STATE HIST SOC - EXT

Assessed Valuations for '55 Down in Holt

Holt county's assessed valuation for 1955 is lower than a year ago, according to an abstract of valuations filed last week with the state tax commissioner. Total assessed valuation for 1955 is \$34,381,-133, excluding rail and franchise valuations, according to County Assessor William F. Wefso.

All real estate values this year were arrived at by a "scientific manner" through recommendations of a professional appraisal firm.

Business propery this year is valued at \$1,297,462 compared to \$2,641,325 in 1954 and \$2,964,275 in 1953. Meanwhile, the 1955 assessed valuation of real estate is \$22,203,805 compared to \$37,927,620 a year ago and \$52,542,710 in 1953.

Condensed 1955 abstract follows:

Total assessed value of real estate Total assessed value of individual schedules Total assessed value of business schedules Total assessed value of special schedules	\$ 8,673,283
Total assessed value*	\$34,381,133

Intangible			\$2,827,006
Intangible	"B"		\$ 823,502
Banks, Loan	n and	Trust Co	\$1,139,130

Harvesting Board Named in Progresses Rapidly Cross "Cood" in Cook of Cook

Oats Crop 'Good' in all of Atkinson, are appealing to the district court from the recent Page Area While actions and decisions of the board Holt Hay Only 50%

Holt county's 1955 small grain harvest is progressing rapidly. Conditions have been good for property. harvest, although most farmers and ranchers would welcome moisture at the expense of delaying the finish in the harvest field. Oats in the Page vicinity are

not on file. good and represent one of the better crops. plaints from Holt county was a-mong matters which the state

Oats harvested on the Raymond Beed place, northwest of Chambers, yielded 60 bushels per acre. This yield is considered "very good" because the season has been dry. The Chambers locality received virtually no moisture during most of April and May.

Frank Nelson of O'Neill said the

Mon. - Wed.

Half Hour Show!

of The Frontier

9:30-10 A.M. - 780 k.c.

Volume 75.-Number 12.

North-Central Nebraska's BIGGEST Newspaper

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

Murder, Suicide Causes of Deaths

HE FRONTIER



(Other photos on pages 6 and 9)

The bizarre story of a murder and suicide unfolded in northern Holt county during the weekend. Badly decomposed bodies of two persons were found 15 miles apart.

The body of the woman accidently was found about 3 p.m., Friday at a point 13 miles north of Stuart and one mile west; the body of the man was located about 4:15 p.m., Sunday at a point 19 miles north of Atkinson.

Dead are:

MRS. BETTY MICHAELSEN of Stuart, 45, who died of strangulation, apparently the victim of a deranged man who had been known to be her companion.

MORAN ("SARGE") PETTIJOHN of Stuart, 41, a former Norfolk state hospital patient, who took his own life.

A warrant was issued for Pettijohn's arrest shortly after the Michaelsen body was located and after an autopsy showed she had died from violence. Pettijohn was the object of a widespread search that. was conducted over a vast area of rough terrain in northern Holt. county.



Eugene Simpson

vices were held for Eugene Simp-

son, 23, in the Assumption Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic church at Lynch Saturday, July 16, at 10

a.m., with Rev. John Wieczorek reading requiem high mass.

The Verdel and Lynch Amer-

Eugene Simpson, son of Mr. and

ican Legion posts had charge of

Mrs. Ralph Simpson, who live six

miles northwest of Verdel, was

the services.

A posse led by Holt County Sheriff Leo Tomjack of O'Neill Iocated the partially decomposed. Pettijohn body after a weekend search of the rugged Big Sandy creek area.

MARY REAL PROPERTY AND AND A Seere, July 22, 1955.

TOUTE RELIGION

Seven Cents

TWELVE

PAGES

Pages 1 to 12

Corneis Fanith

First man to spot the Pettijohn body was George Tomlinson, 19, of O'Neill. Near him were Bernard Allen, Robert Asher and Robert Stevens, all of O'Neill

The sheriff said a .22-calibre LYNCH- Military funeral serrifle lay across the body. Petti-

best oats in his neighborhood, state board said it would summon north of O'Neill, are running officials from all three counties about 20 bushels, while the poor- for a conference. est were averaging out about 15 **bushels**

Lincoln.

Wheat is better than usual in Mrs. Michael Hull the northern part of the county-15 to 20 bushels

Many farmers already have finished their harvest of small grain.

The hay crop is very spotted, County Agent A. Neil Dawes re- Redbird Woman, 81, ports. Dawes said the crop can be rated "at a slight 50 percent of normal.'

Lowland meadows are doing quite well in places, up to 75 percent of normal. But in other quarters the later upland hay benefited more from May and June moisture.

declared, "hay in northern Holt county is better than in the southern part of the county where drouth conditions cut deeply into the crop."

Dawes commented that those who have been doing fertilizing of native hay and alfalfa are seeing some good results.

The corn crop is holding up quite well under the dry conditions. Rainfall in the county is be- Miller, Cecil Witherwax, Ray low normal although a considerabel amount of the season's total fell within the span of two weeks in June. Some corn was damaged by hail and corn borers. Notable examples of hail damage near O'-Neill are at the Lloyd Ritts and to Holt with her parents when Paul Schwisow places west of she was three-years-old. Her town.

There also is hail damage to be noted northwest of O'Neill.

Atkinson reported about an inch of rainfall Tuesday evening. In the early hours Wednesday morning O'Neill recorded .07 of an inch; the Midway locality receiv-ed a light shower about 1:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon.

Dr. F. J. Fisher

Funeral services will be conducted today (Thursday) in Sa-cred Heart Catholic church in One child die Norfolk for Dr. F. J. Fisher, 69, a Norfolk dentist who formerly re-sided in O'Neill. Burial will be at Wahoo.

Doctor Fisher died about noon Monday in a Norfolk hospital following a six-months' illness. The late Doctor Fisher was born December 25, 1885, at Wahoo, the

son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Fisher, who were pioneers in Saunders county.

He was graduated from Creighton university (Omaha) college of dentistry and practiced at Wilber until about 20 years ago, when he moved to O'Neill

Norfolk.

Saturday morning's search be- ly he was an altogether different at Ft. Knox, Ky. Emma, had been married 44 years. Green Arrow bar. who is now employed by Fred's per copy. as he was showing relatives from gan on the west part of the Lem-Survivors include: Widow; type of a man. damages. ranch. The location was about 13 FRACTURES BACK on ranch and the group worked Sheriff Tomjack said he had daughters- Mrs. William Sheri-DeLayne Oberle is a minor son miles north and 11/2 miles west of never been officially advised of NEWPORT - James Seger, eastward under the direction of WILSON RETURNS Pettijohn was born and reared dan of Aurora, Colo., and Mrs. William Dahms of Palo Alto, of Howard Oberle of O'Neill. Stuart on pastureland owned by Sheriff Tomjack. in northern Holt county, had Pettijohn's release from the hos-Clark Wilson, former manager rancher near Newport, fell from In his petition, Galeyn alleges that DeLayne Oberle trespassed Charley W. Peterson. Tomjack had placed Mrs. Miridden the trails for many years, Calif.; six grandchildren; sisters— of the Tri-State produce, hat-Mrs. Erma Potter and Mrs. Mary chery and turkey farm, has repital. and was intimate with every Mrs. Erma Potter and Mrs. Mary Kroutil, both of Los Angeles, Calif.; brothers—Joseph of Nor-folk, Henry of Topeka, Kans., and Dr. Louis of Hartington. Calif and is now st. Calif. is of Hartington. Calif. Is property and turkey farm, which he is folk the southwest. Calif. Is property and turkey farm, which he is folk the southwest. Calif. Is property and turkey farm, which he is folk the southwest. Calif. Is property and turkey farm, which he is folk the southwest. Calif. Is property and turkey farm, which he is folk the southwest. Calif. Is property and turkey farm, which he is folk the southwest. Calif. Is property and turkey farm, which he is the turkey farm, which he is the turkey farm, which he is folk the southwest. Calif. Is property and turkey farm, which he is the turkey farm, which he is the turkey farm, which he is to a south to be a rancher to a turkey farm, which he is to a south to be a rancher to a turkey farm, which he is the turkey farm, which he is to a southwest. Is property in the turkey farm, which he is the southwest. Is property in the turkey farm, which he is the southwest. Is property in the turkey farm, which he is the southwest. Is property in the turkey farm, which he is the southwest. Is property in the turkey farm, which he is the southwest. Is property in the turkey farm, which he is the southwest. Is property in the turkey farm, which he is the southwest. Is property in the turkey farm, which he is the southwest. Is property in the southwest is turkey farm, which he is the southwest. Is property in the southwest is property in the southwest is turkey farm. Is property in the southwest is property in the southwest is property in the southwest is turkey farm. Is property in the southwest is property in the southest is property in the southwest is propere

Funeral Today

Equalization Suit

The Holt county board of equal-

The equity action includes farm real estate, except for Cox-

bill, who is protesting town real

estate valuations placed on his

said several more taxpayers have

Meanwhile, tax valuation com-

warded to the state board, de-

claring Holt land was assessed

higher than that in neighboring Garfield and Wheeler counties

on real estate valuations.

REDBIRD — Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m., today (Thursday) in Lynch for Mrs. Michael Hull, 81, longtime resident of northern Holt county. Mrs. Hull died at 3 a.m., Tuesday, July 19, at her home at Redbird. She had been in failing health

Long Ill

"Generally speaking," Dawes for several years, suffering a heart ailment and heart complications of old age.

> Her death was not unexpected because her condition was described as "very low" during the past two weeks.

Grace Hoops of Neligh will officiate at the funeral rites and burial will be in Scottville cemetery. Pallbearers will be Alvin Wilson, Arthur Bessert, Clifford Wells and Warren Prescott.

The late Mrs. Hull was born in Union county, S.D., April 4, 1874, a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Hartman. She came people were early settlers in the Niobrara river locality.

On December 19, 1894, she

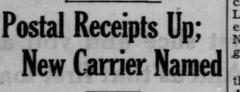
married Michael Hull at O'-Neill. They spent several years farming near Boone, Ia., but lived in Holt county, in the Scottville and Redbird vicinities, about 58 years. Last December they observed their 60th wedding anniversary.

Survivors include: Widower-Michael sons-Charles of Ithica and Henry of Verdel; daughters-Mrs. Floyd Crawford of Lynch Taken by Death and Mrs. Fred Truax of Lynch; 14 grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; sister — Mrs. Augusta Vielmette of Gregory, S.D.; brothers— Harry and Lewis, both

One child died in infancy and one daughter, Zella, died in 1946.

grave.'

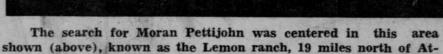
Anthony's hospital.



Receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30, showed a substantial increase for the first-class O'Neill postoffice-an increase of about

five thousand dollars. In the previous year the receipts were 46-thousand-dollars; last year, 51 - thousand - dollars, according to Postmaster Ira H. Moss. Effective July 1, Max Grenier In 1952 he moved from O'Neill began carrying the 64-mile round-

and opened a dental office in trip star route designated as O'-Mueller drug store in Stuart, suit in Holt county district court. Her body was discovered by "clean, industrious and smart." Stuart townspeople. both in the center of interest O'Neill, Atkinson, Stuart, Celia, Neill-to-Ancar. The route pre-He names Howard Oberle and Ed Meusch about 3 p.m., Friday area, have The Frontier on sale Horn added, however, that when Phoenix and even Bassett. At one time he was a patient viously was carried by Al Fritton, Doctor Fiel DeLavne Oberle in the Veterans mental hospital the suit in which he seeks \$1,900 Cincinnati, O., the layout of a



kinson. Mrs. Michaelsen's blood-stained car was located in the abandoned barn (1) Saturday evening; the body of Pettijohn was

located by a sheriff's posse Sunday afternoon abut three hundred yards away (2) The deserted Hillside chapel is obscured by trees in the left foreground .- The Frontier Photo.



Among the members of the posse locating Pettijohn's decomposed body, thus ending a difficult and widespread manhunt, were (left-to-right): Francis Kollman of Stuart, Lawrence Rudolph of

Condition 'Grave'

Suart (the town's marshal), John A. Hoffman of Bassett and H. S. Duvall of Atkinson. Pettijohn's body is shown in tall weeds in foreground; blankets are at left.-The Frontier Photo.

Michaelsen-Pettijohn Sidelights

Pettijohn 'Clean,

Industrious'___

A Sioux City heart specialist called Wednesday to attend Dr. H. L. Bennett, longtime O'Neill vet-During the perio During the period Mr. Pettijohn erinarian, has described the O'was believed to be at large, north-Neill man's condition as "very

Holt countyans were cautious and ittery. Doctor Bennett has been under Elmer Allyn, who lives north Holt county car was seen early of Stuart, said Sunday morning: that morning on the streets of the care of a special nurse at St.

We haven't been getting much Norfolk answering to the descripsleep.' The Frontier's Celia correspond- urday's "Voice of The Frontier" EXTRA COPIES AVAILABLE

Extra copies of this issue of ed and most everyone slept Sat- report. The Frontier, which conveys urday night with one eye open." a complete picture and text story of the Michaelsen-Petti-john case are available at the

On Monday the same corre-spondent added: "Now that the regular newsstands and at The Frontier counter. The Wilson Pettijohn body has been found, people have settled back to nordrug store in Atkinson and the mal living.'

The posse included men from

closing gates and checking wind- served a hitch in the peacetime

ported Saturday morning when a Norfolkan reported to police a Patient in Mental

tion of the Michaelsen car. Sat-

for him until about two years the general kitchen. The two were

arowned in a pond on his father's farm at 4 p.m., Wednesday, July 13. The body was recovered from about 12 feet of water above the dam about 2 a.m., on Thursday. People from Lynch, Monowi, Verdel and Niobrara came to assist in locating the body. Charles Ferson, jr., of Niobrara dived and brought the body to the sur-

Robert Simpson saw his broth-er's horses wandering aimlessly and investigated. He found his brother's clothes in a boat beside the dam.

He repeatedly called his brother and upon receiving no response, went to the house for help. Eugene had been discharged from kets lay near the body. the navy about a year ago. Survivors include: Parents; sis-

ter-Virginia of Verdel; brothers -Robert and Kenneth, both of Verdel, Donald of Lynch and Harold, who is serving in the navy at Hutchinson, Kans.

Jaycees to Present

Sousa Music Award

The first annual John Philip Sousa awards to the leading band member from each of the city's schools-O'Neill public and St. Mary's academy-will be presented during an outdoor concert Sunday afternoon, July 24, in Ford's park. The free concert will start at 2 p.m., under the direc-tion of Charles B. Houser.

The Junior Chamber of Commerce is making available the awards, which will be given annually. Colorful, large plaques will become permanent property of each school with a nameplate to be added each year. Each nameplate will bear the name of the individual and note the year of presentation. Small individual

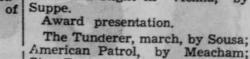
awards will go to the winning students. The awards bear the Sousa bust.

The laurels to the individuals will be based on a vote of the band members with approval of

cert. Program:

Sousa.

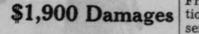
Glory of the Trumpets, by Brockenshire; Irish folk tune, I Know Where I'm Going; The Happy Wanderer; theme from Piano Concerto, by Tschaikowsky; Waltz Medley, by Yoder; Morning, Noon and Night in Vienna, by



American Patrol, by Meacham; Star Dust, by Carmeichel; The Whistler and His Dog, by Pryor; Bugle Call Boogie, by Dilley;

Galyen Seeks

Stars and Stripes Forever, by



Mrs. Michaelsen john was wearing overalls, but

no shirt when he died.

He usually wore bibless overalls or jeans. Several heavy blan-

Also nearby were whiskey bottles, cigarettes and some aspirin. tablets. These had been purchas ed a day or two before at Naper. Pettijohn's body was located about 15 miles north and east

between July and 11, possibly about the same time because both bodies were in about the same state of decompo-

Pettinin The bullet entered through the roof of Pettijohn's mouth. The butt of the rifle was fixed in his

The search for Pettijohn begam before the Michaelsen autopsy-A virtually abandened shack known to have been frequented by Pettijohn was checked by Tomjack and volunteer searchers Friday night.

The hunt continued all day Saturday and until about 1 a.m., Sunday when the searchers took out time for some sleep.

A 30-man posse, with many riding horseback, was organized Sunthe band directors and the admin- day after Mrs. Michaelson's car istrator of the respective schools. was found in an abondones The 1955 winners will not be red barn 19 miles north of Atkinmade public until Sunday's conson late Saturday night.

The car had been driven into the barn and apparently abardoned because of a flat tire. Tomjack found a hammer with hair on it in the car and said the steering wheel was stained with blood. One of the car seats was

broken. 20

Charles Shald of near Atkinson, while out driving Saturday night, had spotted the ear in the barn and had telephoned the sheriff.

The autopsy Friday night at O'-Neill disclosed Mrs. Michaelsen died of strangulation. A white towel was found knotted around? her neck. Tomjack said she also had suffered a forehead injury. Drs. J. P. Brown and O. W. French performed the examina-\$1,900 Damages tion. A blow which Mrs. Michaelsen had suffered on the head did Wayne Galyen, Atkinson auto- not, however, fracture her skull.

mobile dealer, has filed a damage the doctors said.

mills and he was driving much less than 80 per. Another false alarm was re-reer acquired for him the title of "Sarge." Hospitals_

> committed to the state hospital as an acholoic. The third time Michaelsen, who told the Holt insanity board Pettijohn had beat-

Fred Horn, Atkinson rancher, erating, and went to the state hossaid Moran Pettijohn had worked pital to work as an employee in

Mr. Pettijohn thrice had been ent wrote: "Doors were kept lock- program was interrupted by that the complaint was filed by Mrs.

en her. She closed up the cafe in Stuart, which she had been op-

ago. He described Pettijohn as considered close companions by

sition. sock.

