

Cattle Losses Are Heavy

Holt People Digging Out from Under Snow of Hurricane Blizzard

Death toll of livestock as a result of the Hurricane Blizzard of March 7 continues to mount in the O'Neill region as the digging out process enters its second week. Heavy losses, percentage-wise, have been absorbed by many operators, but the overall loss in the livestock industry as a whole will be lower than initially believed.

Now, a week and a day after the devastating storm, the picture of livestock losses is becoming clearer. Heaviest losses were in herds that strayed from sheltering places. Many of them were driven into fences where they were marooned. Many cattle smothered, others wandered into ponds, lakes and streams. Not infrequently tails were frozen and have dropped off. Losses were heavy among calves and yearlings.

Even yet cattle are to be found carrying many pounds of ice and snow—sometimes a heavy chunk of ice on the end of the tail.

L. D. Putnam, of O'Neill, Wednesday said Holt's losses would "run about 5 per cent." Putnam said the "losses were heavy, in many instances, but could have been a lot worse."

Putnam is one of Holt county's extensive stock growers. He predicted that the stock casualties have not all been counted.

"Day after the storm I found 500 or 600 head down in the snow on one of my places. These animals needed help. If the storm had lasted longer the loss would have been terrible. As it was we've lost 80."

Scores of farmers and ranchers have reported losses, ranging from a lone calf to about 275 head. Charley Petersen, of Atkinson, probably Holt's biggest stock operator, was reported to have lost 275. This report, however, has not been confirmed.

In the aftermath of the historic storm stories have been rampant about losses.

From a percentage standpoint, a number of operators in a belt extending from Amelia eastward to Chambers and Ewing have absorbed costly losses.

Highway and rail traffic has been flowing normally on all principal routes since Sunday. However, a fresh snow Friday and early Saturday added further grief for snow-removal people.

Consumers Public Power district and Northwestern Bell Telephone company maintenance people were traveling by truck, weasel and snowshoes, to reach break in their lines. Phone service was restored to Lynch on Saturday. All other points had full service restored many hours before.

Among the heaviest losses were:

Lloyd Taylor, who lives 1 mile east and 4 miles south of Chambers, who reported 24 dead cattle out of a herd of 60; Lloyd Gleed, also of Chambers, said he counted 27 dead out of three hundred. At the B. W. Waldo ranch, 8 miles west of Chambers, early count was 13 lost, later the dead list was revised to 20, final count is 21 out of 400. Henry Webber, also in the Chambers locality, reported 15 dead out of 180.

William ("Bill") Whelan, living 14 miles southeast of Chambers, originally missed over 70 head out of about 140. But Pilot Lloyd Durre helped locate missing cattle and the loss was narrowed to about 35.

Raymond Garwood, living south of Swan lake, was said to have absorbed "a terrific loss." Passersby counted 60 dead along one fence line. Some of Garwood's cattle wandered into Dimmick lake.

O'Neill business firms with blown-out plate glass windows are being patched up this week.

Only the sturdiest windmills survived the test of the 100-mile-per-hour gale. Topped and damaged windmills are dotted over the countryside.

The snow has settled rapidly this week, particularly during Tuesday's and Wednesday's thawing. With the settling have gone down many fence lines.

One southwest Holt rancher told The Frontier that already fence damage has exceeded last year's.

Many Holt rural people still are snowbound. Tractor- and horse-drawn wagons and sleds were getting through, but enormous drifts still choke many rural roads. When the run-off comes many of the roads will be bottomless mud holes.

Stock Losses Above Year Ago

By MRS. E. R. CARPENTER, Special Correspondent

CHAMBERS — The beautiful Chambers valley was blasted Tuesday, March 7, by one of the most ferocious blizzards of its history.

Remembering the terrible blizzards and heavy snows one after another which paralyzed traffic and caused so much hardship and suffering last winter, everyone prepared early for whatever might happen this year. Corn was cribbed early, hay was hauled in and food and fuel supplies were stored away.

The mild weather continued, however, week-after-week until well into March, when people became careless, thinking spring had come.

Monday, March 6, was a lovely, warm day. The last of the snow which had fallen on February 11, had vanished, leaving ponds of water here and there on the meadows.

Returning from a trip to Atkinson in the late afternoon, we noticed several herds of cattle far from the ranch building. One herd was being hayed in

(Continued on page 8)

ALL STATE ROADS ARE NOW OPEN

But County Highways Are Choked and Impassable; Fresh Snow Falls

As if the snow borne by the Hurricane Blizzard of March 7, didn't create enough of a problem for state highway snow-removal crews, a fresh 5-inch snowfall Friday added to the task. Snow-removal men and machines have been working continuously since the big storm to keep traffic flowing.

The state department's 18-man force here has been working on a 24-hour basis since the storm in an effort to keep snow and ice free from state roads.

The additional 5-in. snow that fell on top of the 18 inches already on the ground was accompanied by light winds and drifted snow back onto roads and railroad right-of-ways.

John D. Osenbaugh, resident engineer for the state highway department, said continual police of the state roads have kept them open to traffic with one exception. A stretch of highway 11 north of Atkinson 8 miles was blocked again by the new snow Friday night. The road was reopened early Sunday morning, Osenbaugh said.

The condition of the highways in the O'Neill region Wednesday were generally good, Osenbaugh said. Highway 275 in this region is "clean and dry." There are some spots of highway 20 between O'Neill and Emmet and east of O'Neill that are icy.

The Chicago, Burlington & Quincy railroad agent here reported to The Frontier Wednesday that freight train 96, held here from Monday, March 6, because of the March 7 storm, resumed its run late Thursday evening, March 9.

There was some slight re-drafting of the snow Friday and Saturday, on the CB&Q's right-of-way in Holt county, but no trains were held up.

Spokesmen for the O'Neill bus terminal said 4 busses did not make their usual scheduled run late Friday and early Saturday, because of highway conditions. The two incoming busses from Norfolk at 5 p. m., and midnight Friday did not arrive. The Norfolk-bound Rapid Transit bus was not dispatched at 8:30 a. m. Saturday. A Sioux City-bound bus was forced to return to O'Neill after it started on its scheduled run at 8:25. Most busses resumed the regular running schedule later Saturday.

In O'Neill, Mayor H. E. Coyne said late Wednesday that all of the city's streets now are opened. The finishing touches on the opening of the streets in outlying parts of the city was completed Wednesday.

The tractor scoop used in removing the snow from the business district streets in O'Neill broke down Tuesday. The snow removal is temporarily held up pending the arrival of repair parts from Omaha. Upon receipt of the parts, snow removal will begin at the Golden hotel and then work east.

Frontier's Paid Circulation 2,815

The Frontier's paid circulation for the March 9 issue reached an all-time high of 2,815. And more copies of the same issue—Blizzard Edition—are still being sold.

The circulation department has been swamped with requests for extra copies. These have been mailed to several foreign countries and to most of the 48 states.

Extra copies above The Frontier's normal distribution, which is over 2,100, were printed in anticipation of the demand.

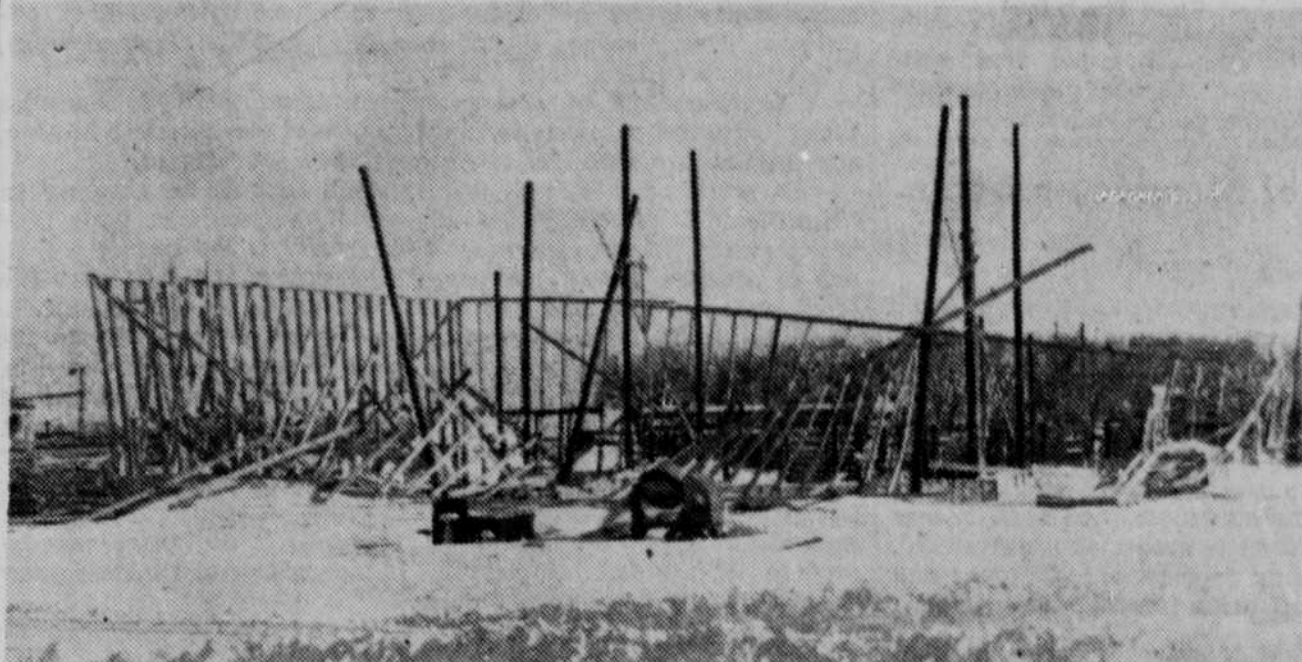
A CREIGHTON . . .

Lady Asks: 'What Was It We Had?'

An irritated Creighton woman who signed her name as "Mrs. M. H." aired her feelings in Wednesday morning's edition of the Omaha World-Herald. Editor of "The Public Pulse" column posted her letter conspicuously at the top of the column.

She wrote: "I am not writing to seem pugnacious, have refrained from writing before about all the publicity that O'Neill, Neb., seems to merit in all the papers whenever a storm moves in. However, when relatives write about 'poor O'Neill' I cannot restrain myself.

"We, here in Creighton, received a scant few inches less snow, although pictures of O'Neill's main street looked no



The screaming 100-mile-an-hour hurricane storm handed the O'Neill Livestock Market a setback. Workmen were nicely underway on the new pavilion when the March 7 storm

struck. Despite the reversal, work is progressing rapidly and sales will be resumed a week from today—Thursday, March 23.—The Frontier Photo by John H. McCarville.

Elkhorn River Quiet in Holt

Worried about the Elkhorn river flooding?

Well, there's no immediate danger of the Elkhorn river sweeping out of its banks, according to Glea Wade, county disaster chairman of the American Red Cross.

In addition to the "no immediate danger" sign the county disaster chairman said Wednesday he does not believe the river will out-do itself as compared to last year's rampages. Although Wade does not have any statistics available on last year's water heights, he was confident flooding would not be as extensive as a year ago.

Although the Elkhorn is causing some speculation in the Norfolk area with respect to flooding there is no cause for alarm in Holt county, Wade explained.

The river reached its highest point in 25 years during April, 1949, when the mountains of the Norfolk area with respect to flooding there is no cause for alarm in Holt county, Wade explained.

Stuart Legion Auxiliary To Hold Initiation—STUART — Members of the Norton-Carlisle American Legion post 115 auxiliary Friday night, March 17, will hold an initiation for new members, according to Legion spokesmen.

City to Be Host To Homemakers

The fourth annual rural homemakers' county recognition luncheon will be held in O'Neill on April 16, sponsored by the O'Neill Chambers of Commerce.

Recognition will be given to presidents of home extension clubs, county chairmen, officers and directors of the council of home extension clubs from Keya Paha, Boyd, Brown, Rock, Holt, Loup, Garfield, Wheeler, Cherry, Grant, Hooper, Thomas and Blaine counties.

4-H Family Fun Sited At O'Neill Legion

Holt county's annual 4-H family fun night celebration will be held Saturday, March 18, at the American Legion auditorium, beginning at 8 p. m. The program will be under the direction of Holt County Agent A. Neil Dawes and there will be many awards and "good" local entertainment on the agenda.

STORM STORIES

Mrs. H. O. Russ and her daughter, Mrs. T. G. Hutton, of Page, were caught in the storm in Omaha. They saw blown to pieces a plate glass window of the barber shop at the Conant hotel, where they were staying. They saw ambulances at work helping the injured. It required 2 men to open the hotel door to let people in during the fury. People didn't dare cross streets in the open; instead they hugged buildings and doorways. Because of the over-taxed dial phones, many people were unable to contact their families in Omaha. Mrs. Russ and Mrs. Hutton returned home last Thursday by train. The conductor, after reading about the O'Neill area, said, "I wouldn't stop at that town if I were you."

Sylvester Zakrzewski tried to set to his farm 3 miles from Opportunity last Thursday. He went around on the Spencer road, but was unable to get all the way through. He took a plane the rest of the way. He took the same journey Sunday and remained for a few days. Paul Zakrzewski, his son, reports no stock losses. He walked 2 miles to a telephone to tell his parents he was safe in the blizzard.

John and Bernard Janzing came down Monday from the farm to see their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Herman Janzing. This was the first word the Janzings had from their sons as they have no phone at the farm. The boys reported their loss as very small—one guinea.

Three storm-stricken men walked into Sylvester Zakrzewski's home Tuesday, March 7. They were from Kansas, Norfolk and Lynch. They had met in the storm and stuck together. After eating, they remained overnight.

Dr. and Mrs. Harry D. Gildersleeve received a picture of O'Neill in the blizzard from a Los Angeles, Calif., paper. The clipping was sent by friends. The Gildersleeves lived in California before coming to O'Neill.

L. D. Putnam last fall purchased a barn from the Sisters of St. Mary's and moved the barn to a ranch 9 miles south of O'Neill. The hurricane slid it 40- to 50-feet and caused it to partially collapse.

Mrs. William Griffin sent a clipping and picture to friends in O'Neill from a Minneapolis, Minn., paper. She sent one of Mrs. Wallace O'Connell and baby to the O'Connell family.

Mrs. Rex Brown, of Cleveland, O., formerly of O'Neill, sent a newspaper clipping to friends here from a Cleveland paper of the O'Neill blizzard. (Continued on page 8)

Livestock Pavilion Work Progresses

Physical reconstruction of the O'Neill Livestock Market sales pavilion this week moved into advanced stages as workmen completed putting on the west and north wall siding of the new frame structure. In addition, some of the seats around the sale ring have been installed.

The original pavilion was destroyed by fire the night of February 18.

The rebuilding crew was handed a 7-day setback by the hurricane winds and snow that lashed the O'Neill region Tuesday, March 7.

The Reynoldsons, Verne and Leigh, comanagers of the market, said the storm inflicted damage to the partially reconstructed building. The main roof supports and the wall studs were severely bent by the 85-to-100-mile-per-hour winds that shrieked across the countryside. Workmen were obliged to start almost from scratch the day following the storm.

"We plan to hold the first sale in new pavilion Thursday, March 23," Verne Reynolds said Tuesday. "By that time the major portion of the new structure will be completed."

Prior to the storm, workmen completed laying the cement footings, putting up the studs, rebuilding some of the north pens of the yard.

Funeral Held for Storm Victim

ATKINSON — Funeral services were held Saturday at 2:30 p. m. from the Methodist church here for Robert L. Gesirich, 24, who froze to death during the historic wind and snow storm of Tuesday, March 7. Rev. W. C. Birmingham officiated and burial was in Woodlawn cemetery.

Gesirich's body was found a mile east of O'Neill's city limits lying along side of highway 20 and 275 about 8 a. m. Wednesday morning, March 8, the day following the storm. The body was discovered by a state highway department snowplow crew. Gesirich was one of 5 Nebraska fatalities directly attributed to the violent storm.

Born on May 2, 1925, at Stuart, Robert Leroy Gesirich was the son of Mr. and Mrs. Florian Gesirich. When a small boy the family moved to Newport. Married and a veteran of World War II, Gesirich served a year in the Army Medical corps. He was separated from the service at Ft. Warren, Wyo., on April 20, 1947.

Survivors include: widow, the former Darlene Steskal; parents—Mr. and Mrs. Florian Gesirich, of Atkinson; sisters — Mrs. Lloyd Thurlow, of Stuart; Mrs. Edward Bausch, of Atkinson; Mrs. Claude Callen, of Los Angeles, Calif.; Mrs. Norton Thurlow, of Atkinson; brothers — Edward, of Lincoln; Florian, jr., of Los Angeles and Eugene, of Atkinson.

Plaster Falls In Rural Schools

Rural teachers this week reported to the Holt county superintendent, Elja McCullough, that the high winds of the historic storm on March 7 is taking its toll of ceiling plaster. Many rural teachers said the wind drove the snow through roof cracks then melted on the plaster which fell. No injuries were reported.

CECIL MALLORY DIES SUDDENLY

Son of Wealthy Sioux City Wholesaler a Heart Victim

Cecil Mallory, 62, a Holt county resident who for several years has been living alone on his ranch east of the Spencer dam, was found dead about 5 p. m. Tuesday, March 14, by neighbors. He was a son of the late L. W. Mallory, prominent Sioux City wholesaler. One of Elmer Kraft's children discovered the body.

Mr. Mallory was last seen by friends on Thursday, March 9, in a visit to Spencer. A Spencer physician estimated that he died later that day.

Lemuel Cecil Mallory was born in Sioux City on August 16, 1887. His father, Lemuel, sr., was founder of the Hess-Mallory wholesale dry goods company, founder of the Pratt-Mallory wholesale grocery firm, a partner in the M & L Baking Co., and the Artificial Ice Co., of St. Louis, Mo.

The elder Mr. Mallory died in 1931. Mrs. Mallory died in Sioux City in 1936.

Lemuel, jr., grew to manhood in Sioux City. He was coheir with his brother, Julius, now deceased, to the large estate of his father, but had sold his interests to other members of the firm and so took no part in the operation of the Hess-Mallory company.

He was married twice: first, to Frances McKecher, in Sioux City, and later to Lila Donovan, also of Sioux City. Both are deceased.

Survivors include: Sons — Stewart, of Phoenix, Ariz.; Ward, of California; daughters—Mrs. Robert (Joan) Pucelik, of Spencer, and Mary, who is married and resides in California. There are several grandchildren.

The body was taken to the Jonas funeral home in Spencer pending funeral arrangements, which were incomplete until 7 p. m. Wednesday night. Burial will be on the ranch, 8 miles south of Spencer.

ARC Solicitation in Rural Areas Begins

The weather this week is hampering the Holt county Red Cross drive, too.

Mrs. Guy Cole, of Emmet, county chairman, said that door-to-door solicitation in the Holt county towns will begin as soon as the slush and snow is out from underfoot.

However, mail solicitation to the rural residents of the county is underway. Prior to the day of the historic storm over 1,800 solicitation letters were sent to rural residents. Mrs. Cole said responses to these letters have been "fair" thus far.

The membership drive began March 1.

Chairmen in Holt county communities are: Atkinson — Mrs. Harvey Shaw; O'Neill — Mrs. Thomas Greene; Chambers — Mrs. J. W. Walter; Ewing — Miss Frances Rotherham and Mrs. James Pruden; Stuart — Mrs. Stanley Cobb; Page — Mrs. Elsie Ballantyne; Inman — George Coleman; Emmet — Mrs. P. W. McGinnis.

'Voice' Covers Class 'B' Meet

The "Voice of The Frontier's" special events staff was on hand at the championship game of the class "B" basketball tournament Saturday night when Neligh downed a heavily favored Ord team, 44-41.

A tape recording of parts of the final quarter was made and played-back on the regular morning program at 9:45. With the special basketball tape recording, Monday's "Voice of The Frontier" was extended 10 minutes.

Chuck Apgar, regular "Voice of The Frontier" announcer, did the descriptive and Joe Ryan, sports editor of the Neligh News, assisted.

Rural School Song Practice Postponed

The rural school song practice which was scheduled to be held at the Atkinson public schools Friday, March 17, has been indefinitely postponed, according to Elja McCullough, Holt county superintendent of public instruction.