

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

THE FRONTIER

TWELVE PAGES

SECTION 1 Pages 1 to 12

North-Central Nebraska's BIG Newspaper

Volume 72.—Number 43.

O'Neill, Nebr., Thursday, February 26, 1953.

Seven Cents.



'Voice' and Waif Dog Meet in Snowbank

The forlorn cry of a nondescript dog greeted the "Voice of the Frontier" announcer, George Hammond, when he ventured into the screeching snowstorm Friday with a microphone in hand. The dog cuddled while George gave his radio station WJAG listeners a word-picture of the swirling snow, a breath-taking Arctic wind, and 18-foot snowdrifts. Listeners near and far, stowed away comfortably beside the hearth, have questioned George's veracity in regard to the height of the drifts. The waif dog, which has been adopted by The Frontier staff, and George hold fast to the 18-foot claim. On Monday's "Voice" program (WJAG, 9:45 a.m.), George reiterated that the snowdrifts were that height at the time of the two special broadcasts. He pointed out that wind-shift and shrinkage caused the picture to change rapidly after the storm had subsided. Monday was the legal holiday in observance of George Washington's birthday and Hammond explained to his listeners: "I wasn't named for the first president but you may call me Honest George when it comes to talking about O'Neill snow."—The Frontier Photo.

Student Pilot, 18, Killed in Takeoff

Man's Body Found in Snowbank

Harvey R. Allen, 73, Retired Farmer, Dies of Heart Attack

A 73-year-old retired Holt county farmer, residing alone nine miles east of O'Neill on state highway 108, died as the indirect result of the historic two-day storm that battered this region last weekend.

The frozen body of Harvey Richard Allen was discovered in a snowbank near his house by a passerby, Thomas Kelly, about 10 a.m. Sunday, February 22. Young Kelly was driving by the farm when he happened to see the body lying in the snow. Dr. E. J. Bild, Page physician, was summoned and estimated the man had been dead at least 24 hours. Holt County Coroner William W. Griffin said death was caused by a heart attack. Time of death was assumed to have been sometime early Saturday. The body was not covered by snow.

There was evidence he had attempted to shovel some snow and distinct tracks could be traced from the house. Griffin said he thought Mr. Allen sat down in the snowbank to rest and was fatally stricken.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 25, from the Biglin Brothers funeral chapel. Rev. Wallace B. Smith, O'Neill Methodist church pastor, officiated and burial was in Prospect Hill cemetery. Pallbearers were Milo Landreth, Ed Sterner, Edwin Braddock, William Roach, Herman Dimmitt and Glen Stewart, all of the Page vicinity.

The late Mr. Allen was born January 3, 1880, at Harvey, Ill., a son of the late James and Sarah Allen.

On March 2, 1910, at Ft. Calhoun he married Bessie Johnson. The couple became the parents of one daughter, Grace, and they came to Holt county from Omaha in 1913.

The Allens lived on a farm in the Redbird vicinity until 1919. Then moved onto a place north of Page. They resided in Page about six years after which they moved onto a farm six miles northwest of there.

Mrs. Allen died July 9, 1947. He was also preceded in death by his parents and four brothers—Ethan, Frank, Grover and Ella, several of whom were known here.

Survivors include: Daughter—Mrs. Glen (Grace) Sprague of Iman; brother—Ezra E. ("Jerry") Allen of Santa Rosa, Calif.; sisters—Mrs. Bessie McClaren and Mrs. Rena Jackson, both of Edmont, Alberta, Cana.

Meets Husband—Mrs. Daryl Beckwith went to Omaha Saturday, February 14, where she was met by her husband, Private Beckwith. They returned to Ft. Leonard Wood, Mo., where he was stationed, until he received his furlough.

Special to The Frontier ATKINSON—An 18-year-old Atkinson youth, Clifford Boettcher, a senior in high school and a member of last fall's Atkinson high football team, died about 4:15 p.m., Sunday, February 22, in a two-passenger aircraft in which he was taking off from an improvised airfield. He was killed on the southeast outskirts of town after his wheel-equipped plane had become airborne and climbed to an altitude of about one hundred feet.

The plane suddenly stalled and descended crazily, killing the young student pilot instantly. He was alone in the craft.

His brother, James, said he



Boettcher . . . plane stalled.

witnessed the accident and saw the plane "stall out."

The dead youth is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Boettcher, who reside about 25 miles southwest of Atkinson.

Two state highway patrolmen, R. J. Shorney of Ainsworth and Robert Gude of O'Neill, investigated, and the body was removed to the Seger mortuary.

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 25, from the Methodist church with Rev. E. G. Hughes, church pastor, officiating. Burial was in Wood Lawn cemetery. Members of his high school class were pallbearers.

Survivors include: Parents—Mr. and Mrs. Freddie Boettcher; sister—Mrs. Marvin (Donna) Frisch of Atkinson; younger brother—James, at home, also a student pilot; also Grandmother Maude Clifford and Grandmother Boettcher.

The youth was born December 20, 1934.

The craft he was flying was relatively new and belonged to the Boettcher family. Clifford frequently negotiated the distance between Atkinson and the ranch home by air, especially on weekends.

In a preliminary investigation conducted Wednesday, civil aeronautics administration officials said apparently the craft stalled after a steep climb, did a half-turn and crashed.

STORM DAMAGE Damage was reported to the Henry Krier home as a result of Friday's blizzard. The force of the storm blew some of the roofing from their house.



Digging out this Wyoming car produced a cavern in the snow effect Saturday morning on O'Neill's main thoroughfare—Douglas street.

9 Draftees Report for Duty March 9

The following Holt county selective service registrants have been ordered to report for induction on Monday, March 9:

Wendell J. Bahl and Duane E. Pongratz, both of Emmet; Albert J. Lawrence, Donald R. Carr, Bernard Troshynski, Wayne W. Barnes and Leonard Troshynski, all of Atkinson.

Richard L. Buxton and Gus W. Robinson, both of Page; Fred R. Mitchell, Cornelius L. Murphy and Emil C. Mashek, all of Stuart; Stanley J. Johnson, Donald V. Donohoe, Billie G. Marcellus and Donald R. Schneider, all of O'Neill.

Servicemen Home on Emergency Furloughs—

Army Pvt. Patrick Boyle of Camp Roberts, Calif., and Marine Pfc. Edward Boyle, who is stationed on Hawaii, were granted emergency furloughs in order to be home because of the critical illness of their mother, Mrs. Edward Boyle, who is a patient in St. Anthony's hospital.

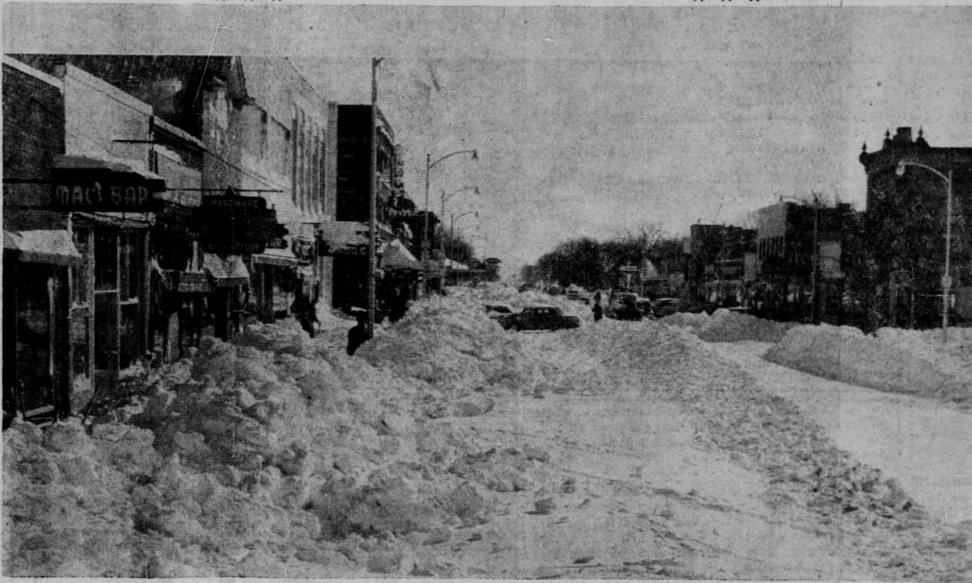
Patrick flew from California to Omaha, then traveled by bus to O'Neill, arriving Saturday night. He is receiving his basic training at Camp Roberts. Edward flew from Hawaii to Omaha, where he was met by members of his family. He has been stationed on Hawaii about a month.

Larry Barrett, a brother of Mrs. Boyle, arrived Friday from Riverton, Wyo., to be at the side of his sister.

Monterey Home Opening Delayed

The formal all-day open-house of the Monterey motel home on North Second street, North Heights addition, originally scheduled for Saturday, February 21, was postponed one week by the North-Nebraska Builders, a firm composed of Ed Thorin, Francis Gilg and Harry E. Ressel. The new date is Saturday, February 28, 8 a.m., until 10 p.m. (See advertisement on page 4.)

Mrs. J. C. Gallagher received a telephone call late Tuesday from her son, Jerome, stating he had landed at San Francisco, Calif. He was to proceed Wednesday to Camp Carson, Colo., for separation. Private Gallagher had been in the Far East serving with the photographic section of the outgoing and incoming trunk lines pass. Ice on the lines was blamed. Second stop for the special events snow crew was at the



Douglas street looking east as O'Neillites began to dig out from under 14-inch cover of snow.

'Voice' Takes Storm Tour with Mike

George Hammond, "Voice of the Frontier" announcer, took the special events unit on a three-stop tour Friday during the storm's height.

But he had some silent assistants by Bill Moriarty and Cal Stewart, who helped wrestle the equipment through the snow. First stop was at the lobby of the Golden hotel. The hotel was overflowing with wayfarers who gave up their highway journeys and sought shelter.

Hammond talked with a dozen estrand persons and many of them sent radio messages to their families advising of their whereabouts.

(This practice of relaying messages is permitted by Federal communications commission only during times of emergency.)

North-Nebraska was cut-off from the rest of the world because of 73 unserviceable telephone circuits in the Norfolk area, through which most of the outgoing and incoming trunk lines pass. Ice on the lines was blamed.

Second stop for the special events snow crew was at the

M&M cafe and bakery, where Hammond talked with another dozen marooned persons, mostly traveling men and tourists. The M&M was operating on a skeleton staff. Miss Pat Boyle, 16, walked northward up Fourth street in the early hours Friday from her home to her job in an incredible performance in loyalty to her job.

She was one of very few employees in the business district reporting for work on time—6 a.m.

Bennett Heriford and Lyle Green, bakers, had spent the night in the bakery and stayed on to serve meals to hotel guests, telephone and power line crewmen, and others.

C. M. Bloom, Omaha salesman, asked any Omaha listeners to advise his wife he was safe and okay at O'Neill.

Mr. Bloom later sent word to The Frontier that his wife received 12 telephone calls and an Omaha amateur radio operator volunteered to try and work a message into O'Neill for her. Before returning to The Frontier building, Mr. Hammond did a two-minute tape from out in the street giving radio listeners an opportunity to hear the 55-mile-per-hour wind.

Three special storm broadcasts originated at The Frontier. The first was a seven-minute round-up of storm bulletins which went on the air over WJAG at 9:35 a.m. Friday. The second was a 2 1/2-minute flash sent by wire to radio station KPAB, Omaha, Nebraska's most powerful station (50,000-watts). The third, 24 minutes in length, went on the air over WJAG at 4:15 p.m. The latter broadcast had been "plugged" by the station most of the day and the audience was tremendous.

BLIZZARD ISSUE

This issue of The Frontier—February 26—will long be remembered as our blizzard issue. An unprecedented demand for extra copies is anticipated and hundreds of extras have been published. A special feature is a full page of storm pictures to be found on page 3. Copies are available at all regular newsstands.

the tape-recorded interviews were played-back. Any monitoring station was given permission to use any portion of that broadcast.

Listeners mail to the "Voice of the Frontier" has been exceedingly heavy since the special storm broadcasts.

Storm news dominated the regularly scheduled "Voice" programs on Saturday and Monday (9:45 a.m., WJAG).

Funeral services will be conducted today (Thursday) at 2 p.m., from the Presbyterian church in Atkinson.

The infant had been a patient at the hospital four days.

It was on the latter program

at the hospital four days.

18-Ft. Snow, Drifts Here; Cold Hits

Giant Gorges Block Railroads, Hiways; Communications Out

O'Neill Man Winter delivered his third history-making assault in four years Thursday and Friday, February 19 and 20, in a 48-hour siege that left 18-foot snowdrifts in the heart of O'Neill, tied up all railroad and highway traffic for many hours, and paralyzed power, telephone and telegraph communications.

The storm moved in late Wednesday, February 18, and gathered fury throughout Thursday, reaching its height Friday morning.

Snow variously estimated from 14 to 18 inches in depth was dumped on O'Neill and a 55-mph wind howled hour-after-hour.

The volume of snow in the relatively short span of time rivaled two other memorable storms which have given prominence to this area during the past four years. More snow fell Thursday and Friday than during any single storm during the now-historic recurring blizzards of 1948-'49, and more snow fell than was recorded during the now famous Hurricane Blizzard of March 7, 1950.

This weird weekend paralleled the treacherous January 2, 1949, storm which dealt misery to an already battered Holt county populace. In both instances the storms gathered in the southwestern states. A low-pressure area in north Nebraska brought masses of Arctic air moving south out of Canada. The result on both occasions was lots of snow, zero temperatures and lethal north winds.

Fortunate the mercury did not drop below the 2-degree mark during the Friday crisis. This is generally credited with saving human life and preventing wholesale smothering of livestock.

Cautious cattlemen, who learned the hard way not to trust midwestern winters, had warning and kept their cattle close-in with feed at hand. The crisis was short-lived, because Saturday dawned calm and crisp and the uncovering job was promptly begun.

Travelers began giving up Wednesday night and Thursday morning, and by midafternoon Thursday all traffic was grinding to a halt.

The westbound mainline passenger-mail train on the Chicago & North Western system arrived Thursday morning 40 minutes late. That was the last scheduled train out of the city for 40 hours.

A Burlington diesel-powered freight train pulled into O'Neill about 3:30 p.m. Thursday and was held in the roundhouse until Tuesday night.

Three U.S. highways—20, 275 and 281—were blocked Thursday afternoon and remained closed until Saturday. Virtually all county roads and streets were snowlocked until the snow-removal equipment could swing into action Saturday.

2 Deaths in Area Attributed to Storm—

Two persons in the area died indirectly as the result of the 48-hour storm.

Harvey Richard Allen, 73, farmer living nine miles east of O'Neill, suffered a heart attack and his frozen body was found in a snowbank. He is believed to have died early Saturday.

At Osmond, an autopsy on another storm victim showed that Miss Barbara Burt, 20, died of a rheumatic heart condition and over-exposure.

Miss Burt, whose home was at Osmond, spent 20 hours in a stalled automobile. She and a friend, Dale Blunck, 21, had been visiting her parents at Pierce, were enroute back to Osmond and became stuck in a drift. Mr. Blunck escaped without any ill effects.

North Nebraska in Dark Over 3 Hours—

O'Neill, together with most other cities early towns in a vast segment of northern Nebraska, was without power over three hours Friday evening. Some sections of the city, where trans-

(Continued on page 7)