

OBITUARIES

Linda Louise Woods

June 12, 1948 - Nov. 16, 2013

Linda Louise Woods, Goodland, died Saturday, Nov. 16, 2013, at Hays Medical Center in Hays, at the age of 65.

She was born June 12, 1948 in Kansas City, Mo., the daughter of Vera Francine (Knowles) and Willis Edgar Candler. She graduated with the class of 1966 from Oak Park High School in Kansas City, Mo., and then furthered her education with several college classes.

On Nov. 15, 1983, she and Edward E. Woods were married in Kansas, City, Kan. She had worked with Southwestern Bell Telephone Company as an operations facilitator. Her memberships included First United Methodist Church and AT & T Pioneers. Projects in sewing, ce-

ramics, and quilting were activities that she enjoyed, and being with family was her favorite. Ed and Linda had been residents of Goodland since 2005.

Preceding her in death were her parents and one son, Brian Cox.

Surviving family includes, her husband Ed Woods of Goodland; daughter, Andrea Chillcott and her husband David of Goodland; son, Christopher Woods and his wife Nicole of Harrisonville, Mo.; four grandchildren, Brian Chillcott, Kaylea Woods, Emily Woods and Ryan Woods; sister Susan Johnson of Kansas City, Mo.; and brother, Larry Candler of Colorado Springs, Colo.

Funeral services will be

Wednesday, Nov. 20, at 10:30 a.m. (MT), at the First United Methodist Church in Goodland, with Pastor Dustin Petz, Pastor Shelly Petz and Pastor Ed Wood officiating. Burial will follow in the Goodland Cemetery.

Friends may share their respects on Tuesday, from 3 to 7 p.m. (MT), at Koons Chapel in Goodland.

Memorials may be designated to Cancer Treatment Center of America in Zion, Ill., or to the First United Methodist Church Scholarship Fund, and may be left at or mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 N. Main, Goodland, KS 67735-1555.

Online condolences: www.koonsfuneralhome.com.

Design and promotion all wrapped up

By Ron Wilson

Huck Boyd Institute

The radio station van drives down the street, looking like a moving billboard. The van has a large, attractive design covering it and boldly displaying the station's call letters. This van is displaying a vinyl wrap which was designed, produced and installed by a creative business in western Kansas.

Liz Sosa is manager of Inkt Graphics, a custom graphic design and vinyl application company. Inkt Graphics is a division of Western Motor Company in Garden City.

Liz grew up at the rural community of Hugoton, population 3,643 people. Now, that's rural.

She graduated from Garden City Community College and Fort Hays State University virtual college. She then served as director of the Learning Center at Garden City Community College and as Garden City's assessment coordinator for four years. She also taught non-credit college classes, as she continues doing today through Garden City's Business and Technical Institute. Then she had an opportunity to get closer to business.

"I've always been business-oriented," Liz said. In 2010, she was working for Finney County Economic Development when she was approached about becoming manager of a small business called Inkt Graphics. Ultimately, she took the job.

Inkt Graphics is a company that creates and produces designs to imprint or cover everything from autos to apparel. (Wow, that would be one big t-

shirt!) No, those are two different things: apparel for people, and wraps for cars.

The apparel might include team shirts or t-shirts with custom art designs, for example. These are dyed using a process called sublimation in which the ink is embedded into the fabric.

The auto wraps are essentially sheets of specialized vinyl which can have custom designs imprinted on them and then adhered to a vehicle.

"It's like a giant sticker but it uses a more aggressive form of adhesive," Liz said. "The vinyl adheres to the clear coat of the car but doesn't damage it so that the wraps can ultimately be removed without residue."

These wraps are like a moving billboard, constantly on display. It's a great way to advertise. "Unlike an occasional radio or TV commercial, these wraps are on display 24-7, 365 days a year," Liz said.

The process begins with creation of a custom design to suit the customer. "We can take people's ideas to fruition," Liz said. As the company motto says, "You think it, we ink it."

"We do our own design, printing and installation," she said. "We do it all in-house."

Liz's job is to provide overall management of the business.

"We have lots of talented artists here," Liz said. "I'm not one of them!" she added with a smile. But the owner recognized that the business consisted of young, artistic people, so Liz would be a good fit to manage them.

The business continues to grow. Teams and businesses

especially like to purchase the t-shirt apparel, and there is growing interest in wraps. Companies like to use them for display on their business fleets. One agribusiness had wraps installed onto the tailgates of the company's trucks. A heating and air conditioning company wanted the wraps so they could advertise while going to customers or while parked.

Because these are not permanent, they can be changed and updated.

"A local credit union has them changed annually as their promotions change," Liz said. "One year they might be promoting a special interest rate and the next they might be promoting car loans."

For more information, go to www.inktgraphics.com.

The radio station van drives down the street, looking like a moving billboard. The van has a vinyl wrap developed by Inkt Graphics which prominently displays the station's call letters.

"The logos are big enough that you can see it and tune in," Liz said.

We salute Liz Sosa and the people of Inkt Graphics for making a difference with this innovative form of design and promotion. With that, it's a wrap.

But there's more. Liz Sosa wears several other hats. She is giving leadership to one of the longest standing, most traditional leadership development organizations in Kansas - but also to an innovative group of young rural leaders. We'll learn about that in next week's Kansas Profile.

Merle Shirley turns 100

By CAROLYN PLOTTS
c.plotts@nwkans.com

Born 100 years ago, Merle (Hix) Shirley has seen many changes in her lifetime, some good, some not so good.

Mrs. Shirley was born Nov. 19, 1913, the youngest of nine children of Guy and Bessie Hix. She was born on the family farm directly north of Reager, in Norton County, in a farm house now owned by Alan and Joan Hale.

Like a lot of farm girls, she recalls, she was a little bit of a tomboy. Once she tried to walk on stilts. Because they were so tall, she climbed onto the roof of the chicken house in order to get on them.

"Luckily, I didn't kill myself," she said.

There were four girls in the family, she said, and they each had the choice of doing housework or working outside. Merle chose to help milk the cows. Her family raised a large garden, and she learned homemaking skills like cooking, sewing and canning from her mother.

The house where she grew up did not have indoor plumbing or electricity, but by the day's standard was quite modern because it had gas lights.

Radio was entertainment for many families in the 1920s and '30s. Merle recalls her favorite program was "Fibber McGee and Molly." She added that she considers television to be one of the major technological advances she has witnessed in her lifetime.

Merle received her elementary education at a country school, District No. 49. In fact, one of her brothers, Lester, was her teacher for a year. She recalled that Lester died of pneumonia as a young man.

That memory caused her to mention that one of the good things she has witnessed over the years is the advancement of medicine and medical care. Her brother might not have died she said if they'd had the medications then that we have now.

Merle's father was a staunch Republican, she said, but the young man who came courting her was a Democrat. In spite of their political differences, her parents liked Fay "Zeke" Shirley.

"At least they didn't object," she said.

Merle and Fay were married Dec. 24, 1932, when she was 19. Her husband was a teacher in a little country school north



of Norcatour called Necessity School.

"FDR was president when we got married," she said, "but I wasn't too political. My husband was a Democrat, so that's what I was, too."

She was a stay-at-home wife and mother. They had a son, Dennis. Their social life included playing cards (mostly pitch) with friends and neighbors, and bowling.

Merle was a charter member of a group of farm wives who formed a club in 1933 called the Energetic Eight. It was strictly a social club, she said, adding that she is the only surviving member.

Merle was a good bowler and was a member of teams that bowled in Oberlin and Norton. She has several pins to acknowledge her participation in state tournaments.

In 1961, Merle and Fay moved to Norcatour. They had contractor Vern Hazlett of Norton build them a brand new, two-bedroom house with a full basement, on the west side of town.

"Life was dull compared to (what it is) today," she said. "My life wasn't exciting, but I didn't know it."

In 1963, her husband of 31 years died of a heart attack. Merle was only 50.

Sometime after Zeke's death, she began to keep company with a Norcatour widower, Paul "Fox" Temple. They spent a lot of time bowling and fishing. He became like a part of her family until his death in 1978.

Merle has lived at Wheat Ridge Terrace in Oberlin since 2003.

"I love living here," she said. "I have a nice group of card-playing friends."

"Teresa Shaughnessey, the manager of Wheat Ridge) takes good care of us."

Cards have been the one constant in her life.

"I love to play cards," she said, "especially bridge and canasta. I look forward to it."

She plays cards at least three times a week. Another hobby is collecting ink pens with advertising. She pointed to an overflowing basket in her pantry and to several in an antique secretary desk, proudly proclaiming, "I have over 300." She also has some pencils, she added, but not many.

A self-proclaimed crossword puzzle fanatic for years, she gave them up recently in favor of word-search puzzles. She said those are a lot less taxing on the brain. She follows the Kansas City Royals baseball team and the University of Kansas basketball team.

Merle and her daughter-in-law, Judy Shirley, are close.

"I consider Judy like my daughter," she said.

The respect is mutual.

"She taught me a lot," Judy said, "like how to hang wallpaper. When Merle lived in town, her yard always looked nice. She enjoyed taking care of it."

Like that of any proud grandmother, Merle's refrigerator door is covered with pictures of her grandson, Patrick Shirley; her two granddaughters, Vicky and Becky; and her four great-granddaughters, Kasey, Shelby A., Lauren and Shelby J.

Both granddaughters have fond memories of time spent at their Grandma Shirley's house. Vicki remembered how spotless her grandmother's house always was, the clean fragrance of her hand lotion, her sugar cookies, how she fed stray cats and soup at her house after the Norcatour Christmas drawing.

Becky said her grandmother kept perfect scrapbooks on all three grandchildren, complete with pictures and newspaper clippings.

"The only imperfection was that she did not put enough pictures of herself in the albums," she said.

Both girls say their grandmother had a profound impact on their lives and they were blessed to have her.

Asked the predictable question about her secret to a long life, Merle said, "Good, clean living, I guess. And good genes. I had an aunt that lived to be 103. As long as I can live like this, let it go on."

Call Mike with all your social news. 877-3361

84th ANNUAL
The Congregational Church and the Almena Methodist Church will be holding their annual
Harvest Home Celebration
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23
Soup Supper—
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NOAH HANSEN WILL BE THE SPEAKER ON SUNDAY
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2 Hours, 2 Minutes (PG-13)
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Sunday: 5:00 p.m.
Mon., Tues., Wed.: 7:00 p.m.
Captain Phillips
2 Hours, 24 Minutes (PG-13)
Thor is \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under. No Sunday Discount
Captain Phillips is \$7.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children 12 and under. \$3/tx Sunday
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THE HUNGER GAMES: CATCHING FIRE
WED., NOV. 27 - FROZEN
VISIT OUR WEBSITE: NORTONTHEATRE.COM
This ad is brought to you by The Norton Telegram

Combustible dust workshops planned

One small spark is all it takes to damage a grain processing facility, bring productivity to a halt or even cause fatal accidents. To support the grain handling industry's focus on providing employee training in preventing grain dust explosions, Kansas State University's Department of Grain Science and Industry is offering three interactive grain dust explosion training workshops. Two of the workshops will be conducted in English and one in Spanish.

Dates, times and locations for the four-hour workshops are:

Dec. 11, 2013 - 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. - (in English) - Manhattan - International Grains Program Conference Center, 1980 Kimball Ave.;

Jan. 15, 2014 - 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. - (in English) - Garden City - Southwest Research-Extension Center, 4500 E. Mary St.;

Jan. 15, 2014 - 4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - (in Spanish) - Scott City - Bryan Conference Center, 416 S. Main St.

The grain handling industry is required by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) to train employees about how to prevent grain dust explosions. These workshops will create awareness regarding grain dust explosion hazards among workers and supervisors,

said project leader and K-State assistant grain science professor, Kingsly Ambrose. The workshops, along with handouts and lecture materials are offered free of charge to participants.

The initiative is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Labor - OSHA.

"It is important to educate supervisors and managers on training their employees using best practices to curtail the risk of dust explosions," said grain science department head Dirk Maier. "These workshops communicate the practical risk information on dust hazards to mitigate fatalities and loss in grain handling and processing facilities."

Grain dust explosions are caused by five factors: powder-fine grain dust, confinement of dust in an enclosed space, dust dispersion, an ignition source, and oxygen. While quite rare, they do happen, causing damage to lives, facilities and communities. Reducing combustible dust, keeping it out of the air and controlling ignition sources significantly reduce the number and extent of grain dust explosions.

"Through delivery by K-State faculty members, hands-on activities and an explosion demonstration, the workshop will provide awareness, understand-

ing and motivation to reduce the number of explosions and their impact," Ambrose said.

Online registration for the workshops is available at www.grains.k-state.edu/igp/. More information is also available by contacting Ambrose at graindust@k-state.edu or 785-532-4091.



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