

OBITUARIES

John Earl Rule Nov. 22, 1925 - Feb. 1, 2009

John Earl Rule, son of Blakey and Blanche (Reid) Rule, was born in Paonia, Colo., on Nov. 22, 1925, and died on Sunday, Feb. 1, 2009 at his home in Clayton at the age of 83. His family moved to Clayton where he grew up in the family grain elevator business.

He attended Clayton High School through his junior year before joining the U. S. Navy. He served during World War II.

On March 2, 1945, he was united in marriage to Lila Johnson in Clayton. To their union, two sons and two daughters were born.

John continued to work with the Rule Grain Company and became owner and manager in 1967. He retired in 1989.

John was a member of the Clayton United Methodist Church, Norton American Legion, Farm

Bureau and Royal Neighbors. Over the years, his hobbies and interests included fishing, hunting, card playing and restoring Model T's.

Survivors include his wife, Lila, of the home; two sons, John Rule Jr. and wife, Loraine, of Hays and Jerold Rule of Emporia; two daughters and sons-in-law, Peggy and John Mast of Emporia and Carol and Stan Miller of Norcatur; two sisters, Olive Arnold of Colorado Springs, Colo., and Frances Reiff of Salt Lake City, Utah; six grandchildren, Amy Siple, John Douglas Rule, Jason Rule, Michael Long, Melissa DeDonder and Justine Tuttle; and eight great-grandchildren, Nathan and Rachel Siple; Kelton, Chandler, Connor, Elliott and Payton Rule; and Sophia DeDonder.

John was preceded in death by

his parents; one sister, Vera Hubbard; and three grandchildren, Jeannie Marie Petracek, John Blake Petracek and Joel Stanley Miller.

Funeral services were today at 2:00 p.m. at Pauls Funeral Home in Oberlin with the Rev. Larry Danforth officiating. Musical selections were "Wind Beneath My Wings," sung by Josh Grogan, and "On the Wings of a Snow White Dove," sung by Elvis Presley. Honorary casket bearers were Larry Smith, Max Crosby, Gilbert Flax, Dick Daniels and Bob Milner. Casket bearers were Doug Rule, Jason Rule, Curt DeDonder, Casey Tuttle, Mike Long and Scott Siple.

Memorials may be made to the Norton American Legion and the Clayton Methodist Church.

He was laid to rest at the Clayton Cemetery.

Kenneth O. Sanders June 5, 1923 - Feb. 3, 2009

Kenneth O. Sanders, 85, of Topeka, died Tuesday, Feb. 3, 2009 at a Topeka hospital. He was born June 5, 1923 in Norton the son of Virgil Sanders and Goldie Sproul Sanders. He grew up in Norton.

He married Flora J. Saathoff June 5, 1948 in rural Norton. They spent most of their lives in the Norton area, moving to Topeka in 2002. Ken retired from the Department of Transporta-

tion in Norton after more than 38 years. He was a member of the IOOF of Norton and Topeka for 22 years, member of the Eagles of Post #3288 for 22 years and also a member of the Highland Park United Methodist Church in Topeka and the United Methodist Church in Norton.

He was preceded in death by a daughter, Linda Lou Sanders, and two great grandsons. He is survived by his wife of more

than 60 years, Flora J. Sanders of Topeka; a son, Leon Sanders and his wife, Eleanor of Larned; a daughter, Louise A. Randle of Topeka; five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

Graveside services were today at the Norton Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Odd Fellows Post #640 and sent in care of the Davidson Funeral Home, 1035 N. Kansas Ave. Topeka, Kan. 66608.

School reminders

NORTHERN VALLEY SCHOOLS

Sunday, Feb. 8 — Day at the Capitol in Topeka

Monday, Feb. 9 — Day at the Capitol in Topeka; GNEC Basketball Tournament at Logan, TBD; HS Dance team practice, TBD; Colby Community College Rep visit in the conference room at Almena, 1:15 p.m.; Bus drivers meeting in the conference room at Almena, 6 p.m.; School board meeting in the conference room at Almena, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 10 — Title I Learning meeting at Salina, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 — Norton County Spelling Bee at Norton East Campus, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12 — HSDance team practice, TBD; Mentoring meeting at Hays, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13 — HS Dance team lock-in; Superintendents meeting at Phillipsburg and Glade, 9 a.m.; K-6 Valentine's Day parties, 2:30 p.m.; HS Basketball vs. Ellis, at Almena, "Tough Enough To Wear Pink" Night, HS Dance team will perform at boys' A-Team, 4 p.m.

NORTON COMMUNITY HIGH SCHOOL

Sunday, Feb. 8 — Mr. NCHS, East Campus Auditorium, 3 p.m.

Monday, Feb. 9 — Jay Singers, A.P.

Tuesday, Feb. 10 — Cheerleaders, A.P.; S.A.D.D., A.P.; M.C.L. meeting at Stockton, 9 a.m.; Basketball vs. Oberlin, there, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 — Shrine Bowl Assembly at Stull Gym, 2 p.m.; FCCLA board, 7 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12 — FCCLA meeting, A.P.; Wrestling at Hill City with Osborne 5 p.m.; Basketball vs. Phillipsburg, here, 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13 — Faculty meeting, 7:45 a.m.; Jazz Band practice, A.P.; Artist of the Month selection, A.P.; FFA Pal Valentine's party, 7 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 14 — State Scholars' Bowl, 9 a.m.; Forensics, 7:30 a.m.; JV Wrestling at Colby, 9 a.m.; FFA meats judging at Kensington, 9 a.m.; Snow Ball at JH Gym, 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.

NORTON JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Tuesday, Feb. 10 — KAYS, A.P.; NAESP Testing

Wednesday, Feb. 11 — Shrine Bowl Assembly at Stull Gymnasium, 2 p.m.; Norton County Spelling Bee at East Campus Auditorium, 4 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12 — Wrestling at Phillipsburg, 5 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13 — KAY Unit conference at Logan, 8 a.m.

EISENHOWER ELEMENTARY

Wednesday, Feb. 11 — TEAM meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 12 — 3-4 grade level meeting, 3:40 p.m.

Friday, Feb. 13 — Valentine's Day parties, 2:30 p.m.

ALL NORTON SCHOOLS

Monday, Feb. 9 — BOE meeting at USD office, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 10 — Curriculum council, 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Feb. 11 — PROGRESS REPORTS GO HOME

Friday, Feb. 13 — NCKSEC Superintendents meeting at Glade, 10 a.m.

It's a girl!



Kenzie Faith Skrdlant

Kenzie Faith Skrdlant was born to Dan & Sue Ann Skrdlant of rural Norton on Saturday, Jan. 3, 2009.

Kenzie arrived at 3:13 a.m. at Hays Medical Center.

She weighed 6 pounds, 8 ounces and measured 19 1/4 inches in length.

Her siblings are Katelyn, 7 1/2 and Colby, 3 1/2.

Paternal grandparents are Walter and Elaine Skrdlant, Norton.

Paternal great-grandmother is Vivian Skrdlant, Norton.

Maternal grandparents are Lloyd and Hannah Dicke, Medicine Lodge.

Maternal great-grandmother is Margaret Mills Reiman, Medicine Lodge.



Kay LeBeau, Director of the Norton Public Library, will be retiring in March after more than 34 years at the library. Mrs. LeBeau's retirement party will be at the library on Tuesday from 2:00-5:30 p.m.

- Telegram photo by Brandy Leroux

Retirement party for librarian nears

By BRANDY LEROUX
bleroux@nwkansas.com

Kay LeBeau will be retiring as Norton Public Library director after 34 years of service. A retirement party will be held at the library on Tuesday from 2:00 to 5:30 p.m.

She grew up in Graham County and graduated from Hill City High School. In June 1959, she moved to Norton. She has four children, John, Susan, Bradley and Gordon. Susan and Bradley live in Norton, Susan works at the United States Department of Agriculture office, and Bradley helps on the family farm and also works full-time at New Age Industrial.

Mrs. LeBeau received her knowledge of working in a library through on-the-job training, workshops and continuing education courses. She is a certified librarian and has to have continuing education hours to keep her certification.

Mrs. LeBeau started at the library on Jan. 7, 1976, as children's librarian. She would help in the adult books when she was finished with her work. On Sept. 1, 1983, she took over as the library director.

"When I first started, there were no computers," said Mrs. LeBeau. It was all card catalog. We had a few books on tape, but they were all self-help topics. There were no DVDs, no videos, no books on CD, only books. Since I started working here, it has been continuous change, and it's still changing."

For example, when the Norton library joined the Northwest Kansas Inter-Library Loan program, all the book titles available to trade were on microfilm.

"By the time the microfilm was printed and delivered, the list was six months old," said Mrs. LeBeau. "Next came microfiche, which was handier, but the lag time was just as long. Then the list was sent out on CDs. Now it's all online and updated daily. The next step will be patrons can order the books through Inter-Library Loan from their home computers."

When the loan program was

first started, Mrs. LeBeau and the children's librarian, Mary Luehrs, entered every book by hand. It took two and a half years.

"We'd work on it every day when we had time," said Mrs. LeBeau. "I think the most we were ever able to add in one week was 600 books."

Right now, when a new book is registered in the library, the staff has to add it to the local list as well as the state list. But the system is changing, which will automatically add the books to the state list, eliminating a step and freeing up time for the staff to see to other duties.

Norton's library has around 74,000 volumes, the largest holding west of Hays.

According to Mrs. LeBeau, part of what makes Norton's library a success is that it is inviting. The other part is the staff.

"We are lucky to have a good staff," said Mrs. LeBeau. "Everyone is compatible, and we have good volunteers. Mary loves the children, and they all love her."

Mrs. LeBeau said the library has more financial resources than it did when she first started working there. Money used for the summer reading program is all donated, and Friends of the Library also donate money for special projects, which makes them more successful.

And then there are the random acts of generosity.

When the library first got a computer, they didn't have a modem. There was a class reunion, and the alumni took a tour of the library. One member saw the computer, without the modem, and donated money for one right there on the spot.

A man from Hawaii was passing through town on his way to Oberlin. He used the computer to check his email, and noticed there wasn't a color printer, which he needed. He asked Mrs. LeBeau if he could leave a contribution in his parents' name.

"I asked him what he'd like us

to use the contribution for, and he reached in his pocket, gave me five \$100 bills, and said, 'a color printer'. I was absolutely flabbergasted. The next time he came through town, he gave \$300 for the cartridges for the color printer!"

Mrs. LeBeau said she hears a lot of positive comments from people about the size of the library, even those from larger cities.

"One man said he was from a large city, and the library branch closest to him was no bigger than our children's section," said Mrs. LeBeau.

And she has heard of other area libraries charging fees to those who wish to use the computers, or not letting anyone but members of the library use the computers.

"Our computers are free to anyone who wishes to use them," she said. "We've had travelers from Germany, Australia, England, Japan and every state in the union stop in to check their email."

Mrs. LeBeau's favorite parts of being a librarian are research, circulation, working at the front desk, and reader advisory, which is recommending books to readers.

"After working here a while, you learn people's preferences in books," said Mrs. LeBeau. "Sometimes a husband or son will come in and ask for books for their wife or mother. I can go pick out 3 or 4 books to send back with them. I'm usually pretty good at picking out books for people based on their preferences."

"Norton and its alumni are incredibly supportive of the library," said Mrs. LeBeau. "There's a lady in Arizona who donates \$500 a year for us to use however we need. The businesses in the area are also very supportive of us."

Mrs. LeBeau said she will miss working at the library, but that doesn't mean she won't be coming back in.

"I'm going to come back and terrorize all the staff," she said with a laugh.

Retirement
Open House
for
Kay LeBeau
Library Director
Tuesday,
February 10, 2009
from 2:00-5:30 p.m.
at the
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Library
1 Washington Square
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