

# Rural Church's In Pioneer Holt County Days Described

**By Mrs. Merrill Anderson**

Few institutions or establishments have in the history of our nation done so much to fortify our constitution as has the rural church. The seed was sown with the landing of the Pilgrims in 1620 and being well nourished, the foundation of a Christian America began to sprout.

Although religion was not the only motive that prompted many to come to our shores in colonial days it was the principal reason. They wanted freedom to worship God as they chose. Religion was indeed the most important thing in life to our stern Pilgrim forefathers.

A colonial church was a sort of community center. The Sabbath ran from six o'clock Saturday evening to six Sunday evening. The services were long. A prayer might be one hour long; then a two or three hour sermon might follow.

The church building was not heated, even in the coldest weather. The women and children carried heated stones and foot stoves to church to keep warm. The family pew partitioned off from others with room for the whole family was a peculiar feature of the colonial church.

Most revival meetings were a very emotional affair. Ruffians often tried to break up the meetings but they found the preacher could use his fists as well as his voice. Peter Cartwright of Ohio was one of the notable revivalists at that time.

The unsettled West provided little opportunity for religious worship and families were scattered, times were hard so they had little time to think about religion.

Yet, religion followed them. The circuit riders, who traveled horseback from place to place on a regular schedule, came to them at intervals. They were often rough, uneducated men but most of them sincere and their preaching did wonders toward sowing the seed of righteousness in the territorial west. Besides bringing the gospel the circuit riders served as traveling newsmen, bringing news from other parts of the vast region, making them welcome visitors in most of the frontier homes.

A death among the frontier people provoked a disturbing situation. There being no funeral homes, no doctor nor preacher, sickness and death just took its

course. It is said, when Abraham Lincoln's mother died, there was no one to conduct the funeral services. Some weeks later after she was buried, a traveling preacher came and Lincoln induced him to conduct a funeral over the closed grave.

Religion was moving west. People began to organize and build places of worship. The missionary spirit grew up with the church. A quiet prayer-meeting held in 1806 by the side of a haystack near Williams College in Massachusetts was the beginning of American foreign missions.

Nebraska's first missionary was the Rev. Moses P. Merrill, who with Mrs. Merrill and two helpers arrived in Bellevue, Nov. 7, 1833. Rev. Merrill had been sent to establish a mission at the Indian agency at Bellevue, Mrs. Merrill opened an Indian school for Indian children.

Missionary groups are today active in most of our Protestant churches. Holt County has a number of pioneer churches still in operation. While like the rural postoffice and the country store, the rural churches have declined yet there are many that continue to keep their doors open and have regular services.

Still holding on in this area are the Cleveland Presbyterian church near Stuart, Paddock Union, Dorsey Presbyterian and the Center Union in the O'Neill area, all have been in session for over a half-century.

The Center Union church northwest of O'Neill was organized by Missionary E. E. Dillon in 1803. Meetings were held in rural schools until 1905 when the chapel was built. J. K. Ernst, an early pioneer was the first Sunday School superintendent.

In 1916 the building was enlarged on the east side which is used for a platform and pulpit. This summer an addition was built on the south which serves as an entrance and Sunday school room.

The church, which is missionary minded, claims three missionaries at the present time. Delbert Dick, American Sunday School Missionary in Wyoming; Irene Seales in Thailand and Lorraine Ernst who just recently returned on leave from serving as a missionary in the Congo.

September 1-2 this year, the church observed its fifty-seventh

annual anniversary service.

Among the early day circuit riders of Holt County were Rev. D. W. Rosenkrans, Rev. N. S. Lowrie and Rev. Barkley Blain. The first Sunday School was held in 1873, the first church organized is unknown.

Most of the old circuit riders have pilgrimaged to the land beyond but their dedicated lives left spiritual trails of lasting impressions upon posterity.

A great-grandson of Barkley Blain, the Rev. Elmore Blain, is present pastor of the Atkinson Wesleyan Methodist church.

## Ewing News

**By Mrs. Harold Harris**

Mrs. Florence Butler, who has been a patient for several weeks at the Antelope Memorial hospital in Neligh came home Friday. Mrs. Rose Loughrey is staying with her.

Members of the St. John's Purse Prospect 4-H club met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Shain Sunday. Their parents were guests.

Mr. and Mrs. Merwin Olson and family, Clearwater, were Sunday dinner guests at the Andrew Olson home.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Olson visited Monday afternoon at the Oscar Wilson home, Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Larsen spent the weekend in Neligh visiting relatives and friends.

Mrs. Ella Ziems attended a family gathering at the home of her brother and sister, Harry and Mary Clemens at Orchard Sunday.

Ben Larsen took Will Conner to St. Anthony's hospital on Friday after he became ill at his home. Mrs. Marnie Stearns is staying with Mrs. Conner during his stay at the hospital.

Mrs. Bernice Harlan returned to her home at Tilden on Monday after spending the weekend with her mother, Mrs. Caroline Sanders and other relatives in Ewing.

Mr. and Mrs. E. D. McDonald and family, Norfolk, made a business trip to Ewing Saturday and visited at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Butler.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Norwood returned home Sunday from a vacation trip to Wyoming where they were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Norwood at Mid-west, of their grandson and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Philip Casper, also Mrs. Gossard, formerly of Ewing, and their granddaughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Krout, Sheridan. Arlene Pelletier stayed at the home of Mrs. Amy Jacobson when they were gone.

John Blumel, Omaha spent the weekend at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Jefferies. Mrs. Blumel and daughters who have spent the week at the parental home, returned home with him.

Miss Bertha Harris and Darrell Neitzke, Spencer, attended the wedding of his cousin, Miss Catherine Neitzke and Richard Johansen at the Osmond Lutheran church Sunday afternoon.

Miss Ina Bennett attended the wedding of Miss Karen Wrenholt and Fred Wood, in Clearwater Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. LaVern Finley were hosts Sunday for a birthday dinner in honor of their daughter, Mrs. James Good. Other guests were James Good and family, Ewing, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Michael and family, Mrs. Rodney Chart and Rodney and Mrs. Ellen Filsinger, all of Clearwater.

The Clearwater-Ewing pinocchio club was entertained Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gail Boies. Winners were Mr. Boies, Mrs. Inez Jaake, Mrs. Boies and Louis Dredge. All members were present. Refreshments were served by the hosts.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Bell, missionaries on a retirement fund from Thailand and the Philippines were guest speakers at the United Presbyterian church in Ewing Sunday.

Dr. Bell conducted the morning worship service. Mrs. Bell showed colored slides of their work during the Sunday School hour.

Dr. William H. Ross, pastor, who is convalescing at his home from recent surgery, went to Sioux City, Ia., Tuesday for a checkup. He was accompanied by Elmer Bergstrom.

Mrs. Hallie Maben had as her guests Sunday, Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Kemberly, Omaha, and Mrs. Gussie McDonald, Wisner. Mrs. McDonald and Mrs. Kemberly are sisters of Mrs. Maben.

Miss Vina Wood went to Torrington, Thursday where her brother Lee Wood is hospitalized for a heart condition. Her nephew, Aubrey Wood, took her to her destination, returning to Ewing the same day. Mr. and Mrs. Lee Wood reside at Lingle, Wyo.

An organization meeting for a First Aid class was held Thursday evening at the Town Hall with 22 persons in attendance.

Mr. Howard Beckenhauer, Neligh, was in charge and will be the instructor of the class. Mrs. J. L. Pruden, representative of the Red Cross, states there is room for more for the instruction if interested. The next meeting will be November 15 at the Town Hall.

A family dinner was held at the parlors of the First Methodist

church following the morning worship hour and the Sunday School. A short business session was held later in the afternoon.

Monday guests at the George Jefferies home were Mrs. Homer Stearns, Norfolk, and Miss Minnie Neiderheider, Clearwater.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Filsinger and son, Norfolk, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Meyers, Clearwater, Mrs. Mark Muff, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Cuddy and family, O'Neill, visited Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Jefferies. Mr. and Mrs. B. A. Cratty, Neligh, were recent callers at the Jefferies home.

Mr. and Mrs. James Minarik and Mr. and Mrs. Leland Finley and family, Page, were guests Sunday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Minarik, the occasion was to join Mr. Minarik in celebrating his birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Kellener and family, O'Neill, and Mr. and Mrs. Don Pollock, Neligh, visited at the home of Mrs. Anna Pollock Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Miller, Clearwater and Mrs. Mabel Maulding, Neligh, were Thursday afternoon callers at the home of Mrs. Althea Peterson.

Mrs. Bernard Klintobe, Neligh, visited Mrs. Althea Peterson Monday.

## Venus News

**By Mrs. Ralph Brookhouser**

Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Davey were weekend visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brookhouser.

L. M. Christensen, Mrs. Sheer and Mrs. Foster, Plainview, were visitors Saturday morning at the Ralph Brookhouser home.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Caskey Omaha, were last weekend guests at their parents home, Mr. and Mrs. Ora Caskey.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Caskey and family, Norfolk, spent last Sunday at his parents home, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Caskey.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin Porter, Orchard, and Mr. and Mrs. Ora Caskey, motored to Wayne Tuesday, where they visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Porter and family.

They also were guests at the Mr. and Mrs. L. G. Brown home, Norfolk.

Visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brookhouser and Jeffrey, Norfolk, Thursday, were Larry Brookhouser, Grand Island, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brookhouser.

Ervin Oljenbruns is visiting at his brothers, Walt Oljenbruns.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Uhler were Creighton visitors Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Finch visited at the home of their daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Lon Pitchler and family last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Waring visited at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Hoelter and Jim.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Brookhouser spent the week visiting their parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Brookhouser.

Mr. and Mrs. George Baker, Kearney, were last weekend guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Faulhaber.

Mrs. Mattern, Creighton, spent Tuesday at the home of her daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Block.

Mrs. Moser, Creighton is spending a few days at the home of her son, Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Moser.

Mrs. Cecil Moser held a party at her home Monday afternoon with 20 ladies attending. Games were played. Mrs. Lavern Held and Mrs. Art Von Seggern received prizes. The hostess served lunch at the close of the afternoon.

Wednesday, Nov. 7, the Help-U club met with Mrs. Mutschall for a noon day luncheon. Nine members and four visitors, Mrs. Flossie Held, Mrs. Jessie Cronk, Mrs. John Steinberg and Mrs. Larry Brookhouser were present. The afternoon was spent at picking walnut meats and visiting. Mrs. Ora Caskey received the special prize.

November card party will be held on Nov. 20.

The next meeting will be in two weeks with Mrs. Ethel Waring.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Caskey visited at the home of Mrs. Mable Butterfield and family, O'Neill, Tuesday evening.

## Atkinson News

Mrs. Ralph Kelly was hostess at a coffee for a few of her neighbors on Friday, honoring Mrs. Thelma Radke on her birthday.

Mr. and Mrs. Orlan Wahl, Western, were callers last week in the home of his cousin, Mr. and Harvey Wahl, while they were in this area deer hunting.

Mrs. William Wefso went to Grand Island last Saturday to attend a business meeting. She was accompanied by Mrs. Josephine Kramer and Mrs. Eleanor Withers who spent the day shopping.

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Dunn spent the weekend in Atkinson with her mother, Mrs. Ethel Mohr and other relatives. They returned to Omaha on Sunday evening.

Mrs. Mary Pacha and Mrs. Vicki Baker went to Omaha last Friday on business, returning home Sunday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. William Wefso went to Creighton Sunday where they visited their daughter, Dr. and Mrs. James Carlson, Scott and Sheryl, Sunday was a BIG DAY for Mrs. Carlson as she got up early Sunday morning to go hunting and was jubilant when her parents arrived in time to see her bring in her deer. Dr. Carlson also got a deer earlier in the season. The Wefsos returned home Monday night.

Mrs. Ken Schultz was hostess last Friday night a group of women who met to work with Handicrafts. The group worked with Mosaic Tile.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Scott were Sunday afternoon callers in the home of Mrs. Gladys Boucher near Butte and Mrs. Tommy O'Connell.

Mrs. Guy Parsons was the winner in the drawing for the pony given away last Thursday at the K. C. Hall where the teachers and students of the St. Joseph school staged their annual School Carnival.

Mrs. Herman McDaniels went to Omaha last Thursday where she received medical attention.

Miss Bonnie Gokie was guest of honor at a bridal shower given at the KC hall, Atkinson last Sunday afternoon. Miss Ruth Humpal and Miss Delores Johnson were hostesses for the afternoon entertainment. Miss Gokie received many lovely gifts. She will be married on November 24 to Raymond Schaffer.

Mr. and Mrs. Loren Hickok came last Saturday to visit his



1962 Lynch High School Football Team

vey A Tompkins & wf 10-31-62 \$14,000-NW 1/4 8-27-10.

WD - Mary F Pruss to Ivan C Pruss 5-13-58 \$1-Undivided interest in SE 1/4 30-30-12.

WD - Ivan C Pruss to Ivan C Pruss & Elmore M Pruss 10-30-62 \$1-SE 1/4 30-30-12.

WD - Grace Allen Sprague to William A Scheinost & wf 8-24-62 \$8500-W 1/2 NE 1/4 30-29-9.

WD - William J. Froelich to School District of O'Neill 11-6-62 \$10,000-Part of SW 1/4 SE 1/4 19-29-11.

QCD - Fred Stolte to Minnie Stolte Poesneckner 4-28-55 \$1 - NE 1/4 Sec 11-29-15.

WD - Mary G Lundgren to Walter F Straub 10-27-62 \$6000-Lots 9-10-11-12-13-14-15 & 16 Blk 2 - Fahy's Add-O'Neill.

The county meeting of the American Legion and Auxiliary will be held at Ewing on Monday, November 19.

Mrs. G. R. Cook entertained the members of the O'Monde club for supper at the Tropical Gardens on Tuesday evening. Her guests included Mrs. Dale French and Mrs. Bill Richardson. The ladies then returned to the Cook home for an evening of bridge with prizes going to Mrs. Don Becker, Mrs. Dale French and Mrs. Robert Berigan.

Mrs. Lee Brady went to Omaha Friday and visited with her son, Lee Brady, Jr., and family over the weekend. She also visited her grandson, Albert Lee Brady and family in Lincoln from Sunday to Wednesday.

Judge and Mrs. D. R. Mounts left Wednesday to visit Judge Mounts' sister, Mrs. Grace Lewis, at Tonkawa, Okla., until after Thanksgiving. Then they will go to Phoenix, Ariz., to spend the winter.

James Richter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Richter, is expected home this week. He has been in the Navy for three years, the last two in Japan.

Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Coyne and Mrs. Tom Coyne attended the funeral of Frank Coyne, at Spalding Saturday. Frank Coyne was a son of William Coyne, a brother of Mrs. James Earley and H. E. Coyne.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Thomas and baby moved to 207 North Third, in O'Neill last weekend. He has the position formerly filled by Al Van Nice, Mr. Van Nice has been transferred to Des Moines.

## O'Neill Locals

Doug Spittler, who attends college at Wayne, was visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Spittler, over the weekend.

Mrs. Mary Halva recently returned from a month vacation where she had visited her son and family, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Halva and also her daughter and family, Mr. and Mrs. Paul S. Elam, all of Denver.

Mrs. Halva accompanied her nephew, Gus Chocholoupek, Verdigré, to Denver and her son, Fred, brought her home and remained here for a short visit.

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Earley are attending the two day 1962 Mobil Dealer Convention at Las Vegas.

**HOLIDAY GREETINGS**

We would enjoy serving your holiday party at

**TROPICAL GARDENS**

Ask us for details or

Phone 895-W for Reservations

**800 to 1000 CATTLE**

**This Friday, November 16th**

in VERDIGRE - 11:00 a.m.

Early listings include:

- 18 Angford Calves
- 20 Shorthorn and Hereford Cross Calves
- 10 Shorthorn Yearlings
- 42 Mixed Yearling Steers
- 27 WF Calves
- 23 WF Calves
- 12 Young Crossbred Cows
- 22 Angford Calves
- 22 Fancy Angford Heifer Calves
- 8 WF Cows and Calves
- 14 WF Calves
- 24 Mixed Calves and Yearlings
- 200 to 300 MIXED CATTLE

These are the early listings - many more consignments by sale time Friday. ATTEND THE SALES THIS AND EVERY FRIDAY IN VERDIGRE.

**Annual Boar Sale - Friday, November 30**

Many good boars already listed - Consignments welcome (This will be held along with the regular Friday Cattle Sale.)

Market Report: - Monday, Nov. 12, 1962

A real steady and reliable tone was present throughout the sale as several drafts of butchers sold at the top of \$17.00. The majority of No. 1 hogs sold from \$16.50 to \$16.95. Sow market was real active.

"SHIP THAT NEXT CONSIGNMENT OF HOGS TO OUR MONDAY AUCTION"

**Regular Hog Auction every Monday**

Starting 11:00 A.M.

**Cattle Sale every Friday**

(List your consignments for the cattle sale on November 23 in order that we may include it in our advertising.)

**VERDIGRE LIVESTOCK MARKET**

Don Jensen, Mgr. Phone 4561 in Verdigré

**Amelia News**

**By Miss Florence Lindsay**

Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Berry were supper guests Tuesday night at Charles Everetts.

Mr. and Mrs. Rollie Everett and Dick Wilborn, Atkinson, were Sunday dinner guests at the Charles Everett home. The men folks went hunting in the afternoon.

Eighty three votes were cast in Tuesday's election in the Amelia precinct. The following were elected to serve on the

**Warranty Deeds**

WD - Eugene Gesirich to Max Cadwallader 10-22-62 \$1500-Lot 9 Blk 22-Pioneer Townsite Co 1st Add-Stuart.

WD - Mary F Pruss to Evelyn D Hoehne 5-13-58 \$1-80 ft x 170 ft 90 ft east of SW corner Blk 6-McCafferty's Annex to O'Neill.

WD - Evelyn D Hoehne to Evelyn D Hoehne & husband 10-29-62 \$1 - Same lot.

WD - Mary F Pruss to Gladys L Ries 5-13-58 \$1-90 ft x 170 ft in SW corner Blk 6-McCafferty's Annex - O'Neill.

WD - Odd Fellows & Rebekah Bldg Assn to Clarence E. Spence 8-27-62 \$1000-West 36 ft lots 18 & 19 Blk 6-Atkinson.

WD - Edward Kirkpatrick to Phillip Dempsey 10-29-62 \$1-Lot 15 Blk B-Millards Add-O'Neill.

WD - A D Keller to L A Hobbs and William A Hobbs 11-5-62 \$96,950-Lot 2 & SW 1/4 NE 1/4 4-32-13 S 1/2 28-All 33-S 1/2 NE 1/4 - E 1/4 NW 1/4 SW 1/4 NW 1/4 31-S 1/2 - W 1/2 NW 1/4 34-W 1/2 SW 1/4 35-33-13 (2770 acres).

WD - Rex Wilson to Spelts Lumber Co of O'Neill 11-24-61 \$1-Part of NE 1/4 NE 1/4 Sec 30-29-11.

WD - Spelts Lumber Co of O'Neill to Lynn E Moore & wf 10-18-62 \$1-Part of NE 1/4 NE 1/4 30-29-11.

WD - Fred Ziska to Lawrence E Ziska 2-8-55 \$12,800-NE 1/4 32-30-15.

WD - Agnes M Ziska to Lawrence E Ziska 2-8-55 \$22,400 - E 1/2 NE 1/4 5-29-15 & SE 1/4 29-30-15.

WD - Lawrence E Ziska to Lawrence E Ziska & wf 11-5-62 \$1 - E 1/2 NE 1/4 5-29-15 SE 1/4 29 & NE 1/4 32-30-15.

WD - Ethel P Tompkins to Har-

**SNEAK PREVIEW!**

See New

**HOLIDAY GIFTS**

**AND ARRANGEMENTS**

**THURS., NOV. 15**

(That's Today)

**2 to 5 p.m.**

REGISTER FOR FREE DOOR PRIZES

**IT'S CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE AT**

**HELEN'S FLOWER SHOP**

408 E. Douglas O'Neill

**BEN FRANKLIN**

**PRE-HOLIDAY SALE**

Come Early! Savings to 50%

**"BRACH'S" PEANUT CLUSTER**

Reg. 69c **44c** lb.

**Giant 15 Gallon Waste Baskets**

Reg. 4.59 **\$2.88**

**BOBBY PINS**

Reg. 39c - 27c

**3pc. SAUCEPAN SET**

Reg. 1.69 - 99c

**WELCOME DOOR MAT**

Reg. 79c - 56c

**Knit Sleepers**

**\$1.58**

**HAPPY TIME MUGS**

Reg. 29c - 4/77c

**Soup/Cereal BOWLS**

Reg. 29c - 4/77c

**PAPER TOWELS**

Reg. 25c - 2/37c

**TOWEL PAPER**

Reg. 12c - 10 rolls 88c

**CUP & SAUCERS**

Reg. 25c - 15c

**LIGHT BULB COVER**

Reg. 98c - 77c

**3pc MIXING BOWL SET**

Reg. 1.29 - 77c

**TABLE FOUNTAINS**

Reg. 5.98 - \$3.99

**WATERPROOF PANTS**

Reg. 25c pr. - 6/78c

**Fruit Bowls**

**66c**

**6 roll GIFT WRAP**

Reg. 1.98 - 88c

**Rayon Curling RIBBON**

Reg. 50c - 37c

**READY-MADE BOWS**

Pkg. Reg. 50c - 37c

**FOIL GIFT WRAP**

6 roll, Reg. 1.98 - 88c

**CHRISTMAS CARD**

Reg. 1.00 - 77c

**BOXED CARDS**

Asst. Reg. 1.00 - 77c

**SHOP AND SAVE AT BEN FRANKLIN**

**PATTON'S O'Neill, Nebr.**