



Judge Donohoe . . . native O'Neillite.

## James A. Donohoe, 78, Federal Judge, Dies

### Youth Center Group Selects Officers

### Funds Needed for Completion

O'Neill's new youth center moved forward this week as interested adults met and perfected an organization and steps were taken to raise funds.

Site of the center is the main floor of the Knights of Columbus building. Space is being provided rent free for one year by the KC's.

L. D. Putnam, general chairman of the renovation committee, has been directing interior work. The Kansas-Nebraska Natural Gas company donated and installed a \$450 space heater; Gillespies supplied a refrigerator; Johnson's Jewelry an electric clock.

Items still needed include booths, some furniture items, and a piano.

Some flooring will be replaced and the interior will be redecorated. Lavatories are being provided.

Adult officers elected are: Cecil Laursen, and Allan Van Vleet, vice-presidents; Jerome Gallagher, secretary; Mrs. H. J. Lohaus, treasurer; Dr. Edward M. Gleason, Fred Heermann, Robert Moore, Robert Kurtz, Norman Gonderinger, Herman Renze and Leigh Reynoldson, directors.

Judge D. R. Mounts will be the committee's liaison officer with the Boy Scouts and Mrs. Charles Bellin, 4-H and rural youth groups.

Plans call for opening the center each Tuesday, Friday and Saturday evening, 7 until 10:30 o'clock, under adult supervision. A snackbar will be provided.

### Angelaire's Next in Concert Series

A harp quintet known as The Angelaire's will conclude the 1955-'56 O'Neill Community Concert series Thursday evening, March 8.

For sheer delight and exquisite pleasure, the quintet is the most unusual attraction now appearing on the American concert stage. The five lovely young harpists have been highly successful during their tours of the past three seasons.

By popular demand, they have been booked for six months during the 1955-'56 season throughout most of the country.

In O'Neill they will present a comprehensive program designed to please concert-goers of the most varied musical tastes.

Music from nearly every period and of every style will be included—from Bach, who will be represented by a charming and gay "Suite" originally conceived for harpsichord, through favorite pieces by Debussy, Spanish dances by Granados and Lecuona, and several compositions for the harp by Salzedo, to special arrangements of contemporary music by George Gershwin, Richard Rodgers, Vincent Youmans and Harold Arlen.

The Angelaire's were organized five years ago by producer Howard Lanin and since then have won widespread recognition in the music world in a variety of concerts, and on television where they have been featured on such programs as Ed Sullivan's "Toast of the Town" and Steve Allen's "Tonight." The Angelaire's have also appeared in shows and recitals with such important stars as James Melton, Kate Smith,

(Continued on page 2)

Half Hour Show!  
"Voice of The Frontier"

WJAB

Mon. — Wed. — Sat.  
9:30-10 A.M. — 780 k.c.

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O'Neill, Nebraska, Holt County, Thursday, March 1, 1956.

## Stuifbergen Dies at 39; Ill 2 Weeks

### Heart Illness Claims Young Businessman; Funeral Saturday

John G. Stuifbergen, 39, owner and operator of the O'Neill Beverage company, died about 9 p.m., Tuesday, February 28, in St. Anthony's hospital. He had suffered a series of three heart attacks between February 11 and February 15, and was in critical condition from the latter date until the time of his death.

However, he showed signs of slight improvement. He had been out of the oxygen tent since Saturday, and until a few hours before his death he had registered signs of gaining strength.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p.m., Saturday, March 3, from First Presbyterian church with Rev. J. Olen Kennell, church pastor, officiating. Burial will be in Prospect Hill cemetery. Pallbearers will be Virgil Laursen, Verne Reynoldson, John C. Wat-

son, Elgin Ray, Dr. Rex W. Wilson, L. A. Becker, Robert E. Evans and William McIntosh.

The remains will lie in state at Biglin's chapel from 2 until 9 p.m., on Friday, and on Saturday from 9 until 11 a.m., at the church.

The late John Gerard Stuifbergen was born May 15, 1916, at Orangeville, Mich., a son of Nick and the late Mary Van Luewen Stuifbergen. His parents were natives of Holland.

He was reared in Michigan and attended Michigan State college at Lansing one year where he was a member of the football squad. Later, he transferred to the University of Nevada where he played varsity football one season. He was noted on the gridiron for his powerful physique and athletic ability.

After entering military service at the start of World War II, he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the infantry. He fought in France and Germany and was captured by the Germans, spending a number of months in a prisoner of war camp.

One of his fellow prisoners was a son-in-law of the late General Patton. The general boldly dispatched a task force to penetrate behind the German lines to liberate the imprisoned Americans. The effort failed. The story of the liberation try was later told in the Saturday Evening Post.

The prisoner diet and harsh work conditions had a telling effect on Mr. Stuifbergen's physical condition. However, he quickly recovered.

He married Marjorie Marie Blinn at Crookston on September 20, 1944. His wife formerly lived with her parents at Valentine.

Mr. Stuifbergen became manager of the O'Neill Beverage firm, a wholesale beer distributorship, in 1946, coming here from Shelbyville, Mich.

In 1951 he served as commander of Simonson post 93 of the American Legion. He was a member of the Chamber of Commerce, Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Nebraska Wholesalers' association.

During the past year he expanded his business operations to include railway freight delivery service in O'Neill.

Survivors include: Widow — Marjorie; daughter — Linda Lee, 9, sons — John Richard, 6, and Robert Earl, 1½; father — Nick Stuifbergen of Allegan, Mich.; brothers — William of Kalamazoo, Mich., Peter of Augusta, Mich., Anthony of Kalamazoo and Richard of Allegan; sister — Mrs. Ann Weeks of Ewing, Ill.

Simonson post will provide a firing squad at the grave and military burial rites will be conducted.

Miss Patty Krotter visited from Friday until Sunday in Spencer with her grandparents.

### Chambers District Loses 48 Sq. Miles

The proposed Chambers rural fire protection district had 48 square miles and approximating two million dollars in tax valuation shaved off Wednesday afternoon in a hearing before the Holt county board of supervisors. Original Chambers plan embraced all of Lake and McClure townships in addition to others.

The board moved the eastern boundary from the east edge of the townships to a point four miles west. Because the townships are six miles deep (north-south), the area amounts to 48 square miles, which become a part of the Ewing district.

Officers for the Chambers district will be elected Saturday, March 24, at Chambers.

### George Pongratz, Wife, Wed 50 Years

### Both Are Natives of Germany

By MRS. N. D. IKES, SR.

Feature Writer

Mr. and Mrs. George Pongratz celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday, February 26, with an open-house observance at their home two miles east and three miles north of Emmet.

The weather was fine, perhaps a bit colder than it was a half-century ago when Miss Mary Babl, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Babl of Stuart, became the bride of George Pongratz at the St. Boniface Catholic church at Stuart. Father Biehoff officiated. Max Babl and Miss Mary Wallinger, brother and cousin of the bride, were attendants.

Their golden wedding day started off with the entire Pongratz family attending high mass at 10:30 a.m., at the Church of the Epiphany in Emmet with Rev. Francis Price celebrating the mass.

Following mass, Mr. and Mrs. Pongratz renewed their marriage vows and received the papal blessing.

A breakfast was served to the members of the immediate family and close relatives at St. Michael's hall.

The open-house observance was attended by 230 guests who signed the guest book.

Mrs. Pongratz was born at Obendorf, Bavaria, September 28, 1884. She accompanied her parents to Plattsmouth two years later. Mr. Pongratz is the oldest of eight children, all of whom are living. Mr. Pongratz was born February 2, 1882, at Dieburg, Bavaria. He crossed the Atlantic with an aunt from America, who was visiting her fatherland. He accompanied her to Chicago, Ill. From there he proceeded alone to the home of an uncle at Plattsmouth. The understanding was that other members of the family were to follow the coming year. But the mother of the family died and their coming was delayed from year-to-year and never was accomplished.

The Pongratzes are the parents of six children—Joe of Emmet, Margaret Troshynski of Page, Teresa Givens of Stuart, Bernard of O'Neill and Alda Givens and Armella Kramer, both of Stuart. There are 21 grandchildren.

The question was asked of Mrs. Pongratz where she first met her husband. She replied that his uncle was married to her aunt. She was spending the night with her aunt when George stopped off enroute from Germany to Chicago, Ill.

She was sleeping by the fire and her aunt routed her out of a warm bed in the middle of the night to finish the night in a cold room.

Since coming to America, George has dreamed of crossing the Atlantic for another glimpse of the old home. Many things interfered as the family expanded. Mr. Pongratz decided to persuade his brother, Sebastian, to come to Nebraska.

This was the plan that was finally worked out at George's expense and Sebastian came from Geratzkirchen, Bavaria, for the months of July, August and September, 1954. Most of the time was spent with George.

Of George's family of six, only he, Sebastian and one sister, Mrs. Mike Hausladen of Plattsmouth, still survive. Sister Gerona of the St. Francis hospital, Grand Island, died in August, 1955.

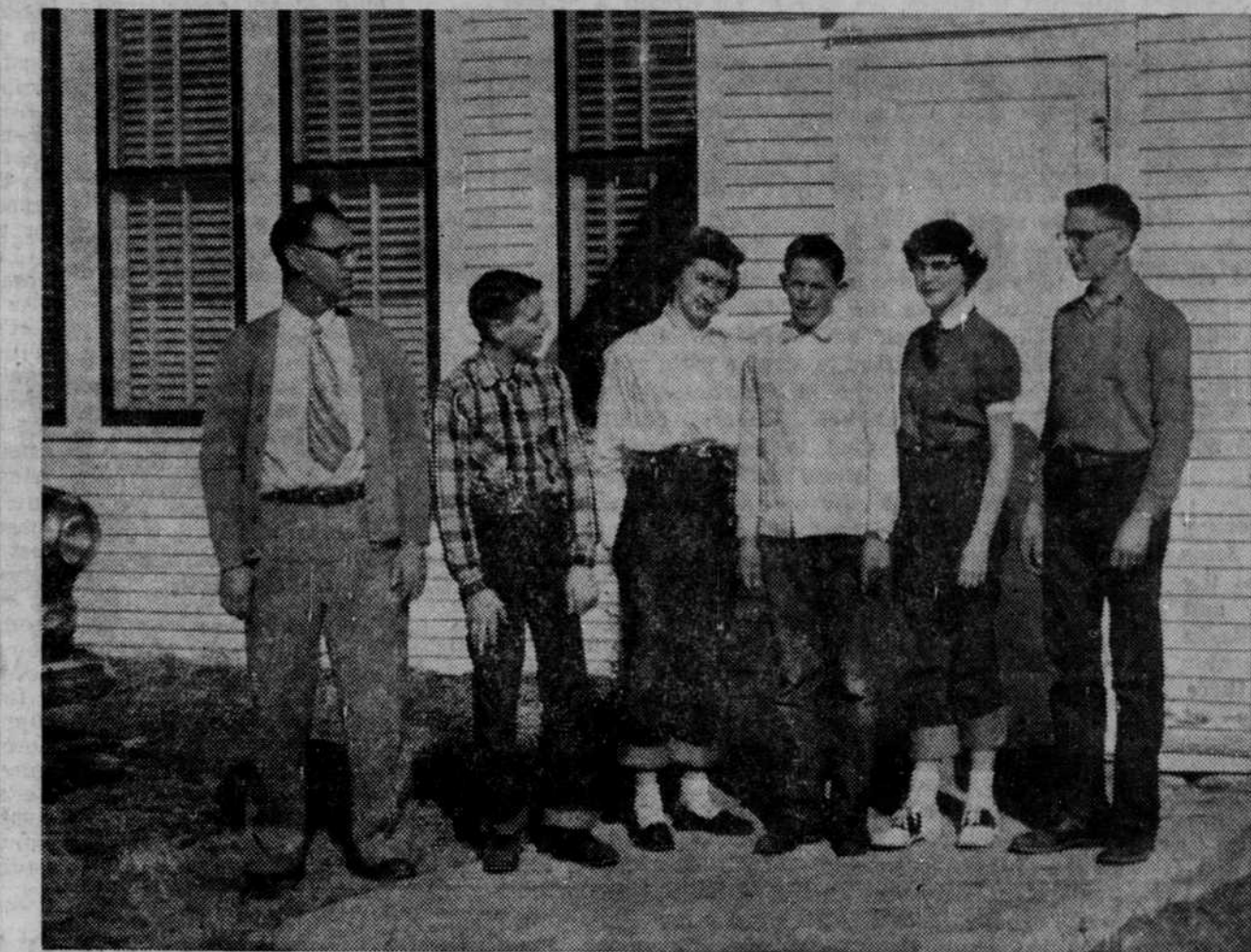
In a letter from Sebastian received last week, he reported the birth of a pair of twin boys to his son and daughter-in-law and spoke of next month's pilgrimage to Rome on Pope Pius XII's 80th birthday anniversary.

Among the gifts was an unusual one from Switzerland—a cake baked and decorated by the son of a sister of Mr. Pongratz—sent here for the golden wedding.

Bouquets of mixed flowers in gold shades graced the breakfast tables and were a part of the home decorations.

Mrs. Pongratz wore a pair of

(Continued on page 8)



Duane Carson (left), teacher in the two-grade Amelia high school, and pupils: Jerry Homolka, Phyllis Fullerton, James Carr, Rochelle Sammons and Kamphaus.

## Amelia School Won't Close

By a Staff Writer

AMELIA—Three members of the Amelia public school board of education Tuesday appeared before State Education Commissioner F. B. Decker and members of the state board of education in the capitol at Lincoln.

Clyde Widman, Lloyd Waldo and Glen White had to read the morning papers to learn the results of the hearing—and the news wasn't good.

The state education office turned down a plea for continuing the two-grade Amelia high school. The board also voted to withhold state approval from eight other high schools and granted reprieves to four others, including Bristow.

State education chiefs point to a state law (fostered by school administrators) which declares that any high school with fewer than 10 pupils for three consecutive years must discontinue provided the community is accessible by "reasonably improved highway" with another school within 15 miles distance.

Amelia residents testified that at least 2½ miles of the Amelia-Chambers road is impassable because of mud and snow during certain periods.

They further pointed out the community (and parents in three school districts) are unanimously in favor of keeping the two-grade high school in operation. They further pointed out the present enrollment is at low ebb and that a school census proves the enrollment will increase in the years ahead.

The attorney-general had ruled the 10½-mile stretch constituted a reasonably improved road.

Widman and Waldo insist none of the state officials has personally inspected the road—certainly not when in impassable condition.

On occasion, Waldo says he has used his own equipment in winter to clear the road of snow.

Mr. Widman explains his personal feelings this way:

"We are criticized and penalized

at the capitol because we lack numbers. We have five high school pupils this year and their rights are being denied them."

"Money is no problem," he declared. "We have spent five thousand dollars for repair in the past six years in anticipation of keeping the high school going. We pay the bill and certainly we're entitled to send our children to high school where we wish."

"If the state withdraws accreditation, as the officials have indicated they would, then our decision will be determined by relative value. We will decide whether two extra years of home training and home influence are more important to our children than the arbitrary value of accreditation."

"In these days of alarming juvenile delinquency, we'll choose the method that keeps these teenagers home two more years! Some of the larger schools come in for criticism in connection with the alarming increase in delinquency."

"I can't speak for the entire board because we have not met since Tuesday's hearing in Lincoln. But my guess is we'll continue to operate the two-grade Amelia high school with or without the accreditation status and we'll invite comparisons of our children with those who are trained in the so-called accredited schools."

"No Amelia graduate has ever been jailed and most of them are above average when they enter other high schools. Records prove it. Our school has produced four priests, several other church workers, many college students, military officers, a college publicist and dozens of solid citizens."

"We have no alternative now but to turn to the courts."

"Meanwhile, we'll proceed on the idea that democracy still works and, with or without accreditation, Amelia students and future students can look forward to freshman and sophomore years in their home community."



Widman . . . democracy still works.—The Frontier Photo.



Segment of Amelia-Chambers road . . . impassable during certain periods of the year.



St. Anthony's hospital recently received a bequest of \$2,000 from the estate of the late Albert Otto of Winner, S.D.

Mr. Otto was a patient in St. Anthony's hospital from June 19, 1953, until his death on June 13, 1955.

Although he was paralyzed as the result of a cerebral hemorrhage, his mind remained keen and he took an interest in hospital activities.

Mr. Otto showed his gratitude for the care he received by other gifts to the hospital as well as by his last bequest. During his illness he made a donation of \$1,000 to pay for furnishing a room and another of \$500 to purchase a new gas range for the hospital kitchen.

"Although definite plans have not yet been made for the use of the bequest, it will be expended in some way which will provide a suitable memorial for a kindly man who will long be remembered at St. Anthony's hospital," Mother M. Coronata said.

Frontier for printing!

## Relocation of U.S. 281 Soon Told

### Ress Says Important Seven-Mile Gap Set for Hardsurfacing

U.S. highway 281, a north-south international highway crossing Holt and Boyd counties, will be the object of widespread interest during March.

State Engineer L. N. Ress last Thursday advised State Sen. Frank Nelson of O'Neill that the seven-mile gap on 281, north of O'Neill, will be hardsurfaced this summer. He told Senator Nelson the department will advertise for bids during March and will accept bids on March 29.

When the gap is closed the route will be hardsurfaced virtually all the way from the Chambers junction north through O'Neill to the Nebraska-South Dakota line.

Closing the gap will be a long-awaited reality.

U.S. highway 281 north of O'Neill accommodates in excess of five hundred vehicles per day.

Meanwhile, on March 26 the state highway commission will announce a decision on rerouting of 281 from the junction with state highway 12 (in Boyd county) toward the Ft. Randall (S.D.) dam.

Since South Dakota has relocated 281 across the dam, that state now wants to build a road to the state line to connect with a new, more direct Nebraska route for 281.

From Nebraska's standpoint and for economic reasons involved in construction, Mr. Ress said it would be best to route 281 over state highway 18 north from Spencer. However, he said this would take U.S. 281 travelers several miles out of their way.

Nature of most of the 281 travel is of local and regional character, according to highway department surveys. Fewer than 50 vehicles per day are of trans-continental nature.

Supporters of the west route (through Spencer) point to the normal flow of traffic from northwest to southeast. They say traffic bound southeast will funnel into Nebraska if the west route is improved. However, they say travelers will stay on South Dakota highways if they're routed as far east as Ft. Randall before turning south on 281.

Proponents for a direct, angle route between the 281-12 junction and the state line near Randall claim a shorter distance.

Schaffer to Vie with Marcellus

It was evident this week there would be one or more contests in the municipal election to be held Tuesday, April 3.

On Saturday petitions were being circulated simultaneously for a full slate of city and school officers headed by Dewey C. Schaffer, who is a candidate for mayor.

Others on the slate include: For city council—J. J. Berigan, First ward; Leigh Reynoldson, Second ward (full term); James Barry, Second ward (to fill vacancy of Marvin Johnson, who will resign effective May 1); Norbert Uhl, Third ward.

For police magistrate—Ralph Walker.

For board of education—H. J. Lohaus and Elgin Ray, both incumbents.

Present councilmen whose terms expire are L. M. Merriman, First ward; Joe Stutz, Second ward, and Emmett Crabb, Third ward. None have publicly announced whether or not they will seek reelection.

On Monday a petition was placed in circulation in behalf of Alva Marcellus, who was elected last April to fill a one-year vacancy.

Time limit for conducting a formal caucus has lapsed.

350 Baby Chicks Destroyed by Fire

INMAN—A brooder house containing 350 baby chicks burned early Sunday morning at the Justin Butterfield farm east of Inman.

The blaze was discovered by Mick Gallagher, who saw smoke at the Butterfield place and rushed over to give the alarm. The blaze was thought to have started from a heat lamp or an electric heater that was being used to brood the chicks.

MARRIAGE LICENSES

John I. Plessel, 25, and Mavis Kay Strong, 18, both of O'Neill, on February 17.

Karl Leonard Keyes and Miss Elsie Krueger, both of Inman, on February 23.

Mr. and Mrs. George Pongratz . . . entertain 230 guests on their golden wedding day.—The Frontier Photo.