

River Highest in 25 Years

Water into Basements at Emmet as Elkhorn Overflows

High water caused by the runoff from melting snow has dominated the weather front this week. Wednesday the Elkhorn river appeared to have reached its high water mark and the flood threat in the valley appears to have passed.

Early Tuesday the river at Emmet began to rise and overflow water reached its highest point in 25 years. At the new level hundreds of additional acres were inundated.

The water swept away an Elkhorn river bridge in the village of Emmet and on highways 20 and 275, two miles East of O'Neill, the water was rushing across the road. Traffic, however, was not interrupted.

Temperatures in the 50's and 60's Tuesday and Wednesday afternoon reduced most of the snowdrifts to isolated batches of residue.

Because Holt county soil has been unable to absorb all of the earlier moisture, the run-off was expected to crowd most of the streams.

Inman's streets were under water Sunday as a result of water running-off of meadows to the North and West of the village.

Highways in the O'Neill region were punished by the high water. On state highway 281, approaches to four bridges were washed out between O'Neill and Bartlett. The road has been closed to through traffic since Monday. In two places water was running across the roadbed. Highway 281, also is closed from O'Neill to Spencer, chiefly because of mud holes.

John D. Osenbaugh, resident engineer for the state highway department here, explained on Wednesday that state highway 11 South from Atkinson had water crossing the roadbed in three places and was virtually impassable both North and South of Atkinson, he said, was imperiled for several days.

Traffic on U. S. highway 20 East is still detoured through Page on highway 108 because of a bridge wash-out one mile East of the junction of highways 20 and 275.

Settling on an approach to a U. S. highway 275 bridge across the Elkhorn, just East of Ewing, required traffic to detour most of Tuesday, but by late Tuesday afternoon traffic was resumed.

Unique bus service has been in use between O'Neill and Bonesteel, S. D., and O'Neill and Sioux City, Ia. A pickup truck has been making the Bonesteel trip, carrying passengers and mail. An automobile has been used to convey passengers to the West side of the highway 20 bridge washout. Passengers walk the planked bridge and board a waiting bus on the other side. Similar arrangements are made for Westbound passengers.

North Western main line trains were running Wednesday slightly behind schedule — not even deterred by the high water that has been at its bridges, notably Mud bridge, two miles East of O'Neill.

Glea H. Wade, chairman of the Holt county disaster preparedness committee, says the committee has been standing by in case of an emergency. He predicted that the only emergencies would be of a compassionate nature in which evacuations of people would be necessary.

River water was reported in the basement of the Guy Cole and Larry Tenborg homes at Emmet.

Wade said Wednesday that a member of the staff of the district Army engineer's office in Omaha was enroute to O'Neill to study the river.

The Elkhorn was expected to spill over bottomlands between Neligh and Norfolk but no serious damage was expected.

Meanwhile, field work has been at a virtual standstill. Many farmers are becoming impatient about getting into the fields.

Wednesday's wind was the first real favorable drying out factor.

Country roads are next to impassable. O'Neill has come into his own again in the mud battle, much as he did during

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Railroad Water Tower Disappears

INMAN — Another old landmark is passing from the Inman scene.

The Chicago & North Western railway's water supply tank, which has stood for more than half a century, is being torn down by a crew of railroad workmen.

The old water tower was the chief water supply in case of fire. It was "home" for a countless number of pigeons.

The tower was considered unsafe for further use by the railroad.

FRED VITT, 77, HEART VICTIM

Prominent Retired Holt Farmer Stricken Sunday, Dies Early Monday

Death claimed the life of Fred Vitt, 77, well-known retired O'Neill farmer, about 2:30 a. m. Monday at his home here. He had suffered a heart attack early Sunday and succumbed less than 24 hours later.

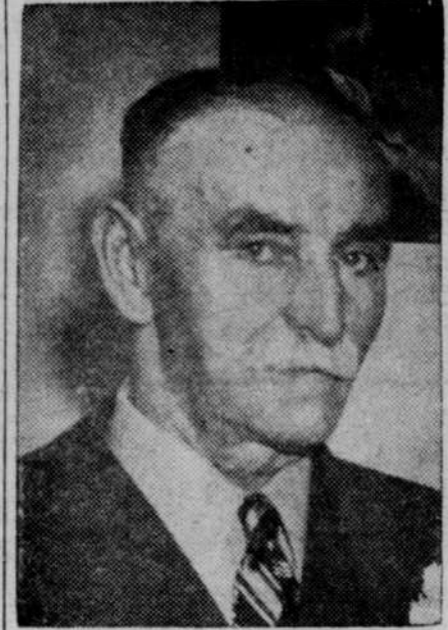
Requiem high mass was said at 10 a. m. Wednesday in St. Patrick's Catholic church in O'Neill. Burial was in Calvary Cemetery.

Rt. Rev. J. G. McNamara, church pastor, officiated and Biglin Brothers were in charge. As a young priest saying his first nuptial mass, it was Monsignor McNamara who married the late Mr. Vitt and his wife at Stanton on May 5, 1897, an assistant priest at Sacred Monsignor McNamara then was Heart parish in Norfolk.

Mr. Vitt was born April 24, 1872 in Bohemia, a son of John and Mary Vitt. His father died when he was an infant and his mother married Frank Pribil at Zrbroslof, Moravia, on October 10, 1874.

Mr. Vitt came with his mother and stepfather to the United States in 1879, settling near Linwood. The family lived there for two years, coming to Holt county in the Spring of 1881.

Fred Vitt's wife, who also was born in Bohemia, came to



Fred Vitt . . . Holt resident for 68 years.—The Frontier Photo by John H. McCarville.

the United States at the age of seven. She is the former Mary Erychleb.

They settled on a farm six miles South of O'Neill, where they resided for many years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Vitt have been residents of Holt county for 68 years. Mr. Vitt was among the earliest settlers in the county and for many years figured prominently in community life.

Survivors include: Widow; Sons—John, of O'Neill; Fred E., of Boone, Ia., Louis, of O'Neill; George, of Omaha; Edmund, of Portland, Ore. Daughters—Mrs. J. Stanley (Blanche) Pritchard, of Omaha; Mrs. Archie (Elsie) Faulhaber, of Sauk Center, Minn.; Mrs. John (Edith) Davis, of Omaha; Mrs. Ted (Helen) Plantz, of Omaha. He also leaves 28 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. The Vitt's eldest, Joseph, died at the age of 24.

Other survivors include: Half-brothers—Casper Pribil and John Pribil, both of O'Neill; Jacob Pribil, of Inman, Half-brothers—Mrs. John (Hattie) Shoemaker and Mrs. Walter (Josephine) Stewart, both of O'Neill.

In 1947 the Vitts celebrated their golden wedding anniversary. The event was marked by a family gathering, dinner and an open-house observance in the afternoon. Most of their descendants were present for the occasion. A guest was Monsignor McNamara.

A year and a half ago Mr. Vitt submitted to an amputation of one leg. After that time he was a semi-invalid.

In his remarks during the funeral services Wednesday, Monsignor stated that having officiated in the wedding and burial and having attended the golden anniversary was a unique relationship between a clergyman and a parishioner and friend.

Pallbearers were: Henry Schacht, Frank Sullivan, Louis Zastrow, Jack Arbuthnot, Henry J. Lohaus, George McCarthy, Leonard Shoemaker and Ralph Van Hohn.

Among the out-of-town relatives were: all of the Vitt children and most of their families; Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Erychleb and family and Mrs. Mary Erychleb, all of Stanton; Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Krowe and son, of Cedar Bluffs, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Pribil and son, of Enid, Okla.

FARM BROTHERS PERISH IN STORM

Double Funeral Monday for Paul Dohman, 68, and Adam Dohman, 65

Die from Exhaustion

ATKINSON—Double funeral services were held in St. Joseph's Catholic church Monday for the Dohman brothers, Paul, 68, and Adam, 65, who perished Wednesday, March 30, in a meadow a half-mile West of their farm home which is located three miles West of Atkinson.

Their bodies were found early Thursday by Leo Heinowski, a neighbor.

The men had set out during the height of the unusual Spring blizzard to rescue some calves. They had worked several hours, returned to the house for lunch about 3 p. m.

Shortly after eating they set out again with feed sacks about their heads for protection from the driving snow.

Francis D. Lee, who investigated, said the bodies were found about 50 yards apart. He attributed their deaths to exhaustion. He said they had been wading in snow from 15- to 36-inches deep. Adam's body was found lying on the ground on the North side of a haystack and Paul's body was found in snow two feet deep.

When the men failed to return after a reasonable period, Mrs. Dohman, Adam's wife, sensed something wrong. She was unable to investigate. Next morning the family dog, Spot, came to the house and tried to lead her to the bodies. The dog, apparently, had stayed with the bodies all night.

She finally made her way to the Heinowski place, about a mile North. She was met by Leo Heinowski, who discovered the bodies in his search. The bodies reached Atkinson Thursday.

Rev. A. A. Lehmen, church pastor, officiated in the funeral rites and burial was in St. Joseph's cemetery.

The Dohman brothers were born in Colfax county, Paul on June 27, 1880, and Adam on April 7, 1883. They came to Holt county as small boys, and together had operated a farm for years.

Adam is survived by his widow, the former Agnes Jauernig. The Dohman brothers leave another brother, Julius, of Kansas City, Mo., who was in Atkinson for the funeral.

R. E. CHACE, WIFE WED 50 YEARS

ATKINSON — Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Chace will hold open house for their friends from 2 until 5 p. m. on Tuesday, April 12. Occasion is their golden wedding anniversary.

Mr. and Mrs. Chace were married 50 years ago at Orchard. Mrs. Chace is the former Mildred E. Clifton, daughter of Rev. W. C. Clifton and Mrs. Clifton.

Their two sons, Elvon and Charles, and their daughter, Mrs. Willard (Ethel) Linville, will be at home to help celebrate the occasion.

Gloors Take Auto on Trip to Europe

ATKINSON—Mr. and Mrs. Otto Gloor, who operate the Gloor bakery here, left Wednesday for Columbus, enroute to New York City, from where they sail April 12 on the S. S. Washington to Switzerland.

At Columbus they will be joined by Mr. and Mrs. Albert Gloor, brother of Otto Gloor, who also are making the trip to visit relatives.

The Gloors took their car along on their trip to Europe. They plan to be gone several months.

Council Oak Ad to Appear in The Frontier

A Council Oak store advertisement will appear regularly in The Frontier, beginning with this issue, according to Manager Arnie Doering. First ad in the series may be found on page 2.

Heretofore, the Council Oak store has used The Frontier's advertising columns only on special occasions.

VOICE RESUMES
The "Voice of The Frontier" radio program on WJAG was resumed Friday morning at 9:45 a. m. after wire difficulties.

THE FRONTIER

North-Nebraska's Fastest-Growing Newspaper

VOLUME 68—NUMBER 48

O'NEILL, NEBRASKA, THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 1949

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PAGES
3 SECTIONS
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PAGES 1 TO 8
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CONTRAST . . . Here's photographic evidence of Nebraska's unpredictable weather. Top photograph shows a vehicle on U. S. highway 20, one of the principal transcontinental routes, going through a plowed-out snowdrift that tied up traffic for two days last week. A rotary snowplow spent nine hours churning through this drift, four miles West of O'Neill. One thousand feet long, the drift was eight and one-half feet deep. Plow crews said the snow,

brought in by the unseasonal March 29 and 30 blizzard, was as difficult to move as any snow ever tackled by state highway department equipment. Bottom panel shows a sunset along U. S. highway 20 and 275, near Mud bridge two miles East of O'Neill. The Elkhorn river valley might well be termed a land of lakes. Pictures were made within a few hours apart.—The Frontier Photos by John H. McCarville.



O'Neill Host to Student 'Officers'

High school students from nine Holt county high schools will converge on the courthouse next Wednesday, April 13, for an unusual—yet practical—all-day lesson in civics.

Students "elected" in their respective schools will serve for a day as county "officers" in a student government program under the sponsorship of the Nebraska department of the American Legion.

Originally the student government activity was to have taken place in January but had to be postponed because of blizzards. Sixteen counties in the state were selected for sites in the program.

Miss Elja McCullough, Holt county superintendent of schools, is chairman of the move, assisted by Glea Wade.

Between 9 and 9:30 a. m. students will register and file certificates of election in the county clerk's office. At 9:30 students will report to their respective county officers to meet regular county officials. Later they will attend a general assembly in a body with Miss McCullough presiding.

Beginning at 10, the chairman will introduce each regular county officer who, in turn, will introduce boys and girls representing each office. At 10:15 school officials and guests will be presented. At 10:20, District Judge D. R. Mounts will make an address.

At 10:50, County Judge Louis W. Reimers will administer the oaths of office to the one-day "officers." At 11 o'clock all "officers" will go to their respective desks and work until noon.

At the luncheon in the Legion auditorium, there will be talks by Warren Baker, of the American Legion; Sam Dahl, state deputy superintendent of public instruction, and one other

speaker to be announced. The luncheon will be served by Simonson post of the American Legion auxiliary.

At 1:30 p. m. student officers will resume their duties in their respective county offices.

At 4 o'clock the students will reassemble in the district courtroom for a round-table discussion and summary. This will be in the form of a critique. County officers will be present to correct erroneous impressions.

Session will close with an ex-

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Young Musicians Invading City

An Army of youthful musicians—15 hundred strong—late Tuesday began invading O'Neill for the annual district music contest.

Vanguard of the high school music contestants came from Alliance—a distance of 280 miles. These were St. Agnes academy pupils, all girls.

Piano competition began at 4 p. m. Wednesday. Instrumental and choral individuals and groups will be heard today (Thursday) and Friday in competition at both St. Mary's academy and O'Neill high school.

Thirty-five schools have entries.

Among earlier decisions in piano division were:

Piano: Superior—St. Mary's academy duo and quartette; St. Agnes academy trio, quartette, sextette and duo; Oakdale, duo; Verdigris, trio. Excellent—Tilden, duo.

Piano accordion: Neligh, superior.

FORMER ATKINSON RESIDENT EXPIRES

ATKINSON — Funeral services were conducted at 2 p. m. Wednesday for Mrs. Susie J. Wood, 70, former Atkinson woman who died Saturday in Kansas City, Mo. She succumbed at the home of her son, Lester, 11 years to the day after the death of her husband, the late Earl W. Wood.

Rev. W. C. Birmingham officiated in burial rites from the Methodist church with Seger's mortuary in charge.

Susie J. Senteney was born at Baird, Ia., on October 24, 1878, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Julius Senteney, who were homesteaders in the Stuart community.

Mr. Wood was a decorator and a plasterer in the Atkinson community for many years.

Survivors include: Son—Lester C. Wood, of Kansas City, Mo. Foster daughter—Mrs. Vernon Holmes, of Las Vegas, Nev. Brothers—Earl Senteney, of Oshkosh, Wisc.; Jack Senteney, of Covina, Calif.; Elmer Senteney, of Portland, Ore. Sisters—Mrs. Frank Stracke, of Herrick, S. D. and Mrs. Joseph Gaston, of Hebron.

Elmer and Earl Senteney and Mrs. Stracks were among the relatives from a distance present for the funeral.

Mrs. Wood moved from Atkinson to Kansas City about three years ago.

Band Features Army Day Parade

O'Neill Municipal band, composed of St. Mary's academy and O'Neill high school students, featured the Army day parade Wednesday.

Colors were carried by the American Legion color guard.

Capt. Roger Thompson, of Grand Island, spoke to a sizable crowd at the corner of Fourth and Douglas streets.

LONE CONTEST IN MUNY ELECTIONS

Write-In Campaign in Third Ward Unseats Councilman

Proposal Is Rejected

O'Neill's city and school elections Tuesday were mild affairs even though a write-in campaign in the Third ward unseated Councilman G. C. DeBacker.

Unofficially only 40 votes were cast in the First ward, 39 in the second, and 110 in the Third. Ballots were to have been canvassed Wednesday night.

New Third ward councilman is Norb Uhl—the write-in candidate. Unofficial count was 82-to-28.

Councilman Hugh Ray, of the First ward, and Councilman J. L. McCarville, sr., of the Second ward, both unopposed, were easy winners over random write-in candidates. City council offices are for two-year terms.

In the school election, Miss Anna O'Donnell and Dr. H. L. Bennett, both incumbents, were reelected for three-year terms without opposition.

No many caucuses were held here this year. Names of Ray, McCarville, DeBacker, O'Donnell and Bennett were placed on the ballot by petition.

McCarville had been appointed to the council to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of Robert Armbruster, who moved from the city a year ago. Recently he was elected chairman of the council.

Vocational Ag Proposal Rejected by Voters

ATKINSON — Voters here Tuesday turned thumbs-down on a proposal which would have brought vocational agriculture training to students at both Atkinson high school and St. Joseph's hall. Unofficially, 212 voted "against" the issue, 154 "for" the proposal.

On the ballot was a proposal to build and equip a structure to be ideally suited for teaching agriculture, costing in the neighborhood of \$25,000 and constructed with issuance of bonds bearing interest not to exceed six percent.

Proponents of the plan reason that the additional students could be attracted to Atkinson and their tuition fees would enable the course to "pay for itself."

Only contest among city councilmen and school board members was in the Third ward where Council Incumbent Charles Gonderinger, Citizens' party candidate, was defeated 110-to-43 (unofficial) by L. P. Hayes, Peoples' party candidate.

Roy Dickerson, of the First ward, and Earl Coxbill, of the Second ward, both council incumbents, were unopposed.

Also unopposed were Eli McConnell and E. H. Chace, both incumbents, on the board of education.

City Clerk H. A. Snyder posted these unofficial vote figures on the vocational agriculture proposal:

| | 1st | 2d | 3d | Ttl. |
|-----------|-----|----|-----|------|
| "Against" | 56 | 29 | 127 | 212 |
| "For" | 62 | 53 | 39 | 154 |

Voting Light in Stuart Election

STUART—Village Clerk T. E. McQuire reported Stuart's election Tuesday as "very quiet". There were no special issues and a total of 164 votes were cast.

R. A. Coffman, Walter Gill and J. C. Flannigan were reelected to the village board with virtually no opposition. Carl Weichman, a write-in candidate, polled 22 votes but didn't come close to any of the three incumbents.

J. G. Brewster and Norris Coats, both incumbents, were reelected to the board of education. Coats was a write-in candidate because his name was not on the ballot. He received 83 votes. Ward Dyer received 53 and Stanley Cobb polled 33 as other write-in candidates.

Everyone Turns Out in Emmet Voting

EMMET—Virtually every eligible voter in Emmet turned out Tuesday to make a choice in the village election in which two new village trustees were to be selected for two-year terms.

Winners were Dean Perry, with 26 votes and Mrs. John (Emma) Conard, with 23. There was a tie for the third between Wayne Fox and Mrs. Frank (Mildred) Foreman, both having received 21 votes. How the tie will be settled has not been made known.

Incumbents were Mrs. Fore-

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