



JOEY McCORMICK and Rex Weishapl can't wait to work on the steam engines at this year's 50th Thresher Show. Times staff photo by Casey McCormick

History has seldom recorded a social phenomenon quite like the mass impulse that filled the American West with cities and towns and sparked countless unfulfilled schemes for more of the same.

The settlers on the land were generally a sturdy and resourceful people who were spoken of as being endowed with the three p's - poverty, providence and pluck.

One early newsman wrote to his family back in Missouri after arriving in Bird City in 1885, "a new western town is truly indescribable in mere words."

An enterprising merchant and his family came by way of Benkelman, Neb., to Bird City in 1885 and as they overlooked the town they were surprised to see the number of buildings being erected.

This merchant was one of a group of men and women doctors, lawyers, merchants, millers, barbers, bootmakers, blacksmiths and druggists who poured westward believing they could transform "The Great American Desert" into a thriving frontier.

However, inevitably this, also, brought shysters, prostitutes, scalawags and those dodging the law but mostly they were serious men and women bound upon the honest building of a new society on the western plains.

By May of 1885 the town site had been surveyed and platted.

Mr. and Mrs. James Slover had erected a small shack to feed the men digging the town well.

Within that same month Mitchell and Mikesell had a drugstore building framed in Atwood and brought over and erected in two days in block 30 and lot 14 (approximate location of the United Methodist Church parsonage today 2003).

The proprietor of a Frontier drugstore was supposed to be an apothecary who knew how to mix various chemicals and prepare the correct formula for medicinal remedies. Alcohol in some form or other formed a prominent ingredient in these medicines.

Many patent medicines were dispensed at the Frontier drugstore.

I could find no further mention of this drugstore in the old papers so it is possible to have change proprietors and many businesses did in those days as it was very competitive.

Due to the influx of wagons and teams to bring building materials from Benkelman, to the town site and provide transportation for the public in June 1885 The Pendarvis and Sons Livery Stable was established in block 29 in lots 22, 23 and 24 (where the Methodist church stands today 2003).

Livery barns with several horses, wagons and buggies for hire, supplied the means for transportation for anyone who possessed the required fee.

When the settler became a little more prosperous he placed his team in the livery barn while he went about his business during the day or overnight leaving the hostler to furnish the required animal care.

Those persons living in town could hire a team and rig to drive into the country or use on a business trip.

The office of the livery barn was a place for loafers and friends to meet and play checkers or cards. Most livery attendants were able to provide strangers with information about the nearby countryside, where the best claims were, where trails were the most desirable, where to find creek crossings and many other tidbits of interest.

A hot stove kept the office comfortable and was a haven from the weather.

However, the unsavory smell caused many to search for another visiting place. Prices for services rendered were varied, but 50 miles was considered to be a 24-hour days work for a seasoned team.

Next month - The Kerndt Brothers Mercantile and the first Probate Judge.

Club Clips

Community Club

On March 10 the Bird City Community Club met at the Senior Center at 7pm. Redaen and Velda Wright put on the program, showing slides and telling about their recent trip to Brazil. This was very interesting and informative. There were over 40 in attendance, including many visitors who came to share in this evening. Delicious refreshments were served at the conclusion of this program.

Last Saturday's Clean Up Day, which was a joint venture between PRIDE and the Bird City Community Club, was a great success.

There will be a Tree Pruning Workshop for the public at the Shelter House in the park on Wednesday, April 9. This work-

shop will be given by Jim Strine, Area Extension Forester, and will begin at noon with lunch being served.

American Legion Auxiliary

On March 7 the American Legion Auxiliary held its monthly meeting at the Bird City Legion Hall at 1 p.m. There were 28 present including six visitors. Cristi Antholtz, Shelly Felzein, Megan Sramek and Hayley Young attended as candidates for the Sunflower Girl's State contest. These four young ladies were very impressive in their appearance as well as in their enthu-

siasm for the opportunity to attend Girl's State and learn about Kansas and United States government.

Carol Gamblin, vice president of the American Legion Auxiliary, and Marjorie Hickert and Val Coleman will serve on the Election Committee to choose the candidates for officers for the coming year.

This meeting was very short since most of the members participated in the World Day of Prayer program at St. John's Lutheran Church. The rest of the members went to the Bird House for refreshments which were paid for by the Auxiliary.



Conservation service unveils web-based registry for experts

The United States Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service recently unveiled a web-based registry of technical experts that will make it easier for landowners to meet conservation goals by finding service providers online.

"Natural Resources Conservation Service is committed to improving the environment by helping landowners meet their conservation goals," said Natural Resources Conservation Service Chief Bruce Knight. "This online registry will build a new industry of certified conservation professionals from the private sector, nonprofit organi-

zations and public agencies to provide direct technical assistance and deliver conservation services to landowners and others."

TechReg, the technical service provider registry, will allow interested individuals and organizations to apply and request certification on the Internet. Users of TechReg will be able to list their services, credentials, accomplishments and progress. In addition, farmers and ranchers will be able to locate and choose technical service providers authorized to provide services to their area.

"TechReg is a good example of the Bush Administration's commit-

ment to e-government to deliver programs more effectively and efficiently through electronic means," Chief Knight said.

The 2002 Farm Bill expanded the availability of technical assistance to landowners by encouraging the use of technical services providers to assist Department of Agriculture in delivering conservation services.

Information on services available from the Department of Agriculture Service Centers is online at "http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov" or "http://www.sc.egov.usda.gov". Additional information on TechReg is available at "http://techreg.usda.gov" or "http://techreg.usda.gov".



Make the Right Connection
...and get on line for less.

- ➔ Tech help Available
- ➔ Hookup Same Day as Signup

INTERNET Access as low as \$16.50/month

Receive four months free! **\$198**

Price based on prepayment for one year. Normal monthly rates are \$24.95 per month plus one time hook-up fee.

UNLIMITED ACCESS INTERNET
features Fast Modems & Superior Service
nwkansas.com

E-mail • World Wide Web • Full Access

The Saint Francis Herald

P.O. Box 1050 • St. Francis, Kan. 67756 • 785-332-3162 • sfherald@nwkansas.com

If you have any of these certificates...



....remember - they expire on March 31st!!

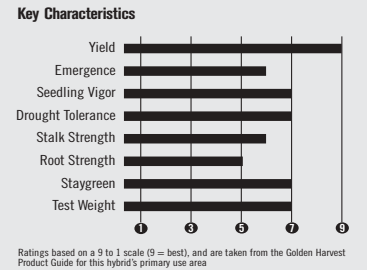
YieldGard® Rootworm Corn

Safe ~ Simple ~ Effective



H-8895CRAW YieldGard® Rootworm Corn
110 Relative Maturity

- Placement Strategies**
- Where damage from corn rootworm larvae is a concern
 - High & moderate yield potential fields
 - Moderately high pH soils
 - Drought prone soils
 - Responds to a wide range of plant densities



Protect the Yield Potential of Your Seed Investment

JC Robinson Seeds
www.jcrob.com

Corn Rootworm Protection from Golden Harvest

To Order Contact Your Golden Harvest Dealer or
Call Toll free 866-RTWORMS (789.6767)
Shawn Sullivan 719-342-1873

Golden Harvest is a registered trademark of Golden Harvest Seed, Inc. YieldGard is a registered trademark of Monsanto Technology, LLC. This product is not yet registered in all states. Call your Golden Harvest Dealer for registration status.