

# Hail, Wind Rip Green Valley

## Neighbors Find Safety From Storm Huddling In Church

By MAE HANEL (Special Correspondent)  
GREEN VALLEY — A group of neighbors picnicking in a church yard found safety inside the building Sunday afternoon, July 2, when a combination wind-hail storm shrieked across this section of Holt county. Green Valley is located south of Stuart.

Those who sought safety from the storm by huddling in the church saw the windows smashed in by the hail stones.

A chimney was blown from Bill Tasler's house and a big tree was uprooted and fell on a car owned by Kieth Jones. Ranchers say about half of their hay crop was pounded into the ground. This is serious because haying season arrived this week.

All small grain in an area 3 miles wide and about 7 miles long was completely ruined.

The hail let up after shelling the Ed Bouska place. Mr. Bouska had not yet cut his alfalfa. After the storm had subsided it was apparent there was none left to cut.

Charles Prussa, living 1 mile northwest of Bouska, reported no damage, but Tony Tasler counted 36 big cottonwood trees down on the road that runs past his place. He reported hail stones in his driveway measuring up to a foot in depth at certain places. Tasler said these were blown into "drifts".

## Mrs. Phillippi Safe in Japan

O'Neill relatives of Mrs. Stanley Phillippi were deeply concerned over the welfare of she and her husband until Saturday.

They had been living at Seoul, South Korea, which last week fell into the hands of the aggressing North Korean Communists.

Mrs. Phillippi cabled during the weekend that "We are well and safe." They had been evacuated from Seoul to Hukuok, Japan.

She is the former Ora Ott, who was reared in the Joy community north of O'Neill. Mr. and Mrs. Phillippi had been residing in Korea for about a year.

Mrs. Phillippi's brother is L. A. Ott, O'Neill farmer.

## 11 Beat Deadline In Office Filing

Eleven persons Thursday, June 29—the deadline for filings for the coming August 8 primary election—stormed the office of Ruth Hoffman, Holt county clerk, to file for various positions.

Thus, total number of candidates who have filed for the primary election was swelled to 50.

Six of the 11 candidates filing on the last day were of Atkinson.

Atkinson residents filing included: Joseph E. Judge, for Democratic supervisor of the 7th district; candidates for delegates to the Democratic state convention—Francis D. Lee; Neal S. McKee and Fred Mack; candidates for delegates to the Republican state convention—Earl J. Collins and Frank J. Brady.

Ira H. Moss, of O'Neill, former head of the Holt county Republican organization, is a candidate for the GOP state conclave also. Mrs. Guy Cole, of Emmet, filed as an alternate delegate for the state Republican convention.

Other filings on the final day included: For sheriff—Robert ("Bob") Tomlinson, of Star, and incumbent A. B. Hubbard, of H. W. Hubbard, of Chambers, who had filed for the position of supervisor from the 5th district, was erroneously omitted from the composite filing roundup in the June 29 issue of The Frontier.

## Chamber to Discuss Postal Curtailment

M. J. Diehlman, newly elected president of the O'Neill Chamber of Commerce, said late Wednesday that at the regular monthly meeting of the civic group a discussion of the curtailment of O'Neill postal service will be held.

Regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 11. In addition to the postal service discussion, members will decide about closing Saturday, July 15, first day of the American Legion sponsored "Progress" celebration. Celebration is slated to conclude Sunday, July 16.

Ivalyn Brady left Wednesday, July 5, for Crete, to visit her sister, Joan Brady, for a few days.

## New Grandstand, Lights Assured

ATKINSON—A special election was held in Atkinson Tuesday, June 27, to vote on the issuing of bonds to build a new grandstand at the baseball park.

The \$8,000 bond issue carried by a vote of 3-1.

The American Legion donated \$10,000 for the lighting system for the park and purchase of 12 acres of ground. Thus, Atkinson will be assured of a grandstand that will seat about 1,500 people and an adequate lighting system by the time of the Hay Days celebration in August.

## BIDS SOUGHT ON 281 IMPROVEMENT

### 5 Miles of Grade Will Be Constructed North of Junction

Construction of 5 miles of U. S. highway 281 between O'Neill and Spencer was among the projects advertised for bidding Wednesday by the state highway department. Contractors may submit bids until July 27.

This project in Holt county will proceed north from U. S. highway 20 a mile and a half north of O'Neill. Building the grade of the highway will require the excavation of nearly 150,000 cubic yards of earth. Two concrete box culverts and 12 metal culverts will provide drainage for the new highway. The state highway department will request bids for placing a 29-foot wide gravel surface course on this 5 miles at a later date.

During the construction, traffic will use a road 1 mile west. The proposed work includes building several new culverts on this detour and graveling it.

A relocation of U. S. highway 281 in Greeley and Howard counties was also among the projects advertised.

The proposed work will shorten and eliminate kinks in the present highway. The project will begin in Greeley Center at the intersection of 281 and state highway 56. It will continue southwest 13 1/2 miles rejoining the present 281 about a half mile south of the Greeley-Howard county line.

Two spurs to join the new highway with existing roads will be included in the work. One will be from the new highway east 7 of a mile to join the old leading into Wolbach. The other will be in Greeley Center from O'Neill avenue west past the depot to the new highway.

One bridge, 13 concrete box culverts and 28 metal culverts will be built on the highway in addition to drainage facilities to be provided across adjoining driveways.

The 3-span bridge, 72 feet long, will be built across the north branch of Spring creek in Greeley Center. The structure will have a concrete floor 26 feet wide. A channel change will be dug at this point as well as one at the crossing of the west branch of Spring creek.

Building of the grade of the highway will require the excavation of more than 743 thousand cubic yards of earth. Laying a sand clay blanket course over the earth grade will be included in the project.

Bids for gravel surfacing the new highway will be requested by the state highway department at a later date. Department officials state that the highway will be constructed to standards suitable for future hard surfacing.

## Speaker Being Sought for Rite

A speaker will be sought this weekend for the groundbreaking rite at the St. Anthony's hospital building site, according to James M. Corkle, building chairman.

The ground-breaking will take place between 1 and 2 o'clock on Sunday, July 16, in connection with the second annual citywide American Legion-sponsored celebration.

Mr. Corkle is in correspondence with Mother M. Erica, of the Sisters of St. Francis provincial house, at Denver, Colo., urging her to be present for the program.

**Sunday-School Picnic**—The Sunday-school classes of the Wesleyan Methodist church held a picnic the Fourth of July at the Robert Strong home.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Lawrence and their niece, Bonnie Lawrence, were in Yankton, S. D., Saturday.

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## BLUEGRASS BRINGS 7 1/2 TO 9c POUND

### Short Crop in Other States Bolsters Prices in Holt County

Holt county's 1950 bluegrass harvest is well underway and the green strippings are commanding prices ranging from about 7 1/2 to 9 cents per pound. Price has been bolstered by a short crop in Iowa, Missouri, Kansas and several other bluegrass states.

Holt's yield is below that of recent years but some of the higher ground is producing more bluegrass seed this year than formerly.

Most buyers are grading "very close" because of the high price and amount of foreign material being gathered. There is also complaint that in some fields the seed is too close to the ground.

Total income from the 1950 crop will compare favorably to other years, although probably it will be less than anticipated.

Trucks are rolling throughout the region loaded to the hilt with sacks of seed. Curing yards are working full force.

Small grain prospects are "fairly good," according to Holt County Agent A. Neil Dawes. Tuesday's shower, which was general in Holt county, practically assured the small grain crop for the farmers—except, of course, where hail already has pulverized the fields or where hail might yet strike.

Oats and barley are generally not as far along as they should be. Estimates of threshing dates run from July 18 to 20 to start. Rye probably looks best of all small grain.

First cutting of alfalfa was "quite good," according to most farmers, and the recent rain will be a big help to the second crop. Corn in the county, like elsewhere in the cornbelt, has been retarded but should come along rapidly with the recent moisture.

There are isolated reports of grasshopper infestation and Dawes urges folks to examine the border fields and spray where necessary. Hoppers have been increasing in numbers in gardens and potato fields.

(Continued on page 8.)

## Tree Purge Takes Landmarks

### PLEASE, MR. WOODMAN, SPARE THAT TREE!

Woodman, spare that tree! Touch not a single bough! In youth it sheltered me, And I'll protect it now. 'Twas my father's hand That placed it near his cot; There, woodman, let it stand, Thy ax shall harm it not!

That old familiar tree, Whose glory and renown Are spread from sea to sea, And wouldst thou hew it down?

Woodman, forbear thy stroke! Cut not its earth-bound ties; Oh, spare that aged oak Now towering to the skies!

When but an idle boy, I sought its grateful shade; In all their gushing joy Here too my sisters played. My mother kissed me here; My father pressed my hand; Forgive this foolish tear, But let the old oak stand.

My heartstrings round thee cling Close as the bark, old friend! Here shall the wild birds sing, And still thy branches bend. Old tree, the storm still brave! And, woodman, leave the spot; While I've a hand to save, Thy ax shall harm it not.

—Morris.

O'Neillites this week glumly looked on while workmen felled dozens of trees lining the city's 2 principal thoroughfares. Several of these trees were lofty, 60-year-old landmarks endeared to the hearts of young and old.

The tree massacre was brought about when the city council decided to install a new street-lighting system, providing O'Neill with a north-south and east-west white way. All trees in parkways and along curbs would interfere with the street-lighting and the council decided the trees must go.

A giant hackberry tree on the west side of the Spels - Ray Lumber company office, on South Fourth street, provoked more than one tear when it fell into the street with a rending crash. Consumers Public Power district workmen had labored 2 1/2 hours with a power saw and axes before they penetrated its tough 56-inch base.

Felling of another landmark in front of Dean Street-



Giant hackberry goes down in purge . . . tough, 60-year-old landmark measures 56 inches in width. Frontier Photo.

ers barber shop (next door to The Frontier building) also attracted wide attention. Chuck Apgar, the "Voice of The Frontier" radio announcer, recorded the drama for his radio audience.

Monday the final shipment of heads for the poles arrived. The lamps will be 26 feet above the ground and fixed on an arch-like arm on the poles. In the business district the poles will be steel, on the ends of the streets they will be wooden.

Both Douglas street and Fourth street carry considerable traffic and the original lighting system long since has been considered inadequate. One councilman stated he was surprised there haven't been more accidents and possible fatalities because of the poorly lighted streets.

L. C. Walling, Consumers district manager, says he cannot fix a completion date, but he expects the white way to be in operation "in just a few weeks."

The lamps will be rated at 10-thousand lumens (or approximately 620 watts each). In the concentrated business district

## MRS. S. J. BENSON DIES AT NORFOLK

### Successive Strokes Fatal To 94-Year-Old Holt County Pioneer

Mrs. Alice M. Benson, 94, widow of the late Stephen J. ("Link") Benson, died Sunday, July 2, at 4:05 a. m., at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fred Harrison, in Norfolk.

She suffered a stroke in November, 1949, but never fully recovered. A second stroke, a week before her death, caused her to go into a coma.

Funeral services were held at 2 p. m. Wednesday at First Presbyterian church in O'Neill. The body lay in state at Biglin Bros. mortuary Tuesday afternoon and evening.

The late Mrs. Benson was born August 28, 1855, at Rushville, O., and when a child moved with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pitt Lawrence Purdy, to Iowa City, Ia. From there they moved to Fulton county, Illinois, where she grew to womanhood. While in Illinois she met and married Mr. Benson. The marriage took place at Lewistown on January 1, 1876.

In 1883, the couple with 3 children came to Nebraska in a covered wagon and filed on a homestead in northern Holt county where they lived for more than 50 years. The Bensons observed their golden wedding anniversary in 1927 while still on the homestead.

The couple retired to O'Neill in 1933. A few months later Mr. Benson submitted to a major operation and died 18 months later — in 1935. He was 82-years-old.

Survivors include; daughters — Mrs. George J. Hess, of Wayne, and Mrs. Harrison, of Norfolk; sons — C. L. Benson, of Norfolk; J. L. Benson, of Owanka, S. D., and Blake, of O'Neill, who still resides on the homestead; 14 grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren.

After their own family was reared, Mr. and Mrs. Benson took care of an orphan girl, who is now Mrs. Irma Bradley, of Omaha. The late Mrs. Benson often recalled for her descendants stories of pioneer life, including dealings with Indians.

Rev. Norman Wrenn officiated in the funeral rites. Burial was in Prospect Hill cemetery. Pallbearers were: Robert L. Benson, Hugh Benson, Harold Benson, Harold Stober, Elwin Benson and Stanley Benson.

## Region Free of Holiday Mishaps

The O'Neill region passed an uneventful long holiday weekend without a serious mishap, it was reported Wednesday by the state highway patrol.

A transient automobile from the state of Washington went into a ditch east of Atkinson, shook up the occupants and resulted in only minor damage to the car.

Fourth of July celebrations were in progress at Neligh and Stuart, where Jupiter Pluvius unloaded some needed moisture during most of the morning and early afternoon. Toward evening, however, the skies cleared and celebrations moved into high gear.

The traditional fireworks display at the O'Neill Country club attracted several thousand spectators. Automobiles thronged the club grounds and parked along the highways and roads near the club to view the exhibit. In charge were R. V. Lucas and Homer Mullen.

## 60 Holt Youth at 4-H Camp

Sixty Holt county 4-H clubbers spent Thursday through Saturday at the club camp near Long Pine. There were more than 350 youths enrolled.

## Achievement Day Set August 14

County Agent A. Neil Dawes said Wednesday that the 1950 extension achievement day has been set for Monday, August 14. Program details are not yet complete.

## COUNCIL MEETS

Regular monthly meeting of the O'Neill city council was held Wednesday evening at the city hall.

## Go to Long Pine

Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Krause and Nancy, were in Long Pine Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

## OUTFALL - LIFT DOES JOB WELL

### Sewerage Flows Thru at Rate of 250-Gallons-Per - Minute

The city's new outfall - lift system, the answer to a first-class sewerage disposal problem, is working beautifully.

This was the opinion this week of Mayor J. E. Davis, City Superintendent L. C. Anderson and members of the city council after the plant had been in operation nearly 2 weeks.

The lift features 3 automatic electric pumps. All the city's sewerage empties into a large submerged concrete pit at the south end of Sixth street, across the Chicago & North Western railroad tracks, near the stock yards.

The pumps force the sewerage into an elevated outfall that empties into the Elkhorn river several blocks away.

Before the station was installed, the emptying became sluggish and during periods when the water level in the river was high the sewerage would "back up" and inundate the lowlands south of the tracks.

City Engineer Donald O. Price, of Lincoln, designed an outfall-lift system and the council proceeded with the installation.

Mechanism is housed in a small white building. All switching is automatic since the system was placed in operation.

Sewerage flows through the pumps at the rate of about 250-gallons-per-minute. Capacity of the trio of pumps is considerably greater than the 10-inch outfall pipe. One pump is always standing by in event of a malfunction of another pump.

Mayor Davis said that the station "meets all specifications beautifully."

A saving of \$550 under the engineer's estimate was effected when creosoted pilings were used at the mouth of the sewer instead of concrete pilings.

The capacity of the outfall-lift station is expected to be adequate to serve O'Neill for several years at the rate of its normal growth.

## To Finish Outside Public School Repair

Workmen this week will finish repairing the outside walls of the O'Neill public school building, according to Ira H. Moss, O'Neill school board of education secretary.

Repair of the outside walls of the building consists of filling

cracks where moisture had seeped in.

Following the outside repair job, workmen will begin inside remodeling, Moss said. Inside work will consist of partitioning the main study room, painting and plastering. Then insulation and a new furnace will be installed.

Estimated cost of the inside and outside repair work will run "in the neighborhood" of \$8,000.

Outside repair—\$500; partitioning—\$200; painting—\$400; plastering—\$100; insulation—\$1,000; furnace—\$3,000; wiring—\$1,000; and miscellaneous—\$1,800.



Outfall-lift station goes into operation . . . City Superintendent L. C. Anderson throws the switch.—The Frontier Photo.