



At the hospital, Irene and Tony Mudloff . . . their loss is only partially covered by insurance.—The Frontier Photo.

Man, Two Sons Killed in Crash Widow Is Former O'Neillite

The husband of a former O'Neillite and two of the couple's three sons were killed Saturday morning, August 23, near Peshastin, Wash., in a mountain road accident.

Dead are M. L. Moody, 35, and his sons, Quentin Duane, 10, and Ronald Dean, 8. Injured and hospitalized with bruises and shock was five-year-old Donald Maurice.

Mr. Moody was the husband of the former Madeline Cavanaugh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Maurice Cavanaugh, sr., of Falls City, formerly of O'Neill.

Relatives here Wednesday had not yet heard the details of the triple tragedy.

Mr. Moody had begun harvesting his crop of pears last week. He had reared his season's first load of pears for the warehouse and was setting out accompanied by his three sons, who frequently made the trip with him. The terrain is mountainous and the roads have numerous curves. Moody was driving a tractor which was pulling a pear-laden trailer. A large truck bore down and a crash ensued.

The driver of the truck told authorities his brakes failed on the incline. The truck crashed into the tractor outfit.

Little Donald Maurice never lost consciousness.

Survivors include Mrs. Moody and Donald Maurice. Mr. Moody is also survived by his parents, several brothers and sisters, most of whom live in California.

Mrs. Moody is a sister of Mrs. Henry Kufahl of O'Neill; Mrs. Richard (Dick) Perry of Fremont, formerly of O'Neill; Mrs. Gary Leach of Atkinson; Duane, who is in Japan; Quentin and Marvin, both of Falls City.

The parents of the widow, also Quentin and Marvin, left early Sunday from Fremont by train to attend funeral services which were to have been held Wednesday morning.

Hruska Will Speak Here September 5

U.S. Sen. Roman Hruska will be principal speaker at a \$5 per plate dinner to be held Friday, September 5, at the Town House under the auspices of the Holt county central committee. Announcement was made Wednesday by Mrs. Guy Cole of O'Neill, Holt GOP chairman.

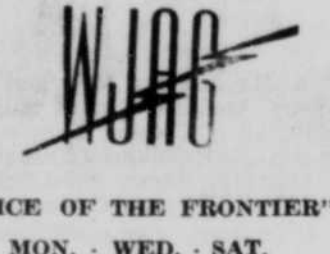
Gov. Victor Anderson and Congressman A. L. Miller, both seeking reelection, also are being invited. It is possible that U.S. Sen. Carl Curtis will also be present.

Mrs. Cole is in charge of reservations.

Enrolls at St. Thomas — Charles ("Chuck") Froelich, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Froelich, will leave Tuesday, September 2, for St. Thomas Military academy at St. Paul, Minn. Chuck will be a junior.



John Nachtmann, James Van Every, Henry Storjohann, Walter O'Malley . . . a day of reminiscing.—The Frontier Photo.



"VOICE OF THE FRONTIER"
MON. - WED. - SAT.
9:30 to 9:55 A. M.

House Disintegrates in Mystery Blast

Mrs. Van Humphrey, Long Ill, Succumbs Funeral to Be Held Friday at 2

ATKINSON—Mrs. Van Humphrey, 76, who had been ill more than five years, died at 3:45 p. m. Wednesday, August 27, at her home here. She had been hospitalized on several occasions during recent years.

Funeral services will be conducted at 2 p. m., Friday, August 29, at First Methodist church here with Rev. Charles Gates, church pastor officiating. Burial will be in Woodlawn cemetery under direction of the Seger funeral home.

Bessie Klotzbach, daughter of Emory and Sarah Klotzbach, was born August 12, 1882, in Iowa. She was reared in Iowa and Missouri and as a young woman moved to Holt county.

She met Mr. Humphrey at Atkinson and they were married January 3, 1906, in Sioux City. The couple began housekeeping on a farm nine miles northeast of Atkinson, where they lived four years.

Mr. Humphrey became a rural mail carrier in 1910 and the family moved into town. Mr. Humphrey retired in 1941.

The late Mrs. Humphrey was a member of the Methodist church and Royal Neighbors of America lodge.

Survivors include: Widower—Van; sons—Lewis of Atkinson, Clayton of Dallas, Tex., and Thaine of Rawlins, Wyo.; daughters—Mrs. Ralton (Floy) Jarvis of Boulder, Colo.; Mrs. Clyde (Annetta) Peterson of Des Moines, Ill.; 17 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; sister—Mrs. Jennie Landon of Torrance, Calif.

Ray Aldridge, 74, Dies in Vancouver

ATKINSON — Ray Aldridge, 74, who was born and reared in the Holt county north of here, died Friday, August 22, in a Vancouver, Wash., hospital. He had been ill about a week. Death was attributed to a series of heart attacks.

The late Mr. Aldridge, son of Seth and Victoria Aldridge, was born February 6, 1884 at Celina. He was reared by his parents or a place located a short distance east from what is now known as the Connie Frickel farm home.

In 1909 he married Isabelle McKathie in O'Neill. They made their home at what is now the Connie Frickel home.

The couple became the parents of six children. All were near him at the time of his death except one daughter, Mrs. Lloyd Evans of Atkinson.

Mr. Aldridge left the Celina neighborhood about 16 years ago. After selling the home place to Frickel, he moved to Washington state where Mr. Aldridge worked in paper mills for a time. He also lived in California for a time and then returned to Vancouver.

Survivors include: Daughters—Mrs. Lloyd (Edrie) Evans of Atkinson and Mrs. Jack (Margaret) Bartlett of Boulder, Colo.; sons—Donald of Twain, Calif.; Allen of Watertown, S.D.; Ted and Ben, both of Vancouver; 15 grandchildren; one great-grandchild; rapid City, S.D.

Mrs. Keeler was also near Mr. Aldridge at the time of his death. Funeral services were to have been conducted Monday, August 25, at Vancouver. Burial was at Vancouver.

Tony Mudloff Escapes in Early Morning Blitz That Baffles

PAGE — The 15-thousand-dollar question prevailing here is what caused the 2:30 a. m. Friday, August 22, explosion that blitzed the Tony Mudloff farm home, located a half-mile north of Page and three miles east. Fire ensued and reduced the once-comfortable farm dwelling and all the contents to ashes and debris.

Mr. Mudloff, 45, was the only member of the family on the place at the time. Mrs. Mudloff and her daughter, Brenda, had gone to Omaha the day before to get another daughter, Leona, who was to return home for a vacation from college.

Mr. Mudloff was dazed by the blast and was kept at St. Anthony's hospital until Sunday. He suffered one broken rib, facial scratches and bruises, an arm hurt and he wears a big knob on the back of his head.

Carnations Pinned on Old Settlers Saunders Reminisces at Picnic

Romaine Saunders, 87, author of "The Frontiers, editorial page feature entitled Prairie Land Talk, Monday reminisced and told anecdotes of pioneer life at the annual Holt county old settlers' picnic held at the Elmer Devall grove.

(Text of the talk appears on page 4.)

George Mellor was master-of-ceremonies and introduced Margaret Kaczor, who presented a reading, "The Road to Long Ago." Mrs. Paul Nelson and Mrs. Axel Borg were heard in a vocal duet, "Silver Threads Among the Gold."

Carnations were pinned on old settlers including State Sen. Frank Nelson, Henry Storjohann, John W. Nachtmann, Jake Long, Steve Hicks, L. G. Gillespie, Levi Hull, Will Devall, James Van Every, Mrs. Irwin Simonson, Mrs. Delia Harrison, all of Holt county, and Mr. Saunders and Mrs. Dude Harrison, both of Lincoln.

Members of the Holt County Ranchers and Ranchettes 4-H club presented a skit. Taking part were Linda Woidneck, Ricky Devall, Norma Jean Walters, Diane Devall, Larry Benson, Georgia Mellor, Wayne Rouse, Sharon Anderson, Cathie Deval and Sue Nelson.

Nachtmann, Van Every, Storjohann and Walter O'Malley lauded Mr. Saunders' talk. Jake Long, who is now in the "admitted" (born) the same year Nebraska was admitted into the Union. He was born in Mills county, Iowa, had come to Holt at the age of 16, living here continuously except for 10 years.

Frank Fundus, who was born on the old Joe Axtell place six miles northeast of Dustin, told "Voice of the Frontier" listeners about the dissolution of the Dustin land association. Fundus has been a member since 1939. The hall years ago was transformed into a combination store and postoffice.

The postoffice was discontinued about a year ago. Henry Stahlacker of Naper has purchased the landmark and the association's assets will be liquidated next April 1, he said.

Two long distance visitors at the picnic were Mrs. Mary McManus Strickland of San Francisco, Calif., and Mrs. Elsie McManus Van Sickle of Alsask, Sack, Can. Spencer Midgets defeated O'Neill, 7-6. Mick Miller, who suffered a broken jaw recently, returned to the O'Neill lineup. Macellus and Tom Wiseman pitched for the losers.

32 SEEK JOB
Thirty-two persons have applied for the position of custodian at the Holt county courthouse annex. The post has been vacant since the death of John J. Underwood. The Holt county supervisors in session Friday may name a successor.

Back from Scotland — Mrs. Jim Maly and two children have returned from Scotland where they had spent the summer with Mrs. Maly's relatives. Mrs. Maly is a native of Scotland and met her husband there when he was in service.

PICNIC HELD
EMMET — The annual Holt county Knight of Columbus picnic was held Sunday afternoon at the Pat Carrigan grove south of Emmet.

finished work in the hayfield about 7:30, did chores, and about 9 o'clock loaded a few sheep into a pickup truck preparatory to taking them to the Sioux City market in the early hours Friday morning.

Mudloff told "Voice of the Frontier" (WJAG, 780 kc) listeners Saturday morning that he parked the pickup in the front yard and went into the house to rest in a chair. As he nearly as he can remember, Mudloff reported, he never went outside after that, but he did not rule out the possibility he might have been outside and the explosion took place as he reentered.

"Next thing I remember I was trying to push away timber and debris. I tried several times to free myself from timber and finally succeeded.

"I went toward Page in the pickup and stopped at Donald Snyder's place. Snyder went with me to town and the fire department was out and ready to go."

(Mrs. Jerry Asher, who lives nearby, heard the blast. Her husband called the fire department and was first to reach the scene.)

Mudloff was dazed and incoherent from shock. Later he went to the home of his brother, Dan, and washed up before awaking Dan's family. Dan took Tony to the O'Neill hospital.

Tony's glasses were found 40 feet from where the east door of the dwelling had been before the sudden disintegration.

The house measured 30 x 36 feet and was single-story with part basement. There were no gas appliances in the dwelling and the only gas of any nature in the house would have been in the tiny container on the electric refrigerator.

The state fire marshal's office ruled out sewer gas as a possible cause when a gas detection device failed to show any sign in the pipes. X-ray pictures were taken of debris particles and the roped-off restricted area was combed for hours by the experts who were trying to find a lead as to the cause of the mystery blast.

About six years ago an oil drilling rig was erected on the Dick Asher place about a half-mile north. The rig was for oil was abortive because of granite. There is a remote possibility a gas pocket could have developed. The house had been virtually sealed with mud. Mudloff and the girls gone. Tony's flip of an electric light (Continued on page 6.)

Celebration at Stuart—Retired Couple Wed 50 Years

STUART—The golden wedding day for Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kruger began with a solemn high mass at 10 a. m., in St. Boniface Catholic church here and was climaxed by a public reception between 2 and 5 o'clock held in the Municipal auditorium.

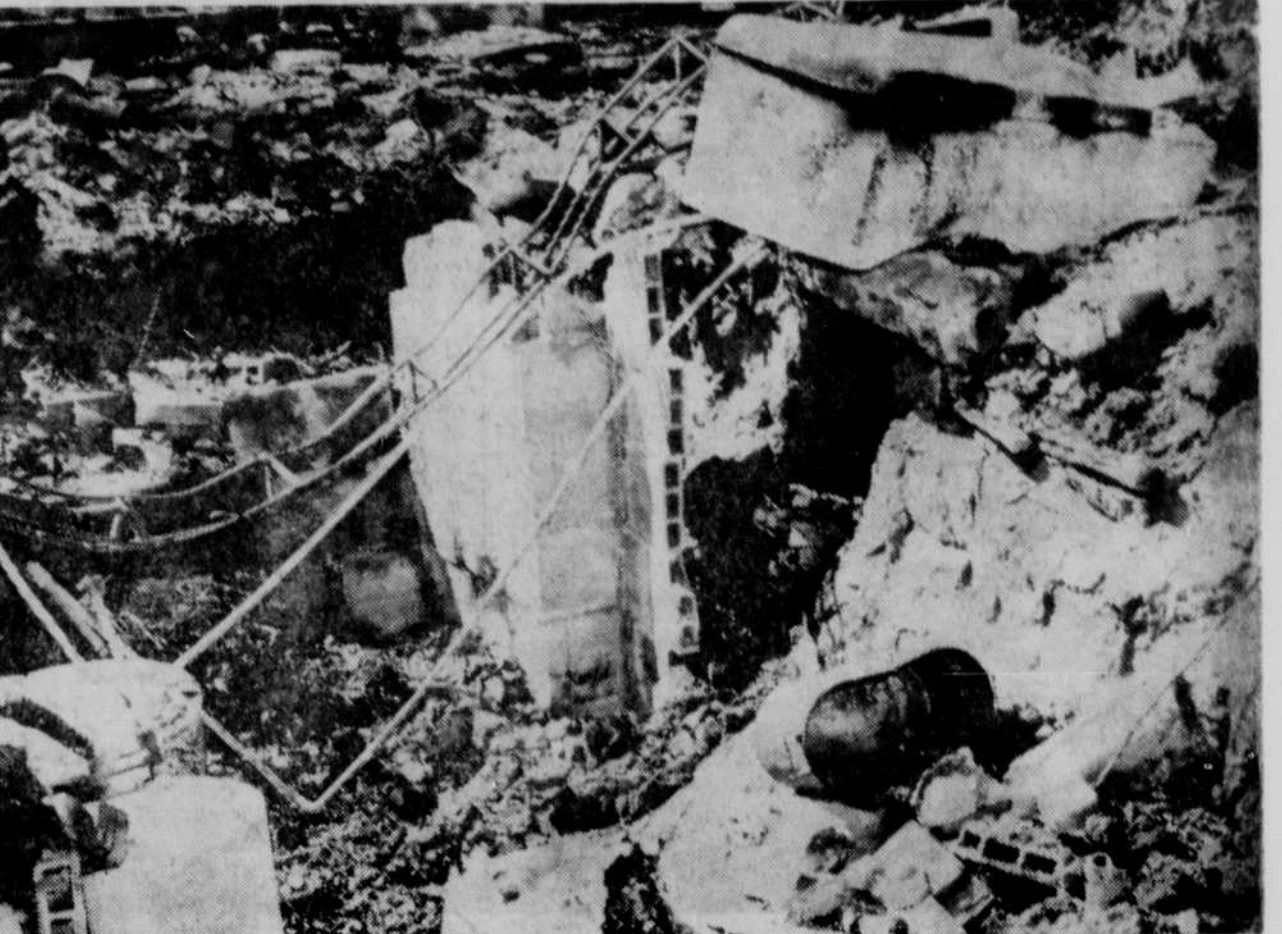
At the noon interval a family dinner was held, attended by 40 relatives.

Rev. Henry Schorn of Omaha, Mr. Kruger's nephew, officiated at the mass. Two of the Kruger's daughters are nuns, members of the Order of St. Francis, and both were present for the celebration.

Mr. Kruger was born April 1, 1884, at Scribner of German parentage. At the age of 21 he came to Holt county. He lived alone on a farm southeast of Stuart for three years before his marriage to Miss Lona Kunz. The nuptials took place September 22, 1908, in the church that preceded the present edifice in St. Boniface parish. The



The Henry Krugers . . . their golden wedding celebration began with a solemn high mass.—The Frontier Photo.



A baffling early morning blast followed by a devastating fire reduced the Mudloff farm home to debris and ashes. This is a closeup view over what was formerly a partial basement of the six-room single story dwelling. (Another photo on page 2).—The Frontier Photo.

95-In. Rainfall Received Here Moisture Welcomed in Area

O'Neill early Monday received 95 of an inch welcomed rain. Beneficial showers were also reported at Page, 1 inch; Orchard, 1.20; Plainview, .75; Osmond, .42; Burwell, Atkinson, Lynch and Creighton all reported rain in varying amounts up to an inch.

Mrs. Lee Brady of Dorsey said that locality received only .20 of an inch. Maurice Graham reported 1.60 inches and Leonard Shoemaker said a substantial shower was received at his farm north of town.

	hi	lo	pr.
August 21	87	50	
August 22	69	53	.03
August 23	83	56	
August 24	77	45	
August 25	79	49	.95
August 26	82	45	
August 27	94	58	
Total			.98

Mr. and Mrs. Dean Jeffrey and family visited with friends in Tekamah Saturday and on Sunday attended the Ringling Bros. circus in Omaha.

Rites Held for Former Resident Mrs. Leo Brown, 45, Long Ill

Funeral services for Mrs. Leo Brown, 45, the former Dorothy Theseda Fernholz, were conducted at 10 a. m., Wednesday, August 27, at St. Patrick's Catholic church here.

Mrs. Brown died Sunday evening, August 24, in Our Lady of Lourdes hospital at Norfolk following a long illness. She had been hospitalized several months and because of a blood ailment, no hope was held for her recovery.

Rev. Robert Duffy officiated at the requiem high mass. Burial was in Calvary cemetery. Pallbearers were Joe Soukup, John Peters, Grover Shaw, Donald Clyde, Hugh Carr and Oscar Hanson. Rosary was recited Tuesday evening at Biglin's funeral chapel.

The late Mrs. Brown was born January 18, 1913, in the Bow Valley community north of Hartington in Cedar county. Her parents were the late Joseph and Bernadette Theresa Hesse. She spent her early childhood at Hartington and at the age of nine moved with her parents to Holt county, living for a time near Emmet.

After marriage the Browns lived at Chambers until three years ago when they moved onto a farm three miles east of Carroll in Wayne county. They had been married nearly a quarter of a century.

Mrs. Brown was preceded in death by her parents. Her father died July 8 of this year.

Survivors include: Widower—Leo of Carroll; sons—Donald of O'Neill and Robert of Wayne; daughters—Mrs. Lois Brugger of Norfolk and Miss Leona of Carroll; brothers—Albert Fernholz and George Fernholz, both of Portland, Ore.; Raymond Fernholz and William Fernholz, both of Winner, S.D.; Norbert Fernholz of San Jose, Calif., and John Fernholz; sister—Mrs. Elsie Marcelles of Pico, Calif.

Clyde E. Kiltz, Wife Plan Open-House

CHAMBERS — Mr. and Mrs. Clyde E. Kiltz will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary Sunday, August 31, at their home 4 1/2 miles northeast of Chambers. They will hold open-house from 2:30 until 5 p. m. Friends and relatives are invited to be present.

Mr. and Mrs. Kiltz were married August 31, 1908 at Elgin, Ill. The former home of Mrs. Kiltz.

They are the parents of two children—Dr. Richard C. Kiltz of Everett, Wash., and Miss Phyllis J. Kiltz of Janesville, Wis., who has just returned from Italy where she had spent the summer in study at the Academy of Rome under a Fulbright grant.

The Kiltzes have two granddaughters — Misses Karen and Katherine Ann Kiltz of Everett.

Doctor Kiltz and family and Miss Phyllis will be here for the week, also Mrs. R. F. Leitner of Elgin, Ill., a sister of Mrs. Kiltz.

Mr. and Mrs. Kiltz request no gifts be brought.

Peter Koenig, Wife in Golden Wedding

BUTTE — Mr. and Mrs. Peter Koenig of Butte Sunday, August 24, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with relatives and friends at the American Legion hall.

All of the sons and daughters and their families were present. They are Mrs. Milar of Stuart; Clarence Koenig of Roscoe, Ill.; Edwin Koenig of Fairfax, S.D.; Mrs. Agnes Grow of Darby, Pa.; Mrs. Lucille Kirwan of Longview, Wash., and Mrs. Lenore Kirwan of Gresham, Ore.

Bird Liberated by Blast Goes Visiting

PAGE — The parakeet cage and its occupant were blown from the Tony Mudloff dwelling in Friday's extraordinary and inexplicable explosion.

The cage cleared most of the debris, the door dangled open and Mr. Parakeet was gone.

Saturday the parakeet turned up at the nearby Harry Tegeler farm and appeared to be no worse for the sudden liberation.

Mrs. Jerry Asher, who lives nearby, heard the blast. Her husband called the fire department and was first to reach the scene.)

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