

Soaking Rain Buoy Ag Hopes

Moisture Is Welcomed; Vital Time

O'Neill Measures .65; Cloudburst Hits in Locality of Bristow

Prayers for rain in the parched north-central Nebraska area were answered Tuesday.

Some portions of the O'Neill region, on the verge of being drought-stricken were blessed with heavy rains.

Tuesday afternoon's rainfall at O'Neill was officially tabbed at .65 of an inch. Heaviest rain in the area came in the form of a cloudburst along the Niobrara river south of Bristow and east of the Spencer hydro-electric dam. Up to 3.60 inches was recorded there.

On the opposite side of the ledger, a locality east of Page received only a sprinkle and Long Pine got no relief at all.

Tuesday morning light showers were reported by motorists traveling between Norfolk and Clearwater. At the same time, Randolph, Plainview and Brunswick reported showers.

About noon rain began falling at Bassett and by 1 o'clock the precipitation amounted to 1.10 inches. This storm moved eastward giving most of Holt county an old-fashioned drenching. The Atkinson-Emmet area received rain for several hours measuring up to 2.10 inches in the Atkinson and Green Valley localities. Amelia reported 1.50; Chambers, .73; Ewing, .75; Inman, .60.

Bonesteel and Lynch measured one inch of rain; Spencer, .45; Verdigris, .30; Creighton, .50. Clarence Donohoe, who resides 6 1/2 miles north of O'Neill, reported two inches of rain at his place and heavier rainfall in the Midway locality, farther north. He said some of the farmers who had staved off corn planting until the past week are "sitting just right now."

Mayor Edwin Wink of Chambers happily explained "every nickel's worth soaked in" around his neighborhood. The Chambers area and the country south and west of Chambers had been deprived of moisture all spring and some of the pastures were naked.

Troxel Green, who resides four miles west of Chambers and two miles south, indicated the 1.69-inch rainfall in his neighborhood would transform the pastures in just a few days. Mr. Green, a young rancher, said oldtimers recall springs when pastures were worse off, "but I can't remember a drier spring season." Because of the dry condition of his pasture, Mr. Green had sent out a load of cattle last week.

R. H. Strong, who lives 12 miles south of O'Neill and three miles west, reported a one-inch rain at his place. "I was getting ready to sell off some of my cattle and I know some of the neighbors were beginning to feel the same way about the drought," Mr. Strong told The Frontier.

"But Tuesday's rain changed all of that!" he grinned.

Clarence Johnson, who lives south of O'Neill, reported "more than a half-inch of rain" and predicted pastures would recover quickly with a little warm weather.

Ord, which was in the heart of the north-central drought area, got 2.37 inches; Burwell, county-seat of Garfield county, reported 1.50 inches; Greeley county received partial relief in the form of a quarter-inch rain. Bartlett measured a half-inch.

Pickston, S.D., received 1.50 inches; Norfolk, .13; Clearwater, .31.

O'Neill retailers felt immediate results as rural folk, hopes buoyed by the general rainfall, switched into a spending mood.

In O'Neill the rain began falling at 3:45 and literally poured for about 10 minutes. The skies continued to drip into the early evening hours.

Mrs. O. A. Hamberger, The Frontier's correspondent in the Atkinson locality, described the moisture like this: "A big rain badly needed."

The hop-skip-and-jump showers were accompanied by considerable electrical disturbance. Consumers Public Power reported lightning difficulty at the Spencer hydro.

Last week's report by the state-federal statistician in Lincoln declared Nebraska pastures were 73 percent of normal, compared to 78 percent at the corresponding time a year ago.



Spanish Dancers in Musical Production. O'Neill public grade school pupils, under the direction of Richard Smithson, recently presented the musical production, "A Day at the Book Store." A Spanish dance team comprised a portion of the program. The dancers (left-to-right): Bobbie Kramer, Ruth Ann Walker, Lonna Haynes and Stanley Schmeichel.

Driver, 17, Critically Injured

Thelma Summers in 'Grave' Condition; 3 Others Are Hurt

Miss Thelma Summers, 17, was in "grave" condition Wednesday night at St. Anthony's hospital here following a two-car crash in which three other persons were injured. Miss Summers, driver of one of the vehicles, is suffering from multiple internal injuries, a possible skull fracture and considerable hemorrhaging.

Successive blood transfusions were made and the hospital listed her condition as "critical."

Her two sisters, Leona, 16, and Joyce, 12, passengers in her car, were listed in "satisfactory" condition. Miss Leona suffered a brain concussion and possible skull fracture. The youngest sister, Joyce, suffered possible chest injuries.

The other car was owned and operated by Louis Juracek of Niobrara, who escaped unhurt. A passenger in the Juracek machine, Henry Meyers of Niobrara, suffered a broken leg and was taken to the Lindberg Memorial hospital at Creighton. Meyers also suffered facial cuts. The accident occurred about 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon on a country road 13 miles east of O'Neill.

The Juracek car, a 1955 Buick, was travelling eastward. The Summers car, owned by the girls' father, Harold Summers of Page, was travelling northward. The collision occurred on an intersection.

Holt County Sheriff Leo Tomjack, who investigated, said a shelterbelt made visibility poor at the corner.

The Summers girls were enroute to their home after having cleaned up the rural school in district 55 taught this past term by Miss Thelma.

Both cars were badly demolished and school books in the Summers machine were strewn around the wreckage.

The Summers girls were brought to O'Neill by Biglin's ambulance, and another ambulance took Meyers to Creighton.

Miss Leona was graduated from Page high school this spring.

Diplomas to 35 O'Neill Hi Seniors

Marilyn Lindberg Is Valedictorian

Marilyn Lindberg was awarded valedictorian honors Wednesday evening, May 18, in O'Neill high school commencement exercises. She was awarded a church school scholarship, also the Reader's Digest award. Presentation was made by Principal Paul Baker.

Salutatorian honors went to Norma Timmerman, who received the state teachers' college award. Robert Sanders, who finished



Lindberg Timmerman

third scholastically, received the Norfolk Junior college scholarship.

The University of Nebraska regents' scholarships went to Miss Sanders. David M. Gaskill, Edward E. Gatz, Joan Kathryn Godel, Carroll F. Grenier, Donald H. Gruhn.

Betty Mae Harmon, Janice Joy Holsclaw, Janet Arlene Hull, Marilyn Marie Lindberg, Bernard D. Lorenz, Lillian Marie Mauer, Carolyn JoAnn Moseman, Bertha Ellen Osborn, David M. Page, Patricia Jeanne Pierson, Edward Ritts, Robert I. Sanders, Janet Rosalie Seger, Leila Mae Shaw, Mavis Kay Strong, Vonda Rose Thomas, Norma Jean Timmerman, Sharon Glee Hancock.

Supt. D. E. Nelson presented diplomas to 38 eighth graders: The roll:

Larry Anderson, Shirley Babutzke, Bill Baker, Joan Booth, Jerry Dawes, Robert Dennis, Darrel Dexter, Floyd Ernst, Nancy Fetrow, David Floyd, Jeanette Fricke, Larry Frisch, George Fuller.

Karen Harrington, Sharon Hartrott, Dianne Howard, Cherrian Knappert, Connie Kurtz, Jimmy Larson, Patty Lewis, Sharon Marcellus, Ronnie Mauer, David McCage, Keith McKim, Mary Neiman.

Ruby Passeux, Allen Reynolds, Betty Rodman, Carolyn Schmeichel, Jo Ann Seales, Nancy Sipes, Conrad Smith, Melvin Sollman, Howard Staub, Marilyn Strong, Teddy Strong, Rose Walton, Robert Wheeler.

31 to Graduate at St. Mary's

Thirty-one St. Mary's academy seniors will receive diplomas in commencement exercises at 10 a.m. Thursday, May 6. Rev. Edward B. Gill of Butte will address the graduates.

Ellen Corkle has been announced winner of valedictorian honors and the salutatorian award goes to Helen Vitt. Miss Corkle receives the St. Mary college, Xavier, Kans., scholarship, and Miss Vitt will be awarded the Mt. Marty college, Yankton, S.D., scholarship.

Other awards: Connie Lydon, scholarship to Marycrest college, Davenport, Ia.; JoAnn Ziska, scholarship to St. Mary's college, Omaha; Barbara Cunningham, Norfolk Junior college scholarship; Mary Janice Remter, Wayne State Teachers college award.

Class night will be observed Wednesday, May 25, in the public school auditorium. The class motto: "Today we follow, tomorrow we lead." The class flower is the white rose.

The class roll: John Connot of Valentine, Jerry Cuddy, Terry Donlin of Bristow, Bennie Fleming, Pat Gokie, Terry Wanser of Ewing.

Jeanne Cole, Ellen Corkle, Barbara Cunningham, Peggy Deagan of Superior, Mary E. Froelich, Vera Dell Funk of Clearwater, Sandra Harpep, Edna Heeb of Midland, S.D.

Pauline Hoffman of Cody, Doty Lee of Brownlee, Connie Lydon of Ewing, Kay Martin, Patty Morrison, Patty Mullen.

Betty Osborn of Dorsey, Cecilia Peter, Mary Janice Remter, Regina Rogasch of Rose, Patty Sullivan of Omaha, Patty Tomlinson, Miriam Troshynski, Mary Lou Uhl, Helen Martha Vitt, Helen Winchell, Jo Ann Ziska of Emmet.

On Thursday, April 28, the juniors entertained the seniors at the annual banquet and prom. A short intermission followed the banquet while the students, their parents and friends danced.

Minister 'Captures' Wayward Boy

Aroused by the activity of a 17-year-old boy who was attempting to steal a car from the street in front of the Assembly of God church, the owner of the automobile and church pastor, Rev. Wayne A. Hall, made a "capture" Thursday night.

The minister applied the golden rule to the wayward boy, gained a confession, notified authorities here and the young man's farm parents near Kearney.

After obstructing the boy's efforts to take the O'Neill car, Reverend Hall invited the youth into his home where Mrs. Hall prepared a good supper.

The boy poured out his heart. He recounted how he had disagreed with his father, taken a 1947 car from the streets of Kearney and abandoned it at Pleasanton, having run out of gas. He appropriated another car and drove to O'Neill.

"The boy said he was tired and sleepy," Reverend Hall explained, "so we told him to go to bed and get a good rest."

Reverend Hall said he would not press charges and questioned if authorities at Kearney would press the matter. The boy was to graduate from high school this week.

"He was a good boy," Reverend Hall commented. "He simply had had bitterness and disappointment and got off on the wrong track."

HITS 2 PARKED CARS. ATKINSON—A 1947 two-door car driven by Don Wedge, 17, of Atkinson rounded the corner near St. Joseph's Catholic church Sunday morning and smashed into two unoccupied parked cars. The unoccupied cars were owned by E. C. McKay, a 1954 model, and by Harold Waldo, a 1952 model. All three vehicles were damaged, according to Deputy Holt County Sheriff James Mullen, who investigated. Wedge was not hurt.

Carl Hammerberg Expires in Hastings

ATKINSON—Funeral services were conducted at 2 p.m., Monday, May 16, from the Methodist church here for Carl Martin Hammerberg, 60, who died Friday, May 13, in Mary Lanning hospital at Hastings. He had been in poor health about 18 months.

Rev. E. G. Hughes officiated and burial was in Woodlawn cemetery. Pallbearers were Stanley Johnson, Merrill Smith, Glen McClurg, Lou Humphrey, Harold Kirkland and Earl Eilsbury.

Singers were Mrs. Dean Fleming and Mrs. William Schorn with Mrs. E. G. Hughes at the organ. They sang "In the Garden" and "Abide with Me."

The late Mr. Hammerberg was born July 3, 1894, in the Celia community north of Atkinson. He was a son of Frank and Mary Hulda Hammerberg (deceased). He resided on the farm until 1919 when his parents moved into Atkinson.

Mr. Hammerberg sold automobiles, did some trucking, and for 12 years carried mail on RFD route 4. He was employed for a time at the naval ammunition depot at Hastings. He was a member of the Methodist church here.

On September 11, 1954, he married Miss Julia Allhouse of Stuart.

Survivors include: Widow—Julia of Hastings; brother—Oscar Algot Hammerberg of Atkinson; sister—Mrs. W. R. (Mildred) Greenwood of Sagle, Ia.; five nieces and four nephews.

Among relatives and friends from out-of-town for the funeral were Mrs. Martin (Julia) Hamberger of Hastings, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Johnson of Lyons, Elmer Johnson of Oakland, Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Johnson of O'Neill, Mr. and Mrs. Ora Yarges of Stuart, Fred Zink of Stuart and Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Loggett of Bassett.

Mrs. Ada Fleener Dies in California

Mrs. Ada Fleener, 67, the former Ada McAllister, a longtime resident of Holt county, died at her home at Costa Mesa, Calif.

Survivors include: Five daughters, two sons, five brothers and five sisters. Mrs. Jennie Eppelbach of O'Neill is a sister.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark Muff and Carolyn took Miss Bonita to Omaha Sunday from where she went by plane to Washington, D. C., to spend the summer with her sister, Miss Barbara.

Rev. Hall Accepts Broken Bow Post

Rev. Wayne A. Hall, pastor of the Assembly of God church here for the past six years, Sunday resigned his pastorate to accept a call from the Assembly of God church at Broken Bow. The field there is larger he told his congregation.

Reverend Hall, who lived a number of years in southwestern Holt county, succeeded Rev. Jonah Hamburger as pastor of the new church here. Prior to coming to O'Neill, Reverend Hall and his wife, a native of Ansley, had been in evangelistic work.

The halls increased the average church attendance from 20 to 120 according to church records.

Quins Leaving for California. Mr. and Mrs. Ed Quinn expect to leave Monday for San Diego, Calif., where they will visit their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Edward Quinn and family. They also plan to spend some time with their nephew, Bill Moore and his wife in Los Angeles. They will be accompanied by their grandson, Jerry Versal of Atkinson. On Tuesday evening the Quins attended commencement exercises in Atkinson where Jerry was a member of the graduating class.

MOTHER DIES. Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Harder attended the funeral Tuesday of her mother, Mrs. Santl Haivala, 74, in Buffalo, S.D. Services were conducted from the Lutheran church in Buffalo. Mrs. Haivala died Sunday at the hospital in Felle Fourche, S.D. She is survived by three daughters and two sons.

Mrs. R. L. Sutcliffe entertained the Jeudi club at dinner and bridge last Thursday. Mesdames J. B. Grady and D. A. Kersenbrock had the high bridge scores.

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AWOL Airmen Slug Station Attendant

City Obligated to Spend \$12,000 384-Ft. Well Going Down Soon

At a special meeting of the city council Tuesday afternoon, called by Mayor Alva Marcellus, the council voted to seek bids on a new municipal water well to alleviate a serious supply situation.

The city's consultant engineer estimates the new well might cost \$12,000. Bids will be opened on June 10.

According to present plans, the well will be drilled within about six feet of the so-called "middle well" on U.S. highway 81 right-of-way 1 1/2 miles south of town. A test hole there last week indicated a 1,100-gallons-per-minute capacity pump could be used there at a depth of 384 feet. This well is to be considerably deeper than existing wells, which have been troublesome because of sand.

A test hole within the city bore good indications, Mayor Marcellus said, but the established well sites south of town would enable a savings on pipe and material.

Mayor Marcellus said he would name a finance committee from a group of businessmen (no members of the council) to review the city books, which are being audited, and the city's budget requirements. The newly-elected mayor indicated the council would welcome and guide on the fiscal recommendations of the unnamed committee.

The council also authorized purchase of a new police cruiser car. The new combination police-station on South Fourth street, in the Yantzi building, may be ready for occupancy next week.

The council reviewed activities of the street department. Considerable grading, graveling and culvert work has been done on the streets since the new council took office; also some alley improvements have been made.

The Frontier was designated as the official city newspaper for the new fiscal year. Mayor Marcellus said some appointments will be forthcoming at the next regular meeting of the council.

Pool Opening Set for Sunday, May 29

Weather permitting the O'Neill municipal swimming pool will open for its second season on Sunday, May 29. Season tickets are now on sale at the pool office, Western Auto, Eby's Service station and First National bank.

During the forenoon the pool will be used exclusively for Red Cross swimming lessons. Don Templemeyer will again manage the pool and will operate through the supper hour.

Derald Graham caresses back of his head where he was slugged during a robbery. . . . James Earey looks on. — The Frontier Photo.

William R. Warren, 19 (left), and James Blood, 17. . . . robbed filling station, captured, sentenced in span of five days.—The Frontier Photo.

Two airmen, absent-without-leave from an air force radar station at Waverly, Ia., bargained for trouble and found it within a span of five days.

William R. Warren, 19, of Valley Falls, R.I., and James Blood, 17, of Lynn, Mass., took off hitchhiking from Waverly last week. They were picked up by Edward E. Heatherton, a Waterloo, Ia., motorist. The driver was rapped in the head with the butt of a revolver, tied up, left in a field, and the two airmen headed westward in Heatherton's car.

About 6:40 p.m., last Thursday, Blood walked into the Early Oil company station in West O'Neill. According to Derald Graham, the attendant at the station, young Blood asked permission to use the rest room. Upon emerging from the rest room, the air force man wearing jeans and a red jacket and flashing a revolver, advised Graham this was a hold-up. Blood ordered Graham into the rest room.

When Graham's back was turned, the attendant was clobbered on the head with the butt of the revolver. Graham was dazed but not knocked out.

Blood then picked up a hammer handle and hit Graham in the head again, drawing considerable blood. Still conscious, Graham said Blood helped himself to \$131 in the cash register and escaped into a waiting car, which had been parked nearby.

Dan Scott of Atkinson stopped off at the station within a few minutes after the robber had left. Aided Graham and summoned help.

News of the bold robbery was flashed to law enforcement officers throughout the area.

A roadblock at Valentine later in the evening enabled Cherry County Sheriff Bill Herman to quiz the two airmen. Herman thought the radioed description of Blood didn't apply and did not detain them. A person standing nearby, however, saw a revolver which had not been concealed.

Herman began pursuit of the two who, about 1 o'clock, were finally stopped at Rushville by Sheridan County Sheriff Wendell Hill.

Holt County Sheriff Leo Tomjack set out immediately for Rushville and returned Warren and Blood to O'Neill Friday night. The two AWOL airmen had, in a few short hours, run their course. They signed statements, admitting the Graham incident.

Monday morning they pleaded guilty before H. W. Tomlinson and were bound over to district court without bail. At 2:30 p.m., Tuesday they appeared before District Judge D. R. Mounts and were sentenced to the Nebraska men's reformatory at Lincoln. Each was given a sentence of from three to 10 years for robbery.

County Attorney William W. Griffin prosecuted. John R. Gallagher was appointed by the court to represent Blood; Norman Gonderinger was appointed to represent Warren.

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