stores are open until 10.

We must mention here that O' Santa will greet the small fry in O'Neill at 2 p.m., on Saturday, December 20. He customarily buzzes here by airplane, boards a fire truck at the airport, and greets his young admirers at the O'Neill public school auditorium. He'll have a corps of helpers and there'll be goodies for the youngsters.

And this special issue of your favorite newspaper—The Frontier—is brought to you with the cooperation of Old St. Nick and his

assistants to give you a preview of his collection and to help you chart your course through the Christmas gift wonderland that awaits you.

There are several reasons, especially important this year, why Christmas gift shopping should be started without delay.

The postoffice will be burdened with its greatest yule mail volume in history. Weather has been wonderful and the early shopper can still enjoy grand weather for shopping.

This issue of The Frontier—our 7th annual Christmas gift-shopping issue—enters virtually every rural home in Holt and Boyd counties as well as all the city and town homes where this paper is a weekly visitor. Circulation this issue exceeds 3,800 copies.

In its columns this week you'll find gift suggestions galore from the leading stores in north-Nebraska.

O' Santa has dumped his pack in O'Neill. Hurry in, won't you?

—THE PUBLISHER.



Only 12 Shopping Days 'Til Christmas Hurry!

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VOICE OF THE FRONTIER WJAB Mon. Wed. Sat. 780 k.c. 9:45 a.m.

THE FRONTIER

North-Central Nebraska's BIG Newspaper O'Neill, Nebr., Thursday, December 11, 1952.

Volume 72.—Number 32.

Seven Cents.

Leader of U.S. Church to Speak

Dr. Herman N. Morse, Presbyterian Head, in 3 Stops in State

The holder of the highest honorary office in the Presbyterian church of the U. S., Dr. Hermann Nelson Morse of New York City, general secretary of the church's board of national missions, will be an O'Neill visitor next Thursday, December 18.

Doctor Morse will address a meeting of the Niobrara Presbyterian church during the afternoon. Presbyterian clergy and lay leaders from throughout northeast Nebraska will be present, according to Rev. Samuel D. Lee, host pastor.

The Woman's association will serve a turkey dinner at 5:30 p.m., in the church basement. A moderator's service will be held at 6:15 p.m.

A public session will be held in the church starting at 7:30 p.m. It is said to be the first visit of the general secretary to the Niobrara Presbytery in a half-century.

Doctor Morse was elected by acclamation as moderator of the 164th general assembly of the church held in New York City in May, 1951. He succeeded Dr. Harrison Ray Anderson of Chicago, Ill.

The duties of the moderator include presiding at the general assembly meeting and at meetings of the general council, visiting churches, presbyteries and synods and representing the church at official gatherings and functions, both civic and ecclesiastical. The term of office is for one year.

Widely known as one of the most influential statesmen in American Protestantism, Doctor Morse's principal field of activity has been home missions. His leadership has been on both denominational and interdenominational levels.

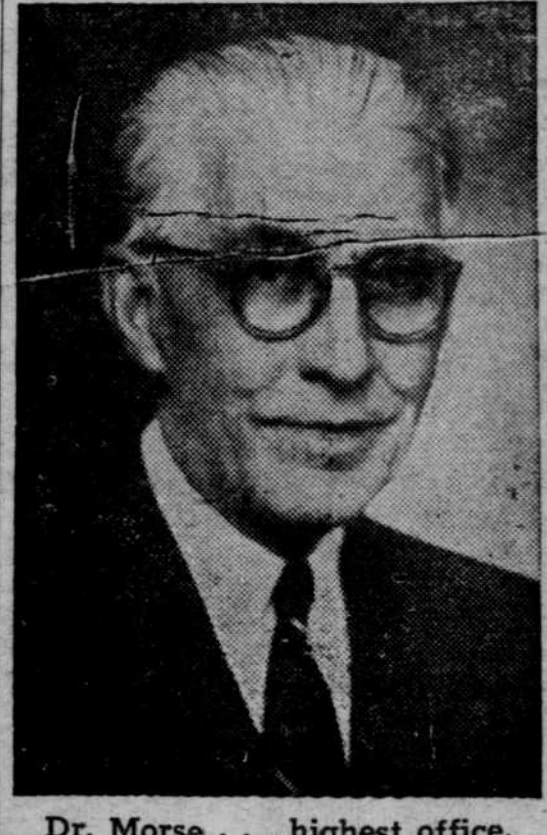
As general secretary of the national missions board, he is responsible for administration of the board's work in 48 states and in Alaska, Cuba, Puerto Rico and the Dominican Republic.

In 1950 he was elected first chairman of the division of home missions, national council of Churches of Christ in the United States.

Doctor Morse was born in Ludington, Mich., September 29, 1887. He was graduated from Alma college, Alma Mich., in 1908, received his theological training at Union Theological seminary, New York. Alma college conferred the doctor of divinity degree upon him in 1927.

In 1913 he married Miss Florence Vorpe of Van Wert, O. They became the parents of two children.

Doctor Morse will be making three stops during his visit to Nebraska.



Dr. Morse . . . highest office.

Retired Educator Buried at Stuart

Mrs. Downey Widow of Lecturer

STUART — Funeral services were conducted here Friday, December 5, for Mrs. Florence Downey, 80, who died Monday, December 1, in Cincinnati, O.

Florence Emma Zink Downey, born December 30, 1872 in Union Star, Mo., was the eldest daughter of Nathaniel and Sarah Zink.

She moved with her parents and six brothers and sisters to Stuart in April of 1890, where her parents started farming 8 miles northeast of Stuart on what has since been known as the Zink ranch.

She taught in Holt county rural schools from 1891 to 1895, when she returned to Stansbury, Mo., to further her education, graduating from the Missouri normal school in 1897.

After graduating from the Missouri normal she remained in Missouri to teach one term of school in the school her mother had taught before her marriage. Returning to Stuart she taught in the high school here from 1898 to 1902.

In 1903 she entered the Peru normal school for a year of high school review work after which she taught one year in the Bassett high school.

In 1905 she was elected county superintendent of schools of Holt county, serving four years. Married to Alvadore Downey in December, 1910, they made their home in Lincoln and Swathmore, Pa., where her husband was a chautauqua lecturer.

In 1916 they established their home in Cincinnati, O. In 1924 she entered the National college of chiropractor of Chicago, graduating with the degrees of D.C. and Ph. C.

After her husband's death in 1926 she practiced her profession in Cincinnati until forced to retire because of failing health. She is survived by two brothers, Fred O. of Stuart and Ernest R. of Cincinnati, O.

Edward Welton, 85, Burial at Atkinson

Homesteader Dies Saturday

ATKINSON—Funeral services were held in the Presbyterian church at Atkinson at 2 p.m. on Monday, December 8, for Edward H. Welton, 85.

Mr. Welton died at his home in Atkinson about 7:40 a.m. Saturday, December 6. Rev. Frank Payas, church pastor, was in charge of the services.

Mrs. Glenn McClurg and Mrs. Frank Payas sang "In the Garden" and "There Is No Night There." They were accompanied by Mrs. Floyd Splinter, Pallbearers were Glenn Butterfield, Glenn McClurg, Conrad Frickel, jr., Alex Forsythe, Oliver Shane and Eugene Hickok. Burial was in Woodland cemetery.

Out-of-town relatives who were here for the services included: Mr. and Mrs. William Gladfelter and son of Omaha; Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Finnegan, Mrs. Thelma Murphy and children and Norris Murphy, all of North Platte; Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Fish and family of Gordon; Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Ammon of Bassett, and Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Welton and family of Burwell.

Edward H. Welton, son of Adaline and Barnabas Welton, was born in Cleveland, Minn., on July 18, 1867. He came to Holt county with his parents in 1879 and later, as a young man, he moved to Dawes county for a few years.

He was married to Myrtle Amy Handy in 1893 in Dawes county. In 1902 they returned to Holt county where they homesteaded on a section of land in the southwest part of the county. Mrs. Welton died on March 4, 1932. Eleven of their six sons and six daughters are among the survivors.

On March 14, 1935, Mr. Welton married Ella Mae Levora of Carlville, Ill., and they continued to live at the homestead until their retirement in 1944, when they moved into Atkinson. Mr. Welton was a member of the Presbyterian church.

In spite of the fact that he had undergone major surgery when he was past 80 years of age, he was active until his recent illness. The past two years he did much of the housework and cared for his invalid wife for many months.

Survivors include: Widow — Ella; daughters—Mrs. Addie Ammon of Bassett, Mrs. Alta Fish of Gordon, Mrs. Etta Finnegan of North Platte, Mrs. Edna Gladfelter of Omaha, Mrs. Bessie Kenny of Atkinson and Mrs. Thelma Murphy of North Platte; sons — Melvin and Ferman of Wenatchee, Wash., Morgan of Burwell, Clarence of Clatskanie, Ore., and Elvin of Amelia; three sisters; 27 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

One son preceded him in death.

Stove Explosion Nets Pupils Holiday

STUART—A faulty oil stove exploded in the school in district 72 Monday morning, December 8, covering the teacher and pupils with soot.

The blaze followed the explosion. It was soon extinguished with no injuries and no damage except a badly smoked interior which will give the pupils another day's vacation while the building is being cleaned.

The school is about 3 miles southeast of Stuart. Larry Krysl is the teacher.

Presbyterian Pastor Is Installed, Ewing

EWING—Rev. William J. Bomer was installed Monday evening, December 8, as pastor of the United Presbyterian church in Ewing by a commission of Nebraska Presbytery.

Rev. Nelson Warner of Lincoln preached a sermon, Rev. Leonard Warren of North Bend gave the charge to the pastor, and Rev. Paul Sutton of Minden gave the charge to the congregation.

Reverend Bomer is a graduate of the University of Iowa and of the Pittsburgh (Pa.) Xenia seminary. While in school, he served during the summer as student pastor at the United Presbyterian church at Mt. Airy, Ia., and Romotown, Pa.

Mr. Bomer was in the army for 32 months, 22 of which were spent overseas. Before leaving the United States, he served as assistant to a Protestant chaplain at Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo.

Mr. and Mrs. Bomer, their two sons, Norman and Bruce, moved to Ewing in May, 1952, to fill a vacancy as minister in the United Presbyterian church.

In September, Mr. Bomer went to Pittsburgh to complete his work at the seminary. On Sunday, November 30, he was ordained at the Westminster United Presbyterian church, Des Moines, Ia.

Classmates in Service Reunite

EWING—Pvt. Estel Cary of Camp Pickett, Va., and Pvt. Dwayne Williamson of Ft. Belvidere, Va., recently had the pleasure of meeting unexpectedly. They spent a weekend together sightseeing in Washington, D. C.

Private Cary and Private Williamson are schoolmates and graduated from the Ewing high school with the class of 1947. After graduation, Estel was employed at Pickett station and Dwayne assisted his father with farm work, until entering the armed forces.

Niobrara, Sitz Stock Sales Next

Mrs. Ermer Will Sell December 19

Two registered livestock sales are on The Frontier's sale calendar for this weekend. Friday, December 12, will be the big day at Butte when the Niobrara Valley Hereford Breeders association holds its fall show and sale. According to Sale Manager Walter Sire, 35 bulls and six females are in the offering. The show will be held at 9:30 a.m.; sale at 1:30 p.m. (Catalogs have been published by The Frontier.)

Next day—Saturday, December 13—will find 49 head of registered Aberdeen-Angus being sold at the Atkinson Livestock Market. This is an Angus production sale sponsored by Will Sitz of Burwell. Seven lots in the sale are consigned by Mitchell Bros. of Burwell. (Catalogs have been published by The Frontier.)

On Monday, December 22, Fritz Bros. and Kenneth H. Meier, both of Niobrara, will hold their annual registered Hereford production sale, 52 lots, males and females, Norfolk Livestock Sales pavilion. (Catalogs have been published by The Frontier.)

Other sales: Wednesday, December 17: Wayne Stangdage ranch closeout; 2 miles southeast of Amelia; 85 head of cattle, including registered bull; complete line of ranch machinery, household goods, frame dwelling; Col. Ed Thorin, O'Neill, auctioneer; Chambers State bank, clerk. The Stangdages plan to move to Ravenna. (See advertisement on page 11.)

Friday, December 19: Mrs. Fred Ermer, who resides 14 miles south of O'Neill on U.S. highway 281, will offer her personal property at public auction. Mrs. Ermer says she is unable to carry on the work since the unexpected death of her husband on November 30. Col. Ed Thorin of O'Neill is auctioneer; Chambers State bank, clerk. (See advertisement on page 24.)

Gregory Officer Aboard Plane Down in Alaska

GREGORY—Col. Noel Hoblit, who was born and reared at Gregory, was aboard the Globemaster plane which crashed south of Anchorage, Alaska, Saturday, November 29.

There were 52 army and air force personnel aboard the plane which was flying from McChord air force base, Tacoma, Wash., to Alaska.

Colonel Hoblit, dental surgeon at the Anchorage air force base, had just moved with his wife and two children to Alaska. His father, Elmer, lives at Pasadena, Calif.

RETURNS TO DUTY

Sgt. Orville Banks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sam Banks of O'Neill, has returned to active duty in Korea.

O'Neill Child Is Rushed to Omaha; Swallows Bottlecap

An O'Neill youngster, who swallowed a bottle cap, was rushed Saturday through Norfolk to an Omaha specialist with the state patrol providing an escort.

The youngster is the child of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Shores, who on the advice of a physician made the trip to Omaha. Patrolman Frank Dinsch provided the escort through Norfolk to Wisner, where he was relieved by Patrolman Willard W. Green, West Point.

SCOUTS TO CANVASS O'Neill Boy Scouts will make a city-wide canvass, including both business and residential districts, after school classes are dismissed Friday. They will be collecting canned goods and other items.

Member of Pioneer Family Succumbs

Word has been received here stating that George Graham, 76, of Santa Cruz, Calif., died Sunday, December 7. He was the survivor of a large Holt county family of boys and one girl. His parents lived 10 miles north of O'Neill on the place Joseph Gokie now farms. They emigrated from Wisconsin.

Survivors include: Nephews—Harry Graham, Maurice Graham, Gerald Graham and Rev. Clarence Corcoran, C.M., a Catholic priest teaching at the Kenrick seminary, St. Louis, Mo.; nieces — Mrs. Lloyd Ritts and Miss Viola Graham; sister-in-law — Mrs. Mary Graham, and several nieces and nephews who reside in California.

Funeral services were held in the Holy Cross Catholic church at Santa Cruz, Calif., on December 10.

50 Years

Mr. and Mrs. Pearl Cary of Inman (right) on Monday, November 24, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a family gathering at Hastings, Ia.

Mr. Cary is 72; his wife, 71. They became the parents of two daughters — Mrs. Vernon (Mina) Crouse of Hastings and Mrs. Mary (Mae) Hartigan of Inman; three sons — Chester, John and Laddie.



Mrs. Vernon Crouse of Hastings, Ia., (above) and Mrs. Mary Hartigan of Inman, Ia., (right) celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with a family gathering at Hastings, Ia., on Monday, November 24.

Hearing on Irrigation Scheduled

Next Thursday's Meet Here One of Four in Niobrara Basin

An important official public hearing on a proposed report of a plan for development of the Niobrara river basin will be held at the American Legion auditorium here next Tuesday, December 16.

It will be an all-day meeting, starting at 10 a.m. Dan S. Jones, jr., chief of the Nebraska bureau of irrigation, will preside. The hearing has been called by Gov. Val Peterson as a matter of formality.

Purpose of the hearing is to draw out expressions of local reaction to the plan to bring an extensive irrigation system to the basin. The governor's agent will be anxious for questions pro and con to be aired thoroughly.

The O'Neill hearing is one of four scheduled next week and the results of these hearings will have an important bearing on the future of irrigation in the region.

Next day, Wednesday, December 17, a similar hearing will be held in the Ainsworth city auditorium; Thursday, December 18, at Valentine courthouse; Friday, December 19, at Gordon city auditorium.

The reclamation report presents an inventory of the land and water resources of the Niobrara river basin and outlines a plan for the development of these resources. The proposal covers 14 inter-related operating units which would provide for the irrigation of about 144,000 acres of land and the generation of some 200,000,000 kwh of electrical energy annually, as well as recreational, fish and wildlife and other benefits.

An estimated 68,000 acres of irrigable land are located in Holt county, and the bulk of this lies west and slightly north of O'Neill.

The purpose of the meetings is to provide an opportunity for residents of the Niobrara river basin and other interested persons to learn of the proposed development and to express their reactions to it.

Clyde Burdick of Ainsworth, area engineer, and others of the U.S. bureau of reclamation will explain the proposed development and answer questions regarding it.

"Local interests, federal and state agencies and others who might be affected by the proposed development are urged to attend the hearings and to be prepared to express their reactions to the plans and to indicate the extent to which they are willing to cooperate in the proposed developments," explained Harold E. Aitken of Lincoln, who is state engineer for the department of highways, roads and irrigation.