

Thoughts: Rabbit Hole

By LeAnn Hodson
Boy, my THOUGHTS took some crazy twists and turns for this week's entry. A couple of weeks ago I was at the Republican waiting to talk to Ross as he helped customers. As I sat 'patiently' I looked around and my eyes landed on a yellowed newspaper clipping (pictured to the right) that had been laminated and hung on the wall. I took it down and read it to find out this was a poem. With it being National Poetry Month, I THOUGHT - "How fun is this?!"
On the back (pictured below) it says it was written by Mrs. J. Frank Gillespie. This started the going down of

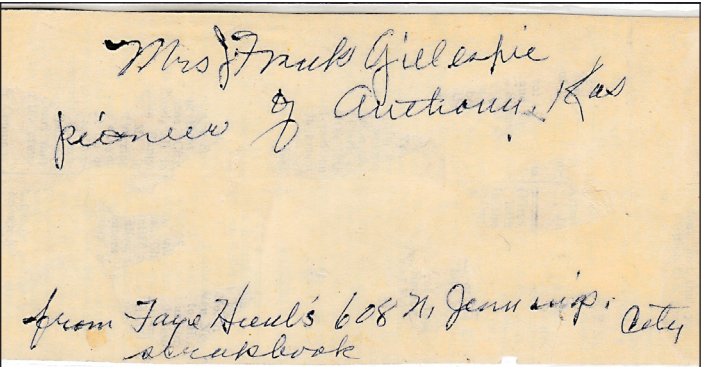
a rabbit hole. Ross said to check with Vera Dunn, the previous owner of the Anthony Republican, to see if she knew the history of the poem and people. When she came in to work on the Early Files for the paper I asked her about it. She wasn't sure who the people were but said she would check with her Irwin & Potter coffee buddies when they met later in the day.
In the meantime I went to the Anthony Library and looked up the obituary of James Frank Gillespie, a pioneer resident of Anthony, to see who his wife had been. It was a common thing in earlier times to not acknowledge the first names of

wives...although Vera said she made sure that changed when she was a part of putting out the paper. The obituary of Mr. Gillespie from 1949 pointed me to a Miss Addie Wright that had mar-

ried him in 1894 and passed in 1940. (So thankful for the wonderful records the library provides).
On the back of the poem there is also a note that says that this poem was from the

scrapbook of Faye (last name ?) who lived at 608 N. Jennings. The last name was a mystery to Vera, Ross and myself, we just couldn't decipher it. BUT the coffee gals took on the challenge, as we played a little game of 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire'. I met up with them at Irwin & Potter, and Deniese Fawcett remembered buying a piano at the estate sale of this Faye lady at the Jennings' address listed on the back of the poem. Karen Ryan used a lifeline to "Phone-a-Friend". She called her sister-in-law Karen Pyles, who was able to fill in the last name of 'HUNT' - Faye Hunt was the name listed. After a bit more head scratching, discussion, laughs and 'Ask-the-Audience' responses, I felt sufficiently knowl-

edgeable to finish these THOUGHTS - though it has certainly added a lot more that I want to know about the Gillespie's lives.
Upon further investigation using a light table and magnifying glass to look at the back of the poem, Ross found that there were legal notices printed on the clipping that dated it to a 1928 issue of the Anthony Republican.
I want to thank Vera, Deniese, her sister Janell, Rebeca Buck and Karen for helping me to get this poem out of my THOUGHTS and into your hands. Unfortunately I did not have a million-dollar to give them but they are all certainly winners in my books. Blessings to you and yours - Always.



An-tho-ny

There's a neat village that stands on the hill,
A beautiful place to be,
'Twas built by the hands of the pioneers
And they named it An-tho-ny.

The pioneers were courageous men
And busy as busy could be,
They built the homes and churches, too,
For the people of An-tho-ny.

They wrote some letters to friends back home
Of the advantages to be
If they'd only come and settle down
In this town of An-tho-ny.

They saw the prairies with grass so green
And antelope, too, they did see,
And cattlemen came with herds untold
On the prairies near An-tho-ny.

Their former friends in the east, they wrote
Of this glorious land so free
Saying "Load up your wagons and head this way
To the town of An-tho-ny."

So they loaded their wagons with worldly goods
And children one-two-three
And started west o'er plains unknown
To this town of An-tho-ny.

The cowman brave and the farmer strong
Were all so jolly and glee
To think they came in early days
To the town of An-tho-ny.

The cowman has gone with his herds untold
And the antelope no more we see,
But the prairies are covered with golden grain
Near the town of An-tho-ny.

The farmer, too, has come and gone
Yet it is plain for all to see
Their beautiful homes on every street
Built in An-tho-ny.

Many changes have taken place
And different faces we see,
Yet we love to recall the happy days
Long past in An-tho-ny.

Now, lest we forget as we pass down the street
Some pioneersman we happen to see,
Let's clasp his hand with a friendly shake
For giving us An-tho-ny.

—Mrs. J. F. Gillespie.

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REPORT
Continued from previous page

#1746: Transfer-On-Death Deed - Bonnie Dunn transfers on death to Sharla M. Wright, Katy E. Thomas and Rachel R. Dalinghaus, the E/100' of Lots 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12 in Blk. 3 of Mead's Addition to the City of Anthony; and the W/50' of Lots 1, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 12 and the E/50' of Lots 2, 3, 6, 7, 10 and 11, all in Blk. 3 of Mead's Addition (aka 711 E. Walnut) in the City of Anthony; Harper County, Kansas.

#1747: Statutory Warranty Deed - Ricky A. Gray to McKenna Parsons, Lot 5 in Blk. 9 of Redden's Addition to the City of Anthony, Harper County, Kansas.

#1748: Statutory Warranty Deed - Lorraine M. Gray to McKenna Parsons, Lot 5 in Blk. 9 of Redden's Addition to the City of Anthony, Harper County, Kansas.

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