

OBITUARIES

Dr. Avis P. Agin

Nov. 27, 1918 - May 25, 2005

Dr. Avis P. Agin, 86, Phoenix, Ariz., formerly of Almena, died May 25.

Dr. Agin was born Nov. 27, 1918, in Almena, the daughter of Charles and Grace (Stone) Alexander.

She attended a one-room country school for eight years and then graduated from Norton Community High School. She attended Fort Hays State for two years before joining the U.S. Navy, serving from 1941 to '45.

On June 30, 1945, she married Ralph E. Agin in Miami, Fla.

She continued her education earning her doctorate in 1973. She taught elementary school in Luray, Russell and Scottsdale, Ariz.

She joined the faculty at Phoenix College in 1966, as a professor of reading and communication.

In 1980, after retiring from Phoenix College, she and her husband bought a ranch in Dewey, Ariz. She loved gardening and raising chickens. They spent win-

ters in California.

She was an author, speaker and lecturer. She was active in Eastern Star, the United Methodist Church and building committee member for the Humboldt Senior Center.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband and six brothers and sisters.

Survivors include her daughter, Alicia and Jerry Strother, Phoenix; a sister, Betty Chmiel, Tampa, Fla.; two grandchildren; and two great-grandsons.

Funeral services will be held at 9:30 a.m. Friday at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona in Phoenix. Memorial services will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday at the Humboldt Bible Church in Humboldt, Ariz.

The family suggests memorial contributions in lieu of flowers to the church. Memorials may be sent to Box 296, Humboldt, Ariz., 86329.

Hansen Mortuary, Phoenix, was in charge of the arrangements.

Alva Ward Nelson

Jan. 31, 1917 - May 26, 2005

Alva Ward Nelson, 88, formerly of Lenora, died Thursday in the Royal Terrace Nursing Facility in Olathe.

Mr. Nelson was born Jan. 31, 1917, near Lenora in the farm home of his parents, Claus and Lydia (Johnson) Nelson.

He lived in this same farm home for most of his life farming and raising cattle.

He graduated from Lenora Rural High School in 1935, and served in the Navy during World War II as an electrician on the U.S.S. Nashville.

On Sept. 28, 1942, he married Pauline Coop. They lived on the farm until her death on Sept. 18, 1989.

In 2002, he moved to Lenexa, to live with his daughter, Earlene, until poor health caused him to move to the Royal Terrace Nursing Facility.

He was a member of the Masonic Lodge in Lenora and Norton, as well as a member of the Isis Shrine in Salina.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his wife; a son, Terry Nelson; and three sisters, Ellen, Esther, and Rose.

Survivors include: a son, Norman and Julie Nelson; a daughter, Earlene Nelson; a brother, Anton; a sister, Ruby; three grandchildren; and a great-granddaughter.

Funeral services were to be held today at the United Parish Church in Lenora with Pastor Lew Van Der Wege officiating. Burial was in the Lenora South Cemetery.

A memorial fund has been established to the church. Contributions may be sent to Enfield Funeral Home, 215 W. Main, Norton, Kan. 67654

Jim Issler began his job as communication solutions administrator for Nex-Tech, a subsidiary of Rural Telephone in Phillipsburg, on April 10 Mr. Issler earned an associates degree in computer science from Western Nebraska Technical College and has relocated from Fremont, Neb., to Phillipsburg with his wife Creonne.

—PITCH TOURNAMENT 7 p.m., Sunday, June 5, Norton American Legion. 5/31

Nex-Tech Wireless, a member of the Sprint alliance, has hired Jeffrey Dear as billing supervisor in Hays. He started May 2. Mr. Dear received a bachelor's degree in computer information systems from Friends University and lives

in Hays with his wife, Kori, and their children, Keaton and Cooper.

—Steak and seafood night, Thursday and Saturday, 6-9 p.m. American Legion. Members and guests. 5/31

Ryan Hopkins, Almena, and Ashton Gebhard, Long Island, are listed on the Dean's Honor Roll for the spring semester at Southwestern College in Winfield.

Neil Gosselin began working as a switch technician for Nex-Tech Wireless on March 28. Mr. Gosselin earned a degree in communications technology from Northwest Kansas Technical College in Goodland and has three years experience. He lives in Gardner and has a 4-year-old son, Tucker.

HONOR ROLL

The Prairie Heights schools at Jennings have released the names of students qualifying for the second semester and yearly honor rolls.

Making the second semester and yearly honor rolls were: se-

niors Rocki Bochert and Tiffany Wheeler, sophomores Clink Krizek and Marcus McKenna, eighth grader Jacinta Carter, and seventh grader Marissa Baker.

Elise Kinser also made the yearly honor roll.

Bernadine F. Diederich

Oct. 14, 1906 - May 26, 2005

Bernadine Diederich, 98, New Almelo, died Thursday at St. John's Nursing Facility, Hays.

She was born Oct. 14, 1906, to John and Anna (Zodrow) Schroer in Dresden.

She was raised in Dresden and attended Dresden Grade School. She graduated from Leoville High School in 1922 and attended Marymount Academy in Salina.

She married Bernard "Boots" Diederich on June 24, 1929 in Leoville and the couple farmed north of Dresden and west of Selden and Jennings in the New Almelo area.

She was a homemaker and a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church at New Almelo and of the Altar Society.

She was preceded in death by her parents; her husband; sons John, Norbert, Jim and Carl; a sister, Dorothy Olson; an infant

granddaughter, Linda Ann Meitl; and grandson, Larry Meitl.

She is survived by sons Robert Diederich, Reno, Nev., and Tom and Cheryl Diederich, Lenora; daughters, Loretta Meitl, Colby, Va., and Daniel Reme, Lakewood, Colo.; and Rose and Jed Simoneau, Cody, Wyo.; sister Clara Schieferecke, Dresden; 34 grandchildren and 52 great-grandchildren.

Mass of the Christian burial was to be at 10:30 a.m. today at the church in New Almelo with Fr. Vincent Thu Laing and Deacon Stan Chapin officiating. Interment is in the St. Joseph's Cemetery in New Almelo.

Memorials can be made to the Bernadine Diederich Memorial fund in care of Pauls Funeral Home, 121 N. Penn, Oberlin, Kan. 67749.

Decoration Day was always on May 31 in the years before Monday holidays with long weekends came into being.

It was also the official beginning of summer as far as kids were concerned since school ran until the end of May, having begun on the day following Labor Day.

It heralded "white shoe" season, the first family picnic, and most important, it was a day of supreme garden anxiety. Would the peonies bloom too soon, too late, or just in time?

Mama spent the last week of May anxiously checking buds every morning.

If we had a mild spring and the buds were burgeoning too early, they were picked, carefully swaddled in newspapers and stored in the bottom of the refrigerator in hopes they would hold until the big day.

If a late spring delayed budding, much fretting took place.

Either way it meant the bath tub would be filled with buckets of warm water on the evening of May 30 and in those buckets, bundles of peony buds being coaxed to open to full blossom before the sun rose on Decoration Day.

In the meantime tall fruit juice cans were covered with foil, tied 'round with ironed-out ribbons salvaged from gifts. A few treasured papier mache baskets saved from funeral arrangements, complete with slightly bedraggled bows, were brought up from the basement and prepared for the major arrangements.

Child of the 40s
Liza Deines



We needed at least a dozen bouquets for the Cafferty family graves plus a pansy bowl for remembrance of a dear old friend.

Morning dawned and found Mama in the garden, cutting every daisy, pansy, iris, rose and any other flower that had dared to open. Not a single bloom escaped her scissors.

Dad muttered under his breath about "foolishness" but each year he faithfully got the water jugs ready and managed to get the picnic basket stowed in the trunk, wrapped in damp burlap to keep it cool.

I sat among the containers in the back seat, charged with keeping them from tipping, pansy bowl on my lap.

Mama balanced a bucket of fragile iris between her feet and off we went to the Hill City cemetery, a whole 25 miles north, at about 40 miles per hour. En route we stopped to pick wild roses and yucca spikes along the roadsides.

In and around all of the floral preparations, food had also been prepared.

Fresh rolls, tiny beet pickles, the first of the little green onions and radishes and always Mama's cocoa red chocolate layer cake, held precariously together with tooth-

picks and fudge frosting.

Aunt Florence brought a basketful of farm-raised fried chicken, green beans and homemade butter.

Aunt Mabel brought relishes of all kinds and her awful black cherry and black olive jello salad. No one ever forgot the year she first brought hot cherry peppers and Mama, unaware of their "kick", popped one in her mouth. She spent the rest of the day guzzling lemonade trying to cool off her tongue. Uncle Jack teased her forever after.

Flags and 21-gun salutes, addresses by veterans in slightly snug uniforms, the mournful sound of "Taps", then flowers and graves, shared memories of those gone before, hugs with a tear or two filled the morning.

Family, fun and fried chicken followed at the green stone shelterhouse in the Hill City park and the day ended with a twilight

drive home.

Mama, at last relaxed, each year declared, "I think this year's flowers were the prettiest ever."

Decoration Day will always be these things to me.

Memorial Day weekend is a whole different occasion.

Since my marriage in 1960, we have gone to Zion Cemetery south of WaKeeney where my husband's family, and now my husband, are buried. It is much more a worship service than a patriotic celebration.

At the farm my brothers-in-law grills hamburgers, the nieces and nephews play softball, we eat and visit and later they all load into the pickup and go out to "help" feed cattle.

It is a joy and a pleasure that I look forward to all year, another treasured family tradition.

But it can never replace the Decoration Days of my childhood.

Arlene P. Gosselin

March 22, 1921 - May 28, 2005

Arlene P. Gosselin, 84, mother of Sidney Gosselin of Norton, died Saturday at her home near Bogue.

Mrs. Gosselin was born March 22, 1921, at home on a farm near Zurich to Alexander and Celina (Saindon) Mongeau.

She married Andrew Gosselin on Jan. 23, 1945 in Zurich. She was a homemaker and lived in the area all her life.

She was a member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Damar and of the St. Ann's Sodality.

She was preceded in death by her parents, two brothers and four sisters.

She is survived by her husband of the home in Bogue; sons Larry Gosselin, Taos, N.M.; Dennis Gosselin, Bogue; Gaylen and

Michael Gosselin, Palco; and Sidney, Norton; a daughter, Jeannine Sweat, Osborne, a brother, Delmar Mongeau, Zurich, sisters, Alexandrina Fay Brault, Hill City, and Melvina Comeau, Canonsburg, Pa.; 30 grandchildren and 37 great-grandchildren.

The funeral was to be at 10 a.m. today at the church in Damar with the Revs. Donald McCarthy and Bill Killian saying the Mass. A Christian wake service was held on Monday at the church. Burial is in St. Joseph Cemetery in Damar.

The family asks that memorials be given in the form of donations to the church as stipends so that Masses can be prayed in her name.

Norton County Museum
will be open
Now through October
on Wednesdays and Saturdays
2 to 4 p.m.

MARKETS

At close of business May 27
Wheat \$3.15
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Cross Roads

"Stand at the crossroads and look... ask were the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls." Jeremiah 6:16 NIV

PRAYER GUIDE

Pray that:

- 1.) God would draw lost souls to Christ:**
"...He is patient... not wanting anyone to perish but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)
- 2.) God's Word would spread:**
"Finally, brothers, pray for us that the message of the Lord may spread rapidly and be honored..." (2 Thessalonians 3:1)
- 3.) People would truly become born again:**
Jesus says, "I tell you the truth, no one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born again." (John 3:3)
"... You Must be born again." (John 3:7)
- 4.) God would enable us to make disciples:**
"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28: 19 - 29)

God's promise is; "I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. And I will put My Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws." (Ezekiel 36: 26 - 27)

CrossRoads Church
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