

Resident writes of exciting trip to New York area

LYLE NEWS

You may have noticed that Kathy Van Meter has not been in our column lately. The reason; she has been traveling, and has given us her report.

"I, Kathy Van Meter, drove to Akron, Colo., Sept. 19 and had lunch with my sister, Marion Pachner, then drove on to Loveland, where I was an overnight guest of my sister, Margaret Wilson. On Sept. 21, we met the Great Time Tours and Travel Company at the Denver Airport with the Senior Citizens group to fly to New York.

"The tour guide was Mary (Sughrue) Fox, from Kersey, Colo. She is a cousin of Helen Helm. What a small world!

"Some of the places we visited: Niagara Falls, Ellis Island, Statue

of Liberty, Ground Zero, Central Park, Cape May, Atlantic City, Gettysburg, Hershey Candy Factory, Phantom of the Opera, and Shopping on Fifth Avenue.

"Margaret's daughter and husband, of Maryland, joined us for two days. Emily Grompone, of New Jersey, visited me one evening.

"Parts of the tour, for a ferry ride under the bridge, were canceled due to the high winds. We all flew back to Denver, Sept. 29, and back to our home."

I thought about Kathy when the East Coast was having that rough weather. That would be the trip of

a lifetime for many of us.

Veda Wood and Carol Moye watched the Indian dancers perform at Oberlin on Saturday. On Friday, Hannah Jirak and sons, Landon and Layton; Hester and Danny Bundrock and son, Cohen; Tielia High and Carol Moye had dinner with Veda and they dropped in on the seniors at the Educational Building for a quick visit. They were on their way to Stockton to attend the wedding of Katelyn Jade Riffel and Jason Lee Lindsey. Katie is the daughter of Toby and Jennie Wood and Steve and Carie Riffel.

Dewayne Jackson served as our

minister on Sunday, and plans to be there next Sunday. We are grateful that he is willing to fill in.

We had a good time, good crowd and good dinner at our Sunday potluck at the Lyle Community building.

Margaret "Toots" Magers was pleasantly surprised when her daughter, Judy and Charlie Easton, came in on Sunday. She and June Jolly played in the pitch tournament at Norton, Sunday evening.

'Catching Up' Items

Thirty days hath September — and we are there. The summer just sped by.

June Jolly attended the Heritage Days in McCook. She went to the Senior Center; played pinochle, bingo and watched the square dancers.

June and Margaret "Toots" Magers quilted on the quilt they have in the frames on Tuesday. Joyce Sumner and Eleanor Jensen

sewed on the other smaller ones. Joyce brought some baby quilts made by Jackie Porter.

Visitors at the Wood home have been Carol Moye, Tielia and Aubrey High, and Grant Slater. On Tuesday, Veda accompanied Aunt Alta May Van Gundy to a doctor's appointment, then had a little car work done. On Wednesday she, Bee Nelson and Carolyn Plotts represented Lyle, Norcat and Norton at a 'tea' at the Coffee house in Norton. We had no tea, but some scrumptious chocolate, peanut butter, coffee, and received a nice gift.

Saturday was the day for our Lyle Community building potluck fund raiser. We always have a good time.

We had a good crowd, lots of good food, wonderful entertainment, with the exception of a silly old woman that we will not mention, who tried to jig to the good music.

Sandy McNames persuaded several of her fellow Sweet Adelines to come and give special

music; Brooke Sumner played her clarinet; Jim Plotts sang; Dee Magers gave a reading; Eleanor Jensen gave us a good laugh with her horse; and the Prairie Dogs entertained. We will try to do it again next year, the Good Lord willing. A big thank you to everyone who came and contributed.

Our nice old grandpa kitty, Tux, for tuxedo, who was supposed to have been neutered, lo, these many years ago, died. We thought a dog did the dirty work; but when we went to the back yard, there were five tiny "Tux's" frisking around. I think now that the old fellow saw all of them, and just couldn't stand the shock. We miss him. He was such a nice cat — never scratched or bit. He was getting old, we didn't know how old, as he was a stray. He came to our farm with a collar and bell and decided to stay. He lived on the farm several years, then I brought him to town with me five years ago, and knew he wouldn't be here too much longer. So long, old Tucker — we never know.

Oberlin

Future of former youth ranch discussed

By KIMBERLY DAVIS
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A retired colonel and an active National Guard member are working on a plan to turn the former youth ranch at Sappa Park into the Northwest Kansas Multi-Agency Training Center.

Randy McHugh, Decatur County undersheriff and a National Guard sergeant, and retired Col. Gary Allen held a meeting about the idea to build a first-responder training center a couple of weeks ago.

The meeting brought out Sheriff Ken Badsky, county commissioners Stan McEvoy and Ralph Unger, ambulance director Linda Manning, Connie Grafel of the Oberlin-Decatur County Economic Development Corp., City Council members Marcia Lohofener, Jay Anderson and Rhonda May, business owner Rusty Addleman, state Rep. John Faber, the Rev. Doug Hasty of the Oberlin United Methodist Church, Patti Skubal, county emergency management director, and Lee "Doc" Franklin, a candidate for county commissioner.

The Kansas National Guard, said Mr. McHugh, is putting a training hub in Salina and then

will build four "spokes" to the hub around the state. The Oberlin site could be a spoke down the line, he said.

The center here would provide a place for first responders in the 18 county region to train, Mr. McHugh said, and that would cut down on travel for people who have to head to eastern Kansas.

The facility, he said, could be used for all first responders, including law enforcement, fire fighters, ambulance crews and fire and those who serve in another emergency office.

Although the committee has already talked to and given a tour of the area to a representative with the National Guard, the group didn't get any kind of commitment for the Oberlin facility.

Mr. McHugh said he thinks the National Guard is looking for a town that will take an interest and help build the center.

The main question is will the city and the county work together on this? said Ms. Grafel. Will the city give a minimal-cost lease for the land? she asked, adding that this project can't really move forward without both the city and county being on board.

This plan includes just the area

around the former youth ranch and those buildings, said Mr. McHugh. He said he could see other parts of the park being used for training sometimes, but said the group isn't about taking over the park.

This training center would be something that everyone in the area could use, he said.

Another thing the county needs to do, he said, is get the fire reports from Decatur County sent to the state. Without those reports being sent in, said Mr. McHugh, it could be hard to get grants for the project.

There's a concrete pad at the ranch that could be used for metal containers for training, he said, and other areas that could and would be used. The buildings have a dining hall and sleeping quarters.

Mr. McHugh said the facility could be used for camps for kids as well as a training center.

In the first 36 to 48 hours of any emergency, said Mr. McHugh, it is going to just be the local people handling things, and they need to be trained for that. Right now, the youth ranch area is going to waste, said Mr. McHugh, but it should never be sold.



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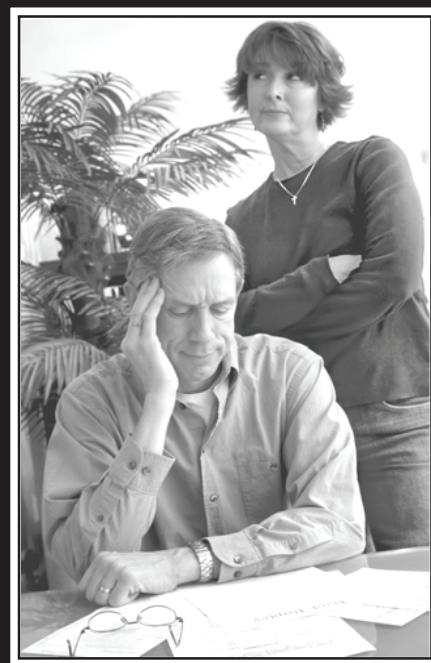
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