

Reservations Pour in for Stock Meeting

Reservations are being readily taken up for the regional meeting of the Nebraska Stock Growers association at O'Neill on Thursday, December 3, according to an announcement by D. C. Schaffer, president of the cattlemen's association.

Mr. Schaffer reminds those yet planning to attend this big one-day meeting to notify H. J. Lo-haus of O'Neill to assure banquet reservations and necessary lodging requirements.

The meeting session begins at 9:30 a. m., at the Royal theater. A noon luncheon for all visiting ladies will be held at First Methodist church. The evening banquet at the American Legion auditorium will feature an address by Carl E. Bahmeier, executive secretary of the South Dakota Bankers' association. A dance will follow.

Four speakers will appear on the day program to discuss the agricultural outlook for 1954, the unicameral legislature, cattle supports and beef promotion.

The convention committee was fortunate to secure an official of the United States department of agriculture to report on a completed study of 1954 prospects, Mr. Schaffer declares. He is Harold F. Breimyer, agricultural economic statistician from Wash-



Chief Burks . . . spent World War II on busy destroyer.

Navy Chief Quits After 20 Years

R. J. Burks Enters Insurance Field

Navy Chief R. J. ("Bob") Burks hung up his navy garb this week after 20 years of active duty, including a long and colorful career during World War II.

He is the son of Mrs. Laura Burks of O'Neill, the former Laura Stannard. In 1933 young Burks graduated from St. Mary's academy here and several months later joined up with the navy. Duty was fairly routine for Burks—until Pearl Harbor.

He escaped the Jap assault without a scratch although many of his comrades perished in the memorable December 7, 1941, attack.

As a chief machinist's mate, Burks spent the entire war in the Pacific aboard the busy destroyer, USS Hubby. He participated in numerous invasions as the navy helped clear the islands to the Jap homeland.

For 24 months his mother did not hear from him. Once in the Atlantic the task force hit a minefield with the result many seamen were drowned—but Burks emerged okay.

On January 25, 1949, he married Eileen Sullivan, daughter of Mrs. Ellen Sullivan of O'Neill. They now have four children—two sons and two daughters and live at San Diego, Calif., where Mr. Burks will join his uncle, George Stannard, in the insurance business.

Youth, 18, Driver of Death Auto

Don Renze, 18, son of Mr. and Herman Renze of O'Neill, was driver of a car which went out of control about 2:30 a. m., Monday on state highway 15, two miles north of Hartington. A passenger, James Suing, 13-year-old Hartington youth, was killed.

The machine overturned after it went out of control, Renze told authorities. Renze escaped with cuts and bruises.

The accident brought to 25 the number of highway fatalities in the 15-county area covered by the Nebraska safety patrol at Norfolk.

Green to Establish Bakery at Mitchell

Lyle Green, veteran employee at the M&M Cafe and Bakery, announced this week his plans for establishing a bakery at Mitchell, near Scotts bluff, "around the first of the year."

Mitchell has been without a bakery for several years. Mr. and Mrs. Green will be leaving O'Neill in about a month. They have three children—Richard, Donald and Luetta.

Raymond Anderson Funeral Is Held

BUTTE—Raymond Anderson, 49, of Butte died at a Lynch hospital Friday.

He is survived by his wife, Anna; two daughters, Sharon and Romo; and a son, Randall, all of Butte; one sister, Doris Anderson, and three brothers, Darold and Arden Anderson of Butte and Maynard Anderson of Grafton.

Funeral services were at the Butte Community church Tuesday.

PUBLISHES EARLY
This issue of the Frontier went to press 24 hours ahead of the normal schedule in order that all subscribers in the O'Neill region might receive their papers before the Thanksgiving holidays.

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

THE FRONTIER

EIGHT PAGES

Pages 1 to 8

North-Central Nebraska's BIG Newspaper
O'Neill, Nebr., Thursday, November 26, 1953.

Seven Cents

Former Resident Dies at 66

McDonough Funeral Tentatively Set for Friday at Lincoln

Funeral services are tentatively scheduled for Friday morning, November 27, at Lincoln for W. J. McDonough, 66, former O'Neill businessman and farmer who died at 9:30 a. m., Tuesday in Lincoln. The rites will be held at St. Mary's Cathedral and burial will be at Lincoln.

Mr. McDonough had been in failing health for about six years. He spent 35 years operating a paint shop and store here and resided on a farm five miles northwest of O'Neill for about 10 years, moving with his wife to Lincoln two years ago.

The late Mr. McDonough was born at Salina, Kans., February 14, 1887, and was reared in Cloud county, Kansas. For a number of years he taught school in Kansas. On August 23, 1911, he married Agnes Brown. They became the parents of four children.

Mr. McDonough served in the army in the U.S., during World War I.

Survivors include: Widows: sons—Robert of Lincoln and William of Portland, Ore., (recently separated from the service); daughters—Mrs. Thomas (Eklaura) Spates of Leesburg, Va., and Mrs. Donald (Dorothy) Sutcliffe of San Francisco, Calif.; grandchildren—Dorothy Ann and Thomas Forslund of Leesburg, Va.; sisters—Mrs. C. E. Laman of Concordia, Kans.; and Miss Mary of Lincoln; brother—Lawrence of Wichita, Kans.

The McDonoughs left O'Neill about two years ago after selling their farm to Freeman Knight.

The McDonoughs have been residing at 319 South 25th st., Lincoln.

Mountain Lion Tale Is Revived

CLEARWATER—The latest addition to the "I've-seen-the-lion" club is Fred Forslund, farmer residing 10 miles west of Clearwater.

The Clearwater Record reports that Forslund saw the mountain lion Monday morning, November 16, while hauling hay. Earlier the lion had been reported by several other members of this Antelope county community.

Forslund said he spotted the big animal as it was making off with a young calf. Being a mile or more away from home, he was unable to grab a firearm and settle the issue once and for all.

An unidentified person reported seeing the lion on the Hoffman ranch, south of Deloit, about a fortnight ago, the Record added. Other persons in the area have reported seeing lion tracks.

Persons who claim to have seen the lion insist there is no mistake about the beast. With one glimpse, any skeptic will change his mind.

Romaine Saunders, writing in The Frontier at O'Neill, says it is not uncommon for mountain lions to travel eastward down the mountains and onto the plains. However, the presence of lions in this area is so rare the moderns believe it highly newsworthy and useful for lots of conversation.

Forslund however, takes the view it's costly to tolerate the beast because with his own eyes he saw the lion making away with a calf.

42 Heifers Are Shipped to Michigan

Henry Wood of Ewing, Francis Anderl of Inman and S. R. Robertson of O'Neill sold 42 head of registered Hereford heifers to C. S. Reynolds of Gaylord, Mich. The heifers were shipped by rail from O'Neill Tuesday night and will reach Michigan about Saturday. The three men are members of the Holt County Hereford Breeders' association.

Page Gals Defeated at Clearwater—PAGE—The Page high school girls' volleyball team journeyed to Clearwater Monday night for the annual pre-season volleyball tournament. Page played Clearwater and was defeated 32-20.

The elementary grades have started practice on the Christmas operetta which will be presented to the public on Tuesday evening, December 15, at 8 p. m., at the school auditorium.

School was to be dismissed on Wednesday, November 25, at 4 p. m., for the Thanksgiving holidays and will resume on Monday, November 30.

YOUTH REVIVAL STARTS
A boy's and girl's youth revival series of meetings will start Sunday night at the Assembly of God church, according to the pastor, Rev. Wayne A. Hall. Bonnie Bell Roll of Milford and Colo., will be in charge.

Holt's Oldest Person Now 102

By MRS. BERLIN MITCHELL
Special Correspondent

STUART—A bent little Stuart lady, who has been regarded as an elderly person as long as most folks in the community can remember, this week celebrated her 102nd birthday anniversary. She was born November 25, 1851.

Mrs. Joseph Axtell was born long before the Civil war when these United States were still young and Indians, Spaniards and French claimed most of the western half of the country. And while Mrs. Axtell was a young maiden growing up in Lawrence county, New York, the vast reaches of unexplored prairie land belonged to the bison and buffaloes.

Mrs. Axtell's coming west is an oft-told story, yet there is a moral which rightfully justifies retelling it as the anniversaries roll around.

The Butterfield family physician in Canton, N.Y., advised the parents to take their 15-year-old daughter, Alice, "out west" for her health. That prompted a move to Waverly, Ia. Fourteen years later the family settled on a homestead six miles northeast of Dustin, north of Stuart.

Apparently, the Nebraska climate was the ticket—because Mrs. Axtell now enjoys the distinction of being the oldest person in the county (probably in several counties). Her health is nearly perfect but her hearing and eyesight are only fair. She continues to do odd workaday tasks about the house in Stuart, residing with her only daughter, Miss Pearl. Her husband died in 1911.

The Butterfields came to Holt county by covered wagon from Iowa a distance of about 400 miles. They resided on a pre-emption claim in an improvised log-sod house. In Holt she met and married Joseph Axtell in 1887. They became the parents of one child and a neighbor lady assisted at the birth.

Once their entire crop was wiped out by what, on another occasion a band of nine Indians

Winners in Window Contest Announced

Winners in the annual Chamber of Commerce-sponsored yule window unveiling contest, held Thursday evening, have been announced as follows:

Commercial division: Apparel Shop, first; Johnson Jewelry, second; Penney's and Petersen Clothing, honorable mention.

Non-merchandise: Marie's Beauty Shop, first; Dr. H. D. Gildersleeve, second.

Judges were Mrs. Axel Borg of O'Neill, Mrs. Jeff Davis of Inman and Cordes Walker of Page.

Meanwhile, the Chamber officials have announced that member retail stores will be open on Thursday evenings—December 3, 10 and 17—until 9 o'clock and on Wednesday, December 23, until 9. These evening store hours will be in addition to the usual Saturday night retail hours.

Man, 93, Cuts Arm Badly on Fence

AMELIA—Lew Berry, 94, had the misfortune to fall and cut his arm on barbed wire. The wound bled profusely. He was rushed to a doctor at Atkinson where several stitches were taken to close the wound. Mr. Berry was 94-years-old November 22.

School Officials Talk Reorganization

A meeting of Holt county school boards of education, both rural and town, was held in the courthouse assembly room Monday, November 23, at 2 o'clock, with about 50 present. This meeting was called for the purpose of electing a Holt county committee for the reorganization of school districts.

The following committee was elected for a four-year term: Lyle Moss, district 7; O'Neill; Irv Dierks, district 29; Ewing; George Collins, district 180; Atkinson; Howard Oberle, district 48; O'Neill; Pete Frahm, district 211; Amelia; Harry Mitchell, district 18; Atkinson; Frank Schmidt, district 31; Page.

The county superintendent, Alice L. French, serves as a non-voting member and acts as secretary of the committee.

Supt. D. E. Nelson of O'Neill discussed reorganization of school districts in Nebraska following the election. His talk was followed by an open discussion with many taking part.

The committee organized at the close of the meeting, electing Ira Moss of O'Neill as chairman and George Collins of Atkinson as vice-chairman.

Moss also is vice-president of District IV, Nebraska State School Boards association, and has called a meeting Thursday, December 3, at the Ainsworth high school, starting at 8 p. m.

His picket will be the speaker. His topic, "The Citizen's Responsibility for Schools." To be heard in a panel discussion are Supt. Harold Hutcheson of Atkinson, Moss, and three others. District IV includes Cherry, Keya Paha, Boyd, Holt, Rock, Brown, Grant, Hooker, Thomas, Blaine, Loup, Garfield and Wheeler counties.

Win Berths on Mythical Team

Warren Seger, end, and Duane Booth, fullback were the only O'Neill high athletes earning berths on the all-North-Central conference football team. Both are seniors.

Dennis Brewster, halfback on the Stuart Bronco team, was the only Stuart player to place. Bassett, conference champs, placed six.

Fourteen linemen and eight backs were chosen. Backs—D. Brewster, Stuart; Booth, O'Neill; Morton, and Young, Bassett; Cozad, Ainsworth; Wraga and Asher, Valentine, and Swett, Wood Lake.

Linemen—Peterson, Young, M. Bussinger and Patitz, Bassett; Kirkpatrick, Spearman and Phillips, Ainsworth; Seger, O'Neill, Simons, Drybread and Ohlman, Valentine, and Bauch and Dillon, Springfield.

The mythical team was feted Tuesday evening at Ainsworth. Coaches Marvin Miller and Paul Baker accompanied the O'Neill honor players.

Find Pussy Willows in Pasture

STUART—There was no school at the public or St. Boniface Catholic schools on Friday, November 20, because of the snowstorm with near blizzard proportions—somewhat different from the 61 degree reading five days earlier on Sunday, November 15, when the Obermire children picked a bouquet of pussy willows they found in their pasture.

As for enjoying the ride over, it wasn't too bad except 188 men sleeping in a space the size of the alleyway in the new barn seemed rather crowded.

Didn't buy anything in Casablanca except a bottle of Belgians beer, 200 francs a bottle. They use French money there, can't understand why the denominations are so small.—Love, Stan.

Sadie Chrestensen Dies in Hospital

ATKINSON—Sadie Chrestensen, 89, mother of Mrs. C. C. Raymer, died Thursday, November 19, in Atkinson Memorial hospital.

Brief funeral rites were conducted at 1 p. m., Saturday, November 21, at the Seger funeral home by Rev. E. G. Hughes, Methodist church pastor. Funeral services were held at 2 p. m., the following day at the funeral home in Friend. Burial was in the Exeter cemetery.

The late Mrs. Chrestensen had been making her home the past seven years with her daughter, Mrs. Raymer. Mr. Chrestensen died in 1946. Survivors include two daughters—Mrs. Raymer and Mrs. Barton, who lives in California. The late Mrs. Chrestensen was born at Ringold, Ia., in 1864.

50 MILLION PHONES

The 50,000,000th telephone in the U. S. has been presented to President Eisenhower by representatives of the telephone industry. There is now a phone for every three persons in this country.

Harry Petersen, manager of the O'Neill exchange for North-west Bell telephone company, said Wednesday there are 50 million phones in O'Neill—above the national average.

Flies Enjoy Meat in Casablanca

(Editor's note: The following letters, reproduced below, recently were received by Mr. and Mrs. Blake Benson of O'Neill from their son, Pvt. Stanley Benson, who has been sent to Europe by the army.)

Dear Mom, Dad and all: Tomorrow morning we'll pull into Casablanca and the next stop will be Leghorn, Italy, where I'll get off.

It was kind of rough the first couple of days—then smooth as glass, until yesterday. We left New York (Staten Island) at 2:30, October 27. We made good time even for the rough weather, around 350 miles in 24 hours. That was pretty good for this overgrown rowboat. Our top speed is 18 knots.

I'm on and have been on guard duty all the way, four hours on and 20 hours off, a pretty good deal since I stand in the theater for the cabin class passengers. There are around 50 officers and their wives going over as cabin class passengers and until the ship had a Halloween party for the kids on board the ship they figured on 75 kids.

When the party came off the cracks in the walls seemed to open up and over 150 kids showed at the party. After we'd been to sea a week, I figured I knew most of the "cabin class" by sight, by watching them come into the movie every night. Then one night there was a dance for the



Mrs. Alice Axtell . . . a school girl at the time of the Civil war.

appeared at Mrs. Axtell's front door. The redskinned visitors were invited in, sat on the floor while, disappeared without a trace. On other occasions they stopped for something to eat.

The Axtells burned cowchips for fuel, frequently changing their residence while making land claims. Often the family was obliged to fight prairie fires.

To help out financially, Mrs. Axtell made cheese during the summer and butter in winter. She also made stags for the ladies and in later years became an expert seamstress.

Josephine Novratil, Ex-O'Neillite, Dies

ATKINSON—Josephine Novratil, 53, died Saturday, November 21, in an Omaha hospital.

Funeral rites were conducted at 9 a. m., Tuesday, November 24, from St. Patrick's Catholic church for Mrs. Josephine Novratil, 53. She died Saturday, November 21, in an Omaha hospital after having been ill for 10 years.

Rev. Kenneth Carl officiated and burial was in Calvary cemetery under the direction of Biglin's. Pallbearers were William Sparks, John Vitt, Norbert Uhl, Joseph Sobotka, Ted Zaborowski, Harry Sullivan and Victor Halva.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John Valla, she was born at O'Neill May 31, 1900. She was reared here and married Emuel Novratil.

Survivors include: Son—Robert of Washington, D.C.; brothers—Joseph Valla of Winner, S.D.; Frank Valla of O'Neill and John Valla of Lincoln; sisters—Mrs. Thomas Sedlack of Spencer; Mrs. Vincent (Fannie) Dvorak of Spencer and Mrs. Anton (Nell) Dvorak of Gregory, S.D.

GETS TRANSFER
EWING—A/2c Jerry Mnarik has been transferred from Kansas City, Mo., to New Brunswick, N.J. He is an air force X-ray medical technician who returned from Korea at Christmas time, 1952.

The Frontier for printing!

Late Fall Snowstorm Crippling

Phone Lines Snap, Travel Is Stopped; Snow Disappearing

The net result of the small-scale fall snowstorm that roared into the region last Thursday evening and lingered throughout Friday can be summed up like this:

1. The moisture—1.01 inches—was welcomed by farmers and ranchers.

2. Many travelers snowbound up to 18 hours were inconvenienced a bit as they overflowed the city's four hotels and three motels.

3. Telephone communications were disrupted between O'Neill and Norfolk, Sioux City, Omaha, Lincoln and other points. (Ten circuits between O'Neill and Norfolk were snapped by ice east of Neligh.)

The storm moved into the region on the fifth anniversary of the memorable November, 1948, two-day storm, which proved the beginning of a miserable winter. The 1953 storm, however, was followed by mild temperatures and the snow began to disappear rapidly Monday and Tuesday.

Most of the wayfarers poured into O'Neill hostilities Thursday night. The major highways were never blocked but rain earlier turned to ice and made the roads slippery and treacherous. Most of the snow—variously estimated in this area from three to six inches—filled the air, blown by winds up to 35-miles-per-hour, and reduced visibility to about nil.

The rain amounted to .20 of an inch and the snow measured .81 of an inch of moisture, bringing the total amount of precipitation to 1.01. Lowest temperature during the ordeal was 13 degrees early Saturday.

Most of the travelers simply waited for the wind to subside on Friday and continued on their way. Many of the travelers were enroute to Lincoln to the Nebraska-Oklahoma football game.

John D. Osenbaugh, resident engineer for the state highway department, dispatched crews during the storm and the crews reported little difficulty handling the wet snow.

Most O'Neill streets were choked until plows cleared them. Scores of vehicles were stuck by the unseasonal storm.

Livestock men were well prepared for the blast and for several weeks have had big feed supplies close to their yards.

Both St. Mary's academy and O'Neill public school dismissed classes early. Many functions scheduled Thursday and Friday were postponed or cancelled.

Mainline trains on the North Western railroad continued to operate through the storm, but were running a little behind schedule. A Burlington train, eastbound from O'Neill to Sioux City, reached Ferry Junction, near Sioux City, slightly behind schedule.

Bus service was snafued by the storm—only two of 12 buses in an area of the city operating during the height of the storm.

Ice raised havoc with the phone circuits in the Neligh and Norfolk areas where there were hundreds of line breaks. The ice snapped the "Voice of the Frontier's" loop circuit to radio station WJAG's control room at Norfolk and Saturday's program (9:45 a. m.) could not be broadcast.

Cities Must Answer Pollution Letter

The state health department letters about stream pollution have stirred up quite a squabble. Dr. E. A. Rogers, acting state health director, sent the letters to seven Missouri river towns—Omaha, Nebraska City, Niobrara, South Sioux City, Dakota City, Bellevue and Plattsmouth. The letters pointed out that untreated sewage and industrial wastes were being dumped into the Missouri.

Storm Forces Cancellations—EWING—The snow storm which began last Thursday with showers of rain turning to snow, forced cancellation of many weekend trips for Ewingites. Roads became slippery from sleet and the blowing snow made driving hazardous. A strong north-west wind piled the six-inch snow into some good-sized drifts.

School was dismissed at noon on Friday. Many students were absent during the forenoon.

SUFFERERS HEART ATTACK
Police Chief Walt Calkins is in St. Anthony's hospital recovering from a heart attack suffered Friday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wallen spent Sunday in Omaha visiting John Ober and attending the ice show.