

# Blizzards Top '49 News Story

## Death on Highways Ranks 2d in Frontier's Annual Year-End Survey

(1949 Chronology Begins on Page 2)  
(1949 News in Pictures on Page 6)

Holt residents don't have to rely on a newspaper to tell them that the Recurring Blizzards of 1949 made the biggest news of the year now drawing to a close.

Even though the first portion of that historic siege belonged to the chronology of events in 1948, the terrible blizzards commanded more lineage in The Frontier's news columns than several other of the first 10 news stories combined.

Here are the 10 biggest topics as determined by The Frontier's news-gathering staff:

1. Recurring Blizzards of '49.
2. Eight traffic deaths and other violent deaths.
3. O'Neill's Diamond Jubilee.
4. St. Anthony's hospital fund-raising drive.
5. Spring floods.
6. Page school fire.
7. Rural electrification.
8. Irrigation talk.
9. Holt county fair.
10. Niobrara river landslide.

"Radio Diary," a chronological compilation of blizzard and storm news broadcasts during the hectic Winter through the "Voice of The Frontier" radio studios, provided readers with a "play-by-play" description of the storms and the relief news.

Holt rural families were snow-locked for months. When fuel and food supplies ran low an emergency was declared. Finally, the Fifth army was called in to liberate the peoples and their livestock.

Death stalked Holt county's highways and three times as many lives were taken in traffic accidents than in any other Northeast Nebraska county.

Highway fatalities: James Patrick Boyle, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Boyle, of O'Neill, died instantly at 11 p.m. May 12, when truck in which he was riding overturned. Robert Mattison, 3, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray H. Mattison, of Medora, N. D., fell from a moving car 3 miles west of Emmet on September 18; died hour later in hospital.

Mildred Ruther, 15, and George Ruther, 13, daughter and son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ruther, of Ewing, died from injuries received when their family car upset on August 2. Mildred died the next day; George died five days later.

D. F. Morgan, 60, and his mother, Mrs. Viola Morgan, 86, both of O'Neill, died from injuries received in a car-truck crash 2 miles northwest of O'Neill on October 22.

Clarence P. Stevens, 41, of Page, and Robert C. Heck, 61, of Inman, were killed instantly on December 10 at a point 6 miles east of O'Neill on highways 20-275. Their car collided with a truck.

There were numerous violent deaths from other causes, including three drownings, several tractor upsets, etc. (See 1949 Chronology).

The year now drawing to a close will also be remembered as O'Neill's Diamond Jubilee year. The Frontier in June produced a 64-page jubilee edition—largest single edition of a weekly newspaper ever published in Nebraska. Many native sons and daughters living a considerable distance away made pilgrimages to the city during the Summer Chamber of Commerce plans to commemorate the 75 years of progress were off-again-on-again. Finally, Simonson post 93, of the American Legion, undertook the sponsorship and the celebration went over with a bang. Feature was a colorful jubilee parade.

St. Anthony's hospital fund-raising campaign made big news week-after-week. The plan for a 300-thousand-dollar community hospital was re-born, the sum of more than 106-thousand dollars (cash) was raised, and the hospital was officially designated—all after mid-year. Construction is expected to begin in the Spring.

Spring floods caused considerable apprehension, but the run-off of snow was orderly, even though the Elkhorn river was out of its banks for days at a time.

The Page school was destroyed in March by a mysterious blaze which broke out following an explosion. Page taxpayers had only recently taken up the (Continued on page 8)

## Dr. Bild, 72, in First Air Ride

PAGE — Dr. E. J. Bild, 72, of Page, took his first airplane ride Wednesday, December 21, when he left from Grand Island for Portland, Ore. He plans to visit relatives there before going on to Ladysmith, British Columbia, Canada, to visit his other brother, Oscar E. Bild, who is in "poor" health.

Doctor Bild visited on the eve of his departure with his son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Earl Rodman, at O'Neill, and they took him to Grand Island. He plans to be gone two weeks.

## INDIAN SUMMER IN RETURN VISIT

### Oldtimers Not Mised; Say It's Calm Before Storm

Unseasonably warm Indian Summer weather prevailed in the O'Neill region Tuesday and Wednesday. Temperatures soared to a high of 42 degrees on Wednesday afternoon and water from melting snow was running in the streets.

But oldtimers were not to be caught off-guard. They accepted the freakish weather as the calm before the storm.

The region had been earmarked by the weatherman for a wintry blast on Christmas, but the storm, coming across Minnesota from the Hudson Bay and Great Lakes regions, veered south and never reached Nebraska.

Most farmers say winter crops are shy of moisture. The ground is frozen and snow or rain will be of little value until Spring.

County Agent A. Neil Dawes pointed out that orders for windbreak trees are running considerably below the demand in previous years. Totals 10-thousand trees have been ordered for Spring planting. A year ago now tree orders ranged from 50- to 80-thousand. Records show that during post-war years Holt countians have been planting in the neighborhood of 185-thousand trees annually.

This week's weather summary, based on 24-hour readings ending at 8 a.m. daily, follows:

Date	Hi	Lo
December 22	28	4
December 23	22	4
December 24	24	4
December 25	38	8
December 26	20	6
December 27	39	17
December 28	42	22

## C. H. Chambers, Sr., Dies Suddenly

Funeral services were conducted Saturday at 2 p.m. from the Biglin Bros. funeral home for C. H. Chambers, Sr., 77, who died suddenly Thursday evening, December 22, at the O'Neill hospital.

He had entered the hospital early the day before but his condition had not been considered serious.

Rev. V. R. Bell officiated and burial was in new Prospect Hill cemetery. Mrs. H. L. Lindberg and Mrs. Ted McElhaney sang. Pallbearers were: W. B. Gillespie, H. G. Kruse, Jack Daily, H. L. Lindberg, Carl Swenson and L. O. Johnson, all of O'Neill.

The late Mr. Chambers was born June 11, 1872, at Keichie, Kans. On October 17, 1900, he married Jessie Perry at Leadville, Colo.

The late Mr. Chambers, a lifelong member of the Methodist church, spent most of his life on a farm near Livermore, Ia. In May, 1948, he and his wife moved from Livermore to O'Neill to be near their children. He had lived in semi-retirement for a number of years and dwelt on an acreage at the West edge of the city.

Survivors include: widow; sons—Harry, of Dubuque, Ia., Lloyd, of Columbia, S. C., Charles, Jr., of O'Neill; daughters—Mrs. H. E. (Esther) Asher and Mrs. M. E. (Ethel) Asher, both of O'Neill; a brother and sister, and 15 grandchildren.

Prices Visit—Mr. and Mrs. Steve Price, of Omaha, spent the Christmas holidays visiting relatives in O'Neill.

## LARABEE KELLYS WED 50 YEARS

### Page Couple Holds Open House on Golden Wedding Date

PAGE—Mr. and Mrs. Larabee Kelly held open house from 2 until 5 o'clock in the afternoon and from 7 to 9 in the evening at their home in Page Tuesday, December 27, in celebration of their golden wedding anniversary.

A noonday dinner was served to 85 relatives and long-time friends. Mrs. J. C. Bazelman, of O'Neill, was in charge of the guest book, which was signed by 140.

Miss Beverly and Miss Genella Park served the guests in the afternoon, Miss Kelly and Miss Velma Abney served in the evening.

The three-tier wedding cake was baked by Mrs. Alton Bradlock. It was topped by a miniature bride and bridegroom. Ornaments were used by Mrs. Kelly's sister, Mrs. John Burtwhistle, when she and her husband celebrated their golden wedding five years ago.

The room was decorated with numerous bouquets of flowers presented to the honored couple by their son, Jesse, and his family.

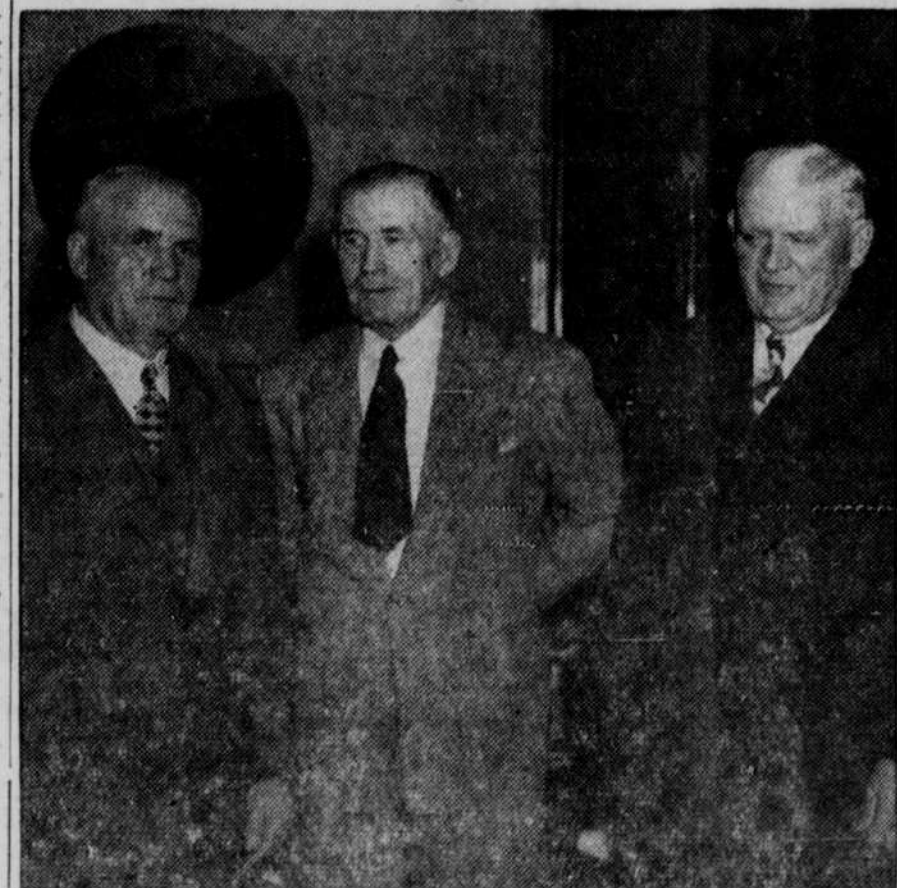
Miss Addie Reed and Larabee Kelly were married December 27, 1899, at the home of her mother, Mrs. Wesley Reed, North of Stanton. They lived on a farm near Stanton nine years before moving to town where they lived four years.

In 1913 they came to this community and lived on a farm Northwest of Page until about a year ago when they moved to a new modern home in Page. They have one son, Jesse, who with his family live on the Kelly farm. They have three grandchildren.

Six of the guests present had been guests at the wedding of Mr. and Mrs. Kelly 50 years ago. They were: Mr. and Mrs. John Burtwhistle, of Pilger; Robert Reed, of Orchard; Sylvester Reed, of Brunswick; Arthur D. Reed, of Stanton and Charley Mitchell, of Butte.

Relatives from out-of-town attending the observance were: Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Milford Best, Betty Lou and Mary Ann Best, Mr. and Mrs. Delorence Best and children and Mr. and Mrs. Norman Phifer and children, all of Stanton; Mr. and Mrs. S. R. Reed and Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Kettle and Jimmy, all of Brunswick; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Bazelman and Connie Jo, Vera and Mavis Coburn, all of O'Neill; Mr. and Mrs. R. R. Reed and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Reed, Ronald and Karma, all of Orchard; Mr. and Mrs. William Crawford and Lulu Dum, of Atkinson; Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Burtwhistle, of Pilger; Mr. and Mrs. Charley Mitchell, of Butte.

Friends from out-of-town attending were Geraldine Houfek, of Pilger; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Larson, of Magnet; Cyril Hansen, of Wayne; Mr. and Mrs. Forrest Henderson, of Orchard; Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Stinebaugh and Mrs. Mabel Broodstone, of Norfolk; Mr. and Mrs. Lyle Abney and Velma Abney, of Inman.



Death has separated the Sullivan brothers. Phillip (at right) died last week in Butte, Mont. Daniel (left) and Montana Jack are pictured with him in a visit to O'Neill.—The Frontier Photo by John H. McCarville.

## Gifts for Baby Derby Champ

The \$64 question after the clock strikes midnight on New Year's eve is:

Who will be the first baby born within Holt county boundaries in 1950?

The lucky little guy (or gal) will be showered with a host of gifts by a dozen O'Neill business firms working in cooperation with The Frontier.

Details of the 1950 contest—The Frontier's fourth annual—may be found on pages 12 and 13 in this issue.

Here's the gift lineup: Midwest Furniture & Appl. Co. will present a play pen pad, valued at \$3, and a bumper guard, valued at \$2.50; McIntosh Jewelry will present to the lucky one a 10-karat gold baby ring; Jacobson's will shower baby's mother—knowing full well that His Majesty (or Her Highness) will derive her share of benefit from a Hotpoint pressure saucpan.

Gilligan & Stout, the druggists, have set aside a B. F. Goodrich standard baby water bottle, and Montgomery's Hardware has reserved an extra large size white enameled baby bath. Spelts-Ray Lbr. Co. doesn't want baby to suffer from the cold during his first weeks in the big world so the parents will receive, without charge, 500 pounds of coal of their own selection. Neligh Creamery joins the shower move this year and will present one case of vitamin D homogenized milk. Shelhamer Foods will provide baby with a case of Heinz baby food and the New Outlaw Grocery has arranged to provide the champ with a case of Carnation evaporated milk.

The J. M. McDonald Co. has a dozen white new-fangled diapers—called Snappi-Didi—for the winner. These are regularly sold for \$3.98.

## Day of Country School Box Socials

### Isn't Over When One Nets \$103.90

By MAUDE SILVERSTRAND Special Correspondent  
ATKINSON — Did someone say the rural school box social was on its way out? Well, don't you believe it.

One of these traditional rural Christmas gatherings netted the pupils and teacher of district 213 a neat profit of \$103.90 on Tuesday evening, December 20.

Mrs. Elmer Vogel and her 12 pupils gave an "excellent" program. The children emerged from the "wings" as Negro minstrel performers and kept the audience in stitches most of the time. They were given an encore many times and the patrons declared the performers gained stage poise with each encore.

Raymond Schmidt was auctioneer.

These rural gatherings at the little one-room schools have been a part of rural community life for as long as America has had country schools. They are as much a part of Christmas in America as mistletoe and holly.

Many a romance has bloomed at one of these affairs and tragedy measures ruled out the lighted candle on the school Christmas tree.

Time was when young men and their lady friends attended the Christmas social on horseback or in bobsleds.

I wouldn't wonder but what a ride to the box social at the school was the inspiration for "Jingle Bells."

Mrs. Vogel and her pupils are given special mention because the amount of money gathered was an outstanding feat. Many, many other teachers and children labored for weeks to prepare for this climax of pre-Christmas work and most of them netted on the average of \$40 to \$50, which amount will help purchase swings, curtains, games and "extras" for the schools. This money always belongs to the teacher and pupils to spend as they wish for the benefit of the children in the district.

Following his graduation from O'Neill high school, the late Mr. Sullivan taught school for three years at the old Holland and Coffee school five miles west of O'Neill.

He left O'Neill in 1894 and first joined the (old) Anaconda Mining company on June 18, 1895. He first was a laborer and at the time of his death was serving as cashier for the general office of the company. He had served 54 years with Anaconda.

Survivors include: sister — Miss Mary Sullivan; brothers — Jerry, Dan, Montana Jack and Gene, all of Butte.

O'Neill Photo Co. wants the parents to bring the winner into the studio as soon as convenient for complimentary photographs valued at \$12. These include one 8x10 tinted enlargement with frame and a dozen 3x5 prints, mounted.

A highboy drying rack will be presented to first baby's mother by the Coyne Hardware. Rack's regular value is \$3.95. McCarvilles' have a pair of Red Goose shoes for the derby winner—just like last year and the year before.

When you hear the bells and fire sirens come New Year's eve you can be sure the 1950 first baby derby is on!

Parents must file their baby's entry with the First Baby Contest Editor, The Frontier, O'Neill, by mail. Entry must be postmarked by 6 p.m. on Monday, January 9, and winner will be announced on Thursday, January 12.

## MRS. N. G. MILLER, PAGE, SUCCUMBS

### Holt Woman, 79, Ill With Heart Affliction for 10 Years

PAGE — Funeral services were held at the Methodist church here Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock for Mrs. N. G. Miller, 79, a resident here for 38 years. Rev. T. O. Brownfield conducted the rites and burial was in the cemetery here.

Mrs. Miller died Friday evening at her home. She had suffered with a heart affliction for 10 years and had been bedfast for a month. In charge of the flowers were: Mrs. Hester Edminston, Mrs. George Rost and Mrs. Sorenson, Sr., all of Page.

Pallbearers were: Alfred Nelson, Vernie Hunter, Lorenz Riege, Harley Kennedy, Lee Taylor and Elmer Edminston, all of Page.

## WOMAN KILLED ENROUTE HERE

### Mrs. Ida Connell Dies Instantly Near State Line in Crash

Mrs. Ida Connell, member of a prominent Burke, S. D., family and mother of the Burke postmaster, Robert Connell was instantly killed last Thursday afternoon enroute from Burke to O'Neill. The accident occurred near the Nebraska South Dakota line between Butte and Fairfax, S. D.

Mrs. Connell's son was driving the family car, which failed to make a turn on highway 281 about three miles South of Fairfax.

Mrs. Connell and her son were enroute to O'Neill to meet a daughter, Mrs. Mildred Deffenbaugh, of Arcadia, Calif., and Mr. Deffenbaugh, who were arriving for a Christmas reunion.

The car overturned and was reported demolished.

Mr. Connell was taken to a hospital at Burke for treatment for severe bruises and other injuries.

The scene of the accident is only a short distance from the place where Edwin Faatz, of Butte, was fatally injured a short time ago.

The death was charged against South Dakotas highway fatality record for 1949 — not Nebraska's.

## Polio Campaign Slated January 16-31

Emmet, O'Neill, Amelia, Inman and Chambers have been assigned 1950 March of Dimes campaign chairmans and each is ready to initiate the annual drive for polio funds, according to Mrs. Ralph Brown, of O'Neill, Holt county campaign director. Campaign dates are January 16-31.

Mrs. M. E. Jacobson will direct the March of Dimes operations in O'Neill; Mrs. J. W. Walters in Chambers; Miss Patricia McMahon at Inman; Miss Helen Martens in Emmet; and Mrs. Blake Ott in Amelia.

Fund-raising teams that will be canvassing O'Neill are: Mrs. H. D. Gildersleeve and Mrs. William Artus; Mrs. L. M. Diehlman and Mrs. M. J. Golden; Mrs. J. B. Gardy and Mrs. Clef Sullivan; Mrs. D. C. Schaefer and Mrs. Howard Manson; Mrs. W. B. Gillespie and Mrs. E. F. Sullivan; and Mrs. James W. Rooney and Mrs. L. A. Burgess.

West State Director James Edington, of Grand Island, will meet with the Holt county chapter during the first week in January to discuss final plans for the drive, Mrs. Brown said.

Meanwhile, plans are being completed for the kickoff day activities, January 16 and plans are in the making for other forms of entertainment during the course of the drive.

Mrs. Brown said "that funds for aid to polio victims in the national foundation are depleted and that a crisis exists. The patient care bill has been four times greater during 1949 than in previous years, and four times the amount of money must be raised."

Minnesota's Here—Mr. and Mrs. Howard Jeffrey, of Fairmont, Minn., formerly of O'Neill, spent the Christmas holidays visiting relatives in O'Neill.



MRS. N. G. MILLER Singers were: Mrs. John Lamason, Mrs. Alton Bradlock, Mrs. Gerald Lamason, Mrs. Ray Snell. They were accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Harold Kelly.

Born February 11, 1870, at Mound City, Mo., Edith Jeanetta Bates married Nels G. Miller February 26, 1891, at Preston, Ia. To them nine children were born.

Mrs. Miller was a member of the Methodist church.

With her husband and family, she came to Holt county March 19, 1910. They settled on a farm 1 1/2 miles North of Page. In 1948 the farm was sold and Mrs. Miller and her husband moved into town.

Survivors include: widower; sons—Lovell, of Lincoln; Leonard and Arthur, both of Page; Spencer, of Gresham, Ore.; Harold, of Portland, Ore.; daughters—Mrs. A. L. (Gertrude) Goddard, of Richland, Wash.; Mrs. J. W. (Anna) Hurst, of Earlham, Ia.; Mrs. A. C. (Hazel) Stewart and Mrs. R. G. (Cora) Gray, both of Page; three sisters; five brothers; 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

## Advanced Planning For Chambers Port

CHAMBERS — S. R. Gilbert, airport engineer for the district Civil Aeronautics Administration office at Lincoln, has advised the village of Chambers that planning for Chambers' 20-thousand-dollar airport is now in the "advanced stage."

Already the runway sights have been surveyed, reports have been compiled and blueprints have been drawn.

Ed Thorin, chairman of the village board, said a special meeting will be called in January to complete final papers. The federal government is helping foot the bill.

Site of the proposed port is on land donated to the village last year by Mr. and Mrs. Daniel B. Perkins.

## Stores To Close On January 2

Member business firms of the O'Neill Chamber of Commerce will close Saturday, December 31, at 5:30 p.m. and remain closed until the regular opening hours Tuesday, January 3.

In this manner O'Neill business houses will observe Monday, January 2, as the legal New Year's holiday.

Meanwhile, Secretary James Rooney said that five additional business firms had been signed as members of the Chamber for 1950. Total signed to date is 75 out of possible 200.