

Memories from yesteryear

History of Rolla 1929 in Rolla

Most of the following items of history and interest came from the Morton County Farmer, published in Rolla, KS. Editor - A.B. Edson. Subscription rate -\$1 per year. Compiled by Dorothy Milburn.

November 1929

• The Champlin Refining Service Station opened in October, 1929 with Fred Cline-Smith as Wholesale Agent and Linnie Veech as Station Operator.

• The Waterworks bonds carry and the city will establish the first municipal Utility in town.

• Gas lines were laid in one week in November, 1929, Mr. Ted Wetherill, manager of the Argus Gas & Fuel Co. at Elkhart will be in charge of the Rolla system for the present. The Rolla State Bank and the Telephone Office were the first two business places to be heated by gas.

• We head into the '30's with a feeling for the bright future.

1930

• Most of these items were taken from The Morton County Farmer, A.B. Edson, Editor.

January

• Ralph Armstrong farm home burned.

• The construction of waterworks started.

• Farmer circulation went over six hundred mark.

February

• Fred Thompson killed in motor accident.

• A gas well was located on Armstrong No. 1 well.

March

• W.W. Combs quit farming and retired to Richfield.

• Rolla Consumers Oil Company is building a station.

April

• Armstrong gas well comes in producer; land values boom; business picks up.

May

• Twenty locations staked for gas wells in Rolla locality; G. Porter Craddock died; E. McCalip injured in accident; heavy rains cover the county.

June

• Sixteen drillings going in Rolla field; three tests completed; swimming pool proposed; K.C. Power and Light Company bids on Rolla light plant; A small wheat harvest was in progress.

July

• Rains, crops fine; swimming pool opens; light plant sold; office seekers thick.

August

• Rolla has last chautauqua; weather hot; everyone busy.

September

• Harvest crews come in; school opens; heat wave broken; W.W. Martin retired from farming.

October

• Eight inches rain fell in and near Rolla; harvest came in big.

November

• Total of 108 gas wells in Hugoton-Rolla area, and no "dusters."

December

• Lincoln, Ford and Hoover called three great liberators — Lincoln freed the people of work; Ford freed the horses and Hoover freed the laboring man; big boom begins slowing down.

1931

January

• Anna Dickenson wed to R.D. "Doak" Dickenson; Bloodhart store was robbed.

February

• Pipe line from Stevens

county to Pueblo started.

March

• W.L. Bolt died.
• The wheat outlook is good.

April

• C.W. Bentley was killed in an accident.

• The blizzard tied up all highways for two days.
• Mrs. W.W. Combs died.

May

• George H. Markillie passed on.
• Wilson Pharmacy moved to Richfield.

June

• Wheat harvest in full swing with the market at 32 cents.

July

• Thermometer hits high of 118 degrees.
• The wheat drops to 28 cents.

• Prosperity "is just around the corner."

August

• Mrs. W.W. Martin, Richfield, passed on.

• Wheat hits a low of 23 cents.

• Television was being shown at the Kansas State Fair in Hutchinson.

• Showing at the Rolla High School, 'The Adventures of Tarzan' starring Elmo Lincoln.

September

• Mrs. Hosea Milburn is called.

• Harvest begun; market quotations dropped on milo; kafir and corn has no market.

October

• Henry Dodson killed in accident at Ft. Snelling.

• Flour quoted at 69 cents for 48 lbs.

• Mat Smith injured in auto accident on Kansas-Colorado state line.

November

• Irvin Dixon killed on Halloween.

• Wheat up to 42 cents; Santa Fe opens extension to Farley, N.M.

December

• Reuben E. Stoner died.
• Real depression being felt in Morton County.

1932

January

• T.J. Keighty dead; R.D. Dickenson escaped injury by jumping from burning oil truck as it left highway.

• Consumers oil company reports pro-fitable year.

February

• Gas company drops out-lying leases.

• Maize and kafir 31 cents.

March

• Expense cutting topic of the day.
• Tax scrap started in county.

• Dirt storms prevail with cold weather.

April

• Barbecued bull on bill of fare

at Richfield pioneer rally sponsored by Big Bill Mayberry.

• Elkhart editor leads tax reduction battle.

• Garrison bought Friend grocery.

May

• Clarence Butts shot by son-in-law.

• Richfield rally converted to a G.O.P. meeting.

• Wheat prospects are blown away in high winds.

June

• Tornado strikes Elkhart.

• The rains revive hopes for row crop.

• Bartley turns dry goods stock to creditors.

• Meagre wheat harvest started.

July

• Elkhart National Bank looted.

• Richfield rally fades as Elkhart editor joins forces with law.

• New Ford V-8 comes to Morton.

• Elkhart Bank bandits brought back here.

August

• Gas company turns loose putrid odor on town in

locating leaks.

• Primary vote unusually large.

Taken from Morton County, Cornerstone of Kansas, published in 1986.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

(First published in The Hugoton Hermes, Thursday, April 2, 2026) 1t

PUBLIC HEARING FOR ZONING DISTRICT CHANGE OFFICIAL NOTICE

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN AND TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:

You are hereby notified that the Hugoton City Planning Commission will conduct a public hearing on April 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. in the City Council meeting room located at 631 South Main in Hugoton, Kansas. The purpose of the public hearing is to consider a request by the owner, PMJ Properties, LLC, to rezone the following described real estate from "A-L" Agriculture District to "B-1" Commercial Business District.

The surface and surface rights only in and to a tract of land located in the Northwest Quarter (NW/4) of Section 21, Township 33 South, Range 37 West of the 6th PM, being more particularly described as:

Lots 3 and 4, except the East 60 ft., and all of Lots 5 and 6, all in Block 1, of the Dr. Nannie Stephens Addition to the City of Hugoton, Stevens County, Kansas.

EXCEPT a tract of land in Lot 5, Block 1, Dr. Nannie Stephens Addition according to the recorded Plat thereof, situated in the Northwest Quarter of Section 21, Township 33 South, Range 37 West described as follows: Beginning at the Northwest corner of said Lot 5; First Course, thence on an assumed bearing of south 88°49'08" East, 27.97 feet along the North line of said Lot also being the Southerly right of way line of the existing highway; Second course, thence South 07°45'27" West, 121.53 feet; Third

course, thence South 18°23'39" West 51.42 feet to the West line of said Lot; Fourth course, thence North 01°34'29" East 169.84 feet along said West line to the point of beginning.

The public is invited to appear at the hearing to speak in favor of or against the granting of such rezoning for the above-described land. The Planning Commission may continue their respective hearing date to a future date, if necessary, without further notice.

Anyone seeking additional information concerning this rezoning request may contact the City of Hugoton Planning Commission, c/o Joshua Grubbs, at the City Office, 631 South Main, Hugoton, Kansas 67951 during their normal business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday or call (620) 544-8531. A complete legal description is available for public inspection at the City offices at the hours and address listed above.

Property owners within 200 feet of the property described above within the corporate limits of the city and within 1,000 feet in the unincorporated area (outside city limits), wanting to protest the proposed change will have fourteen days after the Planning Commission makes its recommendation regarding the requested rezoning to submit protest petitions. If the landowners of twenty percent (20%) or more of the area to be rezoned within 200 feet (within the corporate limits of the city) and 1,000 feet (in the unincorporated area) of the boundaries of the proposed change file valid protest petitions prior to the deadline, the change can be approved only by at least a 3/4 majority vote of the City Council.

History from the Hermes

by Lori Walters

Thursday, March 31, 2011

Michael Maestas, 25, was sentenced to the "Hard 25" after he was convicted for first degree murder, intentional and with premeditation. He had been charged with killing his mother, Lorenza Maestas, stabbing her multiple times.

Thursday, April 6, 2006

Heritage Christian Academy moved into their brand new building. Previously the school was conducted in rooms provided by the Hugoton Assembly of God.

Thursday, April 12, 2001

A tornado crushed a mobile home and related structures belonging to Warren and Barbara Myers of Rolla. The same storm hit the Sid Thomas farm, damaging grain bins and overturning a Zimmatic sprinkler.

Thursday, April 10, 1986

Charles Schroeder and Clyde Hagman are some of the participants of the Mid America Tractor and Antique Show scheduled in Hugoton this week.

Thursday, April 15, 1976

Hugoton finally has a Pizza Hut to enjoy. It is located east of the Flamingo Motel. The Hut seats 48 customers and opened for business last week.

Wayne Harrison set a new record at the Senior Boys' All Events during the twelfth Annual State Junior Bowling Tournament at Topeka, February 29 through March 28, 1976.

Thursday, April 7, 1966

The following young men from Hugoton were ordered to report March 30 to Local Board 76 for forwarding to the Armed Forces Examining Station in Kansas City, Mo.,



Champion Spellers - Stevens County's three top grade school spellers look over the words to be used in the state spelling bee April 28 in Topeka. Pictured from the left are Ernest Campbell, 13, Kathlene Kullbom, 13, and Rita

Gooch, 12. Ernest won the county title last week, second place went to Rita, and Kathlene won third place. Only Ernest Campbell is eligible for the state bee. Taken from The Hugoton Hermes, April 5, 1956 edition.

for pre-induction examinations: John Kussuth, Bill Robison, Ben Hardesty, Billy R. Cantrell and Rolla's James L. Smith. Those going for induction April 4 are James Edward Livingston and Raymond Earl Dunlap of Hugoton.

Thursday, April 6, 1961 Mrs. B.E. Nordling reported that in 1918, Meadow announced they would change their name to that of the grain which was received in the greatest amount at the elevator that year. Feterita grain won the honors and the namesake.

Thursday, April 12, 1956

Six local employees of Panhandle Eastern Pipeline

Company were honored for years of employment at the annual meeting in Kansas City. Those honored included Virgil R. Cryer, 25 years; Omar Michaux, 15 years; and W.R. Newton, Bill Peterson, Harding Nix and T. W. Johnson, all ten years.

Thursday, April 12, 1951

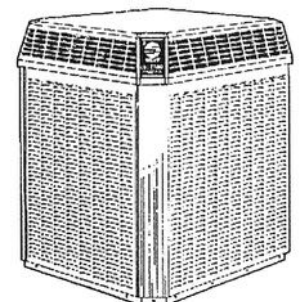
Pfc. Harold Woolen, in the Air Force at Sheppard Field, will be sent to Keesler Air Force Base at Biloxi, Ms. for a course in Fundamental Electronics. Pfc. Eugene Woolen, his brother, is at Pope Air Force Base in Fort Bragg, N.C. He states they are to get new locations for their radar sets as the ones they have now have lots of

interference from other radar and radio sets nearby. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Woolen.

If any readers have pictures or memories for the history page of the Hermes, please bring them in to the staff at The Hugoton Hermes newspaper.

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