

# LOOKING BACK

## 1925 – 100 years ago

If Logan County does not get a real test for oil on the Moffat-Andrews location it will not be because they lacked equipment. The largest oil rig in the state of Kansas sets on the dome two miles east of the Moffat-Andrews Ranch House 26 miles southwest of Oakley and the drill has penetrated over a hundred feet into the shale like gravel with a 20 inch drill. The boilers which furnish the power are oil burners and the two big tanks hold a supple sufficient to assure consistent twenty-four hour drilling. The derrick is 96 feet high and the entire rig is built on a larger scale than the ordinary standard rig. It is known as the California DeLuxe. The whole rig is electric lighted from current generated by the team driven dynamo. Water is furnished to the outfit from the spring about three quarters of a mile west of the rig. The water flows from the side of the shale bank into a large supply tank and the draw from where it is pumped up the hill to the right. Three small houses have been built for the workmen. It will take eight men to handle the outfit when the twenty-four hours shifts of drilling begin. Four men at a time two on the tower and two on the floor of the rig. J.M. Greer and W.M. Anderson are the drilling operators on the job and from their many years experience in all parts of the U.S. Are competent to handle the big rig of which they are justly proud. The project is controlled by Coons and Dunn, two of the big California oil men and is backed by plenty of money. They intend to go at least 4200 feet and the big rig has a capacity of several hundred feet more than that.

Levying the Annual taxes for city purposes for the year 1925 results as eight mills are levied for running expenses and ten mills for debt purposes for a total of eighteen mills. This is an increase of one and one-half mills over last year's levy. One-half mill is levied this year for a "band fund" to provide for public band concerts. The total assessed valuation is \$20,000 less than in 1924 and the new tax laws regarding money and credits remove most of the tax from these items. The result is that although the levy is increased the tax money will be \$600 less than received last year. The total levy compares very favorably with that of neighboring cities of this class and size and is as low as consistent with the progress and services demanded of the city.

Norton A. Turner will be first director of the newly created State Budget Bureau. Many Oakley people are acquainted with Mr. Turner and congratulate his as well as the administration at Topeka for the selection to the position in the state next to that of Governor. With Nort Turner as director of the Budgetthe new department cannot be otherwise than a success. Norton A. Turner serving his third term as state auditor will be the first to hold the office of state budget director created by the 1925 legislature. Governor Paulen yesterday announced the resignation of Senator Stewart who finally decided not to take the new budget job because of the ill health of Mrs. Stewart. At the same time he announced the Turner and Davis appointments.

All the changes are effective July 1, the day the new state budget law goes into effect. The budget director draws a salary of \$4,500 a year and is regarded as one of the best appointments at the disposal of the governor. Under the law enacted by the latest session of the legislature the budget director, working directly under the governor will present the next legislature with a budget covering the entire expenses of state government.

## 1950 - 75 years ago

Additional mail truck service began Saturday between Colby and Burlington, Co. under post office department arrangement. It will continue for the duration of the switchmen's strick forcing suspension of service on the Rock Island lines. The westbound morning mail truck from Colby makes stops at Levant, Brewster, Edson, Goodland, Ruleton, Kanarado and Burlington, Co. It return in the afternoon over the same route.

Telephone rates in Oakley jumped from fourteen to twenty-five percent as a result of the increases put into effect by the Southwestern Bell Telephone Company on July first. These temporary rate increases which total \$3,350,000 yearly in Kansas are still \$200,000 less than the rates originally asked by the telephone company in May 1949. Oakley which falls into the group listed with the telephone company as having 300 to 599 phones and also in the group which is charged 25 cents less per month because it is served by a magnetotype exchange rather than a common battery exchange will have the following rates: Business phones - \$4.75 one-party residence phones, \$2.50 four-party residence phones \$2.00; eight-party rural residence phone \$2.00. All rates shown do not include federal and state tax. Old rates in Oakley were: Business \$4.00; one-party residence phones, \$2.50; four-party residence \$1.75; eight-party rural residence \$1.75.

Hail and rain swept through Western Kansas last weekend leaving paths of destruction through the fields of harvest ripe wheat. Loses in the four counties of Loan, Scott, Sheridan and Gove were estimated at more than one million dollars. Harvest had just got underway when the first storm hit Saturday north and east of Winona and Page City. Losses were estimated at figures varying from 5 to 75 percent in this area. The storm had swept through the Halford community north of Oakley and lashed fields as it moved from the northeast into the Winona area. Late Sunday afternoon hail and storms ripped through Oakley, Sheridan,Gove, and through Scott City and Scott County. Hoxie reported 100 percent loss to all crops in the path of the storm which swept from the northwestern part of the county south to Grainfield and on six miles south into Gove county. The belt of destruction was nearly three miles wide. A second storm followed in thirty minutes also moving southeast from Hoxie. Losses in the Grainfield area were estimated at nearly 400,000 bushels of wheat with other heavy losses in the Selden area. Several fields just east of Oakley

were virtually wiped out by the intense hair and rain Sunday. Rainfall accompanying the hail was recorded as 1.49 inches Sunday following .25 inches Saturday. Another half inch of rain fell Wednesday keeping the farmers from getting into the fields that were not touched by hail. Scott City reported hail the size of golf balls fell during a thirty minutes storm followed by an accompanying six hour rain of an estimated 7½ inches which wiped out harvest ripe fields including some irrigated wheat land figuring to produce 50 bushels to the acre. Scott City also reported a small twister at the height of the storm which struck the airport east of town and damaged all six of the plains there.

## 1975 – 50 years ago

Inez Powers has left her position as treasurer of USD 274 school district and secretary to the superintendent. Mrs. Powers resigned her position because of ill health. Mrs. Powers was secretary for the old Jt. 2 school district at the high school in 1963-64 and came to the USD 274 position in 1966.

A July 10 deadline has been set by the 23<sup>rd</sup> Judicial District Nominating Commission for submission of suggested names for nominations to replace Judge Benedict P. Cruise, Hays who resigned effective August 1, for retirement. Residents of the five county district – Ellis, Trego, Gove, Logan, and Wallace have been asked to suggest nominees to their respective lawyer and non-lawyer members of the Commission. Lawyer members of the Commission now are: Thomas C. Boone (Ellis) Hays; William Wagner (Trego) WaKeeney; Gregory J. Herrman (Ellis) Hays; Norman W.Jeter (Ellis) Hays; and Tom Kelley (Ellis) Hays. Non-lawyer members of the Commission are: Clarence J. Werth (Ellis) Hays; Harry F. Lutz (Wallace) Sharon Springs; Thomas W. Rhoden (Trego) WaKeeney; Martha Feldt (Logan) Oakley; and Judson Barclay Jr. (Gove) Grinnell.

City councilmen at a meeting Monday decided to request action from the State Highway commission to improve the bypass assess to US-83 in north Oakley and position of signs prohibiting through trucks at the entrances of Oakley. It was pointed out that truckers have a blind spot to the right rear of their rigs when leaving the bypass northbound where it joins US-83. There have been several near misses there as traffic come around the US-83 curve it was reported. The state highway commission will be asked to take action to correct the safety hazard.

## 2000 – 25 years ago

Teachers in USD 274 will have until July 10 to decide whether or not to sign the unilateral contract offered by the board of education for 1999-2000. The unilateral contract contain an increase in the base of \$300 and allows for vertical movement on the steps of the salary schedule. If teachers sign the unilateral contract they will be bond by it until a contract agreement for 2000-2001 can be reached. Negotiations for the 2000-2001 contract have not started yet. Teachers who fail to sign the 1999-2000

unilateral contract will continue to abide by the 1998-99 unilateral contract provisions including the salary as set forth in that contract. Prior to the Board's vote to issue a unilateral contract the OEA voted not to accept the board contract offer. The OEA was at odds with the board over several issues including salary, extra duty pay, and reduction in force. After receiving the unilateral contract members of the OEA continued to be angered by changes in the language of the contract especially those areas which they say were not discussed in negotiations prior to the issuance of the unilateral contract.

Picnic in the Park sponsored by the Oakley Area Chamber of Commerce will be held on Friday from 11:30-1:00. Food vendor will be the Lions Club and Pizza Hut. Entertainment will be provided by Holly Acton and Heather Korf.

Joel Koster of Winona has accepted membership in the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and will be honored during a campus ceremony this fall at Kansas State University. The National Society of Collegiate Scholars is a highly selective national non-profit honors organization. Founded in 1994, NSCS recognizes first and second year undergradutate students who excel academically. The Society was established on the principle that with scholarship comes a responsibility to develop leadership and a duty to provide service.

## 2015 – 10 years ago

Mrs. Alma Golden, Grainfield was in a state of shock as she finds out she will be inducted in 2015 into the Walk of Fame located at the Teacher Hall of Fame in Dodge City. When asking Mrs. Golden about the award she said, "I am so honored and grateful to receive this award, which is the highlight of my many years working with students of all ages. I am so grateful to the Wheatland Alumni and faculty at USD 292, this has brought me great

happiness."

The Oakley Swim Club has ended its 2015 season. Kylie Park, 13-14 year old girls and Jackson Pfeifer 11-12 years old boys both placed 5<sup>th</sup> overall in their division for the season. Swimmers participating in the league meet were Kylie Park, Avery Evins, John Bloom, Eric Annis, Brandon Schwarz, Jacob Kuhlman, Grace Pfeifer, Emma Evins, and Jackson Pfeifer.

At the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Twin 10K, 5K, and 1 mile run/ walk participants were encouraged to embrace health and wellness. The weather was absolutely perfect and there were almost 100 participants who took on that challenge and ran or walked in their choice of races. Those who registered for the event had the option of finding a two to dress like. Allison Haffner and Crystal McCready from Colby received the prize for winning the adult twin look alike contest. Ace and Landyn Plummer from Oakley took home the prize for the best dressed youth twins. Cody Zimmerman took first in the 1 mile. The results of the 10K were as follows: the age group with Tegan Schmidt winning 2<sup>nd</sup> and Allison Schippers placing 3<sup>rd</sup>. Winning the 15-19 age group was Gracie Tyler. Kerrie Wahlmeier took 1<sup>st</sup> in the 20-29 age group. Amanda Sowers won the 30-39 age group. Anita Thiel won the 40-49 age group which she also won the last two years. Jeanie Unger won her age group of 50-59. Leona Repshire and Wanda Uhrich also won in their age groups.

## 2020 – 5 years ago

Upon recognizing the need to better serve the healthcare needs of professional drivers, Mitten's Travel Center began working to bring an urgent care clinic into the travel center. They partnered with the Logan County Healthcare Foundation to make the clinic a reality. Mitten's Travel Center and the Logan County Healthcare Foundation are pleased to announce the Urgent Care Clinic at Mitten's opened June 29<sup>th</sup>. While the idea for the clinic started with the intention

of serving professional drivers, the clinic will also be available to serve travelers and the general public by providing quality healthcare for adults, children, and infants. The clinic will be open seven days a week from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm taking walk-in appointments. The Urgent Care Clinic will provide medial care for illnesses and injuries that require prompt attention but are not serious enough to require treatment in an emergency room. Those services are not intended to take the place of a primary care provider. In addition the clinic will provide DOT physicals in an effort to meet the needs of professional drivers. Examples of illnesses that may be evaluated and treated in the Urgent Care Clinic include abdominal pain, flu-like symptoms, sprains, strains, seasonal allergies, and small cuts that might require stitches.

Logan County EMS has added a new vehicle in its fleet. The 2015 Tahoe is not new to Logan County but to the EMS department it is new. It was retired from the Sheriff Department and then transferred to the EMS department. The Tahoe has a lot of life left in it and will be helpful for the EMS department. The decals on the vehicle were done by The Tinker's Wagon owned by Pappy and Sue Lies. The transfer happened as a result of conversations between the Logan county Commissioners, Police Chief Dan Cooper, City Administrator Brad Pendergast, EMS Director Bob Kelly, and Logan county Sheriff Pat Parsons. The vehicle will be used for training trips, region meetings, and help with county response when a second ambulance is not needed. It will have a basic supply bag on board for use by EMS personnel.

The US Flag that had covered the coffin of PFC John William Douglas in 1974 was returned home to Grinnell accompanied by the American Legion Riders and Ms. Stacy Swinney who had rescued it. Following Gove County Sheriff Allan Weber with his lights flashing the motorcycles were all

## AREA CHURCH DIRECTORY

### OAKLEY

**ST. JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC CHURCH**  
625 Freeman  
Fr. Luke Thielen, Pastor  
Rev. Mr. Dennis Engel, Deacon  
Rev. Mr. Michael Brungardt, Deacon  
Saturday Mass 5 p.m.  
Sunday Mass 10:30 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  
Jason Schmidt, Lead Minister  
Dillon Salmans, Youth Minister  
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

**BETHESDA LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Sunday Worship:10:30 a.m  
785-671-4075

### GRINNELL

**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.



**GOLDEN SHEARS BARBER SHOP**  
315 Center ~ Oakley  
785-671-4213  
Hours: Tuesday–Friday  
8–Noon/1–5:30  
Thursday  
8–Noon/1–5:30/7–9pm  
Saturday 8–Noon





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