My sister Ann is sitting cross-

legged in the midst of a tangle of

Christmas tree lights unscrewing

and testing the colored bulbs in

order to determine which one is

burned out. In 1944, if one bulb

was bad, the entire string wouldn't

work. I am sitting quietly beside

her, bursting with suppressed con-

versation. At a very early age I had

learned not to pester Ann when she

was involved in a project. Mama

always saves decorating the tree

for the day Ann arrives home for

We have our usual rather scruffy

grocery store. The entire morning

had been spent getting it to stand

straight in a bucket of wet sand.

Then we dug out a piece of shiny

gold oilcloth to tape around the

bucket. Onward to a lot of turning

and repositioning to be sure the

"best" side of the boughs faced the

the holidays.

OBITUARIES

Dorothy J. Hawks

Jan. 23, 1923 - Dec. 16, 2005

Norton, died Friday at Norton also enjoyed playing Bingo. County Hospital.

The daughter of Robert and Grace (Sidman) Schulze, she was born Jan. 23, 1923, in Norton.

She attended the Union and Enterprise No. 107 rural grade schools, where she won the county spelling bee and participated in the state spelling bee.

She graduated from Norton Community High School and then went to work as the secretary for the county school superintendent. She later worked at Southwestern Bell Telephone as an operator.

On July 31, 1946, she and Dwayne H. Hawks were married. They lived in Norton, Dighton, Ness City, and Pratt, and later reon Feb. 14, 1967.

Dorothy Jean Hawks, 82, of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. She

her parents, her husband, a brother, Francis, and two grandsons.

Survivors include: a son, Roger and Beverly Hawks, Amarillo, Texas; two daughters, Judy and Marvin Moppin, Norton, and Melba and Galen Engel, Beatrice, Neb.; a brother, Glenn and Ella Mae Schulze, Norton; seven tree-one that hadn't sold at Dad's grandchildren; and five great-

Funeral services were held Monday at Enfield Funeral Home with Jeff Nielsen and Wilmer Severns officiating. Burial was in Mt. Hope Cemetery, Almena.

Barbara L. Kershner

March 11, 1938 - Dec. 16, 2005

James R. Underwood

July 31, 1972 - Dec. 15, 2005

James Robert Underwood, 33, Norcatur; a niece and three neph-

Barbara L. Kershner, 67, Lodge. Bloomington, Neb., formerly of Norton, died Friday in Franklin,

Mrs. Kershner was born March 11, 1938, in Monte Vista, Colo., the daughter of Ellis H. and Hope L. (Baker) Sewell.

She graduated from Monte Vista High School.

On Sept. 16, 1956, she married Warren Kershner in Monte Vista. They made their home in Creede and Del Norte, Colo., Riverside, Calif., and Norton. She was living in Bloomington, Neb., where she was a nurse's aide.

She was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in in care of the funeral home at 215 Beaver City, and the Rebekah W. Main, Norton, Kan. 67654.

Eudora, formerly of Norton, died

Underwood, J. Underwood

He graduated from Norton

Community High School with the

He also attended Coffeyville

Community College and Good-

land Vo-Tech. In 1998, he was se-

lected as the Communications

Technology Student of the Year at

He worked for Kansas Cellular

in Salina for a year before moving

to Lenexa, where he worked as a

sales site technician for Sprint. He

was working for Sprint and living

He was a member of the Norton

Christian Church and enjoyed

golf, four-wheeling and snow ski-

He was also an avid sports fan,

especially when it involved teams

He was preceded in death by his

paternal grandfather, James

Underwood; his maternal grandparents, Homer and Jewell Rice;

Survivors include: his parents,

Bob and Virginia Underwood,

Norton; his paternal grandmother, Jacqueline Underwood, Norton; a

brother, Dan and Russchelle

Underwood, Joes, Colo.; a sister,

Deanna and Todd Sumner,

At close of business Dec. 19

Wheat \$3.40

Milo \$1.58 Corn \$1.79 Soybeans \$5.46

ing in Breckenridge, Colo.

an aunt; and a nephew.

Thursday at the

Barnes Jewish

Medical Center

in St. Louis,

He was the

son of Robert

Eugene and Vir-

ginia Lee (Rice)

born July 31,

1972, in Norton.

class of 1991.

in Eudora.

in Georgia.

She was preceded in death by

grandchildren.

Memorials have been established to the Norton Senior Centurned to Norton. Mr. Hawks died ter and the Multiple Sclerosis Foundation. Contributions may be She was a member of the Norton sent in care of the funeral home at Christian Church and the Veterans 215 W. Main, Norton, Kan. 67654.

She was preceded in death by

Survivors include: three sons

Ken and Mary Kershner, Grand

Island, Neb., Rick and Patricia

Kershner, and Jerry Kershner,

Bloomington; a daughter,

Deborah and George Gooden, Las

Vegas; a brother, Cecil Sewell,

Mesquite, Nev.; nine grandchil-

dren; and 15 great-grandchildren.

day at Enfield Funeral Home.

Burial was in Norton Cemetery.

Barbara Kershner Memorial Fund

Funeral services were held to-

day at Norton Christian Church

services. Burial was in Norton

tions may be sent in care of Enfield

Funeral Home, 215 W. Main,

Norton, Kan. 67654.

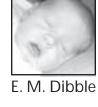
Funeral services were held to-

her parents, her husband, two

brothers, and a sister.

Emma Mae Dibble

Jason and Kelley Dibble, Phillipsburg, are the parents of a daughter, Emma Mae, born Dec. 5 at Hays Medical



Center. She weighed 9 pounds 5.5

ounces and was 20 1/2 inches long.

She has a sister and brother, Gracie, 6, and Parker, 4.

Child of

the

40s

Liza Deines

through the branches.

living room and the flat side was

hidden in a corner. Yesterday's

project, cranberry, popcorn and

paper garlands are quickly draped

Mama says, "or we won't get the

tree up by suppertime." Ann mut-

ters something fortunately unin-

telligible just as the third to the last

bulb is replaced and the entire

string bursts into vivid bloom. At

last! I burst into chatter, after hav-

ing been silenced for so long.

Mama and Ann grin at each other

"Better get a wiggle on, girls,"

Grandparents are Jim and Patty Phillipsburg.

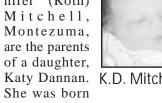
Great-grandparents are John

Northup, Max and Pam Dibble, and Ellen McCartee, all of

and Opal Mason, and Maxine Dibble, all of Stockton.

Katy Dannan Mitchell

Jeff and Jennifer (Roth) Mitchell, Montezuma, are the parents of a daughter, Katy Dannan. K.D. Mitchell



Memorials may be made to the Dec. 9 at the Women's Center,

Dodge City. She weighed 7 pounds 14 ounces and measured 20 inches long.

Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell have another daughter, Toby, 4, and a son, Joshua, 2.

Grandparents are Dave and Linda Long, Norton, and Rocky and Susan Mitchell, Garden City.

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

Megan Hawks, Almena, and Adam Conkey, Edmond, were listed among the 44 seniors at Fort Hays State University who have with Jeff Nielsen conducting the been featured as outstanding campus leaders in the 2006 edition of Who's Who Among Students in A memorial has been estab- American Universities and Collished in his memory. Contribu- leges."

> 4-H Centennial Cookbooks on sale at Extension Office.

— Almena State Bank will close at noon, Friday, Dec. 23.

— American Family Insurance office will be closed Monday, Dec. 26 and Jan. 2. 12/20

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shells magically transformed into Santa faces by the addition of aspirin bottle cotton beards, inked on faces and red crocheted sock hats. Next come chicken wishbones painted with red nail polish and tied with little bows; pinecones

followed by ornaments.

and seed pods hung with leftover Life, yellow and orange for the loops of ribbon from previous Light of the World. I happily years, fronts cut from old Christmas cards, and various other odds work, much to everyone's annoyand ends of salvaged finery. The ance. only commercial ornaments are a few figural bulbs left from a long lost string of lights. One is shaped like a Santa, a few like elves, a candle and a sleigh. We tie ribbon around the old screw tops and hang them on the tree, never minding that they no longer light up. Our crowning star is yellow construction paper glued on cracker box cardboard. Ann wires it to the topmost bough.

Here's brother Roger home from his job at the service station with a red, chapped face and hands frozen from washing icy windshields all afternoon. He still took Duckwall's store and has brought once again

Christmas memories play again and probably roll their eyes. The a package of candy canes to hang lights go on the tree in short order, on the tree and a bag of gumdrops for our one new decoration, the No expensive glass baubles for gumdrop tree. It receives the place us. We have walnut and pecan of honor in the center of the buffet, flanked by two choir singer candles. I'm allowed the happy task of impaling the gumdrops on the tiny plastic twigs. Purple for the royalty of the Triune, white for Jesus' purity, red for the Blood of the Lamb, green for Everlasting warble "Away in the Manger" as I

> Dad arrives bearing a square, wire handled cardboard container of fresh oysters to go into the milk and onion broth Mama has simmering in the kitchen. We put oyster crackers on the dining room table in Grandma's glass cracker dish, carry our mugs of warm, buttery oyster stew in from the kitchen, and sit down to admire our handiwork. The tree shimmers gloriously in

the twilight. We hear an ominous "pop". The entire string of lights blinks off. Ann sighs, takes her mug of soup, sits down under the tree and patiently begins to check time to stop off at the local bulbs. Christmas Eve is complete





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