

# 120 Rural Eighth Graders Promoted

## 'Superior' Ratings to 13 in Class

(See photo below) One hundred twenty Holt county rural school eighth graders formally were promoted into high school in graduation exercises held here Wednesday, May 13, in the O'Neill public school auditorium. Prior to the exercises the group posed for the camera with Miss Alice L. French, Holt county superintendent of public instruction.

Miss French announced that 13 members of the class were rated "superior" students.

The honor group, according to standing, follows:

- Nancy Paul, district 18 1/2; Linda Serck, 20; James Brewster, 73; Gene O'Neill, 14; Richard Sweet, 218; Mary Clare Gilg, 99; Linda Cronk, 110; Ronnie Frickel, 74; Gary Holcomb, 212; Ardath Barnett, 228; Charlene Mahoney, 121; Douglas Auman, 88; Leo James Burival, 9.

The program included processional Mendelssohn music by Vera Ernst and Edward Price; invocation by Rev. R. W. Olson, pastor of Christ Lutheran church; "America" sung in unison; flag salute, led by Merton V. Welch of Norfolk.

Four selections were sung by the lower grades chorus directed by Mrs. Etha Walters: "I Don't Want to Play in Your Yard," "Look Out the Window," "Five Little Ducks" and "That Doggie in the Window."

"The Past Is the Foundation" was the title of a speech given by Gary Holcomb of district 212. Ardath Barnett of district 223 played the piano solo, "Artist's Life" by Strauss, followed by selections by the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh grade chorus, "Old Folks at Home," "Chianpanecas" and "Shortnin' Bread," directed by Mr. Welch.

Gene O'Neill of district 14 was heard in the piano solos, "Dangerous Journey" and "Little Star." The eighth graders sang, "While Strolling Through the Park."

O'Neill City School Supt. D. E. Nelson delivered an address, "Four Corner Stones." Miss French presented awards and diplomas and Bonnie Burival of district 90 sang "Pretend" and "On Moonlight Bay."

Benediction was offered by Reverend Olson and soft drinks were furnished by the Chamber of Commerce.

Members of the class, in addition to the top 13 students, are:

- District 14—Dean Johnson; 16—Vernetta Krogh, Demaris Lindberg, Bennett DeWall, 18—Josie Adams, Marjorie Rapp, Sharon Arr, Gary Arr; 20—Donna Perry, 23—Sharon Crumly; 32—Rexford Carson; 37—Cecelia Mathews; 38—Doris Hrbe; 39—Gregg Kemper, Ronald Summers; 47—Walter McIntosh.

- District 49—Brenda Cole, Glen Miller, Ruthie Vonasek; 53—Dean Obermire, Donald Obermire, Gene Sterns; 55—Harold Heese; 56—Edith Butterfield; 57—Garry Neisius; 62—Pauline Strong; 65—Karl Halsey, Raymond Strong; 72—Raymond Wabs; Nair; 73—David Roy; 76—Thomas Welsh; 77—Artha Pacha, Bernadine Rossman; 79—Marjorie Dobias, Richard Poessnecker; 80—Judy Sanders, Gordon Slaughter; 81—Dick Bogue; 82—Clara Fried; 83—Wanda Wabs; 84—Alice Allyn; 87—Donald Mikklesen, Ruth Ann Scott; 89—Mary Disterhaug; 90—Ronnie Burival, Arnold Babi, Gary Braasch; 91—Violet Horton, Wayne Root; 99—Vernon Anderson; 100—Roderick Hughes; 107—Edythe Grimes, Dwayne Walter, Richard Young; 108—Marvin Hawk; 110—Carol Sojka; 115—Mable Harkins; 118—Merrell Forslund, Laverne Stamp, Francis Heumesser; 119—Donald Pettinger; 121—Richard Hansen; 122—Norma Kopejka, Judy Juracek.

- District 125—David Wright; 127—Evelyn Pritchett, Marvin Young, Robert Young; 128—Dennis Cunningham; 131—Rose Marie Ernest, Linda Tuttle; 134—Clara Jean Pavek; 136—Evelyn Vanderbeck; 146—Maurice Schindler, Bernadine Keeler; 147—Larry Schaaf; 150—Frances Ernst; 163—Dorine Glead, Delbert Farewell; 165—Shirley Melcher; 168—Mary Straka; 173—Bonnie Taylor; 176—Neddie Boyle, Theresa Boyle; 178—Lorette Burrell; 180—Kay Butterfield; 183—Arlene Radcliff; 203—Evelyn Kaup, Robert Mitchell.

- District 206—Edith Pokorney; 212—Marlene Ermer; 213—Roland Bouska, Edwin Prussa; 218—Patricia Allyn; 228—Dorothy Fisher; 232—Don Minnig, Jean Moeller, Joan Moeller; 233—Jeanette Wolf, Janice Hall; 242—Larry Karr, Claudene Raymer; 246—William Focken; 183—Robert Miller; 96—Alice Friedrichs, Freddie Frerichs; 3—Allen Wyant.

### Residents Asked to Wear Poppies

Saturday, May 23, will be poppy day in O'Neill.

Volunteer workers of the American Legion auxiliary and junior auxiliary members, with Mrs. Dean Streeter as poppy chairman, will canvass the downtown district throughout the day.

One day out of each year residents are asked to wear a poppy made by disabled war veterans in the various hospitals. O'Neill's poppy quota has been increased five hundred over previous years.

Mayor J. E. Davis has proclaimed Saturday official poppy day in O'Neill.



Members of the 1953 Holt County rural eighth grade graduation class pose on the Holt county courthouse lawn prior to graduation exercises held here.—O'Neill Photo Co.

### Returns from Korea

R. L. Rossman, FN, (above) arrived Monday at San Diego, Calif., aboard the navy's USS Gregory DD802, after serving eight months near Korea and Japan. He is the son of Mrs. Gertrude Rossman of Atkinson. Upon his arrival in the U.S. he telephoned his fiancée, Miss Betty Dailey of O'Neill.

### Vargason Burial Sunday at Newport

#### Lifelong Resident of Rock

NEWPORT—Funeral services were conducted at 2:30 p.m., Sunday, May 17, from the Methodist church in Newport for George Lee Vargason, 49, who died Thursday, May 14, in an Omaha hospital. Death was caused by a cerebral hemorrhage.

Rev. Homer Hix officiated and burial was in Bassett Memorial park with the Newport Odd Fellows conducting graveside rites. Pallbearers were David Peacock, John Hasch, Leo Slachetka, Jimmie Foxworth, Frank Martelle and Frank Keller.

Esli Sparks, Clifford Farr, Lorena Keller and Mona Stolepart sang "There'll Be No Disappointment in Heaven" and "Beyond the Sunset," accompanied by Gertrude Keller as organist.

George Lee Vargason was born at Newport March 12, 1904. He spent his entire life in the Newport community. On November 22, 1924, at O'Neill he married Opal Snelson. They became the parents of a daughter, Doris Lila, who died in 1946.

Survivors include: Widow; sisters—Mrs. Pearl Christensen and Mrs. Viola Slachetka, both of Newport; brothers—Walter of Ainsworth and Earl of Newport.

Those attending the funeral from a distance were: Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Sanford of Albion, Mr. and Mrs. Pete Bartlett and Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Christensen of Aurora, Mr. and Mrs. Ora Barlow of Harvard, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Vargason of Wood Lake, Bert Chambers of Millboro, S. D., Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Chambers of Bonesteel, S. D., Orville Pickett and John Park of Wakefield.

### Speeding Teenager Fined \$15, Costs

Lester Walton, 16, a high school sophomore, Wednesday afternoon was fined \$15 plus \$4 costs on charges of speeding filed in Justice H. W. Tomlinson's court.

Walton admitted driving at excessive speed on East Adams street during the Monday noon hour. He drives a "hitchhiker red" 1942 model car.

A complaining witness pointed out to the court that 30 children reside along the route Walton's car raced "at a dangerous rate of speed—at least 40 miles per hour."

Justice Tomlinson lectured Walton and pointed out that Walton was not the only speeder among youthful drivers.

### FATHER DIES

Mr. and Mrs. John Gilstrap received word that his father, Kelly Gilstrap, died Sunday morning at Glenwood Springs, Colo. Mr. Gilstrap left the same day for Glenwood Springs to make funeral arrangements.

Mrs. J. W. Ressel returned Tuesday from Plainview where she had spent a month visiting her daughter, Mrs. John Seneshey.

"VOICE OF THE FRONTIER"  
**WJAO**  
 Mon. Wed. Sat.  
 9:45 A.M. — 780 k.c.

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 O'Neill, Nebraska, Thursday, May 21, 1953.

## 8 Blocks in City to Get Paving Soon

### 2 Street Improvement Districts in Center of Town Established

The city council in special session Friday night adopted ordinance 260-A which provides for the establishment of two street improvement districts.

The ordinance proposes paving and improving eight blocks of city streets forming a square on the outer boundaries of the four main business blocks which center on the corner of Fourth and Douglas street (traffic signal) in the heart of the city.

Action of the council followed numerous requests and suggestions from citizens for street improvements from various sections of the city and comes in line with James Thorburn of Norfolk, special engineer.

Thorburn was present and explained the many phases of paving and street improvement problems. The improvement would help solve parking congestion and help take the heart of the city out of the mud and gravel.

Ordinance 260 - A, which was adopted, provides for grading, guttering, paving and other improvements on these eight lineal blocks which may be defined as:

Everett street (from Third to Fifth); Fifth street (from Everett to Clay); Clay street (from Fifth to Third); and Third street (from Clay to Everett).

Although it is not definitely decided as yet, it is proposed that the width of the paving would be 40 feet, which would allow for parallel parking on both sides of the streets with two 12-foot driving lanes between. Costs of the intersections and alley intersections would be paid by the city, and the city would also pay for a portion of the street proper in front and on the sides of lots. The balance of the costs would be paid by special assessment against the properties in the same block benefited.

The cost of paving streets on the side line of corner lots would be pro-rated among the adjacent lots to the center of each block on a sliding scale according to proximity to the paving.

The legal procedure involves the passage of an ordinance by the council for the creation of the districts. This appears in this issue of The Frontier. Thereafter, a public notice must be published for a period of two weeks, and resident abutting property owners are permitted 20 days within which to make and file written objections with the city clerk. In the event that 51 percent of such owners object, then the ordinance is repealed and the matter dropped.

Otherwise, the city is empowered to proceed with contracting and construction. Bonds are issued in payment of the improvements and are payable in installments over 10 years. The installments can be paid in advance if desired. The assessments against individual properties are worked out by the city council after public hearings.

Engineer Thorburn stated that on the basis of the estimates, the costs per running foot on the front side of lots abutting the pavement would not exceed \$8.85, and the costs per running foot of side lot lines abutting the pavement would not exceed \$2.05 for a 22-foot lot or \$3.45 (Continued on page 10)

# THE FRONTIER

North-Central Nebraska's BIG Newspaper  
 O'Neill, Nebraska, Thursday, May 21, 1953.



"The Princess Chooses a Kitty," operetta staged Monday by kindergarten and first grade pupils of St. Mary's academy, presented a riot of color. Terry Tomjack (with buttoned leggings) was the town crier and Jean Marie Lohaus (speaking, center of stage) was the princess. Others in photo (left-to-right) are: First row on left of stage—Judy Curran, Carol Klein, Joanne Miles, Terry Tomjack, Billy Joe Pruss, Jolene Stutz, Jean Marie Lohaus; on right of stage—Suzanne Stewart, Patsy Pribil, Dickie Wanser.

### Marlene Waring '53 Valedictorian

Miss Marlene Waring was awarded 1953 O'Neill high school senior class valedictorian honors Tuesday evening in commencement exercises at the school auditorium. Salutatorian honors went to Lavonne Rieck. Peggy Alm earned the regent's and church affiliated scholarship. Alternate regent's scholarship went to Lyle Fox.

Fair and Square club pins went to: George Taylor, special room; Clarence Hill, third; Cheryl Coulter, fourth; Gary Skulborstad, fifth; Velda Ernst, sixth; Robert McClellan, seventh; and Donna Summers, eighth.

Dr. N. W. Thorpe of the University of Nebraska was commencement speaker.

Miss Mary E. Carney leaves today (Thursday) for California to visit friends and relatives.

In Los Angeles she plans to attend the graduation of her niece, Miss Marguerite Carney, from Marymount college.

From California she will leave for Richland, Wash., where she will visit her brother, Tom, and family and also her niece, Mrs. A. V. Rohde, and family.

### Washingtonians Here—

Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Harpham and daughter, Connie, and Mrs. Frank Harpham, all of Kenwick, Wash., Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Volwiler, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kettleson of Plainview spent Wednesday, May 13, visiting Mr. and Mrs. Joe Gokie at O'Neill. Mrs. Kettleson, Gilbert Volwiler and Mrs. Gilbert Harpham are nieces and a nephew of Mrs. Gokie. This is the first time Mrs. Gilbert Harpham has met her Nebraska cousins and aunt.

### WEATHER SUMMARY:

	Hi	Lo	Prec.
May 14	58	27	
May 15	68	43	
May 16	69	46	.01
May 17	71	49	.84
May 18	67	43	.04
May 19	80	49	T
May 20	58	15	T
Totals			.90

### NEWS OMITTED

Because of a late surge of display and legal advertising, a considerable amount of news is necessarily omitted from this issue. Considerable news from Emmet, Inman, South of Stuart and Rock Falls, intended for this issue, will be carried over until next issue.



Kittens (foreground) . . . Ellen Stutz, Carol Lowery, Kathy Hynes, Joe McCarville III, Rosemarie Walter and Dorothy Havranek (extreme right); sunbonnet girl in background (at left, facing camera) is Patsy Pribil; little girl and boy in background (at right, facing camera) are Donna Marie George and Owen Shoemaker.—The Frontier Photo by John H. McCarville.

## Horseless Smokey Stops Here

By a Staff Writer

A horseless ex-rancher, ex-movie actor, and ex-sheriff from Arizona who took to wholesale hiking six years ago hoofed it into O'Neill around 5:15 Wednesday afternoon.

He plans to leave here Thursday, heading for Omaha.

No, 67-year-old Smokey Cameron isn't settling down. Odd jobs along the way are just part of his game. He walked away from a ranch in Nogales, Ariz., shortly after his wife and two sons were killed in a cattle stampede in 1947, and he's been hoofing it, working as he walks, ever since.

He's covered 33,700 miles on foot, has worn out 10 pairs of moccasins and is on his 17th pair of boots, and quips quite proudly, ". . . and I haven't worn out the seat of one pair of pants yet."

He sometimes accepts rides when they are offered, if he's tired or the weather's against him, but he does not count them as mileage walked. No, sirree . . . And if the tales he can tell were horseless, he'd have enough to braid a trail matching his hikes, mile-for-mile.

He claims he's a second cousin to Rod Cameron and has visited the movie actor three times in Hollywood. "Every time I see him he calls me short and ugly,

and I call him tall, dark and handsome," Smokey draws.

In his first year on the open road Smokey hiked to Alaska. Since then he's traveled from coast to coast across the United States, through Mexico and Central America to Panama, and back again. His walkings have taken him through 38 states (Nebraska makes 39) and two territories. From O'Neill he plans to walk to Maine, where he will swing north through Canada for his second trip to Alaska.

Since 1947 he has given 33 pints of blood along his travel route to the veterans' blood bank and has helped fight 50 forest fires that got in his way. He's been attacked by a timber wolf and treed by a mother bear, but his only injury, says Smokey, was a burn from a Copenhagen snuff box.

A story goes with that, too. He was helping fight a forest fire in the Yukon during his first Alaska trip. A fire-fighter was overcome by smoke, and Smokey dashed in to retrieve him. After helping the man to safety, Smokey decided he needed a chew. He reached for his Copenhagen—and it was gone.

It had fallen from his shirt pocket, he figured, when he bent over to pick up the man. So he dashed back to the spot, spotted the can, and reached. He had his

chew all right, and he still sports a scar in the palm of his hand showing the rounded imprint of one side of the can. Smokey had forgotten . . . it was hot in there . . . 'Snuff said.

His closest call was the mother bear who was protecting her cubs. It happened the same year, also in the Yukon. The mad mama slapped the trunk of the tree right under the little man's feet as he climbed upward, and the slap shook the whole tree.

How did he get out of it? "I was thankful as I sat in that tree, that she wasn't the climber type," Smokey recalls. He threw her a candy bar . . . and waited until she went away, happy, with her cubs.

Smokey's film career dates back to silent movies, when he says he was co-rolled with his wife in "Covered Wagon," "Stagecoach," "UP Trail," "Sing in Wire," "Western Union," "Renegade," "Outlaw's Revenge" and a host of others too numerous to recall on the spur of the moment.

"I always had to play the part of an Indian because I was brought up by Apaches," Smokey explains. His mother became sick when he was 2-years-old and an Indian maid kept him with the Apaches until he was 9. "I was more Indian than white (Continued on page 10)

TEN PAGES  
 SECTION 1  
 Pages 1 to 10

Seven Cents

## Assessment Mess Brings Board Grief

### Numerous Increases in Personal Valuations Valuations Ordered

At least 25 Holt countyans had appeared before the Holt county board of equalization before it adjourned Wednesday afternoon, protesting substantial increases in property valuations.

The board opened hearings Monday. It will convene again Monday and Tuesday, June 1 and 2, and once each week thereafter, until further notice.

Many of the grievances involve personal property owners whose valuations were increased several times their 1952 value. Under the new law, property is to be turned in at actual value and assessed at 50 percent of its actual value.

The situation regarding the valuation of property in Nebraska is a complete state-township, county and state.

This is primarily because of recent legislation and because of press reports indicating that 61 counties in Nebraska, including metropolitan Douglas and Lancaster, are apparently not substantially increasing assessed valuations.

One Holt board member told The Frontier any radical increase in the assessed valuation at this time may be unfair to the taxpayers in this county when comparisons are made with other counties.

One of the sensitive phases of the middle is the valuation ratio between old and new dwellings. Generally the owners of the new dwellings are contending their real estate value is only a small fraction of what it's worth. Owners of older dwellings complain their valuations are too high in relation to the newer homes.

Generally speaking, the county board of equalization appears disposed to increase and equalize personal property valuations and leave the real estate middle to the state board.

Observers who have been watching the assessment problem are concerned about what the state board will do, but it is generally conceded an overall increase is in the making.

One Holt board member, who did not want to be quoted, frankly stated few county officials understand the situation and all the ramifications. He said he had talked to board of equalization members from several other counties and the dilemma is general.

"It'd be a full time job for six months for a board to go in and work out values properly. All we can do is equalize as best we know how."

### Crippled Children's Clinic Scheduled

The next crippled children's extension clinic to be held in this area will be at the high school in Ainsworth on Saturday, May 23. Clinic registrations will begin at 7:30 a.m.

The clinic is for diagnosis, consultation, checkup and after-care services for children now receiving treatment and will be conducted by Dr. Charles Tompkins of Omaha, formerly of Inman, pediatrician, and Dr. L. S. Campbell, orthopedist. Children who are not now receiving services under the program of services for crippled children may be admitted to the clinic when referred by their local physician, or in certain cases at the request of parents.

### Club Empties Treasury in Behalf of Library

ATKINSON—The Atkinson Extension club virtually emptied its treasury as an expression of its best wishes for the success of the project of raising money for a public library in Atkinson. The sum amounted to \$30 and members of the club held a food sale Saturday evening at Hoskinson's mercantile store and raised another \$20, making a total of \$50.

### Tea Scheduled

The Country club ladies are sponsoring a complimentary tea Thursday afternoon, May 23, from 2-5 p.m. at the Town House. All members and prospective members are invited.

A/2c and Mrs. Charles Marsten will leave Friday to return to Waco, Tex., after spending his furlough here visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Marsten of Walnut and Mr. and Mrs. Hadden Anspach. Airman Marsten is stationed at Goddard air force base there.



Members of the 1953 Holt County rural eighth grade graduation class pose on the Holt county courthouse lawn prior to graduation exercises held here.—O'Neill Photo Co.