



Lawsuits for funding burdens the taxpayers

The St. Francis School Board made the right choice, in our opinion, when it questioned the wisdom of joining in a new round of lawsuits by Kansas school districts against the Legislature.

While the last court battle did result in forcing the Legislature to give schools more money, it did so only at a cost of millions in taxpayers' money. It brought about a corruption of the government process where the courts wound up telling the Legislature how much to spend.

And as we all learned in high-school civics classes, that's not the way it's supposed to work. Several school board members said as much at their meeting last week.

In any event, the victory by a group of "medium-sized" districts was short-lived. Faced with a rapid decline in state tax revenue in the national eight grandchildren; four great-grandchildren; and recession, the governor and Legislature have been cutting programs in all departments and parts of state government. Schools were protected from most cuts, but wound up losing almost \$90 million.

There is another problem.

A new lawsuit might result in an order to give schools more money, but the state is broke. Where would the cash come from?

The Legislature would have little alternative but to raise taxes. And with thousands of Kansans out of work, and most of us hurting after

two years of economic distress, who can afford more taxes?

The attitude among some school administrators seems to be, "Why should we care? We want the money."

No one doubts that Kansas schools could use more. But anyone with any sense could see that right now, the state doesn't have any.

The spectacle of school districts, basically are units of state government, using state tax money to sue the state is unseemly. It's wrong.

It's our money they're using, basically, to sue us and force a tax increase on all Kansas citizens.

This year, apparently, the group behind the lawsuits, which calls itself "Schools for Fair Funding," wants every Kansas school district to join in a new lawsuit. If anyone really benefits from this, it won't be taxpayers or, in the long run, students and teachers.

It'll be the sharp lawyers who are promoting the idea of another suit. They stand to make millions, and with that kind of fee in sight, they'll be able to pay the new, higher tax rates.

The rest of us won't be so lucky.

It's nice to see, though, that St. Francis board members not only see the problems here, but care about the impact of a lawsuit on taxpayers and our system of state government. We urge them to stay clear of this mess.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

75 years ago - 1934

Now that the old 1917 portion or the north wing of the St. Francis Community High School building has about been completely razed and dismantled, work has begun this past week on the construction of the new and greater high school building. The stage in the auditorium is an exceptionally fine one. The seating capacity in the auditorium will be approximately 700.

The first fall meeting of the St. Francis Commercial Club was held at the Quigley Cafe. This is the first time that the new president, Don Postlethaithe, presided.

Dale Duncan of St. Francis is going out for wrestling at Kansas State College at Manhattan. He remarked that he had his first tryout last Monday.

To go from the organization of a county for something over 40 years without a bond issue is something to talk about but that is the standing of Cheyenne County.

In the past five years there has been much road building in this section of the country. Probably the most notable stretch is on Highway No. 36 where the new road was built between St. Francis and Wheeler.

50 years ago - 1959
Clinton Schlepp of the Cherry Creek 4-H Club showed the grand champion baby beef at the Cheyenne County Fair this year.

The Citizens State Bank has ordered a flashing new time and temperature clock which will be installed in the near future.

The new photostat machine in the Register of Deeds office

is now in operation. With this machine it is possible to make photostat copies of anything and reproductions made by the machine are near perfect. The machine belongs to Mrs. Josephine Churchill but is located in the Register of Deeds office for use by the county.

September marks the first anniversary for the Hale Publishing Co. On Aug. 1, 1958, the publishing company took over the publication of the two Cheyenne County Newspapers, The Saint Francis Herald and the Bird City Times.

The new engine at the power plant is being connected to the existing water cooling system. The power plant will be closed down for two short periods while the connection is taking place.

There are three new teachers in the city grade school. There has been a second section of the sixth grade added this year and this section will be taught by Mrs. Isabelle Neyer. Mrs. Edna Steller will teach a section of the first grade and Mrs. Blanche McDowell the second grade.

40 years ago - 1969
Officers of the Rangerettes, the area girls riding club, include Patty Connitt, Sherri Cook, Vickie Calnon, Joanne Maring and Cindy Gorthy. They recently won a trophy for the first prize parade entry at the Rocky Ford, Colo., parade.

The St. Francis Community High School band attended the State Fair in Hutchinson and performed in a parade down the main street in Hutchinson.

30 years ago - 1979
Edward Schultz received the

first place award in the ISIS Shrine clown unit in the parade in Denver on Sept. 1.

One of the older homes in St. Francis is being torn down to make room for a teacher's parking lot at the elementary school. The land was sold by Captain Emerson to Levi Collins in 1900 and it remained in the Collins family until it was sold to the St. Francis school in 1929 as a residence for the elementary school principal until 1966. After that the house was rented until the cost of repairs proved too much.

Rueben Burr has been named to take the place of Lenard Schlepp, Soil Conservation Technician, who recently retired from the Cheyenne County Soil Conservation Office in St. Francis.

The Indians snatched victory from the jaws of defeat Friday downing the Goodland Cowboys 13-6 in the third overtime of a hard-fought defensive battle. The win came on a pass from Pete Kinen to Kelly Cook.

Homecoming candidates include Brenda Carmichael, Darci Roberson, Tam Brunow, Kelly Krien, Gina Floyd, Scott Lewis, Dale Shoemaker, Keith Zwegyardt, Allan King, Rod Weeden,

20 years ago - 1989
Final inspection has been made of the new courthouse elevator by commissioners Roger Faulkender, William Leach and Raymond Zwegyardt. There is a new blue square handicapped door opener on the left side of the retaining wall at the handicapped door entrance on the west side of the courthouse.

Hangin' With Marge

Childhood Memories

By Margaret Bucholtz



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My son, Doug, called and told me that there was a quilt that had my mother's name on it. It was going to be auctioned off that afternoon.

I thought about going into town and checking on it and then I got busy and forgot about it. About noon Kurt came in and said he was going to town so I rode along. It was when we went by Western Auction place I remember the quilt.

I asked Kurt to stop so I could look at it. I didn't completely unfold it but to my surprise there

were also other names from the old neighborhood I grew up in. I told Kurt I would like to have it.

I set myself a limit of what I would bid, but really wondered if I would get it. I didn't dare bid on another thing, so I just sat and waited for about three hours.

Finally it was time! When they held up that friendship quilt I started in bidding. I just kept going until I had the quilt in my arms.

When I got home I laid it out on the bed and the flood of memories started. As I started looking at the names of each person I knew, I could still see their faces, hear

their voices and remember pleasant things about them. Some of them were excellent cooks, some had quiet personalities, some very outgoing, but each of them was, and still are, special to me. Most of them, like my mother, have passed on.

It made me wonder if the young people I have known will be able to have a pleasant memory of me. After all that is what we really want. Just a smile, or a warm "hello" means so much now, hopefully the memory will be pleasant then.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



Autumn is making her entrance on the high plains. Across the vast fields the bright summer colors are giving way to the muted hues of fall. Rust, grey, brown and dull greens softly cover the land as

nature prepares for a few months rest.

Driving along the highways, few objects rise too far in the distance. Some trees throw their limbs in the air to release what leaves are left.

And here and there an old windmill works double time against the ever-present wind.

The largest structures that tower over the flat ground, the grain elevator, mark one of the business hubs along the road and rails. Also, most towns have one more identifying feature that can be seen from afar. The water tower stands, sort of like a prairie lighthouse, marking a population center on the open range.

This country is a sight to see, especially this time of year!

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Lewis Rueb, Kingman; Mrs. Ernie Rust, Jetmore; Russell W. Moore, St. Francis; Sheila Walz, Goodland; Jim Keller, League City, Texas; Wm. and Carolyn Leach, Fairland, Okla.; Dr. and Mrs. Tim Hoskins, Wichita; Carol Redding, St. Francis; St.

Francis Grade School, St. Francis; Earl and Alice Jensen, Hugo, Colo.; Darci Unger, St. Francis; Cheyenne County Soil Conservation District, St. Francis; Kevin Berens, St. Francis; Janet Young Elliott, Evans, Colo.; Becky Roberson, St. Francis.



GOD SAYS
If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?
John 3:12

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