

# DEATH NOTICE

## Shirley (Bennett) Brewer-Blair

March 21, 1935 - Nov. 3, 2011

Shirley Jewel Brewer-Blair passed away Nov. 3, 2011 at her home in Wichita, at the age of 76.

Shirley was born March 21, 1935 to Joseph Edwin and Elva Echo (Lemon) Bennett in rural Norton county. She attended the Norton schools and graduated with the class of 1953. Following graduation, she attended Fort Hays State University, then settled in Wichita, working

many years as an administrative assistant. She was a member of Central Community Church, active in the Republican party and enjoyed world travel.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Blair; son, Charles "Mike" Brewer; parents, Joe and Echo Bennett; and brother, Edwin Fay Bennett.

She is survived by her daughter, Debra (Jim) Davis; grandchildren, Molly Simpson and

Shannon (Daniel) Edwards; great-grandchildren, Michael, Logan and Sophia, all of the Wichita area; and sister, Terry (Larry) Hillman, Norton.

Her funeral service was Saturday, Nov. 5, at Resthaven Mortuary in Wichita. Memorials may be made to the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Assoc., 347 S. Laura, Wichita, KS 67211.

## Traveling Kansas' scenic byway

By Ron Wilson  
Huck Boyd Institute

Across the pastoral landscape, a sound echoes through the air. We are visiting the little-known treasure called Echo Cliff along the Kansas Native Stone Scenic Byway.

In a previous profile, we learned about the many attractions chronicled on a new CD about the Native Stone Scenic Byway. The byway is a 48-mile highway route between Topeka and Alma, including the rural town of Dover with a population of perhaps 50 people. Now, that's rural.

According to one account, Dover was named by English immigrants who were reminded of the white cliffs of their homeland when they came across this remarkable stone formation here in Kansas.

Echo Cliff is located two miles west of Dover, Kansas, south on Echo Cliff road. It is an impressive native stone outcropping above scenic Mission Creek, and includes a park with a canopy of ancient bur oak and sycamore trees.

This area was once known as Gibbsville. A major section of sandstone is exposed above the creek. In the mid-1970s, a portion of the cliff wall cracked and separated from the main section. More of the sandstone and shale formations were then exposed for all to see. Remnants of this slide remain at the bottom of the cliff in the creek.

Three sites near the cliffs have been studied by state archeologists for the presence of Indian villages. These studies found evidence of the Woodland Indians of the Grasshopper Falls phase, and a Plains Indian tribe with a Pomona influence.

Fred Winter named this location Echo Cliff in 1895, based on the acoustics found here. It became a picnic and camping site.

In 1922, Charles Winter cleaned the grove and prepared it for use as a park and camping ground, which could be rented by the public and used by Sunday School classes. At one point, the grounds included cabins, miniature golf, horseshoe pits, and a croquet field. The park was a location for many campsouts by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts. Even roaming Gypsies were known to camp there.

A resident by the name of Harry Fellows lived in the area of Gibbsville and operated a broom factory there during the early 1930's. He grew broom corn on the bottom ground along nearby Mission Creek and also purchased corn from some of his neighbors. The brooms he made in his factory were sold at general stores in Dover and Topeka.

The land where Echo Cliff is located was deeded to the Dover Grange to be maintained for use by the public. Now it is owned by the Echo Cliff Park Trust, with a board of directors from several Dover organizations.

Currently no overnight camping is allowed, but restrooms and cement tables are available for use in the park. Steel boiler tanks acquired from a demolition company and modified by local farmer Earl Hepworth, are used as latrines. It is said that the previous toilets were "commandeered by a group of spirited individuals who rode them down the creek during a time of high water."

Earl Hepworth has been caretaker of the park for more than 50 years, emptying the trash barrels every day. He is the creative mind and hand behind all of the signs, tables and benches. The circular driveway is lined by boulders of Sioux quartzite from South Dakota and Minnesota that were carried into Kansas by the last glacier, along with sandstone from a local quarry.

With the construction of a new bridge over Mission Creek to the west, the old iron bridge has been incorporated into the park also. It provides access to the top of the cliff and is said to be a fine spot from which to fish.

Many people still come to marvel at the scenic beauty of Echo Cliff. One observer wrote, "Rappelers come to scale the cliffs, students come to learn what the rocks seem to offer, and picnickers come to find solitude and contentment." For more information, go to [www.wabaunsee.com](http://www.wabaunsee.com).

Across the peaceful landscape echoes a sound - a sound of laughter and conversation. Thanks to those who made a difference and preserved this landmark, the benefits will echo to future generations.

Wow! To say my mailbox runneth over would certainly be an understatement. There is an overwhelming majority out there who agree with "Just Sayin'." So if there are so many of us, why don't we speak up and get things changed? A couple of people mentioned additional issues, such as drug testing for welfare recipients, which I certainly support, and tougher prisons that do not provide all the comforts of home. One person was quite succinct, saying, "If this nation does not turn back to God and the Christian principles upon which we were founded, I fear we will soon reap the consequences of our unfortunate choices." Thank you, silent majority, for your letters of support.

On other fronts, I must report on the typewriter comments I've had on the back burner for awhile. It seems that if you established a good positive attitude with your first typewriter it became a lasting relationship that transferred easily to a computer keyboard. On the other hand, an adversarial experience with a tough typing teacher left long-lasting scars. Do you know they no longer teach typing in high schools or cursive writing in elementary, but "keyboarding" at ever earlier levels? With electronics encroaching rapidly on all aspects of life, the day may not be far off when your kindergartener will no longer need a fat, black pencil and a Big Chief tablet, but will trot off on the first day of school with naught but a laptop in the backpack.

As we approach the weekend of Thanksgiving, I share a letter from a former NCHS student. She writes, "We'd just returned from our honeymoon late the eve of Thanksgiving, with no time to grocery shop. Come morning I realized the only food in the house was a can of chili and a six-pack of beer, which was to be our first Thanksgiving dinner together." Guess it was okay because they're still married after a goodly number of years. She did confide, in closing, that they did not choose to make this their traditional Thanksgiving menu.

This same correspondent sent in an entry for the Cook's Corner Culinary Catastrophe Hall of Flame, which involves a home grown, dressed frying chicken.

Another year he journeyed up to Meeker, Colo., looking for a mountain lion. He, his guide and five dogs spent several days on snow mobiles, in plenty of snow, looking for a lion. This trip was also successful and you can view Miss Lion in the End Zone.

Mrs. Will conducted the business meeting. Monetary donations will be sent to GFWC Sixth District for the Dime Art Fund, the Music Talent Fund and Scholar and Loan. A \$25 donation will be sent to the Veterans Home in Fort Dodge.

Geraldine Packer gave a report from the General Federation of Women's Club web site. GFWC is working to support legislation that is crucial to the mission of the Federation. One of these issues is the "Stop Abuse for Every Teen (SAFE) Act." According to reports, many adolescents are victims to emotional, physi-

cal or sexual violence each year and suffer long-term negative health consequences. GFWC members are urged to contact their senators and representatives in supporting this vital bipartisan legislation.

Mid-Century members brought eight gift-filled shoeboxes to the meeting. These will be sent to Operation Christmas Child. Franklin Graham, president of Samaritan's Purse, said, "Your gift of love may be the door God uses to open a child's heart to Jesus Christ." It was reported that our boxes for Operation Christmas Child last year were sent to Mexico.

Roll call, "a wild animal I would like to be," was answered by 14 members. Hostesses for the evening were Fonda Lawrence, Claire Ann Eppinger and Beverly Kindler.

## Improving care for Veterans

It surprises many Americans to learn that 25 percent of all deaths in the U.S. are veterans. That's 1,800 people a day; more than 680,000 Veterans every year. These heroic Americans deserve recognition for their military service - particularly at the end of life's journey. A new resource will help healthcare professionals honor our Veterans.

National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization in collaboration with the Department of Veterans Affairs is launching We Honor Veterans, a pioneering campaign to help improve the care Veterans receive from hospice and palliative care providers. Hospice Services, Inc. is proud to be a member of this campaign.

By recognizing the unique needs of our nation's Veterans who are facing a life-limiting illness, hospice and palliative

care providers will be able to accompany and guide America's Veterans and their families toward a more peaceful ending. And in cases where there might be some specific needs related to the Veteran's military service, combat experience or other traumatic events Hospice Services will find tools to help support those they are caring for.

"All hospices are serving Veterans but often aren't aware of that person's service in the armed forces," said J. Donald Schumacher, President and CEO. "Through We Honor Veterans we are taking a giant step forward in helping hospice and palliative care providers understand and serve Veterans at the end of life and work more effectively with VA medical facilities in their communities."

Remarked Thomas Edes, Director of Home and Community Based Care, "The VA shares a

common goal with our nation's hospices, and that is to provide the best possible care specifically tailored for Veterans, meeting their goals of care in their preferred setting."

"America's Veterans have done everything asked of them in their mission to serve our country and we believe it is never too late to give them a hero's welcome home. Now it is time that we step up, acquire the necessary skills and fulfill our mission to serve these men and women with the dignity they deserve," added Schumacher.

As Americans prepare to honor our nation's heroes on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, and pay tribute to the men and women who have served our country, Hospice Services is proud to take part in the We Honor Veterans program.

## 'Just sayin' growing in popularity

Pieces of  
life's puzzle  
Liza Deines



It was given in good faith by a farm mother to her city daughter, who stuffed it in her beach bag to tote it home from their family gathering. Somehow that beach bag got tossed in the closet with the forgotten chicken still snugly nestled among towels, tubes of sun screen and the family's swim suits. When it finally made its odiferous presence known, the entire kit'n caboodle, complete with sun gear, suits, and rotting fowl went straight to the garbage can, as you can well imagine. The Little Sisters of Kitchen Despair send their sympathies, Cheryl, and thanks for writing.

Also in the mail lately were a lot of nice comments from quilting enthusiasts who appreciated hearing about The Carlyle quilt show. A cousin in Houston makes quilts for an auction that benefits the MD Anderson Cancer Center; my niece works with her church making "Chemo Comfort Quilts" for hospital patients in her area; several quilting clubs stitch quilted lap robes and bibs for local nursing homes. I even heard from one gentleman friend who had tried his hand, quite successfully, at quilting. How refreshing to know that this original American art form is not only alive and well, but thriving.

On another subject altogether, Mother Nature and the Weatherman conspired with our Almighty Artist this fall to grace Missouri bluffs and valleys with a muted palette. Red maples and sumac have donned their customary scarlet but many of the other trees turned gently to taupe, tan and soft browns, foregoing their usual blaze of glory. Here and there, however, a peachy golden pink patch of foliage glows, standing out from the crowd. I am not familiar with this tree but I applaud it for being the star of the show this year, reveling in its fifteen minutes of fame.

Your letters light up my life, as the old song goes.

82<sup>nd</sup> Annual  
**Harvest Home Festival**  
**Soup Supper**  
(Oyster, Chicken Noodle, Chili and Vegetable)  
**Sat., Nov. 12**  
Northern Valley High School Cafeteria  
Free Will Donations  
5:00-6:30 with Auction to follow

## CLUB NEWS

Mid-Century GFWC members and guests met Oct. 17 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church for Federation Day and were greeted with beautifully decorated for fall tables. Virginia Will, president, greeted members and guests, Terry Hillman, Rick Rostek, Ed Lawrence, Gene Wiltfong, and Warren White. Virginia lead the group in the flag salute. The quote of the day was "It is better to live one day as a lion than to live a hundred years as a sheep," an Italian proverb.

Fonda Lawrence introduced her mate of 51 years, Ed, who gave a most interesting talk and power point presentation about two of his hunting trips. One year he traveled to Clearbrook, Minn. to hunt black bears. He hunted from a tree stand and did get a nice black bear. The skin of this little bear is mounted on Lawrence's front room wall.

Another year he journeyed up to Meeker, Colo., looking for a mountain lion. He, his guide and five dogs spent several days on snow mobiles, in plenty of snow, looking for a lion. This trip was also successful and you can view Miss Lion in the End Zone.

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## BIRTHDAY



Agnes Gipe will be honored with an open house on Sunday, Nov. 13, for her 100th birthday. The public is invited to help her celebrate from 3-5 p.m. at the American Legion Hall, North Highway 283, Norton. The event is hosted by her children and grandchildren.

For help with your advertising needs please give Dana a call 877-3361 email: [dpaxton@nwkansas.com](mailto:dpaxton@nwkansas.com)

NORTON COUNTY'S 23<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL  
**Genealogical Society's Arts & Craft Fair**  
**Saturday, November 13**  
9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (28 Vendors)  
**FREE ADMISSION**  
**Eisenhower Grade School**  
Eisenhower Drive-Three (3) Blocks West of the Armory (Follow the Signs) - NORTON, KANSAS  
**Crafts in Gym and Cafeteria**  
**Bierocks for Sale** (Individually or by the Dozen) Other Good Things  
**Lunch Stand by Genealogy Club**  
Not Responsible for Accidents, Lost or Stolen Items

Garden Gate Florals Honors all Past Veterans and Our Current Military Wherever They May Be  
We will be closed Friday, November 11 to honor all of our Vets  
Garden Gate Florals, Etc.  
411 W. Holme Street, W. Hwy. 36, Norton - 785-874-5125

Oct. 28-Nov. 9  
Showing at the  
**NORTON THEATRE**  
**Courageous**  
2 Hours, 19 Minutes (PG-13) Presented in Digital Sound  
Friday and Saturday: 7:00 and 9:30 p.m.  
Sunday: 2:00 and 5:00 p.m.  
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.  
**Puss in Boots**  
1 Hour, 40 Minutes Premiere (PG)  
All passes accepted for Courageous; No passes accepted for Puss in Boots  
Courageous is only \$4.00 per person (NO \$3 Sunday since tickets are already discounted)  
Puss in Boots is Premiere Price of \$7.00 and \$6.00 (No Sunday Discount)  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11 - DOLPHIN TALE (PG)  
PREMIERING FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18 - TWILIGHT SAGA: BREAKING DAWN, PART I (PG-13)  
PREMIERING WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 23 - THE MUPPETS (PG)  
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