

LOOKING BACK

Compiled by
Linda Teeter

100 years ago (1924)

What promises to be the greatest gathering of ex-service men and women held in Kansas since the war will take place in Topeka on Sept. 2, 3, and 4th. The occasion is the 6th annual convention of the Kansas Department of the Legion. Ernest A. Ryan, Department Adjutant, stated that advance notices of attendance surpass by far previous conventions. An elaborate program of entertainment is being arranged by the Topeka Chamber of Commerce and Capital Post No. 1 of Topeka. Mayor Earkers of Topeka advises that no effort will be spared to the Kansas Legionnaires, at their greatest convention.

Truth is stranger than fiction when you talk about the Western Kansas wheat crop this year. Take the harvest tale told about John Rueschhoff and his 1,200 acres of wheat east of Oakley, in Gove and Sheridan counties. In twelve days Rueschhoff cut and threshed those 1,200 acres, averaging 100 acres a day. The yield was 37,000 bushels or 3,080 bushels a day, an average of almost thirty-one bushels. One of the days when every unit was hitting extra fine, Rueschhoff threshed a load of sixty bushels in eight minutes, making 120 bushels cut and threshed in fifteen minutes. Rueschhoff hauled his grain direct from the combine to the box cars from his 1,200 acres.

75 years ago, (1949)

The Oakley Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a donkey baseball fame. The donkeys are furnished Dunham Agency. Go to the ball game Tuesday, August 30th at eight p.m. in Oakley for the thrills, spills, and laughs offered to the people of this community as the expense of trained trick donkeys. They will be ridden by local talent.

Construction of the estimated \$195,000.00 Logan County Hospital has begun. The O.D. Milligan Construction Company of Manhattan, Kansas, started digging last week on the lots on the corner of Hudson and 4th opposite the Christian Church.

At one o'clock a.m. August 20th, the Duttlinger Grocery and General Store in Monument, KS, was robbed of \$8,550 in

currency, silver dollars, government "E" bonds, and negotiable coupons. The two men, names unknown broke a window on the south side of the building and entered on top the storage room, went through a door and located the safe in which the valuables were placed near the front door. They removed the pins for the front door and placed it against a nearby counter. They then proceeded to roll or push the safe through the door onto the street and into a trunk of a car which had been backed up to the sidewalk. The burglary took about forty-five minutes to complete.

60 years ago, 1964

Staking work to outline the boundaries of the new Logan county courthouse building is completed at the Bertrand addition site and excavation is scheduled to start next week. Construction of the \$331,931 building involving so much controversy is scheduled to be in full swing in 30 days, said Clarence R. Brown, construction superintendent with Busboom and Rauh, Salina, general contractors. City crews were bringing a waterline into the west Oakley site Wednesday. Building will measure 230 feet east-west and 66 feet deep. J Ernest Bertrand donated a square block of land for the courthouse and there will be ample space for parking on the north and south sides of the building. The new construction will include a 60x100 ft. basement.

272 displays were entered in the Logan County Fair horticulture show, almost 100 more than last year. Three grand champion awards were given, thirty nine blue ribbon awards. Nationally accredited judges, Mrs. Richard Mermis, Hays, Mrs. Edgar Van Eaton and Mrs. Elizabeth Suter, judged this standard flower show.

With the addition of the 8th grade to classes at St. Joseph's Parochial school enrollment will increase about 20, estimated Sister Mary Barbara, principle, after enrollment Tuesday. Total number attending the school for the 1964-65 term is estimated at 209. St. Joseph's follows the same schedule for classes as the public schools. Supt. Paul R. Dick states, "there will be forty three teaching-administration staff". He is expecting a total kindergarten

through high school enrollment of about 750, a slight increase from last year. A special education class for students with learning difficulties will be started this year for the first time.

50 years ago (1974)

Total school population continues to show a downward trend. Families are smaller. Preliminary figures released this week by St. Joseph's grade school and USD 274 show a grand total enrollment of 839, 10 less that last year and 41 fewer that two years ago.

Mrs. Alice Shankle, who was recalling the changes. The Oakley manager and operator was honored by the office employees and company officials Aug. 21 at a reception for completing her 40th year with Southwestern Bell Telephone Co. Mrs. Shankle said a major change has come in operation of long-distance service. "Though I have witnessed many of the improvements, I'm still fascinated with the speed with which long distance calls can be made." She said. The Oakley office now handles long distance services for Oakley and five other towns. Up to 3,000 long distance calls are handled here in a 24-hour period, and is served by 14 operators.

40 years ago (1984)

Oakley has been chosen as one of first 11 cities in Kansas to receive the newest in aluminum can recycling equipment. The CANPACTOR allows individuals to place unsmashed aluminum beverage cans into a receiving a lot and wait seconds for the cans to be weighed, sorted, smashed, and receive cash payment for their efforts. Southwind Recycling Company of Quinter, will spend one day on location buying aluminum cans at competitive prices and introducing this new concept, and machinery.

Parts of Kansas highways are groovy! Motorists driving small cars would say that the grooves make their tires buzz. Well, they do-a little! Kansas Department of Transportation engineers say that they are proud of the grooved surfaces, and that the process causing it is called "milling." The process saves taxpayers big bucks. Everybody grooves on that! Bituminous overlays on Kansas highways deteriorate quickly as a result of frequent freeze-thaw cycles. Also, because Kansas is the crossroads of the US, thousands of heavy vehicles pass through it, denting highway surfaces. Water forms in the ruts and holes and can cause hydroplaning on a rainy day, or may freeze to become slick spots in the winter. They cut the highway down about an inch and a quarter. The cost is about 35 cents a square yard to mill a bituminous surface, whereas resurfacing runs \$1.60 per year.

25 years ago (1999)

Kristy Eberle Miss Rodeo Kansas gave a report on her schedule. A Cowboys Christmas is July 4th weekend, she stated, "I spent the 4th in Kansas City, MO at the Bengerman Ranch PRCA Rodeo. One of the neat things about the rodeo was they had a huge firework display every night after the rodeo". During the day Miss Rodeo Missouri and

Miss Rodeo Kansas went shopping and never knew they had ended up on the wrong side of town. July 9 & 10 Miss Rodeo Kansas was at the KPRA rodeo in McCracken and was able to shoot a commercial for Bar None which is a clothing company. July 14 Miss Rodeo Kansas was in Pretty Prairie and spent four days at the rodeo. July 25th she was on her way to Cheyenne, WY to the Daddy of Them All Rodeo. To finish out the month of July there was the Colby Rodeo Queen Contest and the Dodge City Rodeo. To start August there will be a trip to Las Vegas for the Miss Rodeo America Pageant and National Finals Rodeo!

10 years ago (2014)

Logan County Head Start has a new look for the new school year. Big changes to the Head Start building happened over summer break. Dale Samuelson and crew painted the whole building. Head Start teacher Valarie Johnson and her sister/art teacher Lashus painted the new Head Start logo on the side of the building. Head Start is ready for kids to come to next week, Logan County Head Start is a preschool program for children aged 3-5 that provides a variety of educational activities to help prepare children for kindergarten.

Colby's High Plains Art Club is preparing for their yearly juried art show to be held on October 17, 18, and 19. This year's show will be for adult amateur artists, amateur photographers and high school students only. It will be held in the Heartland Christian School's Gymnasium at 1995 W 4th St, Colby, Kansas. (A juried show is a competitive event, designed for artists who would like to see how their work stands up to that of other entrants.)

5 years ago (2019) Oakley Farm and Home Center, LLC was presented with a Patriot

Award by Colleen Allen, Kansas Employer Support of the Guard and Reserves (EGR). Mr. & Mrs. Pfeifer were nominated for being highly supportive of the KS Army National Guard Service by their Reserve component employee Sgt. First Class Christopher Crofts. "The Patriot Award was created by ESGR to publicly recognize individuals who provide outstanding patriotic support and cooperation to their employees, who like the citizen warriors before-them, has answered their nations call to serve," said Collen Allen, Kansas ESGR Volunteer.

Dorothy Martin Racette was born August 14, 1920 to Bill and Beth Martin and was the oldest of five children. Dorothy lived in a sod house until she was eight years old. Her family was the first to get a telephone and radio in

the area in 1903. Dorothy attended school in Monument and rode the bus all her school years. After graduation Dorothy went to work in Colby at the NYA-National Youth Association. Dorothy married Frank Flax and had two babies; Bill and Mary. After her husband passed away of a heart attack, she then married Wilcid Racette in 1955. They had two babies, Steve and Helen. Wilcid passed away seven months before what would have been their 62nd anniversary. In living to be 99 years old Dorothy says her," key to long life is good food and hard work. Keeping busy with word puzzles and reading, helping others and staying active in the community," she replied. Dorothy still lives at home and she does still drive. She cooks and gets around just fine, just a little slower now days.



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Tuesday Service 7:00 p.m.

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Sunday Morning
Worship 10:00 a.m.

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Worship Service 2 p.m. Sunday
Sunday School & Adult Bible
Class 3:15 p.m. Sunday

GATEWAY FELLOWSHIP
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Pastor Kyle Bloom
Worship Service 10:15 a.m.

4TH & CENTER CHURCH OF CHRIST
Sunday Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Assembly 10:45 a.m.

WESLEYAN CHURCH

901 W. 2nd
Pastor Tiffany Martin
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6 p.m.

UNITED CHRISTIAN CHURCH

219 Center Ave.
Pastor Bob Kelly
Cheryl Martin, Administrative Asst.
Sunday Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

611 Maple
Pastor Dan Hutton
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:45 a.m.

OAKLEY CHRISTIAN CHURCH

200 East 4th
Pastor Jason Schmidt
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

WINONA

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Melissa Byerly, DSA
Worship Service 10:15 a.m.
Sunday School 11:15 a.m.

RUSSELL SPRINGS

ST. FRANCIS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Fr. Don Martin
Sunday Service 4:00 p.m.

PAGE CITY

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IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

Fr. James M. Thomas
Saturday Mass 5:00 p.m.

ANGELUS CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fr. Luke Thielen
Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m.

UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Melissa Byerly, DSA
Worship Service 8:30 a.m.

GRAINFIELD

GRACE FELLOWSHIP CHURCH
Sunday Worship 9:30 a.m.

ST. AGNES

Fr. James M. Thomas
Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m.

GOVE

GOVE COMMUNITY CHURCH

Pastor Chris Thomas
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.



Charlene Campbell Goscha
will be celebrating her 95th birthday
on September 6, 2024.

She would love to receive mail from her Oakley friends.
Her address is:
Larksfield Assisted Living #142
2727 N Rock Road
Wichita, KS 67226



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