

# O'Neill Is Hub of Blizzard Disaster Area

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### Chambers Couple Perishes in Storm

Clarence Kiltz's Body Found in Barn,  
Wife's in Snow Near House

**CHAMBERS**—The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Kiltz, in their 60's, were found on their Holt county farm Tuesday afternoon by Harvey Jones, a neighbor, who had been making periodic checks on the aged couple since the storm struck.

Mr. Kiltz's body was found in the barn and Mrs. Kiltz's body was found about 12 feet from the house.

Authorities were unable to investigate immediately. Neighbors who knew the couple well believed that Mr. Kiltz, who may have been thawing out a frozen-up well, became weakened while in the barn. They suggest that he laid down to recover and there he died.

It is believed that after Mr. Kiltz became overdue at the house, his wife went out to search and was stricken. Both bodies were frozen and both people were well-dressed for protection from the weather. The nature of new drifts of snow around the doors of the house indicated, neighbors said, that the bodies had been frozen at least a day before they were found.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Kiltz had been in failing health, especially Mr. Kiltz. They lived on a farm three miles East and five miles North of Chambers, in a semi-retired manner. Chores were relatively light for Mr. Kiltz and he kept only one cow. Most of their land is rented out to neighbors.

They were members of Kellar Presbyterian church and had been active and prominent in community affairs.

Mr. Kiltz was born at Union, McHenry county, Illinois, a son of Fredrick and Addie Kiltz. He came with other members of his family to Holt county, settling near Chambers. Mr. Kiltz was educated in Holt county schools.

On September 15, 1916 he married Miss Evelyn Landeen, of Fremont, in a ceremony at Fremont. The couple settled on their present farm, and they became the parents of two daughters and one son.

Survivors include: Daughters—First Lt. Thelma Kiltz, of Ft. Sam Houston, near San Antonio, Tex., and Mrs. Jack (Doris) Schipper, Jr., of Denver, Colo. Son—Robert, of Los Alamos, Calif.

Mr. Kiltz also leaves his mother, Mrs. Addie Kiltz, 88, of Chambers; brothers—Clyde, of Chambers, and Burton, of Louisiana; sister—Mrs. T. E. Alderson, of Chambers.

Mrs. Kiltz was one of six children. Survivors include: William Landeen, of Tekamah, brother, and Mrs. Alma Nielsen, of Uehling, sister.

Twenty volunteer workmen with some equipment cleared a road to the Kiltz farm late Tuesday and by 9:30 p. m. both bodies were in Chambers pending the arrival of a mortician.

Holt county authorities were unable to reach the scene of the tragedy late Tuesday or early Wednesday.

### Trucker, Engineer Meet for 2d Time

Albert Sipes, O'Neill trucker, continues to have troubles with trains—especially those belonging to the North Western railroad.

While crossing the main line tracks in West O'Neill on December 28, Sipes' truck stalled on the crossing. He and his wife, who was a passenger, escaped unhurt. Sipes attempted to flag down the train, failed, and a partially demolished truck resulted. The track was cleared and the train continued on its way.

During an attempt Sunday to remove the trailer portion of the wrecked vehicle from the right-of-way, Sipes' equipment was straddling the track when, sure enough, another train came charging down the rails.

Exasperated, Sipes took off down the tracks and succeeded this time in stopping the train, avoiding further damage to the battered tractor-trailer outfit.

When the engineer dismounted from the locomotive, Sipes discovered he was doing business with the same engineer who was driving on that fateful December 28th—just 26 days ago!

Sipes insisted he had been assured by rail employees that there would not be another train along during the course of the salvage operations. The engineer smiled and said, "Okay, son, no hurry."

### Student Government Activity Postponed

American Legion sponsored student government activity, scheduled to have been held here Monday, has been postponed indefinitely, according to Miss Elja McCullough, program chairman, and Glea H. Wade, vice-chairman.

Roy J. Lang, of the boys' and girls' county government state-wide program, which is under the direction of the Nebraska department of the American Legion, reached O'Neill Sunday and was prepared to assist with the activities.

### AIR FORCE WINS IN PORT STRUGGLE

Kearney Base Dispatches  
Equipment to Open  
Airstrip Here

Uncle Sam's Air Force was the first outside agency to come to the aid of the storm-stricken O'Neill area.

A request for help, coming almost simultaneously with a plan to inactivate the base, was made to Col. Ashley B. Packard, commanding officer of the Kearney Air Base.

Three pieces of heavy snow-removal equipment, including a rotary plow and two "sno-go" blower type plows, were dispatched to O'Neill Saturday night with the mission of clearing the 1½ mile road to the O'Neill airport and clearing an airstrip. Traveling all night they arrived Sunday at 5 a. m.

Attempts were made to open the road, via the Country club, on Sunday but were thwarted by high winds. The plows, manned by three GIs and six civilians working through the night Monday and by 5 a. m. Tuesday had reached the airstrip. By 6 p. m. Tuesday night the airstrip was cleared and ready to receive planes.

The runway was covered with 32 inches of snow and nine inches of ice in layers. The rotary broke down before actual clearing of the runway was begun, but the two other pieces carried on.

Early Wednesday finishing touches were made on the airstrip work and the plows were to be diverted to important county roads.

During the course of the storm Sunday and Monday and when the Air Force equipment was not in use, the plows opened a number of important passages within the city.

The men have been "bunking" in the jury quarters at the courthouse and are guests of Holt county during their stay here. Efforts are being made to keep the men and machines until the emergency is over.

Need printing? Frontier, adv



**AIR FORCE COMES TO TOWN . . .** U. S. Air Force snow-removal equipment reached O'Neill early Sunday with the mission of opening the 1½-mile road the Municipal Airport and clearing a runway. By 5 p. m. Tuesday the mission was completed but a rotary plow broke down in the process. Pictured above is a "sno-go" stuck in 34 inches of snow on the windswept level near the airport. In addition to snow, the machines had to chop through

nine inches of ice. Below a "sno-go" is in action, throwing a cloud of snow off to the right. Two of these machines cleared an airstrip 50 yards wide and 4,000 feet long. Three C-47—cargo-type planes—operated Wednesday in the Burwell area from the Kearney base and were scheduled to begin airlift operations here early today.—The Frontier Photos by John H. McCarville.



### EDWARD OLSON, 54, DIES AT LINCOLN

World War I Veteran  
Back in Hospital  
Only 4 Days

Edward Olson, 54, a veteran of World War I and one of the city's leading automobile mechanics for 22 years, died at 10:15 p. m. Friday in the Veterans hospital in Lincoln. He had been ill since September 1947.

Mr. Olson had been in-and-out of several hospitals during the course of his illness. He had reentered the hospital only four days before his death.

Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Wednesday in the Methodist church here with Rev. V. R. Bell, church pastor officiating. Burial was to have been in the New Prospect Hill cemetery.

The late Mr. Olson was born on February 27, 1895 at Newman Grove, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Ebert Olson. His father was a native of Norway; his mother came from Germany.

On September 6, 1922 at David City he married Ethel Hougland. They moved to O'Neill and became the parents of two daughters.

Mr. Olson was a member of Simonson post 93 of the American Legion.

Survivors include: Widow; daughters—Miss Marian Edna Olson, of Galveston, Tex., and Mrs. Martin Walter, of O'Neill; two brothers, and two sisters.

### Page Man Is Elected Secretary

PAGE—Merwyn French, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. G. French, Sr., of Page, recently was elected secretary of the ag campus YMCA at the University of Nebraska. New officers are chosen by popular vote of the YMCA members. French is a junior.

### Frontier's 'Voice' Works Overtime

"The Voice of the Frontier," O'Neill's radio link with radio station WJAG at Norfolk, this week has been working overtime. Aside from the regular Saturday, Monday and Wednesday 9:30 a. m. broadcasts, O'Neill has been on the air on three special occasions.

At 9:30 a. m. Friday the Coracle Hatchery sponsored a special five-minute roundup of storm news and passed the first word that O'Neill civic groups were pressing Gov. Val Peterson to declare this an emergency area.

At 3 p. m. on Sunday afternoon The Frontier again went on the air, this time with Bill Beha presenting a special 15-minute storm news summary. Featured was an interview with S/Sgt. Lewis Coffin, of the Kearney Air Base, who was in charge of the snow-removal equipment that had been sent to O'Neill to clear the airport. This broadcast was sponsored by the American Red Cross.

At 4:30 p. m. on Wednesday afternoon, the O'Neill Production Credit Association sponsored a special 10-minute broadcast which again featured Bill Beha. Also on the program was 1/Lt. John Cleary, of Grand Island, officer in charge of the Army "weasel" which arrived here from Camp Carson, Colo.

### O'Neill Farmer Kicked by Horse

Alfred Marsh, O'Neill farmer, was flown to the O'Neill hospital Tuesday where he is recovering from injuries sustained when kicked by an irate horse at his farm home. Hospital attendants Wednesday described his condition as "fairly good".

### STORMS DELAY VAN DOVER RITES

Farmer's Body Brought  
to O'Neill 3 Days  
After Death

Funeral services for Marsh Van Dover, 78-year-old O'Neill farmer, were held at 3 p. m. Wednesday in the Methodist church. Interment will be made in Prospect Hill cemetery as soon as possible.

Until late Wednesday cemetery workers were unable to reach the cemetery and prepare a grave.

Mr. Van Dover died suddenly exactly a week before while assisting a neighbor, Joseph Pritchett, in carrying coal in a sack. Death was believed to have been caused by a heart attack.

News of Mr. Van Dover's death reached The Frontier just before press time and this newspaper erroneously stated that Mr. Van Dover had frozen to death.

Rev. V. R. Bell, Methodist church pastor, officiated and Biglin Brothers were in charge of arrangements.

The late Mr. Van Dover was born in Monona county, Ia. in 1871, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Grason Van Dover.

The Van Dovers came to Holt county 20 years ago after living in Pierce and Knox counties.

Survivors include: Sons—Everett, of O'Neill, and Ephraim, of Ft. Meade, S. D.

One son, William, and one daughter, Mrs. Frank (Zona) Reynolds, preceded him in death.

Palbearers were: Charles Richter, Charles Pritchett, Dave Widfeldt, Roy Lanman, Her-

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Mrs. Virginia Bennett spent the weekend visiting relatives and friends in Ewing.

### 20 More Bulldozers Are Being Sought for Holt Relief Work

Holt and 20 other Nebraska counties late Tuesday were officially designated by Gov. Val Peterson as being in a state of emergency. Stricken residents in the snowbound areas finally were assured of extensive state aid, federal aid, and assistance from other agencies including the American Red Cross.

Meanwhile, in Lincoln the budget committee of the state legislature in session introduced two bills which will set up assistance machinery and appropriate a half-million dollars for aid.

Throughout Tuesday and Wednesday Governor Peterson was in touch with President Truman and other government officials in Washing-

### LATE BULLETIN

Brig. Gen. Guy N. Henninger, Nebraska adjutant general and administrator of the storm relief fund, late Wednesday indicated to Holt county officials that 20 more bulldozers would be dispatched to Holt county for relief work immediately.

ton pleading for federal disaster funds to match the state money.

The Associated Press told The Frontier that Peterson had been trying to reach every conceivable person in Washington who might be in a position to act. The Governor said the problem in Nebraska's stricken area was so great that relief of human suffering and livestock hunger could not be coped with by individuals or a single county.

He specifically asked Secretary of the Army Kenneth Royall and the commanding general of the Fifth army for 300 bulldozers and at least 25 "weasels".

Late Tuesday one "weasel" reached O'Neill from Camp Carson, Colo. Manned by military personnel, it was immediately placed at the disposal of the Holt county sheriff for mercy missions.

Privately-owned snow-removal equipment has been converging in the O'Neill area during the past week in response to pleas, official and unofficial, from leading citizens.

Andy Clark, chairman of the Holt county board of supervisors, obtained several pieces of heavy equipment from a private contractor. Julius D. Cronin, O'Neill attorney, prevailed upon Governor Peterson to have Maj.-Gen. Lewis A. Pick free bulldozers from reclamation work for urgent use in snowbound areas. Several other private contractors placed equipment in action Monday and Tuesday, but heavy ice on the highways elsewhere in the state slowed the trucking of some of this equipment to O'Neill.

The counties involved in the disaster area are: Holt, Boyd, Rock, Keya Paha, Wheeler, Greeley, Garfield, Loup, Sioux, Box Butte, Sheridan, Cherry, Brown, Valley, Blaine, Thomas, Logan, McPherson, Hooker, Grant and Arthur counties. Also included are portions of Knox, Antelope, Boone, Morrill, Garden, Lincoln and Custer counties. O'Neill is considered the "eastern terminus" in the stricken area.

Brig. Gen. Guy N. Henninger, Nebraska's adjutant general, is the administrator of the state relief fund.

Holt county supervisors met late Tuesday and again early Wednesday in special session. Governor Peterson and General Henninger had wired for specific advice as to how much equipment and what type was needed when and where.

Temporary disaster headquarters were set up in the Holt county courthouse basement to process calls. A battery of telephones has been installed in the basement. Their numbers are 400, 403 and 404. These phones are manned by members of Simonson post 93 of the American Legion auxiliary.

Rural people needing the services of a bulldozer have been asked by radio to contact the Holt disaster headquarters. Other telephone numbers were made available before the headquarters was set up. In any event the messages will be routed to the control point.

Meanwhile, O'Neill's miniature airlift has been operating at top speed every hour that has been flyable during the past week. Three planes operated yesterday, conveying foodstuffs, medicines, mail and passengers to outlying points inaccessible except by air. Cliff Adkins, of the O'Neill Airport, has been directing the work. Planes equipped with skis have been landing at the East edge of the city near the Seger Oil & Transport Co.

Similar airlifts have been in progress at other points in the region.

Wednesday was the 28th consecutive day in which the Burlington railroad was without service out of O'Neill on the O'Neill-Sioux City branch. Early Saturday the rotary, which had spent all last week working West from Sioux City, reached Osmond, then turned around to meet a spreader-type plow that had been dispatched from

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