

'51 Baby Derby Is Announced

O'Neill Merchants to Again Heap Gifts on Lucky One

Once again Holt county's first-born baby in the new year will be a lucky little fellow.

Fourteen O'Neill merchants in cooperation with The Frontier will shower the honor baby with an assortment of gifts that would capture the eye of a busy stork.

For example: Coyne's Hardware will present a baby bottle sterilizer complete with rack.

McIntosh Jewelry offers a 10-karat gold baby ring.

Midwest Furniture & Appliance will provide the honor infant with a child's training chair.

The J. M. McDonald company says "Nothin's too good for first baby" and will present a Slumber-Gro safety sleeping bag.

The Neigh Creamery has earmarked one case of vitamin D homogenized milk.

Spelts - Ray Lumber company knows that baby must keep warm—hence 500 pounds of coal.

The New Outlaw Grocery will herald the first one's arrival with a case of Gerber's baby food.

O'Neill photo company offers photographs valued at \$15, including one 8"x10" tinted enlargement and 12 3"x5" mounted prints.

Shelnamer Foods will make available with their compliments one case of Heinz baby food.

Gammies have set aside a plastic covered crib bumperpad for the lucky one.

Montgomery's Hardware, like last year, will give a porcelain baby bath, 3/4-quart size.

R. H. Shriner insurance agency wants baby to start the thrift habit early, will provide a savings bank and money in it.

Mr. Shriner will start the bank with 25-cents for each pound baby weighs.

Gilligan & Stout drug store wants Holt's honor infant to have a good hot water bottle, so a special gift package has been wrapped and is waiting for the derby winner.

McCarvilles have a pair of Red Goose shoes for "his majesty" or "her highness."

And, just for good measure, The Frontier will issue the lucky one a year's subscription, for which the parents already subscribe, the expiration date on their paper will be extended for a year.

This contest marks the fifth successive first baby derby sponsored by The Frontier.

Kathleen Wanser, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Max Wanser, of Inman, won the first contest in 1947. Nancy Elaine Harsnfield, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neal Harsnfield, of O'Neill, came along at the right time to win the 1948 contest. James Michael Beha, son of Mr. and Mrs. Matthew G. Bena, of O'Neill, led the 1949 parade, and David Lynn Tracy, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Tracy, of Chambers, grabbed the 1950 laurels.

Two girls and two boys have won the derby to date and the first one in '51 will break the deadlock.

Any baby born within the Holt boundaries after midnight on December 31, 1950, is eligible to win. Entry blank must be filled out by parents. (See pages 10 and 11 for list of prizes and contest rules.)

On your marks . . . get set . . . go!

C&NW Asks to Remove 4 Trains

Although the application has no bearing on mainline Chicago & North Western rail service through O'Neill, the company has asked the state railway commission for permission to discontinue trains 13 and 14 between Chadron and the Nebraska-South Dakota line and trains 21 and 22 between Norfolk and Winner, S. D. Both are passenger runs.

Company officials say the road is losing heavily on these trains and they have been generally abandoned by the riding public.

Trains 13 and 14 now start from Omaha and run to Rapid City, S. D., via Chadron.

Christmas Buyers Smash All Records

For the second consecutive Saturday all records were smashed by Christmas shoppers in O'Neill stores.

At least eight leading O'Neill firms reported all-time highs in total retail sales at the close of business at 10 p. m. Saturday.

Because of the heavy volume in the previous week, most merchants believed the rush was over when last weekend arrived. Quite the contrary. Buyers "hung on" until stores were closed.

Vacations at Chambers—

Katheryn Ruback, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Elwin Ruback, accompanied her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Honeywell, of Chambers, home to spend her Christmas vacation.

AGNES SULLIVAN RETIRES DEC. 31

Completes 15 Years As O'Neill Postmaster; Succeeded Husband

Mrs. Agnes E. Sullivan, O'Neill postmaster since 1935, will retire on December 31.

She made the announcement Tuesday upon receipt of her official release from the postoffice department.

Thomas J. Sullivan, O'Neill inventor and former city employee, has been named acting postmaster and will assume management of the office on January 1, 1951.

It is a case of Sullivan - succeeding-Sullivan but there is no relationship.

Mrs. Sullivan, who was born in Clinton, Ia., became acting postmaster here following the death of her husband, Michael R. Sullivan.

She has been in O'Neill since 1935, when she succeeded her husband as postmaster.

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THE FRONTIER

North-Nebraska's Fastest-Growing Newspaper

L. A. SIMONSON SUCCUMBS HERE

Retired O'Neill Farmer, 79, Ill About 6 Months; Funeral Saturday

Loren A. Simonson, 79, retired O'Neill farmer, died Wednesday, December 27, at 7 p. m. at his home here. Death was caused by a heart affliction and he had been ill about six months.

Funeral services will be held Saturday at 10 a. m. at First Presbyterian church with Rev. Ralph Gerber, church pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Prospect Hill cemetery. A prayer service at 9:45 a. m. at the Simonson home will precede the funeral. Immediate relatives and close friends will attend the earlier rite.

The late Mr. Simonson was born January 3, 1871, in Dane county, Wisconsin, a son of Thomas and Caroline Lewis Simonson.

He came to Holt county at the age of 10 with his parents, who were farmers. The family resided at Clay Center for a time before coming to the O'Neill vicinity.

In 1894 Mr. Simonson and Miss Anna C. Gulleckson were married at O'Neill. They were childhood sweethearts. Mrs. Simonson died December 6, 1948, in a Sioux City hospital.

In 1895 the Simonsons moved onto the family homestead, 14 miles northeast of O'Neill, and resided there until 1919 when they retired, moving into O'Neill.

The Simonsons became the parents of seven children, all of whom survive with the exception of one son, Gaylor Thomas, who was killed in action at Chateau Thierry, France, on September 1, 1918.

Simonson post 93 of the American Legion at O'Neill was named for the son who died in World War I.

The late Mr. Simonson was a member of First Presbyterian church and members of his family have always been active in Legion and auxiliary affairs.

Survivors include: Daughters—Mrs. Roy (Kath) Goree, of Long Pine; Mrs. Lorena Duffy, of Casper, Wyo.; Mrs. Ralph (Sylvia) McElvain, of O'Neill; Mrs. George (Lillian) McCarty, of O'Neill; Mrs. Ralph (Edna) Walker, of O'Neill; McKinley C. ("Mac") Simonson, of O'Neill and Orchard; 19 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Quints Set for Benefit Show

The O'Neill Lions and College All-Star basketball teams have been going through strenuous workouts this week in preparation for the benefit game to be played tonight (Thursday) on the O'Neill public school court.

All proceeds will go to the Lions club milk fund for underprivileged children.

Coach Arnie Doerning's once-beaten Lions, who have run roughshod over most opposition this season, have been challenged by a band of former St. Joseph's hall (Atkinson), Atkinson high and St. Mary's academy basketball greats to be led by Bob Berigan, currently a member of the St. Louis university team.

Doerning has been employing the "two-platoon" system with success. One team includes Bob Matthews, Elmer Blackbird, Max Mossman, Jim Donohoe and Berl Damkroger. The other, Shorty Miles, Bob Jonas, Bill Carlson, Fay Robeson and Bing Volberding. In reserve are Dan DeBacker, Warren Taylor and Gene Leach.

O'Neill Region Escapes Mishaps

State Highway Patrolman Fay Robeson reported Wednesday that the motorists in the O'Neill region thus far have kept the record free from serious highway accidents.

He said the fact was unique in view of a rash of accidents from coast-to-coast in which hundreds of lives were lost.

Miss Shirley Johring, who is spending the holiday vacation with her mother, Mrs. Martha Johring, and family, will return to Minneapolis, Minn., this weekend to resume her studies at the Minnesota Bible college where she is a freshman this year. Miss Johring was an overnight visitor this week with Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Utterback, of Clearwater, and with Bennett Gillespie family, of O'Neill.



Christmas, 1950, was unlike earlier Christmases for the Steve Martenek family, displaced Polish people now living on a farm near O'Neill. Santa Claus paid a visit, showed the Marteneks with clothing and toys, and the "Voice of the Frontier's" announcer, George Hammond, told the world about it. The Marteneks are Zigmund (center foreground), Stanley (center background), Henry and the parents. The lad at lower right was a visitor who collected his quota of toys, too.—The Frontier Photo.



Father of these kiddies is in the army in Korea and recently had both feet frozen. They are Jerry, Jack and Mary Jane. The Jolly Ol' Fellow brightened their Christmas, too. Santa wanted to remain anonymous.—The Frontier Photo.

Anonymous Santa's Job Grows

When an O'Neill man in working man's clothing came to The Frontier one day last week and announced he wanted to be a Santa Claus for a "family of O'Neill kids," he had no idea what was in store.

He finished up being Santa for five families—thanks to his own generosity and the yule spirit manifest by several O'Neill housewives, a working girl, and several businessmen.

With an automobile full of clothing and toys he took off on his mission of goodwill. George Hammond and the "Voice of the Frontier's" special events unit went along, and recorded some of the goings-on when Santa made his unexpected visits in homes where stockings might otherwise have been empty.

First stop was at the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. Steve Martenek and family, living two miles east of O'Neill.

Not many months ago the Marteneks were living in Europe. Mr. Martenek was a farmer in Poland, he had some land and the family was considered to be in comfortable circumstances.

Then came World War II. For five horrible years life was miserable for the Marteneks. Hitler's Nazis took away their land and all their possessions and transplanted the family to a forced labor camp in Germany. Their only child then, Stanley, was a baby.

Stanley was torn away from his parents but later returned to them in a concentration camp.

The Marteneks are newcomers to America—no longer displaced. There are three boys: Stanley, 8; Henry, 7; Zigmund, 4.

Highlight of the day was a tricycle for Stanley—recommended by a doctor to help overcome a lameness. The Marteneks speak Polish mostly, but the children are learning English. Santa spoke the "international language." Hammond reported to the radio audience. The gibbering of Polish was audible in the background.

Next stop was in a home where the father recently had both feet frozen in Korea and where the mother and four small kiddies were depending upon the allotment check.

Then there was a visit to perhaps the humblest home in O'Neill.

The reception accorded Santa there also was broadcast on the Christmas morning "Voice" program.

The children completely ignored the microphone when Santa appeared and the conversation that spontaneously ensued told the story better than any reporter could.

This self-styled Santa, who wanted to remain anonymous, made several more stops in O'Neill and visited Atkinson, too.

Some fellow, this Santa! These visits provided the theme for the Christmas morning half-hour "voice" program heard

Child Dramatically Rushed to Hospital

Hugh James, 10-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred James, of Atkinson, was rushed to an Omaha hospital Tuesday in dramatic fashion.

Mr. and Mrs. James began the trip with their car, which broke down at O'Neill. The boy was transferred to a Biglin Bros. ambulance. A Norfolk pilot had been alerted and was standing by at the Norfolk airport when the ambulance arrived.

The plane was met at the Omaha airport by another ambulance and a police escort.

The boy is suffering from rheumatic fever.

Miss Hynes Home—Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Young, of Ravenna, spent Christmas with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Austin Hynes.

"Voice of the Frontier," Mon. Wed., Sat., 9:45 a. m. . . . WJAG . . . 780 on your dial!

over WJAG (Norfolk, 780 k. c.) The program entitled "Christmas in O'Neill, 1950," opened with St. Mary's academy first graders introducing and singing "Jingle Bells" and "Up on the Housetop."

By taping recording the First Presbyterian church choir sang "Oh, Come, All Ye Faithful," "Birthday of a King," by Neidlinger, soprano solo by Miss Barbara Bennett, and "Brightest and Best," by Coombs, with solos by Miss Lois Harder and Stanley Lambert. The music was recorded at the Christmas eve candlelight service at the church.

Music excerpts from the midnight mass at St. Patrick's Catholic church followed, featuring the choir with pipe organ accompaniment.

Then came Santa's visits with the O'Neill public school band, playing Goldman's "Christmas March," filling the intervals. The music was recorded.

Two new Holt county officers will assume their duties Thursday, January 4. Both were victors in the November general elections.

Leo S. Tomjack, Democrat, of O'Neill, succeeds A. B. Hubbard, Republican, of O'Neill, as county sheriff.

William E. ("Bill") Wefso, Republican, of Atkinson, will replace L. G. Gillespie, Republican, of O'Neill, as county assessor. Wefso defeated Gillespie in the primaries and subsequently won the general election.

Miss Alice French, who has been appointed new superintendent of public instruction, will assume her duties in mid-January. She has not yet been released by O'Neill city schools where she is a faculty member. Miss Elja McCullough, retiring superintendent, will attend college at Wayne after the holidays. She left O'Neill last week.

Santa Brings 2 Babies for Xmas

Santa was not too busy with toys and stuff to lend the stork an assist with two babies—both boys—in O'Neill on Christmas day.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Layh, of O'Neill, became the parents of a son, Ricky Lee, weighing 8 pounds. Ricky Lee is their first child.

Rev. and Mrs. Robert Olson, of Christ Lutheran church at O'Neill, had a son, John Robert, weighing 7 pounds 2 ounces. The Olsons have another child.

The babies were born in O'Neill hospital.

S. W. BRION DIES; BURIAL AT EWING

Heart Ailment Fatal to Well-Known Ewing Banker

EWING — Funeral services were conducted at 2 p. m., Wednesday, December 27, at the Methodist church in Ewing for S. W. ("Pete") Brion, 67, well-known Ewing banker. He died at 9:05 a. m. Christmas in a Norfolk hospital where he had been a patient since November 22.

He had been a sufferer of a heart ailment.

Survivors include: Widow—Maude; son—Samuel Richard, of Neligh; daughter—Mrs. M. B. (Mary) Huffman, of Ewing; sisters—Mrs. Eva Davies, of Lincoln, and Mrs. Sadie Jones, of Manatee, Fla.; four grandchildren, several nieces and nephews.

Samuel Walter Brion was born March 9, 1883, at Unadilla. As an infant he moved to Holt county with his parents, settling on a farm 10 miles north of town. In 1891 he moved into Ewing where he spent the remainder of his life.

The late Mr. Brion began his banking career at the age of 15 with the Ewing State bank. He later transferred to the Pioneer bank of Ewing and later helped organize the Farmers State bank. He initially served as cashier and for many years served as president. He headed the bank at the time of his death.

On October 1, 1913, he married Maude Burtwhistle at Ewing. They became the parents of two children.

Mr. Brion was active in most community affairs, served as a member of the board of education, village board of trustees and township board. He was a member of the Masonic lodge, Order of Eastern Star, Royal Highlanders and was baptised a Methodist. His hobbies were hunting and fishing.

Rev. C. C. Chappell, Methodist pastor, officiated and burial was in the Ewing cemetery. The main auditorium in the church could not accommodate the crowd and loudspeakers were placed in the basement. Masonic burial rites were conducted.

His parents and three sisters preceded him in death.

New Assessor, Sheriff Take Over January 4

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Harty Family Reunites

Mrs. W. H. Harty had as her guests at Christmas her son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. James Harty, of Scottsbluff; her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Kevin Kocina, and daughters, of Central City, and her son, Jack, of Chicago, Ill. The James Hartys also visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Simon Bosn.