

OBITUARIES

Lowell Ray "Obie" Cochran

April 25, 1929 - Dec. 26, 2011



Lowell Ray "Obie" Cochran passed away on Monday, Dec. 26, 2011 at the age of 82 at the Hamilton County Hospital, in Syracuse. He was born on April 25, 1929 in Norton, the son of Vance Cochran and Elsie Rachel (McCrea) Cochran. They preceded him in death.

Lowell grew up in Norton County, and attended Norton Community High School, graduating in 1947. In 1951, he began his military service in the United States Army, and served his country until 1953. That same year he moved to Los Angeles,

Calif. and Denver, Colo. for a short time. In 1954, he returned to Norton and began working for J.C. Thompson dirt moving company. In 1956, he started his 35-year career with the Kansas Department Of Transportation. On Oct. 27, 1959 he married Velma Ione Johnson in Norton. The couple raised their family of four in Norton and Norcatour during the 1960s. In 1976 he moved to Syracuse, and continued to work for the Kansas Department of Transportation, and retired in 1991. He continued to reside in Syracuse until his passing.

Lowell was a member of the American Legion and VFW of Norton and belonged to Alcoholics Anonymous. He enjoyed old cars, playing games with his family, collecting coins, traveling and reading westerns, but most of all he enjoyed spending time with his family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his father, Vance Cochran; his mother, Elsie Rachel (McCrea) Cochran; two brothers, Gene Eldon Cochran and Earl Loren

Cochran; two sisters, Leta Effie Rooney and Claire Maureen Poage.

He is survived by his wife, Velma Ione (Johnson) Cochran of Syracuse; three daughters, Linda (and husband Ken) Burton of Albert; Marie Kohlhorst of Syracuse; Susan (and husband Thad) Howell of Syracuse; one son, Ray Cochran of Amarillo, Texas; one brother, Nile "Mickey" (and wife Ida) Cochran of Norton; three grandchildren, Clay Burton of Parsons; Marisa and J.D. Howell of Syracuse, as well as numerous family members and friends.

A funeral service was held on Friday, Dec. 30, 2011 at the First United Methodist Church in Syracuse. Burial followed in the Syracuse Cemetery.

Condolences may be sent to fellersfh@yahoo.com. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be payable to the Senior Center, or Hamilton County Hospital, sent in care of Fellers Funeral Home & Monuments LLC, P.O. Box 1253, Syracuse, KS 67878.

HANSEN MUSEUM

The Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum presents "Gordon Parks: Crossroads" organized by art2art Circulating Exhibitions. All of the photographs are courtesy of the Gordon Parks Foundation and the Howard Greenberg Gallery.

Parks was born in Fort Scott. In 1938, Parks purchased his first camera at a pawn shop. He pursued taking pictures with gusto and within months his probing portraits of African-American women were exhibited in the windows of the Eastman Kodak store in Minneapolis.

While Parks pursued numerous hard-hitting documentary assignments for Stryker, he also accepted commissions in fashion and glamour photography, initially for Midwestern department stores, and soon for Vogue and Glamour maga-

zine.

In 1949, Parks became the first black staff photographer at Life Magazine, where he would remain on the masthead for a quarter century. "The camera is not meant to just show misery," he explained. "You can show beauty with it; you can do a lot of things. You can show things you like about the universe, things you hate about the universe. It's capable of doing both."

Our January Artist of the Month is Janice Kenney from Elm Creek, Neb. Janice has recycled old stuff, wreathes, tables and birdhouses. Please come in and check out her wonderful creations.

Don't forget about our dance classes which will be starting on Sunday, Jan. 8. Everyone is welcome, from beginners to advanced.

Cruisin' for worthy causes

By Ron Wilson,
Huck Boyd Institute

Cruisin'. That's something one does on a ship, or maybe that's what we used to do in our cars on Main Street on Saturday night. Today we'll meet a man who organizes cruises - not on ocean-going vessels or old-time cars, but with tractors as a way to raise money for a worthy purpose. It's just one of the many creative ways that this community leader has found to raise funds for worthy causes.

Keith Olsen is a farmer and community leader in Brown County, Kansas. He farms near the community of Horton, population 1,935 people. That's rural, but there's more.

Keith grew up at Horton. He was going to be a teacher but after college, he had the opportunity to come back to the farm. He has always been involved in helping develop activities for kids.

For example, Keith noticed that there was no carnival or festival at the Brown County Fair. One night Keith attended a program put on by his local John Deere dealer and saw a video of a pedal tractor pull. He thought that might be a fun activity for kids at the fair, so he went to work. He built a sled for the tractors to pull, organized a contest and enlisted kids to participate. It went so well that others became interested, and eventually Keith was doing pedal tractor pulls at events in four states. In fact, he and his wife Denise were married on the one weekend in the summer which Keith had open from tractor pulls.

Keith has other interests as well. He was active on the Kansas Farm Bureau Young Farmer and Rancher committee, now serves as a county commissioner, and in winter months works as a basketball referee. One day he was officiating at the middle school in the rural community of Everest, population 311 people. That's rural, but there's more. Someone commented about the school's gym floor, which was covered with old linoleum tiles and not very suitable for basket-

ball. Keith decided to take this on as a project and brainstormed various ideas to raise money.

He organized various sports camps and tailgate events with K-State coaches, with the proceeds going for a new hardwood gym floor at Everest Middle School. In two-and-a-half years, he raised more than \$70,000. When the time came to dedicate the floor, Keith kept his characteristic sense of humor. "Don't put my name on it," Keith said. "I don't want to be dribbled on." Today a plaque honoring Keith's contributions hangs outside the Everest gym.

Keith still does a multi-state boys football camp with former NFL star Paul Coffman and others, plus a basketball camp for boys and girls. Among the beneficiaries is Highland Community College.

Keith and Denise have two daughters, Greta and Ingrid. When Ingrid was one year old, she was diagnosed with Angelman Syndrome, a neurogenetic disorder which requires lifetime care. Suddenly Keith's fund-raising efforts became even more personal.

One fund-raising idea that he had tried was a tractor cruise. That's an event where farmers and other tractor enthusiasts bring their antique tractors together for a cross-country caravan. Keith has now organized the northeast Kansas tractor cruise into an annual event. Each tractor driver pays a fee, with proceeds going to the Angelman Syndrome Foundation.

In fall 2011, more than 40 antique tractors took part in a 30-mile tractor cruise across Brown County. They went from Everest to the rural community of Lancaster, population 292 people. Now, that's rural.

In 2009, Keith was one of eight Kansans honored by the Topeka Capital-Journal for his accomplishments in philanthropy. His work also earned him recognition as a Harvest Hero by John Deere and the High Plains Journal. Meanwhile, he is working on plans for the next annual tractor cruise in fall 2012.

An eye on business



The former Prairie Wind Eyecare clinic has recently come under new ownership and is now known as Cole Family Eyecare. The new owner is Dr. Ben Cole, who came on as Optometrist at the clinic in October.

—Telegram photo by Dana Paxton

For related story, see page 1

Women encouraged to get Pap test

In recognition of Cervical Health Awareness Month, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment encourages women to schedule their annual well-woman checkups. According to a 2010 Kansas Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System report, approximately 17 percent of Kansas women aged 18 and older did not have a Pap test within the past three years.

Although cervical cancer was once the leading cancer killer of women, the number of cases has declined 75 percent in the past 50 years, largely because of the widely available and reliable Pap test. Even so, an estimated 12,000 women in the United States are diagnosed with cervical cancer each year. In 2007, 4,021 women died from cervical cancer in the United States. In 2008, 76 Kansas cases were diagnosed, with 24 deaths due to cervical cancer in 2010.

Most cervical cancer cases are caused by infection with human papillomavirus, a common sexu-

ally transmitted disease. Infection can also cause a number of other health problems for both men and women. A vaccine is available to prevent many of these potential health problems and is routinely recommended for both females and males at 11-12 years of age. The three dose series is to be given over a six-month period. If an adolescent misses receiving the three recommended doses, they may catch up during 13-26 years of age.

Most health insurance policies cover the cost of vaccines. If an adolescent does not have an insurance plan that covers vaccines, the Vaccines for Children program may be able to help. The program provides vaccines at no cost to doctors who serve eligible children. Ask your doctor or contact your local health department to learn more about the program, or visit www.cdc.gov/vaccines/. The department's

Early Detection Works program provides breast and cervical cancer screening for uninsured women age 40 to 64 who meet income guidelines. For more information about the EDW program, call toll free 1-877-277-1368 or visit www.kdheks.gov/edw.

For more information about Kansas cancer resources and information, visit www.cancer-kansas.org.

Call Mike
with all your
society news
and events.
877-3361

Duplicate Bridge

There were three tables for Duplicate Bridge at Norton Manor Wednesday night.

First place honors went to Myron Veh and Ted Sanko. Second place went to the team of Joyce Sumner and David Graham and finishing in third place was Mary Lue Archibald and Alberta Slaby.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Harmonson Redd Post #63 Norton American Legion

THURSDAY, JANUARY 5

Special All You Can Eat Spaghetti with Meat Sauce, Garlic Toast and One Trip Salad Bar or Order Off the Menu

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6

Club Room is Open Until 9:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8

Legion Riders Meeting 5:00 p.m.; Cards at 6:00 p.m.

MONDAY, JANUARY 9

Legion, SALS and Auxiliary Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

If you are a member, please come to the meetings - your support is valued!

THURSDAY, JANUARY 12

Chicken Fry Steak, Potato and One Trip Salad Bar or Order off the Menu

FRIDAY, JANUARY 13

Club Room is Open Until 9:00 p.m.

All members and guests are welcome. Free WIFI available. Look forward to Beer Tasting Gathering, Wine Tasting Get-together in January too! Send us your e-mail address to: horhun1@att.net and monthly calendar will be sent to you each month.

Club Hours: Club Room Open

Thursday: 5:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Friday: 5:00-10:00 p.m. and Saturday: 5:00-9:00 p.m.

Dining Room - Thursday: 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

BINGO Every Friday Night - Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.

PHONE: 785-877-5662

Bar Manager - Denise Schmitz-785-871-0464

Jan. 6-
Jan. 11

Showing at the

NORTON THEATRE
Jack and Jill

(PG) 1 Hour, 38 Minutes
(Presented in Digital Surround Sound)

Friday and Saturday: 8:00 p.m.

Sunday: 5:00 p.m.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday: 7:00 p.m.

Happy Feet 2

1 Hour, 53 Minutes
(PG)

Since both movies are non-premieres, all passes are accepted

Jack and Jill is General Admission Price of \$6.00 and \$5.00-\$3.00 on Sunday
Happy Feet 2 is General Admission Price of \$6.00 and \$5.00 - \$3.00 on Sunday



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