

# OBITUARIES

## Gerald D. Bethke

December 8, 1923 - July 23, 2010

Gerald D. Bethke, of Stuttgart died at Norton County Hospital in Norton at the age of 86. He was born on Dec. 8, 1923 in Stuttgart to Henry and Anna (Veeh) Bethke.

Gerald was CEO of the Farmers State Bank in Stuttgart for many years.

He was preceded in death by his wife Lela on Aug. 31, 2004.

Survivors include his son, Brian, Larned; daughter, Jeannine Bethke, Topeka and 2 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held

Wed. at 2 p.m. in the Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church, Stuttgart, with Pastor Shelly Klingensmith officiating. Burial will follow in the Church Cemetery.

Visitation Tuesday at the funeral home from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. with the family receiving friends from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Stuttgart. Online condolences at [www.olliffboeve.com](http://www.olliffboeve.com).

Olliff-Boeve Memorial Chapel is in charge of arrangements.

# A child's hot summer day

## Child of the '40s Liza Deines



with doors and handles that go clunk. Meat is hard like frozen snow when it comes out of them but I can't figure out how that works in summertime when there isn't any snow. Maybe that white paper is magic? Daddy even has to wear his mackinaw when he goes back with keys to unlock boxes for customers. They lock their closets because meat is money, Daddy says.

But, do you know, some people in Hill City are so rich they just give meat away to Daddy? They say they don't like liver and onions or baked heart with dressing or even pickled tongue sandwiches. I guess they don't have a good Mama to cook for them. They give away their soup bones, too, so our dog always has good

chewy bones after Mama boils them to make soup for us. Boy, I hope we never get rich.

Even when it's hot I have to go take a nap after lunch. I'm sure I don't know why; I'm not sleepy at all but we have rules and that's one of them. Mama lets me take my doll, Margie Jean, with me to lie down in the back bedroom. There's a big shady cottonwood tree outside the window so that side of the house stays cooler.

Did you know cottonwood trees whisper fairy tales to you if you lie real still and listen real hard? Well, they do, but I can never remember them when I wake up. Soon Mama comes back and says I have a surprise outdoors.

Oh goodie! She has filled our wash tub for me so I can have an outdoor tea party.

First thing, I pat out mud pies decorated with dandelions in some shells my brother brought home from the creek. I get my tin tea kettle and an old dipper to fill it but first maybe I'll pour some water on my head. Ooooh, it is so cool!

Forgetting the tea, I hop in the tub barefoot to stomp and splash. Mama comes out, sees me and stops to wade with me awhile before heading to the garden to fetch tomatoes and cucumbers. Since I'm soaked anyhow I get to sit and play in the tub until suppertime. My toes and fingers will get all "pruney", she says, but I don't care. I do wish I had a turtle, though.

After supper we all tidy up and walk down a shaded, sandy lane to Ben and Margaret's house. Out back in the horse tank there's a huge Black Diamond watermelon cooling. Other people are there, too, and my friend, Dixie and I get to ride the pony. Everyone eats thick, red sloshy wedges of melon and sticky juice drips down our chins. The men have a seed spitting contest in the mulberry grove. Later we walk home in cool twilight, carrying a bucket of fresh picked mulberries.

Mama was right again. Even a hot day can be a good day.

Tomorrow perhaps, to the library and mulberry rhubarb sauce

## Police Log

### June 27

- 1:12 a.m. Report of someone knocking on back door
- 9:42 a.m. Request for officer for child exchange
- 12:27 p.m. Report of drug paraphernalia found in driveway
- 2:43 p.m. Report of vehicle with three children not wearing seatbelts
- 4:06 p.m. Request to remove individual from pool
- 6:24 p.m. Report of family dispute
- 7:52 p.m. Request for officer for child exchange
- 10:17 p.m. Report of vehicle driving around with individuals yelling out the window
- 11:59 p.m. Barking dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington

### June 28

- 12:02 a.m. Barking dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington
- 5:58 a.m. Report of kids driving to East Campus that are not legal to drive
- 8:55 a.m. Two vehicle accident
- 12:50 p.m. Vehicle fire, 100 block W. Lincoln
- 1:28 p.m. Received information on on-going case
- 2:15 p.m. Keys locked in vehicle
- 3:00 p.m. Report of abandon vehicle

### June 29

- 1:44 a.m. Motorist assist
- 1:51 a.m. Helped individual with child find a place to stay for the night
- 8:23 a.m. Motorist assist
- 8:46 a.m. Report of underage driver driving to east campus
- 9:34 a.m. Report of animal cruelty
- 11:24 a.m. Keys locked in vehicle
- 1:49 p.m. Report of threatening e-mails
- 2:03 p.m. Report of individual driving by and yelled out the window
- 2:42 p.m. Gas skip, Co-op
- 5:48 p.m. Motorist assist
- 8:54 p.m. Report of individual driving too fast
- 10:57 p.m. Keys locked in vehicle

### June 30

- 7:35 a.m. Report of two dogs running loose, 500 block N. Main
- 9:10 a.m. Request for extra patrol, swimming pool
- 11:34 a.m. Request to speak to officer concerning parenting rights
- 2:18 p.m. Report of individual checking for items at thrift store
- 5:34 p.m. Two vehicle accident, Adventures
- 7:21 p.m. Unattended death
- 7:41 p.m. One vehicle accident
- 8:57 p.m. Request to remove individual from house
- 10:54 p.m. Report of individual being threatened

### July 1

- 1:18 a.m. Barking dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington
- 2:02 a.m. Report of water leak, Jones & Wilton
- 3:24 a.m. Report of suspicious vehicle, NCH

### July 2

- 1:18 a.m. Barking dog complaint, 300 block W. Washington
- 1:46 a.m. Motorist assist
- 9:20 a.m. Report of suspicious activity around vehicles
- 11:45 a.m. Question concerning fireworks
- 11:51 a.m. Activated alarm, The Bank
- 12:42 p.m. Individual stated his mother wouldn't give his money back
- 1:08 p.m. Speak to officer concerning civil matter

### July 3

- 1:24 p.m. Report of small child unattended by curb
- 3:27 p.m. Complaint on customer, Pizza Hut
- 3:43 p.m. Report of dog running loose, Dollar General
- 4:32 p.m. Report of tree falling on power line
- 4:42 p.m. Report of missing gun
- 5:17 p.m. Individual called and stated they found the gun
- 6:18 p.m. Report of goat loose on State St.
- 11:23 p.m. Report of reckless driver

### July 3

- 12:06 a.m. Request for officer to come to residence, 16 year old won't listen to mom
- 12:21 p.m. Report of dog running loose, 400 block Grant
- 4:48 p.m. Report of individual trying to get into house through window
- 10:41 p.m. 15 year old mad about parents taking cell phone
- 11:18 p.m. Report of individuals shooting roman candles at passing vehicle

### July 4

- 3:15 a.m. Report of individual getting text messages
- 3:43 a.m. Activated alarm, Dollar General
- 3:55 a.m. Report of individual being drunk and acting like an idiot
- 1:23 p.m. Report of dog running loose, 600 block N. 2nd
- 6:18 p.m. Keys locked in vehicle, Jamboree
- 7:39 p.m. Check unlocked door
- 8:00 p.m. Report of damage to headstones, Cemetery
- 9:02 p.m. Curfew violation,
- 11:45 p.m. Two vehicle accident

### July 5

- 1:18 a.m. Report of fireworks going off
- 2:23 a.m. Report of neighbors talking to loudly
- 8:28 a.m. Report of two dogs running loose, 500 block N. Norton
- 12:14 p.m. Report of individual being threatened

Mostly, I like summer. Today though, it's going to get too hot to walk to the library for new books. That's disappointing because I have read all mine twice. Mama says every day is a blessing and we will make it a good day.

While morning cool holds, Mama shows me how to snap beans and I get to help do a whole batch to cook for supper.

It is too hot to cook anything in the oven so we didn't even have our biscuits for breakfast. Daddy told Mama she could just fry eggs on the sidewalk and they laughed. I've never had eggs that way but then I'm only four and don't know a lot of things. How do you suppose she keeps the dog from getting into them?

She told him to bring pork chops from the locker for supper.

Daddy runs the locker plant next door to Grandpa's grocery store in Hill City. It stays really, really cold in the back room. People bring meat to Daddy and he wraps it all up in white paper and puts it in funny little closets back there. They are like boxes

## Accident Log

### July 13

Michael Rutherford, Edmond, was north bound on Road W6 when he swerved to miss some deer standing in roadway.

He lost control of his vehicle in some loose gravel and wrecked. Rutherford was transported to Norton County Hospital by Norton County Ambulance.

Accident was investigated by Deputy Scott Bohl.

**July 18**  
Curtis Larshus, Oakley, was

south bound on Highway 283 when a deer ran from the west ditch.

Larshus was unable to avoid contact resulting in damage to the vehicle.

No injury was reported. The accident was investigated by Under Sheriff Rich Wenzl.

**July 22**  
Robert Karnas, Alexandria, Vir., was west bound on Highway 9 when a deer ran out of the north ditch onto the highway.

He was unable to avoid striking the deer causing damage to the vehicle. No injuries were reported.

Accident was investigated by Deputy Larry Land.

### July 23

Ray McCain, Grand Island, Neb., was traveling north when a deer entered onto the roadway from the east ditch.

McCain was unable to avoid striking the deer causing damage to the front of the vehicle. No injuries were reported. The

accident was investigated by Deputy Robert Annon.

## FYI

The 50th year reunion for the Class of 1960 will be July 30 through Aug. 1st.

July 30:  
7 p.m. Social at the Eagles;

July 31:  
2 p.m. to 4 p.m. tour the Norton County Museum

5:30 p.m. Banquet at the Eagles

Aug. 1:  
9 a.m. Breakfast at Town and Country.

Forty two class members plan on attending.

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The class of 1985 would like to invite friends and teachers to a reception at Norton Community High School cafeteria on Sat. July 31 from 3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

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There were three tables of bridge at the Norton Manor on July 14.

Winners were first: Bob Jones and Carla Latimer, second was Norman Walter and Claudia Bridges.



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