

Remembering the Park

Wedding photos taken at Sawhill

By Margaret Bucholtz
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As a child living on a farm, north of Wheeler, I always looked forward to going to town and playing in Sawhill Park.

I am sure that I was not the only child who loved to try and climb the cement flag that sits in the southeast corner of the park. My brother and I would like to see which one of us could get to the top of the flag the first. However I don't remember whether I ever got the climb made successfully.

There was a wading pool that was located on the northeast corner of the park and it was a great way to cool down on a hot day. If I remember correctly, the water would be a little green by the end of the summer, but we didn't mind.

Our family would use the park for picnics when my uncle and aunt, Raymond and Eva Edmonds, would come from Oregon. There were always a lot of the Edmonds and Cooper families, along with old neighbors that would get together to visit. The same was done for any of the Mace families when they gathered.

The fountain would be running with water. The gold and orange fish would swim around and entertain us for a long while.

The band shell was used for various meetings such as our Methodist Youth Fellowship group and others. I was never in the back part until just recently. I wish I could have seen the paintings when they were still all intact.

My parents, Albert and Dolorus (Mace) Cooper went to the park after they were married in the old Methodist Church and had their wedding picture taken. This was on April 6, 1941.



Albert and Dolorus Cooper

Country girl remembers

By Marie Holzwarth

In the early 30s, Sawhill Park was a mecca to a country girl. We lived 19 miles southwest of St. Francis, and on Saturday afternoon, my parents brought their cream and eggs to town and sold them at the cream station. The egg money was my mother's and while she did her trading (shopping), I went to the park.

I loved the fountain which sprayed much bigger than it does now. The goldfish swimming in the fountain water was always a source of interest. Even running around the circle of the fountain was fun. Some kids took off their shoes and socks and climbed in the fountain which was forbidden.

There was a wading pool on the north side of the band shell. I remember it slanted from a shallow end to a deeper end. There was a restroom, but vandals seemed to have it in for it and continually messed it up and broke the plumbing. It was

great fun to run on the seating around the band shell.

In 1943 we had our freshman picture taken there. When we had family gatherings and visitors came from out of town, we had our pictures taken in the band shell and on the fountain edge.

There was a group of trees on the northwest corner of the park. An old boyfriend carved our initials in one of the trees. For years I could see the initials until the trees died of old age and were pulled out. The park fell into a state of disrepair, but due to some energetic citizens, it was put back into better shape, although not to its beginning grandeur. I remember when the band shell had lights all inside the shell. It was a beautiful sight at night. The shell also had a harp at the top which is now painted over. Most of the time the flag has been maintained which has been a big plus. The outside of the band shell has been painted, but the inside, it

has deteriorated badly. Some of the pictures Mr. Sawhill painted have been lost. The ones left are well worth saving. The antique restrooms are an antique lover's delight. The band shell has great acoustics, I'm told. I even stood in the "soft spot" and listened.

We have had many events in the park over the years. Governor Bennet attended a rededication of the park in 1979. Alumni events, country singing, prayers for rain, go-cart events, Christmas drawings, car shows, parachute jumpers, even an Elvis impersonator. This summer I listened to Christian singers perform in the band shell. It would be great if performers could have a nice place to dress, unpack instruments and to come out on the stage to perform. I'm glad there is interest in restoring the band shell interior and very happy that the paintings can be saved. Mr. Sawhill left us a legacy to enjoy. He brought his dream to fruition. I hope we can keep it.



RESIDENT OF THE MONTH Magdalene 'Toots' Paxton (right) is interviewed at her party by Cathy Loop at the Good Samaritan Village. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Resident honored at Village

By Karen Krien

Magdalene "Toots" Paxton is the Good Samaritan Village's resident of the Month for May. Family, friends, residents and staff met in the hall to hear her tell about interesting happenings in her lifetime, watch a video and enjoy refreshments.

Toots was one of nine children born to Jake and Lena Raile. She was born west of Haigler on May 28, 1917.

Growing up on the farm with brothers, Dave, Ted, Bill, Charlie and Calvin, and sisters, Louise, Katie and Marie, she was expected to help. She milked cows, carried cobs for fuel and herded cattle, and, most of the time, she said, they had lots of fun. There was a big garden and she helped can the vegetables and fruits as well as canned meat.

But there were times when she could be a child and she liked to play

with dolls.

The family moved to the Battle Creek area, west of St. Francis, and she attended the Battle Creek School to the eighth grade. She remembered two teachers, Orville Booker and Frances Fortmeyer. She also recalled that she didn't particularly like school but, she said, she went because she had to.

Following graduating from the school, she went to work for families.

She had gone to Nebraska to visit her brother when she met her future husband, John. On Oct. 21, 1938, she and John were married in Stanton, Neb. He was a brick mason and they lived in Norfolk, Neb., for a while, then moved back to Kansas.

They had two children, Gerald, who now lives in Goodland, and Gloria, who lives in Keokuk, Iowa. Today, she has six grandchildren and

several great-grandchildren.

Some of the things she remembers is the coming of electricity and indoor water at their house.

"We thought it was special," she said.

She also remembers the dust storms. They (storms) were so terrible, she said. It got dark early and everything was dirty.

Her nickname, Toots, came from her sister-in-law, who said Magdalene was just too long to say so she ended up being called Toots by almost everyone who knew her.

Toots had many hobbies. She liked to embroider, bake goodies (her family and friends said she could bake the best coconut cream pies), play cards and dance.

"I loved to dance," she said.

About a year ago, Mrs. Paxton came to the Good Samaritan Village to live.

New ambulance arrives

By Karen Krien
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The new Cheyenne County ambulance arrived in St. Francis on Friday. At the May 18 county commissioners' meeting, Jannelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, asked the commissioners to be present when it came in.

The ambulance, which will be located in Bird City, was purchased with a Community Development Block Grant, costing \$134,400. The county's share was \$67,200.

A radio is needed for the new ambulance. She had a bid from Prairie States Communication, Imperial, for \$855. The commissioners approved of the purchase and the money will be taken from the 911 fund.

Mrs. Bowers said Ambulance 7 had broken down again and she had taken it in to be repaired. It is a problem with the air conditioner. The commissioners had a letter which indicated that this Ford model had problems with air conditioners. The letter was given to the county attorney.

On May 18, Mike Hanson began teaching a First Responder's class in Bird City. Mrs. Bowers said it is an intense training with classes held three nights a week. She noted that there is a need for people to take the training as some of the Bird City emergency medical technicians are busy and away from the city during the day.

The technicians had purchased new shirts from donation funds.

They also voted to donate \$1,000 to help purchase tables for the Bird City Emergency Building. They had also donated money for tables in the St. Francis Emergency Building.

Legal matters
The commissioners were interested to hear what Kari Gilliland, county attorney, had reported on the matter of city wells 7 and 8 brought to them by Craig Schoenrogge, St. Francis. Mrs. Gilliland said she had sent a letter to the city of St. Francis and talked to the city attorney, Mike Day, and Mr. Schoenrogge.

Since Rodney Bracelin, who had represented the city in the matter, was no longer on the city council, she didn't feel that a meeting with Mr. Schoenrogge and the city would be very productive. She said that she felt the county had no jurisdiction in the matter.

The city had also received a letter from Bill Dungan concerning the cattle owned by Dave Yost, which, in the winter, are located near his and Anna Brewer's homes. He felt that they were a nuisance, caused a smell and drew in insects that carried diseases. Mrs. Gilliland will look into the matter and report back to the commissioners.

The commissioners stressed that those who have property, need to take care of it. Those who have property and don't live here, should have someone checking on it to make sure no one is taking advantage by dumping on the land.

Road and bridge department

report
Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, said Martin Tractors, Colby, had two used graders. He wanted to trade in the county's 1990 grader for one of the used graders.

The county, he said, had purchased one of the used graders before and had good luck with it.

Andy Beikman, commissioner, thought it didn't hurt to see what they would offer. Mr. Flemming will look into the prices and report back.

Mr. Flemming said he had purchased a 1993 Ford pickup for the department.

In other business

In other business:
• The commissioners questioned vouchers for the medical care of David Denton, who was arrested in a meth raid. Mr. Denton will need to re-pay the county for these bills.

• Mrs. Gilliland said the old ambulance building contract was ready to be signed. The building was sold to Mark and Toby Cooper for \$15,450.

• A contract to appoint Bruce Webb as the county appraiser for four years was signed.

Next meeting
The next meeting will be held at 8 a.m. on Friday in the commissioners' office at the courthouse. Following the meeting, the commissioners will go to the hospital where they will meet with administrator, Les Lacy, concerning projects needing to be done in the facility. They will also eat lunch at the hospital.

Club Clip

Lawn Ridge 4-H Club

March

The regular monthly meeting of the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club was held on March 9 at Kensington. The meeting was called to order by Taylor, president, and the minutes were recorded by Dale, secretary. Roll call was answered by seven members, two leaders and no guests.

The members spent the day in Kensington with their 4-H club and went to The Big Apple for recreation.

Ally, Caitlin, Dale and Taylor asked if the club would pay for half of their Discovery Days trip, the club approved.

Both clubs ate at Valentino's for refreshments

After The Big Apple, the Northrup's stayed in Kensington and the rest of the members returned to St. Francis.

Bailey Merklin, reporter

April

The regular monthly meeting

of the Lawn Ridge 4-H Club was held April 20 at the clubhouse. The meeting was called to order by Taylor, president, and the minutes were recorded by Dale, secretary. Roll call was answered by eight members, two leaders, two parents and no guests.

Tristan led the flag salute. Ally led the club in singing "Ten Little Indians."

The minutes of the previous two meetings were read and approved. Dale read a thank you from the Cheyenne County Young Miss for a donation the club made to the program. Ally gave the treasurer's report. Aimee gave the council report. Caitlin gave the junior leaders report. Bailey gave the reporter's report. Aimee gave the leader's report. Val gave a committee report on Easter pictures. Dale gave a Parliamentary Procedure report on use of the gavel. There was no old business.

In new business, Caitlin moved and Tristan seconded to donate \$100 to be a corporate sponsor on the Relay for Life T-shirts. Aimee asked if any members would like to be on a Relay for Life team. Several members plan to participate. Aimee will ask the other 4-H club members if they would like to join Lawn Ridge members to form a county-wide 4-H team.

Caitlin announced the program. Caitlin gave a project talk on Leadership, Taylor gave a demonstration on "Teaching Dog Training and Val led the group in playing team hide and seek.

Taylor read the announcements. Caitlin announced the next meeting. Bailey led the 4-H Pledge. Ally moved and Tristan seconded to adjourn the meeting.

The Archibald family provided refreshments.

Bailey Merklin, reporter



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*** REMODELS * SIDING * SEAMLESS RAIN GUTTERS * FASCIA ***

You're Invited!

**Dave Meyer's Retirement
Open House at the
St. Francis Equity Service Station.**

**Friday, May 29
10 - 4 p.m.**

Cookies and Drinks



Stop by and Congratulate Dave!

POOL OPEN!
Sunday, May 25th
Pool Number: 332-3410

Regular Pool Hours:
Sunday-Saturday: 1:30 - 5:30
Sun., Mon., Wed., Fri., 7 - 9 p.m.
(Saturday Evenings - Private Parties. Call Information.)

Pool Manager: Lauren Ross
Lifeguards: Shania Gohl, Jami Pevler, Joni Pevler, Andrea Holzwarth, Christina Hill, Shayla Hill, Mikaela Grace, Matt Whitmore and Aly Marin.

Lap Swimming: \$.50 daily or Lap Pass \$20
Monday-Friday: 6:30-7:30 a.m.

Swimming Lessons
Reg. Lessons: Session I: June 15-June 26
Session II: To be announced
Time: Level 5 - 9:15-9:45 a.m.
Level 4 - 9:50-10:15 a.m.
Level 3 - 10:25-10:55 a.m.
Level 2 - 11-11:30 a.m.
Level 1 - 11:35-Noon
Please contact Shania Gohl or Andrea Holzwarth at the pool (332-3410)

Private Lessons: Dates/Times: Available all season, assuming guards schedule allow for it.
Price: \$50 per person

BOARD MEMBERS: Superintendent J.R. Landenberger, Bruce Swihart, Larry Finley, Margaret Poling, Natalie Rogers.

Aquacise
Starts: Mon., June 1
Price: \$2 per session or \$40 season pass
Mon., Wed. & Fri. 5:35 or 9:15 p.m.
Sessions lasting approximately 30-45 min.
More information contact Lauren Ross at the pool 332-3410

Midnight Swims: Ages 14+
Every Other Thursday: 10 p.m.-Midnight.

Fees:
\$1.50 Admission
Season Passes: Single \$50 - Family \$100
Punch Cards: 5-25 punches @ \$1.25 ea. 26 & up @ \$1.00 ea.
Lap Swimming \$.50 daily or Lap Pass \$20
For questions or to purchase passes, call or stop by!