

# Violent Deaths Again Year's Biggest News Topic

For the second consecutive year, The Frontier's editorial staff members voted violent deaths in Holt county the biggest single news topic of the year. At least 14 persons met death violently, including Holt countyans who lost their lives in the county or elsewhere and non-residents who were killed while in the county.

The second biggest news topic was the eternal weather proposition. The historic blizzard of November 18 and 19 occupied more space than any other subject in any given issue. A prolonged drought early in the growing season earned considerable space in the news columns, and weather summaries were deemed newsworthy almost every week.

Stories concerning O'Neill's constant expansion provided the third biggest topic.

Lives were wiped out in pairs on three occasions. Mrs. Thomas Slattery, 44, and Ed L. Hamik, 48, both of Atkinson, died as a result of a household explosion; Francis "Fritz" Kelly, 32, and F. E. ("Kelly") Saindon, 31, both of O'Neill, were killed in an airplane crash at the Country club here; and Laird Hardy, 17, of Boise, Ida., and Frank E. Hardy, jr., 15, of Chambers, were drowned in a gravel pit. Among others losing their lives in a violent manner were: Percy B. Sweet, of Stuart, killed in tractor upset; Gerald Hupp, 3, of Ewing, killed on a Ne-ligh street; Mrs. Hilda Bowen, 69, of O'Neill, fatal-

ly burned in a household fire; Herbert Longfellow, 19, of Greenville, O., fatally injured while diving; Lloyd Phelps, 58, of Redbird, died from injuries suffered in a tractor upset; Leonard Grossnicklaus, 33, of Bartlett, killed in an aircraft crash near O'Neill; Mrs. William ("Grandma") Menish, 99, frozen to death. A chronology follows:

### JANUARY

Nebraska farmers reaped an all-time dollar harvest in 1947 from an average yield . . . Francis Flood and Janice Jarman are in O'Neill hospital receiving treatment for injuries sustained in an auto crash near Chambers. . . Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Fisher, of Arlington, Wash., formerly of Amelia, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary . . . Statements of the conditions of seven Holt county banks at the close of business December 31, 1947, reveal an all-time year-end high in deposits, totaling \$12,674,759. . . James F. Lewis, 4, of Spencer, had his right arm amputated following a buzzsaw accident. . . F. N. Cronin was elected president of the O'Neill National Bank, succeeding Mrs. Emma Dickinson Weekes. . . Farm property in Holt county is valued at 22 million dollars. . . "Danny O'Bannon", whose real name is Elvyn Newman Bovell, is in custody of authorities in Omaha following his series of fantastic O'Bannon stories in which O'Neillites were among his listeners—believers and disbelievers. . . Holt county committeemen of the AAA organ-

ization learned of a 61 percent slash in operating budget for 1948. . . Mrs. D. A. Kersenbrock, of O'Neill, was named chairman of the 1948 polio drive in Holt county. . . Deaths: Edward J. Matthews, 53, of O'Neill; Mrs. Frank Musil, 27, of Inman; Mrs. Milton Black of Verdel; Albert A. Kaczor, 61, of Meek; John Rotherham, 80, of O'Neill; Benny Rockford, 22, of O'Neill; Mrs. A. C. McDonald, 82, of Los Angeles, Calif., formerly of Joy; Samuel Derickson, 88, of Dorsey; Frank Hubby, 77, of Butte; Mrs. Louis Hohndorf, 86, of Redbird; Mrs. Sheridan Simmons, 76, of San Diego, Calif., formerly of O'Neill.

### FEBRUARY

The fabled Bluejays of St. Joseph's academy, of Atkinson, are again the Holt county basketball champions. . . Six youths ranging from 11- to 15-years old were charged with "juvenile delinquency and dependency" following a series of breaking and entering incidents. . . Holt donors contributed \$6,218.16 to the Abraham Lincoln Friendship Train to buy a car of rye and a part-car of meat for war-devastated areas in Europe. . . The cash register of the Outlaw Grocery was looted of \$117. The thieves gained entrance by breaking a window in a rear door. A reward of \$150 was offered for information leading to the conviction of guilty persons. . . The much-talked-about zoning proposal has become official. All of Douglas street is included in the business area. . . Mr.

and Mrs. Thomas J. Donohoe marked 50 years of married life. . . Mrs. Axel Borg, O'Neill farm woman, was chosen as one of two representatives from an 11-county district to compete in a Nebraska-Iowa homemaking contest in Omaha. . . John R. Gallagher and Harold E. Connors, two O'Neill men, were among 42 new lawyers recently admitted to practice in the courts of the state by the Nebraska supreme court. . . The Consumers Public Power district advertised for bids on the erection of approximately 80 miles of 115,000-volt transmission line in the O'Neill area. Deaths: Mrs. William Reninger, 77, of Independence, Mo., formerly of Holt county; Michael Rotherham, 71, of Ewing; Frank L. Bain, 89, of O'Neill; Mrs. Thomas Markey, 77, of O'Neill; A. J. Placek, 90, of Lynch; Mrs. John F. Schrunck, 69, of Atkinson; Fred Beckwith, 78, of Atkinson.

### MARCH

The city council heard a proposal for providing O'Neill with facilities for night baseball and softball. Action was deferred pending completion of the canvass for funds. . . Boosts of \$5 to \$25 per head in the tax assessment value of range cattle were agreed upon by the Association of County Assessors at a recent meeting in Grand Island. . . Dorothy Scott, of Celia, was badly burned while attempting to fill a lamp, presumably because

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## Gift Shower for Baby Derby Winner

Holt county's first-born baby in the New Year will be a lucky little one.

O'Neill merchants will shower him or her with an assortment of gifts that will make that babe the envy of the current crop in swaddling cloth.

On pages 2 and 3 in section 2 of this issue of The Frontier, details of the 1949 baby derby are outlined. Parents with eligible offspring must formally enter their child in the contest in order to win. Contest rules include that the infant must be born after midnight on Friday, December 31, within Holt county boundaries. Entries must be postmarked by 6 p. m. on Monday, January 10, and the winner will be announced on Thursday, January 13, in The Frontier.

Even the brothers and sisters will benefit from the 500 pounds of coal to be given by the Spelts-Ray Lbr. Co. Gambles will give a baby pepperell crib blanket, measuring 36"x50", and the Midwest Furniture & Appliance Co. is contributing a child's training chair valued at \$6.

Brown-McDonald's have set aside a nifty knitted safety crib cover, nationally advertised at \$6.95 and a cinch to keep baby warm for several Winters to come. A \$1,000 life insurance policy is being issued by the R. H. ("Ray") Shriner Insurance Agency with her first year's premium paid in full. McCarvilles' have a choice pair of baby shoes for the lucky one, and Gilligan & Stout, O'Neill's new drug store, will provide baby with a hot water bottle.

An 8" x 10" tinted enlargement with a frame and a dozen 3"x 5" mounted photographs will be baby's gift from the O'Neill Photo Co. Total value of these photos is \$12. Bowen's Ben Franklin store has prepared a surprise gift package for the fond parents when they come to collect, and Gillespie's will present two electrical gifts—a vaporizer and a child's Jack and Jill electric clock.

At Montgomery's hardware store, the lucky little guy or gal will be greeted with a baskenette—a portable bed that can be used indoors, outdoors or in the car. McIntosh Jewelry will arrange to fit baby with a 10-karat gold infant's ring, and Sheldhamer Foods will present a case assortment of Heinz baby food.

An enamel bath tub, valued at \$6.95, will await the dotting parents when they call at the Jonas Furniture Exchange, and last, but not least, The Frontier will issue to 1949's first "Future Subscriber" nothing else than a year's subscription!

So, folks, keep an eye on the big bird as the big 1949 baby derby gets underway at midnight, December 31!

### 'Voice' Silenced by Power Failure

"The Voice of The Frontier", O'Neill's remote control radio program heard thrice weekly over radio station WJAG, Norfolk, was silenced Wednesday because of the power failure here.

The "loop" (or direct two-wire circuit) linking The Frontier with the control room at WJAG was tested early Wednesday and in good order but at 9 o'clock the power in O'Neill was shut-off and the amplifiers in the O'Neill studio were "dead".

A brief roundup of highway conditions and weather in oration was relayed by telephone to the station and at 9:30 a. m. the station explained to its radio audience why "The Voice of The Frontier" would not be heard.

Broadcasting from O'Neill will be resumed Saturday—New Year's Day—at 9:30 a. m. Johnny and Jeannie Mullen—the Harmonaires—will be featured. News concerning The Frontier's 1949 first baby contest will be broadcast.

### No Serious Mishaps Mar Christmas Day

No serious fires or accidents marred the Christmas week-end here.

O'Neill churches were well-filled for Christmas program and Christmas day worship services. Some rural churches however, were obliged to cancel or postpone plans.

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### MRS. STAPLES, 49, DIES AT NORFOLK

Atkinson Farmer's Wife Succumbs Following Emergency Surgery

ATKINSON — Mrs. Alfred Staples, 49, wife of an Atkinson farmer residing 18 miles northeast of Atkinson, died at 11:30 p. m. Wednesday, December 22, in Our Lady of Lourdes hospital at Norfolk.

Death followed an emergency surgical operation. Funeral services were held Sunday in the Butte Community church. A prayer service was held in the Seger funeral chapel at 1:45 p. m. Rev. Orin C. Graff, of Atkinson, officiated.

Nina Mary Willard was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Whitney Willard. She was born May 15, 1899 at Evin, Kans. Her mother died when she was two-years-old and she went to Iowa to make her home with her grandparents.

She was married to Alfred Staples on December 15, and five children were born to them. Shortly after their marriage the family moved to Minong, Wis., where they lived two years. They then returned to Boyd county and later moved to Holt county.

Among those from a distance attending the funeral were: Donald and Alfred Staples, of Cheney, Wash.; Whitney Willard and Dale Thornton, of Sheridan, Wyo.; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Stevens, and Mrs. James McDonald, of Wagner, S. D.; Mrs. Nina Anderson, of Bristol, and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Pfeifer, of Anoka. Survivors include: Widower; sons—Alfred, jr., and Donald, both of Chaney, Wash.; and Wilbur, of Atkinson; daughters—Mrs. Joseph Hendricks and Miss Nina Staples, both of Atkinson; sister—Mrs. Jess Hupp, of Dustin; half-brother—James Willard, of Sheridan, Wyo. Pallbearers were: V. B. Faust, J. J. Carroll, Harold Kirkland, John Kreiger, Newell Pock and M. V. Pock.

The Frontier: \$2.50 per year!

### AAA OFFICIALS ARE REELECTED

Harry E. Ressel Will Head Holt Program Another Year

Twenty-five delegates to the annual election of county AAA committeemen held here Wednesday, December 22, reelected Harry E. Ressel, of O'Neill, chairman; Fred R. Mack, of Atkinson, vice-chairman; Al J. Sauser, of O'Neill, third member; George D. Hansen, of O'Neill, first alternate, and Ora Yarges, of Stuart, second alternate.

The election was held in the Holt county courthouse annex building.

The following were elected as community committeemen at recent elections:

Antelope and Iowa—Lyndley J. Crumly, Luvern VanConett, Floyd H. Frahm. Atkinson—Joseph W. Rocke, Sylvester R. Tushla, Eli W. McConnell.

Chambers and Shamrock—Herman R. Holcomb, Clarence C. Young, James I. Cavanaugh. Cleveland and Dustin—Charles M. Mulford, Elmer C. Allyn, William J. Meusch. Conley—Leon C. Hertel, Charles F. Green, Joe E. Koci. Deloit—Frank Mnarik, Carl J. Thiele, Cletus Muff.

Ewing and Golden—Martin G. Helmricks, Joseph P. Kaczor, Alfons M. Beelaert. Fairview and Wyoming—Vern Sageser, C. F. Small, Ralph E. Rees. Grattan—Orville K. Morrow, Floyd Ritts, John T. Murray. Green Valley, Holt Creek and Francis—Arthur I. Pacha, Edward A. Bouska, Freddie J. Ziska.

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### Conduct Hunt for Mother of 4

Mrs. Neil (Julia) Ryan, 35, mother of four children whose ages range from 3- to 12-years-old, is believed to have left O'Neill sometime last Thursday afternoon and no word has since been heard from her.

Members of her family on Christmas day enlisted the aid of authorities in a search for her. On Sunday O'Neill townspeople conducted a local search without avail. By late Wednesday her whereabouts had not been determined.

Mrs. Ryan and her husband operated a neighborhood grocery store here. A blonde, she is five feet three inches tall and weighs about one hundred and twenty pounds.

### Train Strikes Truck on Crossing

An Eastbound freight train on the North Western system struck a truck owned by Albert Sipes on a West O'Neill railroad crossing Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Sipes were in the truck when it became stalled. Mrs. Sipes saw the oncoming train and she and her husband escaped before the crash. The machine was badly damaged. Mr. Sipes said that the visibility was "very bad".

### BUS BURNS

LYNCH—The Norfolk-Butte bus caught fire Sunday about a mile and a half west of Lynch. The bus was towed to a garage. The upholstery was badly burned and damaged. No one was injured.

### Delay Departure of 4 Draftees

Departure of four Holt county selective service registrants, scheduled Tuesday, has been postponed.

Mrs. W. H. Harty, of O'Neill, chief clerk for the Holt draft board, said Wednesday the following four men were to have been inducted into military service this week in Grand Island:

WILLIAM SHOLES, of Inman. EDWIN SPES, of Ewing. FLOYD WARNER, of O'Neill. PAUL HIATT, of Amelia. Mrs. Harty said the four men will be sent to the induction station as soon as transportation can be arranged.

### GRIMS DELAY OBSERVANCE

Venus Couple Married Half-Century on November 20

VENUS — Mr. and Mrs. Charles E. Grim, well-known Venus couple, observed their golden wedding anniversary on Sunday, December 19. Their 50th wedding date was Saturday, November 20, but their open-house affair was postponed because of the blizzard of November 18 and 19.

Highlight of the belated observance was a dinner at the Elmer Grim place. Present for the dinner were: The honored couple and their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, Mr. and Mrs. Z. G. Butterfield and Henry Hines, of Venus; and Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Graves, of Casper, Wyo.

The table was covered with a white table cloth with 10 yards or more of crocheted lace on it. It was made by Mrs. Harry Butterfield, the Grim's youngest daughter, while she was attending high school in Orchard.

After dinner, the open-house was held at the Charles Grim home from 2 to 5 o'clock. Fifty-three relatives and friends registered. They were served ice cream, cake and coffee. Many gifts were received. Mrs. Irven Miller, niece of the couple, baked a three-tier cake, and over one hundred cards of congratulations were received.

Mr. and Mrs. Grim have lived in the same community all of their married life. Mr. Grim was born in a dugout one-fourth of a mile from where he now lives, on the place known as Oak View ranch. He was born September 20, 1874, and was the first white child born here. All others were Indians.

Mrs. Grim was the former Lizzie Dougherty daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Dougherty. She was born in Sioux county, Ia., on June 22, 1881.

They are the parents of three children: Elmer Grim and Mrs. Albert Pospeshil, both of Venus, and Mrs. Harry Butterfield, of Orchard. They have four grandchildren, Harold Pospeshil, of Sioux City; Gerald and Telford Grim, of Venus, and Shirley Butterfield, of Orchard; two great-grandchildren, Janet Lou and Jerry John Pospeshil, of Sioux City.

### BOARD TO MEET

The Holt county board of supervisors is scheduled to meet today (Thursday) and Friday in final 1948 session.



PICTURE BOOMS BUSINESS . . . Carlyle Washceck, O'Neill invalid and son of Mrs. Albie Washceck, recently was pictured (as above) in the daily press for having entered

business for himself in the manufacture of jewelry. Meanwhile, he has received Christmas greetings, packages and some orders from new-found admirers.

### BOYD MAN DIES ON 80th BIRTHDAY

Funeral Rites Held At Spencer for William M. Kramer

SPENCER — William M. Kramer, who died Tuesday, December 21, on his 80th birthday anniversary, was buried here Sunday following funeral services at the Methodist church.

The late Mr. Kramer had suffered a paralytic stroke some time ago and had been disabled for several months prior to his death.

He was born December 21, 1868 at Winterset, Ia., son of Mr. and Mrs. Extra Kramer. He came with his father a nd his family to Holt county when he was 16-years-old.

Leaving the family homestead, he and two brothers settled on a homestead in Boyd county, near Lynch. In 1899 he married Miss Julia Jensen. One son was born to them. Mrs. Kramer died in 1901 and on July 16, 1909, he was married to Miss Bessie Ferguson. Four children were born to them.

The late Mr. Kramer spent most of his life in the Spencer, Bristow and Lynch communities.

Survivors include: Daughters—Mrs. Ilo McDonald, of Wood Lake; Mrs. Iva Halloper, of Silver Springs, Md., and Mrs. Ina Kaiser, of Ainsworth. Sons—George W. Kramer, of Albion, and Andrew Kramer, of Annadale, Va. Sister—Mrs. Jack Gordon, of Arlington. He also leaves an adopted sister, 17 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

### Protestants Plan Prayer Service

O'Neill Protestant churches will hold a special union service at the Methodist church at 7:30 p. m. on Thursday, January 6.

The service will be in conjunction with the worldwide prayer week observance, January 2-8. WJAG . . . 780 on your dial!

## Fresh Snowstorm Paralyzes Region

Highways Blocked, Communication and Power Lines Are Damaged by Blizzard

The O'Neill region was pounded into submission Tuesday by the Winter's second major snowstorm.

A raging blizzard moved into the region shortly after noon and by sundown most highway and rail traffic was reduced to a standstill. The snow was accompanied by a strong northwest wind and sent temperatures tumbling to the 7-degree mark.

Compared to the historic November blizzard, the temperatures were colder but there was considerably less snow, drifting was not as great, and the storm was shortlived in contrast with the memorable two-day affair last month.

The Nebraska safety patrol reported that the discipline of motorists in the O'Neill region was "definitely better" than during the unseasonal November storm in which scores of motorists were caught by surprise and became marooned.

Tuesday's storm, however, imposed a greater hardship on dwellers in cities and towns where residents depend on electricity for heating and refrigeration.

Sleet and wind snapped a high tension line between O'Neill and the Belden substation, enforcing drastic power rationing in towns West of Belden to Valentine and towns South of O'Neill to Tilden and North to Butte. Hourly current was "off-and-on" in most towns.

There was a severe sleet damage to high tension lines linking the O'Neill Consumers Public Power district with hydro-electric power sources along the Platte river. The only power available in the O'Neill district was that generated by diesel plants at O'Neill, Valentine, Creighton, Hartington, Neligh and Wausa and the hydro plant at the Spencer dam.

O'Neill's first power interruption occurred at 8 o'clock Tuesday night and a series of interruptions continued until about 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon when the break near Belden was repaired.

By Wednesday night only the Ponca and Newcastle vicinities also, hard-hit by sleet, were without energy in the O'Neill district.

### Mrs. Harvey Ross, 97, Former Resident, Dies

Mrs. Harvey (Mary) Ross 97, widow of the late Harvey Ross and sister-in-law of Manfred Ross, of O'Neill, died on Christmas day at Valentine. She resided at the Charles Porter residence in O'Neill for about a year.

She spent most of her life at Craig. Her husband died about 15 years ago. Funeral services were held Monday at Valentine and burial was made in Leona ceme-

Manager Harry Petersen of the Northwestern Bell Telephone Co. reported that 12 trunk telephone circuits were unserviceable out of the O'Neill exchange, but service was never completely interrupted in any direction. Four circuits between O'Neill and Norfolk were unles; two to points North; five, West, and one, South.

At Grand Island and Kearney the damage was so great that telephone linemen were being rushed into the area from many hundred miles.

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