

# Former Telegram publisher receives lifetime award

By TOM BETZ

nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Tom Dreiling, former Goodland Daily News editor, was honored at the Kansas Press Association convention on Friday with presentation of the Clyde M. Reed Jr. Master Editor Award.

Dreiling was recognized for his 44 years in the newspaper business including his work at the Hays Daily News where he was photographer, sports editor and city editor in the early 1960s before moving to Goodland to become the editor of the Daily News.

Richard Gannon, former Goodland resident and state representative, and Steve Haynes, owner of Haynes Publishing, presented the award. Haynes said he enjoyed working with Dreiling after he had hired him to be the publisher of The Colby Free Press in 1998, and later as the publisher of The Norton Telegram.

Dreiling was born in Russell the youngest of 11 children and attended school at Thomas More Prep graduating in the early 1950s. He joined the Air Force in 1955 and served on active duty until 1959. He joined two brothers Norbert and Jim in ownership of the Ellis Review for a couple of years before he was hired by the Hays Daily News in 1961.

Dreiling moved to Goodland in 1965, and said when he arrived and asked where the other reporters were he was shown a desk in the corner and told he was the reporter.

He continued to work in Goodland for about 25 years, and raised two sons after the death of his wife Jean who died of cancer.

When the Goodland newspaper was sold the new owners suggested Dreiling take a large cut in salary, and he said they could have their keys.

For the next six months he worked for KLOE radio, and then went to work for Thomas More Prep helping with fund raising and alumni relations for more than five years.

Dreiling was back in newspapers when he moved to Sheridan, Wyo., where he was editor of The Sheridan Press until his move to Colby in 1998.

While sports editor in Hays he began a column "Time out with TD," and he has continued writing that column to this day.

Dreiling is known for his special writing style and his outspoken opinion on a wide variety of topics. Another aspect of his columns is handing out "Thumbs up" mentions for good deeds people write, call or e-mail him about.

He has always ended his column by inviting people to attend the church of their choice.

Special memories of Dreiling and his years in Goodland were written by Don and Bonnie Smith and Attorney Ron Vignery.



Tom Dreiling

"When we moved to Goodland in 1979 our two oldest sons, Troy and Doug, met the Dreiling boys who were the same age," wrote Don and Bonnie Smith. "Troy and Lance became close friends as did Doug and Todd. Tom opened his home to the new boys in Goodland and made them feel a part of his family. The Dreilings lived one block west of us and it was not uncommon to see the boys scaling the neighbor's fence in order to get to the other house. As the years progressed, the Smith boys were either at the Dreiling house or the Dreiling boys were at the Smith house."

"Tom was never concerned about having extra young people at his home. Overnight excursions were a source of a lot of laughter when Tom and we would get together and discuss the boys' activities. One time Troy spent the night with Lance and the boys watched a scary movie. He couldn't go to sleep, so in the middle of the night Troy got up and walked home without telling anyone. The next morning, when Tom realized he was missing a "son" he called our house to let us know Troy was missing. What a relief to Tom when we were able to tell him Troy was home and safe in bed."

"Tom was always supportive of the boys' school activities. He always attended the cross country meets and basketball games."

"The Smith, Dreiling and Minner boys would play a lot of pickup basketball games or go running together. Then they would show up either at the Dreiling house or at the Smith house to hang out and eat."

"Troy and Doug Smith always felt Tom Dreiling was a great father to his kids and a special friend to them. Thanks, Tom, for all you did for our boys. The Smith family considers it a privilege to call Tom Dreiling a friend. Special friendships last forever!"

Attorney Ron Vignery wrote about Dreiling's writing style and impact of his words.

"When I was much younger it is hard for me to remember when Tom Dreiling wasn't the Editor at The Goodland Daily News," wrote Ron Vignery. "I do remember he had a most interesting writing style which I believe could be defined more as prose

than journalism.

"I do know his words were certainly inciteful to the whole community and in some instances incited positive responses and in some instances negative responses to his writing. That, as I understand it, is a successful journalist, at least in the eyes of a journalist."

"I especially remember the poignant writings of Tom Dreiling as his first and beloved wife Jean slowly succumbed to the effects of cancer. I would read and re-read his articles as they poured out his emotions about his love for his wife and his children and the effect of her death upon them."

"I remember the great pride he expressed in his sons in their school and athletic pursuits as well as their service to their community and to their country while in the military."

"Although a Protestant, I was always impressed with Tom Dreiling's devout religious belief in his church, the Roman Catholic Church. Loyalty and devotion at that level and of that nature are to be admired and they, too, showed through in his writing style and content"

"Finally, even though on more than one occasion I disagreed with Tom Dreiling in his editorials, I never doubted the power of his pen. His absolutely unique style of writing always caused me to want to read more of his article, even though I was in strong disagreement with the premise. To me that is the ultimate compliment to be paid to the journalist which Tom was, and remains."

"Tom truly proves and lives the saying that the pen is mightier than the sword."

"Congratulations on your most recent award, Tom. You are certainly deserving of it."

Son Todd Dreiling was in Topeka to surprise his father and be present for the award ceremony. Longtime Goodland Daily News pressman Jim Bowker and his wife Sharon were in Topeka to surprise Dreiling at the award ceremony.

Todd, Lance and step-sister Denise live in Centennial, Colo. Lance has been in the Air Force and was recently transferred to Buckley Air Base with his family.

Tom said he is glad the kids and grandkids are that close, and is looking forward to spending more time with the grandkids.

Dreiling retired from Norton in August and moved back to Goodland in October.

He writes his column and editorials for The Goodland Star-News and has been writing a historical column for The Hays Daily News.

## Traveling sales



Brian Tyrrell browsed the selection at the tool liquidation sale Wednesday at the Armory. The sale was at the Armory all week, with the last day scheduled to be tomorrow. Tool-snow.com sells tools through their Web site and through traveling sales.

—Telegram photo by Erica Bradley

## Aging conference a success

By VERA SLOAN

vsloan@nwkansas.com

More than 70 people from northwest Kansas came to Colby Saturday for a conference on aging at the First United Methodist Church.

Extension offices in 28 counties and representatives of the Northwest Area Agency on Aging presented workshops for nursing home workers, anyone who works with seniors, and families who care for their elderly, with information ranging from the law to vitamins.

Keynote speaker at noon was Dr. Tana Goering, a Kansas State Network television personality. She discussed how to determine when it is time to take someone to the doctor, when a pain is not just a pain and how to manage pain. She included information that should be taken along when going to see a doctor.

Area presenters were Mike Larmer, pharmacist at Palace Drug, and Tina Harris of Tina Harris Physical Therapy. Larmer talked about interactions of multiple medications and Harris demonstrated exercises for strength, flexibility, posture and balance.

Connie Bretz, Lane County extension agent and a Kansas senior health insurance counselor, said many seniors who qualify for extra help don't know it's available. All kinds of help is available out there, she said, help with drug prescriptions, Medicare Part D payments, and even free help with choosing and comparing drug insurance and drug prices. She cited an example of an elderly couple who saved \$1,200 on prescriptions after getting help on choosing a company that had the best coverage on the medications they were taking.

Extra help is available if income is less than \$16,245 for a single or less than \$21,855 for a married couple. If you qualify, Bretz

said, Medicare will pay for most prescription drugs, and will help pay premiums, deductibles and co-pays of the Medicare Prescription Drug coverage. There is no coverage gap, she said.

"A counselor is always ready to help, by calling (800) 860-5260," Bretz said, "and if you are unsure whether or not you qualify, go ahead and fill out an application and see if you qualify."

Application can be made on a Social Security form, she added, and information is confidential.

To find a senior health insurance counselor in your area, or to schedule a free, confidential counseling session with a trained, unbiased counselor, call (800) 860-5260.

## Sheriff's Log

April 4

8:57 p.m. Received a call from subject from Lenora in reference to a maroon chevy pickup that passed him at a high rate of speed. The pickup is headed north on Highway 283 to Norton.

8:58 p.m. Advised Deputy Land in reference to above, he advised to get hold of K-130, he is out.

April 5

7:17 a.m. Received a report of a dead deer in the North lane of Highway 36 just east of MM 119.

7:22 a.m. Received a 2nd report on same deer.

7:25 a.m. P.S. Deputy Land on the dead deer.

7:30 a.m. Received 3rd report on deer.

1:58 p.m. Received a report of an older red car with Neb. plates that was east of DOC heading eastbound on Highway 36 occupied by possibly an adult male and female who were driving at least 15 mph over speed limit, R.P. unknown if turned at the east Junction or continued on eastbound on Highway 36.

2:08 p.m. Advised Deputy Annon of above.

April 8

8:06 a.m. Received a call from subject who advised hit a deer this morning just west of Norton on

Highway 36 and subject is now at work at the Norton Community High School until 1530 hours.

8:07 a.m. Advised Deputy Annon of above.

10:20 a.m. Deputy Annon advised to contact KDOT in reference to a stop sign down at intersection of E7 and Highway 9 on the north side of Highway, post is broken off at ground.

April 9

4:38 a.m. Received a call from subject in reference to they have an officer that left Kensington at 3 a.m. and has not showed up, needing a Deputy to drive to county line and see if he is broken down.

4:42 a.m. PS Deputy Bohl in reference to above.

4:51 a.m. PS Deputy Bohl and advised that the guy had shown up.

8:38 a.m. Received a report of cattle out north of Hicks Park on Highway 383.

8:39 a.m. Received another report of cattle out.

8:45 a.m. Advised Deputy Annon of above reports and possible owner has been contacted and will check.

April 10

8:18 p.m. Received a call from subject in reference to he and his wife are on their way to Alma

to pick up their daughter and her baby and would like an officer present.

8:22 p.m. PS Under Sheriff Wenzl and advised of problems and request for him to be there, address is in Alma.

8:39 p.m. Received a 911 call from subject stating that they were almost there and that a male has a gun.

8:40 p.m. PS Under Sheriff Wenzl and passed along additional information, he asked to contact Deputy Land for assistance.

8:41 p.m. PS Deputy Land and advised of situation and for his assistance in Alma.

### Happy Birthday Doris Sloan



Judy, Tom and Cindi request that you help us to celebrate the 90th birthday of our Mother, Doris Sloan on May 8, with a card shower.

Mail will reach her at:

715 W. Ash, Apt 105  
Oberlin, KS 67749

### Pediatrician Begins Practice May 3

**Kristie M. Clark, M.D.**  
Board Certified Pediatrician,

is accepting new pediatric patients, age birth to 18, at WaKeeney and Ellis Family Care Centers. If you are expecting a child, Dr. Clark has made available time for consultation prior to the baby's birth at no charge.

For more information or to schedule an appointment with Dr. Clark, please contact the WaKeeney Family Care Center, (785) 743-2124 or Ellis Family Care Center, (785) 726-4956.

