

Dr. Douglas Gets 50-Year Award

Atkinson Physician Delivers 3,400 Babies in Career

(By a Staff Writer)
ATKINSON — Dr. William James Douglas, 78, this week is being honored—along with 9 other Nebraska physicians and surgeons—for having completed more than a half-century in the practice of medicine.

The venerable old doctor, who estimates he has helped bring some 3,400 babies into the world, boarded a train Monday night and headed for Omaha where today (Thursday) he is to receive the award from the Nebraska State Medical association.

He was born in Pekin, Md., came to Nebraska with his parents in 1878, was educated at Omaha high school, graduating in 1894, and graduated in 1900 from the Omaha medical school—the forerunner of the University of Nebraska college of medicine.



Dr. Douglas... closely identified with community life since the turn of the century.—The Frontier Photo.

When the Maryland-born Douglas had reached Omaha the town had no paved streets; it was a typically western river town.

As a young general practitioner, Doctor Douglas first went to work as a relief for an ailing physician at Clarkson. He also practiced at Dodge, Benedict and Tilden before coming to Atkinson in 1901.

From that time he has been closely and intimately identified with the community life.

At one time he maintained a stable of 17 horses to get him over the country to look after the medical needs of the people. With the advent of the automobile, Doctor Douglas bargained for an early Hupmobile and was one of the first motorists west of Norfolk.

The title was accompanied by considerable inconvenience. When he'd run low on gas he oftentimes was stranded because only a few communities "stocked" gasoline.

Some of the drama in the career of this country doctor could easily fill a book.

There was the time he operated on a farm boy on the kitchen table—the hired man administering the anesthetic. The appendectomy went off okay, in this case, Doctor Douglas had to be a diplomat, too.

The parents originally declined to let the doctor operate. With a flourish he packed his grip and started to town.

"The parents came after me and I operated," he recounts. "There was little time to waste and the act helped them to make up their minds," he added with a satisfying smile.

"I recall another incident," he continued. "An old man was baling hay. He stuck his right arm into the bayer, it got caught just above the elbow, and the arm was mangled."

"They brought him into my office, the woman't take an anesthetic. I amputated—and to this day that man is getting fairly good use of what is left of the arm."

Doctor Douglas married Anna May Campbell on June 17, 1904, in Atkinson. They became the parents of a daughter, Mrs. David (Catherine Deiores) Adler, who now resides in Winnetka, Ill.

Mrs. Douglas has been dead for many years.

When Atkinson was a mere village, Doctor Douglas was active on the village board and was insistent that a municipal water system be installed, doing away with easily contaminated private wells. When the town grew into a second-class Nebraska city, Doctor Douglas continued in a prominent civic role. He was mayor of Atkinson for more than a quarter of a century.

During World War I Doctor Douglas left Atkinson for a time to serve as a captain in the medical corps.

He was district American Legion commander in 1933-34, has been a member of the Catholic church, Knights of Columbus and American Medical association.

Mrs. Adler is to be with her father in Omaha when he receives the 50-year award.

Board of Equalization Convenes Next Week

The Holt county board of supervisors will convene Monday, May 7, as a board of equalization.

The board is required to meet for not less than 3 days nor more than 30 days.

Meanwhile, substantial increases in valuations are being noted as the Holt county assessor's staff completes personal tax records. The 50 percent increase in cattle valuations alone will account for a sizable gain for the county's coffers.

Scout Rally Here Friday Evening

A district-wide Boy Scout rally will be held at the American Legion club in O'Neill on Friday, May 4, beginning at 7:30 p.m. All Scouts and Cubs in the district are invited to attend. A motion picture film will be shown and ribbons will be presented.

Meeting Slated

Mrs. Sam Maxwell, of Omaha, vice-president of the Nebraska council of extension clubs, will be the guest speaker at the meeting of the extension groups of the county to be held in Atkinson at the KC hall on May 9. Three films will be shown and a covered dish luncheon will be served at noon.

REA ENERGIZES ANOTHER SECTION

Switches were thrown Friday and Saturday energizing portions of the second section of the Niobrara Valley Electric Membership corporation's REA lines. Forty farmsteads received power for the first time.

Most of these places are located in the Inman vicinity.

When the second section construction is completed, rural electrification will be carried to about 700 farms and ranches, according to the manager, Ed Wilson.

The Niobrara's annual meeting was held Tuesday at the American Legion club in O'Neill. George Rowse, of Chambers, was elected to succeed Harry Ressel, of O'Neill, as a member of the board. Ressel is retiring from the board, declining to be a candidate.

Iowan Purchases John Deere Agency

Harry R. Smith, of Akron, Ia., Wednesday became O'Neill's John Deere dealer. He purchased the agency from Lloyd Collins, veteran north - Nebraska and southern South Dakota implement dealer.

The John Deere store, located in the remodeled O'Neill Roller-drome building, was closed Wednesday for inventory.

Collins will continue to handle the Oliver farm implement line and DeSoto and Plymouth cars in his former location on South Fourth street. He plans to remodel and improve his former location.

Mr. Smith, who is single, has been farming near Akron for many years.

M/Sgt. Roy Johnson Reaches Pacific Isle

M/Sgt. Roy D. Johnson is now stationed on Eta Jima island, off the coast of Japan, according to word received this week by his wife.

Johnson, a former Lohaus Motor company employee, is teaching vehicle maintenance for the ordnance division of the army. A reservist, he was recalled to active duty last fall and spent several months on the West coast.

His address: M/Sgt. Roy D. Johnson ER, 37767641, Co. 1, Eta Jima Spec. Schl, APO 354, c/o PM, San Francisco, Calif.

Dramatic Teacher Goes to Minnesota

Miss Cecily Spaulding, English and dramatics instructor at the O'Neill public high school, has accepted a teaching position at Austin, Minn., and will not return to O'Neill next year.

The play, "High Window," which was directed by Miss Spaulding, received special recognition at the Nebraska fine arts festival in Lincoln several weeks ago.

"Miss Spaulding has brought our speech department to the highest peak yet attained by the O'Neill high school," reported Mr. George.

WITHDRAWAL ON METERS VOTED

Adopt Resolution in Session Lasting Until Wee Hours

Those innocent looking parking meters are making news again. The new city council, in session Tuesday night with 2 new councilmen at the table, required 5½ hours to:

1. Adopt a resolution by a 3-2 count to withdraw the city's agreement with a parking meter firm;
2. Voted 3-2 against confirmation of L. M. Merriman for council appointment to fill a First ward vacancy;
3. Perform such routine duties as renaming William W. Griffin as city attorney, appointing The Frontier the official city paper for the next 12 months, and renaming the police staff for another year—including Chet Calkins, chief, and Walt Calkins and Joe Wert, assistants.

It was 1:45 a.m. when the meeting finally broke up. The old council in January entered into an agreement with the Duncan Parking Meter corporation for 150 meters, which long since have arrived. A restraining order was issued when irate citizens protested installation of the meters.

If the resolution adopted Tuesday night stands, the restraining litigation will die a natural death. If the resolution is withdrawn, the district court will decide the validity of the original agreement between the city and the manufacturer.

Voting for the resolution were Councilmen Norbert Uhl, Marvin Johnson and M. J. Golden. Against the resolution were Tony Asimus and C. E. Jones.

Mayor J. E. Davis asked the council to confirm the appointment of Merriman to fill the vacancy created last month by the resignation of L. M. Diehlman, who has moved to Arizona. Uhl and Golden voted to confirm the appointment; Johnson, Asimus and Jones voted against the confirmation.

Janice Lee Counts 10 Grandparents

PAGE—There's a little girl by the name of Janice Lee Heiss who is well-blessed with grandparents. She has 10 of them!

Janice Lee is the infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Heiss, who live 1½ miles north of Page.

Moreover, all 10 of them reside in the Page and neighboring Middlebranch communities.

On the maternal side the grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Waring and the great-grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Roy Waring and Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Finch, sr. On the paternal side, the grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Heiss and the great - grandparents are Mrs. Elizabeth Cullen and Leonard Heiss.

Missourians Here—

Mr. and Mrs. Max Chapman and daughters, of Kansas City, Mo., are visiting Mrs. Elsie Slatery.



Ten of Alvin Hesse's good neighbors are: On tractors — Harlan Spath (left) and Melvin Carson (center); standing (left-to-right): Darrell Hesse, Orville Kemper, Richard Buxton, Charles Russell, Marvin Stauffer, Harold Dorr, Clarence Stevens and Gus Spath. — The Frontier Photo.

Alvin Hesse Has Good Neighbors

Alvin Hesse... tinkering with spine is dangerous business.—The Frontier Photo.



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Page Farmer Bedfast Following Spine Surgery

(By a Staff Writer)
PAGE—A rudy-faced 29-year-old Page farmer lay flat on his back and occasionally stole a glance out of a window. He saw an unusual parade of tractors, discs, drills, trucks and a variety of other farm implements. They were congregating at his place.

Manning those machines were 29 good neighbors — 29 guys who recognized that Alvin was having a tough go and needed a boost.

By Saturday night, those good neighbors had brought some of Alvin's spring farming operations up-to-date. They had disced and planted 70 acres of oats and they started discing another field — only to have the rains come and delay them.

Alvin's trouble began in March. He developed a sore back. By March 17, the family physician decided the young Page farmer had a bone affliction that required an operation. A "disc" had slipped in the spine—the doctors have a fancy word for it.

He was taken to St. Joseph's Mercy hospital in Sioux City where a bone specialist removed some bone from his leg on April 3. And on April 6 that same bone was grafted into the spine.

Dangerous business—tinkering with the spine, even for a specialist.

For several weeks he lay in the hospital recovering. Then the doctors said he could go home — provided certain care was assured.

The hospital bed belonging to Simonson post 93, of the American Legion, O'Neill, was taken to the Hesse home, located 1½ miles north and 2½ miles east of Page. One-inch boards were placed on the bed under the mattress. The boards keep Alvin's back level.

Meanwhile, things needed to be done, even though spring was a little late this year. His father-in-law, Gus Spath, of Inman, performed the chores and did everything he could; Mrs. Spath helped in the house. But still Alvin's backlog of work was staggering.

That's where the good neighbors came in.

Mrs. Hesse is the former Gertrude Spath. They have 2 children—Karen, 4, and Terry, 2½.

In about 3 weeks, Alvin will return to Sioux City for a fitting of a brace for his back. Looks like quite awhile before he'll be able to do any heavy work.

That's what's rough.

Red-headed Alvin normally is an active fellow. But now he's immobilized to the extent that he requires the aid of 2 persons and a strong sheet to turn him over in his plank-lined bed.

That nice big window and a cheery room help consume the all-important mending time.

"Gosh," he explains, "time goes slow."

Budding of the trees, darting of birds past the window and the activity in the fields across the way kinda make a fellow uneasy about getting out there.

But those good neighbors, who came Friday and Saturday and moved a mountain, relieved a lot of that anxiety.

Among them were Donald Summers, Herbert Kemper, Floyd Bellik, Gus Hesse, Andy Wettlaufer, George Wettlaufer, Ben Asher, Kenneth Asher, Harold Asher, Richard Asher, George Clasey, Ralph Larson, Dwaine Sukup, Robert Summers, Henry Hesse, Clarence Nissen, Junior Sorensen, Edgar Stauffer, Charles Russell, Marvin Stauffer, Harold Dorr, Melvin Carson, Harlan Spath, Darrell Hesse, Orville Kemper, Richard Buxton, Clarence Stevens, Frank Beelaert and Gus Spath.

Alvin spent 23 months in Europe during World War II, rushing across France, Germany and into Austria with the late Gen. George S. Patton's Third army.

Alvin was with an artillery outfit attached to the Third and was awarded a bronze star for gallantry.

Plan Oil Meet Soon at O'Neill

Lloyd J. Twibell, of Orchard, an experienced geologist and oil field worker, reports that he is receiving requests for local finance in connection with a proposed test well in the northwest Antelope and eastern Holt county area.

Twibell is lessee on a 28-thousand-acre block lying east of Page and extending to Orchard. He estimates northeast Nebraska would benefit from about seven-eighths of the oil and gas produced if wells could be developed.

A meeting is planned soon in O'Neill.

MILITARY BURIAL FOR CRASH VICTIM

Overflow Crowd at Russell Graham Burial Rite

Russell Graham, young O'Neill farmer who died Wednesday, April 25, about 8 p.m., following an auto crash, was buried Friday, April 27, following funeral services at First Presbyterian church.

Simonson post 93, of the American Legion, furnished a firing squad for the military burial in Prospect Hill cemetery.

The church was unable to accommodate the crowd that gathered for the service. Rev. Melvin H. Grosenbach, pastor of Wesleyan Methodist church, officiated.

Young Graham's 1947 model car went out of control while he was traveling east from O'Neill on U.S. highways 20-275. His machine skirted along the shoulder of the road for about 300 feet, turned over several times and came to a rest on its side, facing north.

The driver, alone in his car, suffered a fractured skull and died a few minutes later.

The father, Maurice Graham, farmer residing 8 miles northwest of O'Neill, said that his son had been subject to heart attacks



RUSSELL GRAHAM

and presumed that such an attack caused him to lose control of his car.

Survivors include: Parents — Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Graham; sisters — Mrs. William (Muriel) Brewster, Mrs. Orville (Rita) Eppembach, and Mary Kathryn Graham, all of O'Neill; brother—Darrell Graham, of O'Neill.

Russell was born June 13, 1925, at O'Neill, a son of Maurice J. Graham and Katharine Ernst Graham. He was reared north and northwest of here, attended rural school in the Meek and districts 15 and 90 schools.

He enlisted in the navy on April 18, 1944, being stationed at Farragut, Ida. Later, when he contracted pneumonia fever, he was hospitalized at Corona, Calif., for 8 months. On April 10, 1945, he was given a medical discharge.

Young Graham and his father together farmed 500 acres.

Mrs. Floyd Ritts and Mrs. Otto Lorenz were in charge of the flowers.

Members of the Legion's firing squad and color bearers included Gordon O. Harper, Clinton Wolfe, Emmett Carr, G. Owen Cole, John Grutsch, Charles Yarnall, Edward Moos, Hugh Benson, Kenneth Oetter, Glea Wade, James Lyons, Fred Appleby, Donald Clyde, Jack Everitt and Laurence Urbin. Edward Bridges played taps.

A mixed quartette, composed of John Dick, Miss Irene Searles, Mrs. Grosenbach and D. H. Clauson, sang "The Last Mile of the Way," "Sometime We'll Understand" and "The Old Rugged Cross."

Since his separation from the service he has farmed with his father and recently he assisted his brother, Darrell, in an O'Neill service station.

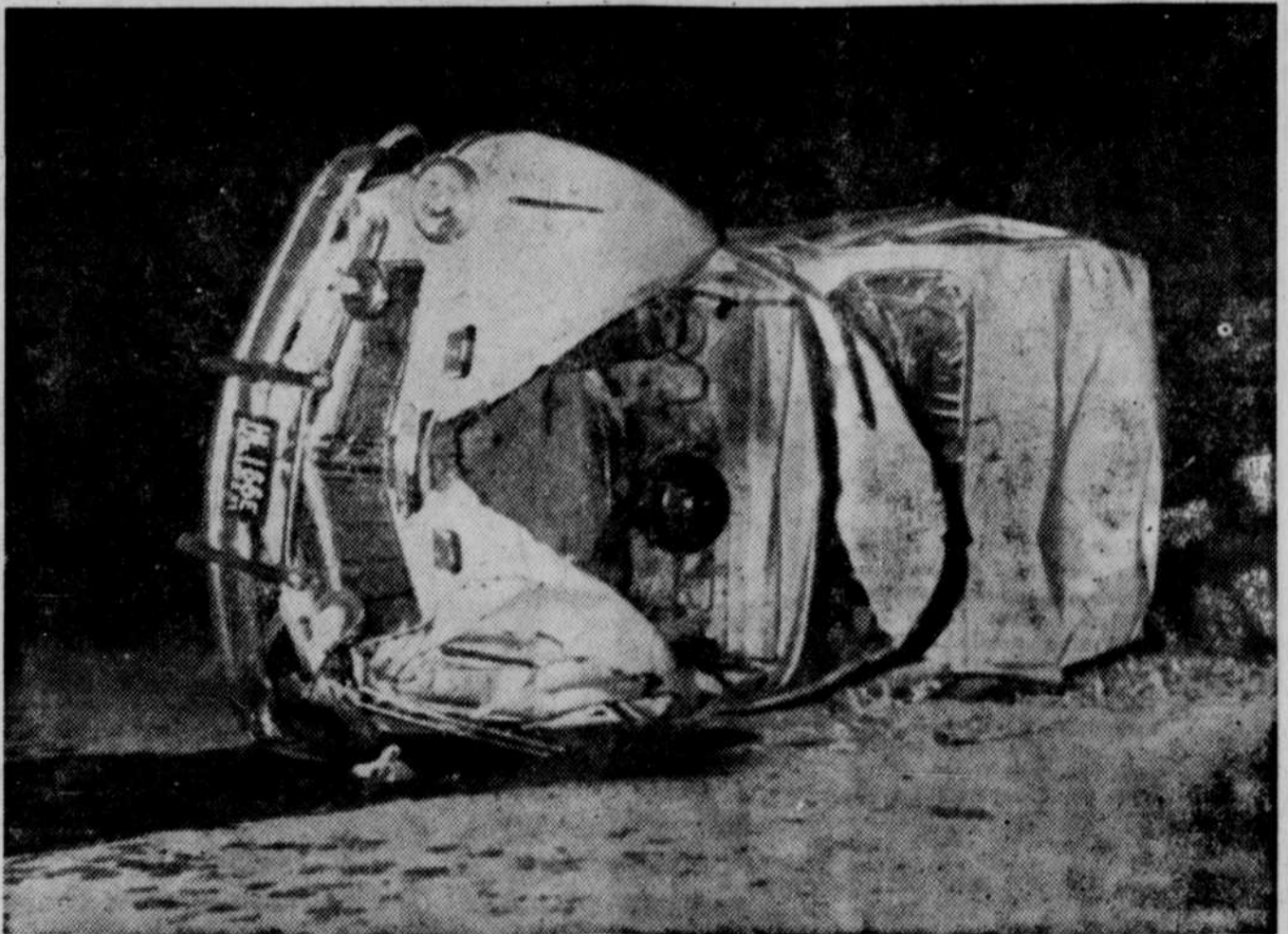
Palbearers were Donald Graham, Edward Graham, William Marcellus, Fred McCart, Joe Gokie, jr., and Al Hamrick.

McCarvilles Store to Change Locations —

McCarvilles store, located in the Odd Fellows building here since the firm was established nearly 5 years ago, will move "within a few days" to the remodeled, enlarged Consumers Public Power district building on Douglas street.

McCarvilles' former location was on South Fourth street.

Frontier for printing!



Driver of this overturned car suffered a skull fracture and died a few minutes following the accident on U.S. highways 20-275, near Dry creek bridge. Funeral services for the driver, Russell Graham, a World War II navy veteran, were held Friday.—O'Neill Photo Co.