

# THE FRONTIER

VOL. LX

O'NEILL, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, JANUARY 4, 1940

NUMBER 34

## THE YEAR 1939 GOES INTO THE RECORD BOOKS AS THE DRIEST IN 20 YEARS

### Only Fourteen Inches of Precipitation Falls Here During the Entire Year; Very Dry During the Past Three Months; Crops Suffer

The year 1939 brought many things to Nebraska, among others the longest dry spell for many years, and the lowest total rainfall in Holt County for the past twenty years, with a total rainfall of only 14 inches. The only exception to this year might be 1921, when only 13.89 were recorded, but no record was kept during the month of December in that year, as the rain gauge was stolen. But the farmers and stockmen in this county are facing the new year with confidence, and hoping that this year will see abundant rainfall, and consequently good crops.

Following is a complete table for the past twenty years, showing the total rainfall in that length of time. The years, 1919, 1920, 1921 and 1922 are not complete, in that one or two months are missing, because the rain gauge was stolen at some time, during each of the four years.

**Precipitation**

The following not complete:

Year	Amount
1919.....	20.84 Nov. short
1920.....	30.24 Oct. short
1921.....	13.89 Dec. short
1922.....	19.06 Nov. & Dec. short

Records could not be kept during these months as rain gauge was stolen.

Year	Amount
1923.....	21.10
1924.....	22.14
1925.....	14.87
1926.....	21.94
1927.....	24.11
1928.....	16.63
1929.....	31.80
1930.....	18.00
1931.....	16.05
1932.....	22.58
1933.....	16.67
1934.....	15.40
1935.....	21.43
1936.....	14.42
1937.....	20.93
1938.....	19.54
1939.....	14.00

The weather for the past week has been very cold, with light snow falling a few days during the week.

	High	Low	Prec.
Thursday.....	15	-2	.02
Friday.....	25	-6	
Saturday.....	20	9	
Sunday.....	22	-5	.01
Monday.....	29	-5	
Tuesday.....	16	-14	
Wednesday.....	13	8	

On Thursday morning the weather gauge registered eight below at 8:00 a. m.

## Fire Destroys Landmark in Omaha Today

Fire destroyed the Henshaw Hotel in Omaha this morning causing a loss of about \$200,000. About one hundred guests were registered in the hotel that night among whom were Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Biglin of this city. They all got out of the hotel safely, but most of them lost their personal belongings, which were left in the rooms. Frank Biglin was interviewed by Foster May shortly after they got out of the building and his interview was on the air again today on the man of the street program.

## New Business Firm Here

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Hayes of Norfolk, arrived in O'Neill on Wednesday, and will operate the J. M. Hayes Agency, which will be located in the south half of the new Hagensick Building, facing Fourth Street. Mr. Hayes will operate a loan and insurance agency, taking personal and real estate loans, and selling insurance. Mr. Hayes came to O'Neill from Norfolk, where he has been for the past four years, as a special insurance agent, and he has taken over the insurance business of the late T. S. Mains. Mr. Hayes came to O'Neill, because he believes it to be the best town in Northeast Nebraska, and we wish him much success in his venture.

## O'Neill Couple Have Fire Scare in Omaha Hotel

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Biglin left Wednesday for Omaha on a business trip. While in Omaha, they registered at the Henshaw Hotel, which, early Thursday morning, was completely gutted by fire. Mr. and Mrs. Biglin, who had a room on the second floor, easily made their way to the street, by way of the fire escape, when Mrs. Biglin heard the noise of the fire engines in the street below, and awakened Frank. The description of the fire was broadcast by Foster May of the WOW staff, last night at the scene of the fire, and was rebroadcast, by means of electrical transcription at his regular man on the Street program at twelve-forty-five today. Mr. May interviewed Frank on this broadcast, wherein he described how they were awakened and made their way to the street, without stopping to take any of their personal belongings with them. There were about one hundred and fifty guests in the hotel, and they, with the exception of one woman, completely overcome by smoke, and said to be in a serious condition in an Omaha hospital, escaped without serious injury. Two firemen were also injured, although not seriously, according to the radio report.

## County Treasurer Has Land Office Business

The staff of County Treasurer Ben Winchell has been busy the past month, collecting approximately \$51,187.74 in taxes during the month of December. Of that amount, \$24,952.68 were delinquent taxes, which were paid before the December 31 deadline, in order to avoid paying the back interest as fixed by law. On the 29th and 30th of the month, December 31, being Sunday, \$8,714.98 was paid in, in delinquent taxes. A great number of the citizens of Holt county took advantage of the interest moratorium and paid their back taxes, but a great many others did not and will now be obliged to pay the taxes and full interest thereon. The office staff is now busy issuing the new license plates for 1940, a large number having been issued to date.

## Soil Conservation Offices To Remain in O'Neill

At a meeting of the committee of the Soil Conservation Association of Holt County last Thursday, a vote was taken to decide whether the offices would remain in O'Neill, or be moved to Atkinson, eighteen members of the twenty-five and the board of directors had petitioned. By a vote of 48 to 20, it was decided that the offices of the association would remain in O'Neill, and the offices will be located in the north upstairs rooms of the K. C. Hall, as soon as they can be made ready for occupancy.

## Mrs. Lena Park

Mrs. Lena Park died at her home in Page last Monday morning, after a short illness of heart trouble, at the age of 77 years and one month. The funeral will be held Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock from the Methodist church in Page, Rev. Carpenter officiating, and burial in the Page cemetery, at the side of her husband who passed away in December, 1926.

Lena Wood was born at Arlington, Mass., on September 14, 1862. She came to this county in 1890 and since that time had been a resident of the Page neighborhood. On September 14, 1890, she was united in marriage to W. H. Park, the ceremony being performed at Page. To this union four children were born, three of whom survive. They are: Lyman, George and Harry, all of Page. A daughter, Minnie, passed away in April 1934.

## MARTIN CONWAY DIES SUDDENLY

### Prominent Citizen Called Last Saturday Morning

Martin Conway passed away at his home northwest of this city about 11:20 last Saturday morning, after suffering a heart attack a short time before. He was 69 years, 11 months and 24 years of age at the time of his death. The funeral was held from St. Patrick's church in this city, of which the deceased was a devout member, on Tuesday morning, January 2, 1940, Monsignor McNamara officiating, and burial in Calvary cemetery. Despite the intense cold of the morning, the funeral was very largely attended, most of the residents of the northwest part of Shields precinct being in attendance to pay tribute to their departed friend and neighbor.

Martin Conway was born at Wheatland, Iowa, on January 6, 1870, the son of Patrick and Mary Conway, both natives of the Emerald Isle. He grew to manhood at that section of the state of Iowa and on October 10, 1900, he was united in marriage at Panama, Iowa, to Miss Bertha McAllister. To this union ten children were born, nine of whom are living, who with their mother are left to mourn the passing of a kind and indulgent husband and father. The children are: William, Frederick, James, Mrs. Gertrude Thomson, Raymond, Clare and John, O'Neill; Sister Mary Quintin, Kansas City, Kans., and Sister M. Hortense, Plain, Kans.

Martin Conway was a real man and one of the best citizens of this county. In his death we feel that we have lost a real friend for about every Saturday, when he usually came to town, he nearly always called at this office and we swapped yarns about current events and the possibilities for future political events. Last Thursday afternoon he was in the office and spent a half hour looking over the old files of the Frontier, for he loved to read of the early days of this county and the pioneers who carved this country out of the wilderness. He remarked that day that one of the most loved things he liked to read were the stories of the days of the long ago and said that within a week or two he would drop in and again go over some of the old files and read of the early days of the county.

Mr. Conway came here in 1914, coming here from Dixon county, where, as I recall he told me, he lived about fourteen years, moving there from Iowa. On his arrival in this county he purchased a half section of land about twelve miles north and two west of this city, where he resided up to the time of his death. Martin's faith in this country and its future prosperity was unflinching, which is attested by the fact that about three weeks ago he purchased at referee's sale a half section of land near his place, to give him more farming land and pasture. He was a good business man and even during the depression he made money. He and his boys were indefatigable workers and they farmed extensively and made it pay. Martin Conway's word was as good as Uncle Sam's Bond. He was not a good mixer and made friends slowly but once he had a friend he was his for life, for he possessed the characteristics that welded men to him, once they got to know him. Men of his type, ability and character would be missed even if they lived in the largest city in the world, and he will be missed in this county, not only in the precinct where he lived for so many years, but all over the county, mainly due to his interest in the civic and financial affairs of the County.

The following out of town relatives and friends were in attendance at the funeral: Peter Greiner, Panama, Iowa; Frank Croghan, Woodbine, Iowa; Mrs. Eugene Kane, Panama, Iowa; Bernard, Joe, Catherine and Mary Sullivan, Panama, Iowa; Mrs. Alice McCloud and James Conway, Hartington, Neb.; Mr. and Mrs. Emil Kilgard, Tekamah, Neb.; Mrs. Madeline Linnick, Hartington, Neb.; Art

## Work of Tearing Down Old Court House To Commence Soon

The approval of the tearing down of the old court house as a WPA project has been received, and work on the dismantling will start as soon as all the present occupants have been moved to the different quarters, according to the Chairman of the County Board, Walter Smith of Stuart. The County Agents office has already been moved, and they are now located in the assembly room in the basement of the new court house, where they will remain indefinitely. The office force of the soil conservation will be moved into the north rooms of the K. C. Hall, and they will move just as soon as the rooms can be made ready for them, probably some time next week. The WPA office and the County Assistance office will move into the office space over the J. P. Gallagher store, and they will also move either the last of this week, or some time the fore part of next week. It has not yet been determined for sure, just where the Commodity Department of the State's Assistance Bureau, or the Recreation Department will be moved to, but some place will probably be decided upon this week.

The present plans are that a new building will be constructed from the material of the old building, and will be but one story in height, so constructed to accommodate all of the various departments and bureaus that headquarter in O'Neill. Two locations for this new building have been discussed, the corner lot where the county wood pile is now located, and the site just across the street from the Methodist Church, but the location is at present, just tentative, and has not yet been settled.

The present plans are that a new building will be constructed from the material of the old building, and will be but one story in height, so constructed to accommodate all of the various departments and bureaus that headquarter in O'Neill. Two locations for this new building have been discussed, the corner lot where the county wood pile is now located, and the site just across the street from the Methodist Church, but the location is at present, just tentative, and has not yet been settled.

## Mrs. Nora Griffin

Mrs. Nora Griffin passed away at her home north of this city last Monday night, after a short illness, at the age of 60 years, two months and six days. The funeral was held Wednesday morning at 9 o'clock from St. Patrick's Catholic church, Father Parr officiating and interment in Calvary cemetery. Nora Glynn was born in county Galway, Ireland, on October 25, 1879. She came to the United States when a little girl and lived at New Haven, Conn. She came to O'Neill in the spring of 1906 and on April 25, 1906, she was united in marriage to Thomas Griffin, the ceremony being performed in this city. Two children were born to this union, one son and one daughter, but both died in infancy. She leaves to mourn her passing, her husband, two sisters and one brother.

Mrs. Griffin was a charming lady and had a host of friends in this city and community and her sudden death was a shock to friends. She had a pleasing personality and liked company and about once a year she and her husband entertained a bunch of friends from this city and these parties were always eagerly looked forward to by those who were favored by being invited to attend.

The Frontier joins the many friends of the family in extending condolence to the bereaved husband in this hour of sorrow.

## CARD OF THANKS

We desire through the columns of The Frontier to express our sincere appreciation and heartfelt thanks to the many friends and neighbors for their expressions of sympathy and helpfulness following the sudden death of our beloved husband and father. Your kindness to us in our hour of sorrow will ever be held in grateful remembrance.—Mrs. Martin Conway and children.

and Albert Billiter and William Schuster, Plainview, Neb.

We have lost a warm personal friend and the people of Holt county have lost a friend and champion. Wish we had more men in the county of the calibre and mentality of the late Martin Conway. The editor of the Frontier desires to join the many hundreds of friends of his over the county in extending to the bereaved family their sincere and heartfelt sympathy in this, their hour of sorrow.

## FIRE THREATENS BUSINESS SECTION

### Extinguished Before It Had Gained Headway

Fire, which started in the basement near the furnace, about 11:15 last Monday night seriously damaged the stock of the Clover Leaf Store just north of the Golden Hotel. Most of the damage to the stock and building was caused by smoke. Both the building and the stock were covered by insurance.

Mr. Hanna, owner of the grocery store and meat market, informs us that he carried \$3,000.00 insurance on the stock and fixtures and that an invoice taken last Sunday disclosed that he had in the store on that date a \$2,000.00 stock. He said that it was hard to estimate the amount of damage to the stock, it all being badly smoked. Some of the canned goods, outside of damaged wrappers, are probably all right, while some of the stock is absolutely ruined and of no saleable value.

There is an adjuster now in the city for the insurance people and Mr. Hanna says that as soon as the loss is adjusted that he will have the interior of the store redecorated, put on a fire sale and open up again about January 20 with a new stock of goods.

Luckily the fire was discovered in its incipency or it might have been a disastrous blaze.

## Frontier Readers Have Our Sincere Thanks

The following Frontier readers have paid arrearsages and extending their subscriptions to the paper during the past two months: Mrs. E. B. Carter, Dean Streeter, Chet Calkins, H. R. Holcomb, W. J. Froelich, Lee Downey, Charles Ross, H. E. Donohoe, Carrol O'Neill, Montana Jack Sullivan, E. Borg, Mrs. V. M. Searles, Charles E. Berger, D. D. Harrington, W. G. Kraft, Stoff Brothers, J. W. Black, State Highway Department, S. M. Ohm-art, J. R. Sullivan, Fred Cronk, Maj. F. M. Brennan, Cyril Peter, L. M. Merriman, Edward Adams, Arthur Rouse, Curtis Smith, new, Melvin Smith, new; Forrest Smith, William Wells, John A. Robertson, Emmet Slight, Charles Sanford, Mrs. Charles Wrede, Rev. C. A. Byersdorfer, D. E. Bowen, F. C. Watson, H. E. Radaker, W. A. Ellis, William Storts, John Juracek, George Davies, H. B. Burch, Ray Siders, William Langan, A. R. Wertz, Orton Young, J. K. Ernest, Paul Nelson, J. J. Dusatka, A. J. Kurtz, R. E. Moore, Henry Krier, Mary Horiskey, Albert Kaczor, Guy Cole, Marie Steinberg, J. P. Mann, John Green, Dr. E. E. Gallagher, Lyman Robertson, Miss Mary Cullen, F. N. Cronin, Charles Grimes, R. E. Osborn, Nick Bogner, Arthur Auken, Ed Menish, O. E. Clevisch, Arthur Coperthwaite, D. L. Spellman, Harry Shaughnessy, Arnold Zaehle, W. G. Beha, C. E. Linn, D. H. Hansen, John J. Schmoher, Mrs. P. J. Lansworth, H. R. Rouse, Leo Burival, J. D. Osenbaugh, Walter C. Young, New; Leo Mullen, F. J. Biglin, W. J. Biglin, George Herzog, A. R. Bell, Mrs. J. C. Reynolds, John McNichols, George Bay, Mrs. T. S. Mains, Anna O'Donnell, A. E. Bowen, Fred Conway.

The editor of The Frontier is deeply grateful to its many readers for their liberal response to our appeal for funds to keep the "home fires" burning. We still have a large number on our books who are in arrears. In order to assist them in getting square and as there are a large number of readers whose subscription expires during the month of January we have decided to extend our offer during the month of January. That is, that during the month of January we will send the Frontier to all new readers who pay two years in advance for \$3.00. The subscription price has not been reduced, it is still \$2.00 per year, but all readers who pay arrearsages at the regular rate can get an extension of their subscription for a period of two years for the payment of \$3.00. This offer does not apply to readers living outside the state of Nebraska.

## OF INTEREST TO THOSE SEEKING KNOWLEDGE OF EARLY HISTORY

### The Following is Taken From the Files of The Frontier Which Appeared in The Issue of December 25, 1884; O'Neill Was Growing.

#### A Prosperous Year for Holt County and Its County Seat.

The money invested in improvements in O'Neill foots up to nearly \$90,000. The amount of business done, over \$1,000,000. O'Neill is the best town of its size in Nebraska.

The year 1884 has witnessed a grand series of improvements throughout Holt County, more noticeable and valuable than those made any other year since its settlement. The farmers have prospered without exception, and today the evidences of plenty are manifold. The granaries are full of the products of the farm, and though at present the prices are not great and the time of course close, the prospects are most excellent.

To The Frontier, which for four and a half years has been an active factor in assisting and encouraging the county's growth and settlement, there is indeed great satisfaction to chronicle the fact of our prosperity. We have seen the sod houses give way to the more substantial frame structure, the land broken and brought under subjection, the crop garnered and marketed and the poor man assume a position of independence and thrift. Take the county over and there is indeed cause for great joy and congratulation. Holt County is an empire in itself. From a desert (so called) it has in a brief half dozen years advanced to one of the most important counties in the state with a population of nearly twenty thousand people—who today enjoy the benefits of good schools, churches, society and other facilities for enjoyment that the favored sections of the east do. The Frontier extends to all the people of our grand county a hearty "Merry Christmas" and a cheery "Happy New Year."

The year about to close has been a prosperous one for the county seat. It has been more than doubled in size and population, and we believe has outstripped all other towns of its size in the Elkhorn Valley in the amount of business transacted and the amount of money expended in building. We have taken great pains to look up these two items and present them in detail. In preparing these lists we have avoided exaggeration, and if anything have placed the figures low of course we cannot speak of each improvement in detail—that would require too much space—but we are too proud of the two brick blocks just erected not to specially mention them.

The Holt County Bank building occupies the southeast corner on Main and Fourth streets. It is 24 x 51 feet in size, two full stories high. The first story is 14 feet in the clear, the second 12 feet. The first floor is used for banking purposes, and is divided into a large business office, a director's office and a closet. A fire and burglar proof vault, 5 x 8 inside, built of heavy Holt County rock is built from the ground up to the second floor. In this vault is the time lock money safe, and all the books and records. It is absolutely fire and burglar proof. Every convenience for the business is provided in the banking room. It is elegantly furnished, and we believe we are safe in claiming it to be as fine a bank as there is west of Omaha. It is indeed, a dandy, and David Adams, the cashier, and E. W. Adams, his assistant, should be happy in having so delightful quarters in which to transact business—of which they do a vast amount.

The upper floor is divided into three rooms. The front room is 14 x 20 feet in size, the rear rooms 15 x 15 each. They are being artistically finished off, and are fine enough for a Duke or Lord. They will be used exclusively by Senator Kincaid for law dispensary. Mr. Kincaid has a very large library, and one room will be used exclusively for this purpose. The senator can afford to be proud of his

new quarters. No lawyer has finer.

A cellar made of rock is a good feature of the building. It is the full size of the building and will be found just the thing for many purposes. At present it is not in use.

The wood work on the block was done by Mullen Bros., the brick work by Clark and Homan under the contract let to G. T. Nevills, the painting by A. B. Burroughs, J. H. Clark, and John Halloran, the plastering by Robert Loucks. The entire job is decidedly creditable to all the parties interested.

The O'Neill State Bank building is located on the northwest corner, on Main and Fourth streets, and when completed will be decidedly the most elaborate and costly building in Holt County. It is 50 x 60 feet in size. The first floor is 13 feet in height, the second 12 feet. The banking room will be in a corner of the building, and is 28 x 48 in size, divided into two rooms. It is now being finished off in the best style, hard woods being used, and in fact no expense whatever spared. The vault is of the best, and runs from the ground to the roof, giving plenty of accommodation not only to the bank but to the occupants of the upper floor. Native rock is used in its construction and is certainly is proof against fire and burglars. To the east of the banking room is a fine store room, 22 x 60 feet in size. This is not leased as yet, and is the boss room in the county. Facing on fourth street at the rear of the bank room is a daisy of a little store room 22 x 28 feet—just the place for a small business of any kind. Probably there is no better basement in the state than under this block. It is built of heavy rock and perfect in all ways. One portion runs under the store room and the L, and then a division is made and a room fixed up under the bank room and the same in size. It is 12 feet in the clear, and when finished will be a fine room for almost any purpose, as it is well lighted by large windows. The upper floor is divided into eight

(Continued on page 4, column 1.)

## Congressman Dies From Auto Accident Injuries

Congressman George Heinke, of Nebraska City, died in a hospital at Morrilton, Ark., Tuesday night as the result of injuries received in an automobile accident near there on December 28. He was 57 years of age and was serving his first term in Congress. He was a republican and was strongly opposed to the spending of public money. A special election will be called in that district to select his successor.

## Former Collector Pleads Guilty in Federal Court

Richard A. Bishop, 41, former collector of internal revenue at O'Neill, appeared before Federal Judge J. A. Donohue at Omaha on Friday of last week, and plead guilty to the embezzlement of \$81.00 of federal money at O'Neill last August, while serving as deputy collector. Judge Donohue deferred sentence.

## F. F. A. News

The vocational agriculture and home economics students were given a demonstration on the retail and wholesale cuts of a hog.

Mr. Mathis, the vocational agriculture instructor gave the demonstration. The demonstration showed how most of the meat could be used. The retail and wholesale cuts look better and will keep much better.

The hog weighed about 190 pounds nad was owned by Mr. Cole of Emmett.

The students thought they learned much more by watching than by reading about it. \*\*\*