

Light Shower, Dust Make Weather News



Colonel Evans . . . conducted million dollar livestock sale.

Col. Ed Evans, 70, Burial at Randolph

Veteran Auctioneer Dies of Stroke

Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m. Sunday at Randolph for Col. Edward G. ("Ed") Evans, 70, well-known north-Nebraska livestock auctioneer. He died about midnight Wednesday night, April 13, in a Sioux City hospital where he had submitted to surgery April 5. He had been a hospital patient 2 1/2 weeks. Death was attributed to a stroke. In mid-December he suffered the first stroke and he never fully recovered although he did make about three visits to O'Neill.

The funeral rites were conducted from the Presbyterian church, Rev. H. J. Timmer officiating. Burial was in the Randolph cemetery.

Colonel Evans maintained headquarters here although he regarded Randolph as his hometown. At the height of his 25-year auctioning career he sold a million-dollar Denver, Colo., national sale. He was well-known at most major livestock marts in Nebraska, Wyoming and South Dakota.

Edward G. Evans was born March 6, 1888, at Columbus Junction, Ia. He came as a child with his parents to the Welsh settlement near Carroll. In 1907, he was married to Miss Edna Longnecker. They lived at Ashton and Boise, Ida., and farmed near Carroll until 1921, when they moved to Randolph.

Following Mrs. Evans' death in 1951, he moved to O'Neill. During his illness he was cared for at the home of his daughter, Mrs. John F. (Claire) Atwood, at Randolph.

Survivors include: Daughter—Mrs. John F. Atwood of Randolph; sister—Mrs. Laura Connor of Oxford Junction, Ia.; brothers—Elwyn of Waterloo, Ia.; Ev of Fremont; Wayne of Booneville, Mo.; grandchildren—Edward C. Atwood, student at Iowa State college, Ames, and Sara Jo Atwood of Randolph.

Sandhills Group in Pre-Sale Meeting

The Sandhills Cattle Association will conduct a pre-sale meeting at 8 o'clock Friday evening at the O'Neill Livestock Market. Purpose of the session, to which all cattlemen are invited, is to select a date to make preparations for the annual fall Sandhills sale to be held here. The association will sponsor either four or six sales at strategic sandhills points in the fall.

A lunch will be served at Friday's meeting. Any proposed changes in sale rules will be discussed and general information will be presented.

Vernon Berry Gets Army Separation

AMELIA—Vernon Berry, who has served the past two years in the army, has received his honorable discharge and is home with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Berry.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Lierman received word that their son, Gene, reached the States Monday, April 18. Gene had been in the Far East the past 18 months.

Pvt. Calvin Coolidge is spending a two-week furlough with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Coolidge, before going overseas. He expects to go to Germany.

Parkers Return—Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Parker returned Friday from a four-months' trip through seven Southern states. They spent most of the winter in Miami and Key West, Fla., and also stopped off in Texas and Louisiana. Mr. Parker said Texans were rejoicing over recent rainfall.

Koenig Completes 4-Year Enlistment—EWING—S/Sgt. Jerry Koenig, son of Mr. and Mrs. Adolph Koenig, arrived home Wednesday, April 13. He received his discharge from the air force at Westover AFB, Mass., having completed a four-year enlistment.

A light shower and a wicked dust storm featured this week's weather. The rainfall set in at 1:15 a.m. Monday, accompanied by some hail, considerable lightning and wind. The precipitation measured .32 of an inch, giving a badly needed lift to thirsty pastures, fields, lawns and shrubs.

All points between Inman and Stuart reported about a quarter of an inch or more.

Winds up to 50-miles-per-hour raged across much of Nebraska Tuesday. A cold front pushing across the state kicked up enough dust to rival dust storms of the "dark thirties". The sun was partially obscured and visibility restricted. Where the soil samples came from nobody seems to know. Winds diminished at nightfall.

There was more wind on Wednesday but much less dust aloft. Burwell, Grand Island and Valentine, Norfolk, Lincoln, also reported dust on Tuesday.

Week's weather summary:
April 14 Hi Lo Prec.
April 15 72 28
April 16 78 48
April 17 69 35
April 18 77 46
April 19 79 46 .32
April 20 85 56
April 21 70 42

Butterfield Leases Ewing Station—Elden Butterfield, formerly of the Orchard community and for the past five years an employee of Wilson's Texaco station here, has leased the Texaco station at Ewing and will take over operation on Monday. The station is located on the town's main square. James Rotherham formerly operated the station. Mrs. Butterfield and the two daughters, Merina and Verna, will join Mr. Butterfield at Ewing upon completion of the school term.

Mrs. Richard Farrier and family of Rapid City, S.D., visited last week at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. D. DeBolt. They returned to their home in Rapid City Sunday.

Young Mother Walks into Plane's Prop

Dead Upon Arrival at Hospital

BASSETT—A 25-year-old mother of two small children was killed instantly when she walked into the spinning propeller of an airplane at the airport here. Mrs. Howard Carr had just returned from a ride in the plane, which her husband piloted. It was believed she became ill or dizzy from the ride and wandered into the propeller.

The Carrs live on a ranch 35 miles northwest of Newport, near the small community of Mills. Mrs. Carr is survived by her husband, a son of school age, a daughter of pre-school age, her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milbert Bothwell, and a sister, Mrs. Martin Peterson, also of Mills.

The body was taken to Ainsworth. Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m., Tuesday in Springfield.

7th Grade Competition Tough

By a Staff Writer
So you think you can spell? Most of us have trouble in pronunciation let alone filling in all the vowels and consonants in their proper order. Holt county's 1955 grade school spelling champions were determined Saturday afternoon at the O'Neill public school where six syllable words were a dime a dozen. Master John Wabs, who single-handedly upheld the honor of the boys in a nest of gal champions, successfully spelled button to win third grade laurels. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Leo Wabs. Bonnie Clifford triumphed on the word "neighbor"—even though she tossed in the apostrophe for good measure. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Clifford and won top fourth grade laurels. Other champions:



Champion Holt county rural school spellers: Front row—Danelia Whitaker, fifth grade; John Wabs, third; Bonnie Clifford, fourth; back row—Bonnie Crumly, sixth; Janet Krugman, seventh; Marlene Beck, eighth.—The Frontier Photo.

"Voice of The Frontier"



Mon. — Wed. — Sat.
9:45 A.M. — 780 k.c.

THE FRONTIER

North-Central Nebraska's BIGGEST Newspaper

Volume 74.—Number 51.

O'Neill, Nebraska, Thursday, April 21, 1955.

TWELVE PAGES

Pages 1 to 12

Seven Cents



Train-savers from 25 cities and towns along the C&NW's Omaha-to-Chadron line poured into Bassett's Main street Monday afternoon, arriving in special trains originating at both ends of the line. The trains arrived simultaneously. The Frontier's photographer, John H. McCarville, snapped a portion of the crowd.

Kindergarten Pupil Hit by Moving Auto

John Richter, 5, Has Broken Leg

John Robert Richter, 5, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Richter, Jr., of O'Neill, was struck by a moving car on Benton street in front of St. Mary's academy about 11:35 a.m., Wednesday. The boy had gone into the street to meet his parents, who were seated in a waiting car.

A vehicle driven by Miss Frances Reimer of O'Neill struck the boy and dragged the lad a number of yards.

When the boy didn't report to his parents, Mrs. Richter exclaimed to her husband, "Johnny must have been run over." They got out of their car to investigate and found him with a broken leg, abrasions about the head and a bad flesh cut on the leg. The father immediately took the boy to the hospital.

Mr. Richter told The Frontier the driver of the car didn't realize she had struck the boy. He said she saw the lad's hat fly in the air and immediately stopped.

Late Wednesday the boy was resting well at St. Anthony's hospital, but his physician said it could not yet be determined whether or not a brain concussion had been suffered.

Mr. Richter said the doctor indicated the boy would recover.

District 33 Pupils Stage Pony Show

ROCK FALLS—Friday afternoon all the mothers, one grandmother, the pre-schoolers and the teacher made up the audience as the pupils of district 33 presented a pony show.

The acts were all planned, practiced and performed by the pupils with the permission and encouragement of, but no assistance from, the teacher. All enjoyed the added treat of cookies baked by Rita Vequist. Rita is also an active 4-H member.

Tankers Ready for 'Minute-Man' Alert

O'Neill's new national guard unit—company D of the 195th tank battalion—participated in the nationwide practice surprise alert designated as "Operation Minute-Man" on Wednesday evening.

Capt. J. L. McCarville, jr., company commander, reported word was received in O'Neill at 8 p.m.; by 7 p.m. 41 percent of company D had assembled; by 8 p.m. 77 1/2 percent of the men had reported; by 9 p.m., 81 1/2 percent of the men were on hand for duty against a mythical enemy.

National guard men reporting to O'Neill on this alert came from Creighton, Clearwater, Lynch, Elgin, Ewing, Inman, Page, Venus, O'Neill, Chambers, Spencer, Atkinson, Stuart, Emmet and Ainsworth.

Delay in Arrival of Salk Serum

First Inoculations for 635 Holt Pupils on April 28th and 29th

First Salk vaccine inoculation shots for 635 Holt county first and second grade school children will be delayed one week.

Originally the first shots were to be administered today (Thursday) and Friday at O'Neill and Atkinson.

According to Miss Alice French of O'Neill, Holt county superintendent of public instruction, the new dates for administration of the first polio shots are Thursday and Friday, April 28 and 29, at O'Neill. A new schedule has been fixed for the first and second graders in the Atkinson area.

The initial shots will be given Thursday afternoon, April 28, at the Atkinson school auditorium for the first and second graders in that area. Rural pupils looking to Atkinson for administration of shots will be received at 3 p.m.

Miss French, who is coordinator for Salk vaccine inoculations among the first and second graders, explained Wednesday the vaccine is being delayed in arrival about one week.

The delay is widespread in the nation, chiefly because serum has had to be diverted to Southern states where a polio epidemic rages.

O'Neill schedule:
Thursday, April 28: St. Anthony's hospital (north door); 8:30 a.m.—first and second graders of St. Mary's academy and O'Neill public school; 9 a.m.—first and second graders of Page, Inman and Chambers public schools.

Friday, April 29: St. Anthony's (north door); 9 a.m.—first and second graders of Ewing and rural districts which have elected O'Neill as site for Salk inoculations.

Second shots at O'Neill will be administered within four weeks on dates to be announced. A total of 404 pupils will be treated here.

The Atkinson schedule has been revamped, compared to the initial schedule which was published last week.

The inoculations will be administered for all first and second graders in that area—numbering 231—on Thursday afternoon, April 28, at the public school auditorium.

Second shots at Atkinson will be administered on a date to be announced.

In field trials the Salk vaccine was found to be 80 to 90 percent effective in preventing paralytic polio.

Alternate Choice Turns Out Okay

ROCK FALLS—It's not altogether a Sasquatchian—when after hurrying to get all the farm chores finished early and the young fry all tidied up for the second or third time in the day and loaded into the family car, you drive to a neighbor's only to find that that neighbor has done the same thing. After turning reluctantly toward home again, you decide to call on another family and spend a very pleasant evening after all—as was the case on Sunday when Mr. and Mrs. John Schultz and girls visited at the Albert Widfeldt home.

Fremont Firm Low Bidder on Streets

Widening Scheduled to Begin May 16

The Francis R. Orshek, Inc., construction firm of Fremont was low bidder Wednesday at the opening of sealed bids in connection with the proposed street-widening project. The figure: \$699,100.

Other bidders and amounts were: Booth & Olson, Sioux City, \$50,333.15; Dobson Brothers, Lincoln, \$51,394.78; Missouri Valley Construction Co., Omaha, \$51,653.30; Diamond Engineering Co., Grand Island, \$54,312.01.

Acceptance of one of three lowest bids pending ratification by the U.S. bureau of roads. The contract specifies start of construction about May 16.

The street widening, which was the subject of a hot municipal election and litigation, affects certain portions of Douglas street and South Fourth street in order to retain two U.S. federal highways on location through the business district.

Meanwhile, at Lincoln today (Thursday) bids will be opened for the new West O'Neill corner and 1.5 miles of bituminous mat torth to the drive-in theater corner.

At a special meeting of the city council Monday, the board studied revisions of old ordinances and adopted a resolution making "U" turns unlawful anywhere on Douglas street and on Fourth street between Benton (school corner) and the city limits on the south edge of the city.

The "U" restrictions will not become effective until 30 days after publication of the amended ordinance and until appropriate signs and markings are erected.

The council has been confronted with more municipal water problems. It's the same old story—a diminishing water supply due to sand filling in the wells. Deeper wells, down to blue shale, may be the answer. The city's best well now produces about 650-gal. to sand filling in the wells. Demand for water makes it almost imperative the city have a well capable of delivering 1,200 gallons.

Mayor-Elect Alva Marcellus sat in at Monday's session.

Rural Pupils Take Part in Rehearsals

Holt county rural school pupils spent Wednesday on O'Neill at various activities.

At 10 o'clock the harmony band, consisting of 128 members, met for practice under the leadership of Mrs. Etha Walters of Chambers. Accompaniment on the piano was furnished by two of her pupils.

At 1:30 o'clock, 800 children, and about 150 parents and teachers, attended rural school chorus practice.

The upper grades were conducted by Merton B. Welch of the Norfolk public school accompanied on the piano by Mrs. Howard Manson. The lower grades were directed by Mrs. Walters.

The city was brimming with children and parents. Six groups toured The Frontier plant, "Voice of The Frontier" radio studios and other points of interest. (Photographs of Frontier visitors will appear in the next issue.)

GOING OVERSEAS

Lt. Donna Shelhase, an army nurse, departed Sunday for an overseas assignment. Her first stop will be Yokohama, Japan. She has been visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. G. Shelhase, for the past 30 days.

308 Aboard Specials; Savers Make Headway

By a Staff Writer
BASSETT—This is a thriving cow town (pop. 1,000) in Nebraska's sandhills and is situated 250 miles northwest of Omaha. Bassett is the capital of Rock county, which counts cattle in a 100-to-1 ratio in comparison to human beings. It's in the center of the hucing area.

The world's largest native hay production. The most important single event in Bassett's frontier history was the day a band of vigilantes hung Kid Wade, a pink-checked outlaw, to a railroad whistlepost. That was February 6, 1884.

On Monday Bassett was the locale for a blustery two-hour conference between a zealous yet sincere band of train-savers and a top-drawer postoffice department official.

The PO people hold the single most important key to retaining and firming up the two trains.

Out on this windswept prairie where distances are vast, baby calves are "dropping" by thousands and every farmer or rancher owns a truck or two, there was on this bright April day a friendly though sometimes heated clash between a policy representative of the truck-minded postoffice department and western individualism—the latter determined to cling to the last two remaining passenger-mail-express trains serving directly and indirectly 40 counties in northeastern, north-central and northwestern Nebraska as well as half from the offices in Chicago, Ill., that appropriate steps were being considered for curtailing the two trains.

Goodwin pointed to a 60-thousand-dollar per year annual loss and declining revenue from mail being diverted, mostly to trucks.

Goodwin came to the sandhills in November, 1954, agreed to an eight-months' experiment with streamlined equipment; the quickly-formed Save-the-Trains association pledged increased passenger and express support and promised inquiry into the postal transportation reroutings and diversions.

Passenger business bounced back, some bigger stations reporting monthly gains up to 300 percent over corresponding periods a year ago. Declines in express revenues were arrested, but the train-savers had confidence express could be built up. But the mail haul continued to drop. In October, 1952, the average daily sack dispatch on westbound train 13, from the Omaha terminal (one of the nation's largest) was 1,700; in October, 1954, the figure was 1,100; in January, 1955, 866.

The nifty Rock county high school band whooped up "There Is No Place Like Nebraska" as two special trains crunched into town, pulling with 308 train-savers. The specials were hurriedly contrived when it was learned that Lawrence E. Ernst, chief of the postoffice department's railway transportation service, would be present.

He was dispatched to the field by Postmaster General Summerfield and Assistant Postmaster General E. George Seidle, who is in charge of all postal transportation in the nation. Nebraska's Sens. Roman Hruska (R) and Carl T. Curtis (R) were assured by Summerfield that Ernst would be authorized to make decisions.

Ernst and V. A. Klein, head of the Fourteenth division of the postal transportation service at Omaha, and J. J. Bornhoeft, head of the Tenth division at St. Paul, Minn., plus their aides faced up to their problems early by boarding the westbound special originating at Omaha. The second train originated at the western terminus, Chadron. Bassett is a midway point.

When the train-savers were dumped onto Bassett's Main street, all traffic halted and the modern vigilantes entertained no whistlepost ideas; all they wanted to do was firm up two trains which for years had been giving dependable all-weather service. Now the equipment is modern and an accelerated schedule is planned.

Fresh in everybody's mind is the winter of 1948-'49, when the region was snowlocked for months and when highway travel was tied up or fouled up for weeks but the trains invariably got through.

The battle lines had been drawn elsewhere. These people simply aren't frightened by national trends, ie: (1) declining mail revenues for rails, yielding to planes and trucks; (2) declining passenger revenues brought about by private automobiles, planes and buses.

They make no bones about it. They want their last two trains, even if it means bucking the trends.

Some business firms financed trips for a handful of high school pupils in the belief the outing and meeting would be a useful lesson in civics; possibly historic, too, the trains' days might be numbered. High schoolers boarded the special at Inman, O'Neill and Atkinson, representing Inman high, O'Neill high, St. Mary's academy, Atkinson high and St. Joseph's hall. They were accompanied by chaperones.

The Chadron crowd wore distinctive red hats and red jackets. Their civic groups already had gone on record wanting all mail brought into Chadron via train 13, if necessary, even at the expense of delaying by a number of hours some of the mail. Chadron is a college town with a population of 4,200.

Wayne Marcellus, auto dealer and president of the Bassett Chamber of Commerce, met postal and Save-the-Trains officials and escorted them to a buffet dinner in a private dining room at the new hotel.

A fleet of decorated automobiles was at the disposal of the town's temporary guests, transporting the rail boosters to cafes.

But as the trains rolled through the luscious sandhills with stops at each station to pickup die hards, Mr. Marcellus hovered over the telegrapher's shoulder at the station. The word was passed the hosts would have more guests on hand than originally bargained for. Immediately plans were made to transfer. (Continued on page 6)

Boy, 14, Suffers from Blood Loss

There was a collision of two automobiles about 4:30 p.m., Sunday at the intersection of Second and Clay streets. Cars driven by Keith Anderson, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Anderson of Redbird, and Paul Shelhamer, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Shelhamer of O'Neill, figured in the accident.

Authorities said the Anderson machine overturned twice and came to rest against a tree. In overturning, the Anderson machine also hit a parked car belonging to Herby Janzing.

Deputy Sheriff James Muller, who investigated, said two passengers in the Anderson machine were hospitalized: Victor Pickering, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Pickering of Redbird, and Victor's younger brother, DeLynn, 13. Victor suffered a deep leg gash and lost considerable blood. DeLynn suffered only bruises and was released. Neither driver was hurt.

In a mishap at the corner of Second and Douglas streets Saturday about 8:30 p.m., cars driven by R. H. Linehart of O'Neill and Charles Fox, jr., of O'Neill, figured in a collision. The westbound Linehart machine was attempting a "U" turn. Damage was not great, Muller said.

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