

Obituaries

Otto Lillich

Jan. 28, 1920 - Sept. 26, 2006

Otto Andrew Lillich, son of Justina (Brauer) Lillich and William Otto Lillich was born Jan. 28, 1920, at the farm 7 miles southwest of Bird City, Kan. He grew up there and attended country school.

Otto was the youngest of eight children. His siblings were Edwin, Herman, Alma, Martin, Eulalia, Bertha and Adelina. Otto attended high school in Bird City and returned to the farm.

He loved playing baseball and for many years was a catcher for the Bird City baseball team. He was an ardent golfer and was good at it. Otto bowled for years on the Security State Bank's team. He and Eulalia loved to play pinochle.

Otto was inducted into the U. S. Army on March 1, 1942. He traveled by bus to Fort Leavenworth for induction. For basic training he went to Oregon by train where he was assigned to the 144th Infantry. A highlight for Otto was stopping by North Platte, Neb., and getting to participate in the canteen there that met every train during the war.

After Otto's basic training was completed, he was assigned to the San Francisco, Calif., area and helped build a camp south of the Golden Gate Bridge. It was here that Otto was first assigned to extensive guard duty. They guarded ammunition depots and supplies that were earmarked for the troops and bases in the Pacific Zone of operations during World War II. He was transferred to posts in Louisiana and Florida before leaving from Maryland for Europe.

Otto served in the European Theater of World War II with additional duty in Italy as part of the 10th Mountain Division. He guarded ammunition depots in the Po Valley of northern Italy close to the German Apennines. Otto felt this was extremely interesting duty. When Otto was in Italy he served with the Pioneer 729. Here he served with an anti-tank company in the infantry and with a combat engineer battalion. He had experience in setting booby traps, land mines and other demolition charges. He helped build tank traps, bridges, culverts, etc. He served in the Mediterranean Operations and participated in the Apennine Moun-

tain and Po Valley campaigns of Italy.

Otto received the World War II Victory Ribbon, EAME Ribbon with two Bronze Service Stars, Good Conduct Ribbon HCM and Efficiency with Honor Fidelity. He was discharged as a Private First Class on Nov. 4, 1945, at Fort Carson, Colo.

Otto was a loyal and active member of the Bird City American Legion post since his retirement from the service. When he first came back from the war he worked at Johnson's Garage in Bird City for a year before returning to the Lillich family farm where he lived with his sister Eulalia for more than 50 years. He was a farmer and also worked as a lineman for Northwest Kansas Electric Association for three years and for many years he did construction work for Carmichael Construction.

Otto was a member of St. John Lutheran Church. He held different positions on the church council and sang in the church choir for many years.

He was a member of the Tri-State Antique Engine Association and volunteered his services there for many years.

Otto marched with the color guard of the American Legion in many parades and took part in the Memorial Day Services at the cemetery until walking became a problem for him.

A favorite pastime for him was reading. Otto would check out 10-15 books from the library at a time. Even when his macular degeneration worsened, Otto would use his head magnifier and continued reading. Pinochle was his passion at the Senior Center. He liked nothing better than to spend an afternoon there playing with friends.

Otto and Eulalia left the family farm in 1996 and purchased a home in Bird City. They lived there until October 2003. At this time Eulalia became a resident of the Good Samaritan Village and Otto rented an apartment in St. Francis so he could be close to both Adelina and Eulalia. He lived in the apartment until this November when he required full time medical care and was admitted to the Good Samaritan Village in Goodland. He died Dec. 26, 2006, at the Goodland Hospital from pneumonia.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Edwin, Herman and Martin; sisters, Alma, Eulalia and Bertha. He is survived by one sister, Adelina Walter of St. Francis, nephews and nieces, numerous cousins, and many friends.

Memorial services are scheduled 2 p.m. Feb. 10, at St. John Lutheran Church in Bird City with ashes

placed in the Bird City Cemetery. Memorials are designated for the church and the Bird City Library.

Evelyn M. Lakey

Feb. 8, 1916 - Jan. 5, 2007

Evelyn Mae Lakey, 90, died Jan. 5, 2007, in Santa Fe, N.M. She was born Feb. 8, 1916, in Hollister, Idaho, to Emma Lena (Poppie) and Norman J. Nogle.

Evelyn married Cecil Franklin Lakey on June 1, 1939, in Burley, Idaho. They lived in Idaho, Montana and Texas with his job as a federal air traffic controller. Following his retirement they moved to Santa Fe. Cecil died Jan. 14, 1986.

Evelyn was a member of St. John United Methodist Church, Rebekah Lodge and Nell's Girls (a service organization). She was respected and loved by family and friends.

Preceding her in death were her parents, two stepchildren, Donna Lakey Leaverton and Curtis Lakey Schielke; three brothers, Raymond and Roy Twitty and Norman Nogle.

She was survived by her son, Richard Lakey and wife, Rebecca, of Santa Fe; stepdaughter, Frankie Lee Lakey Nichols of St. Francis; a sister, Lorene Bethel of Idaho; grandchildren, Jason Lakey of Tucson, Ariz.; Lorna Nichols, Loyall Nichols and wife, Barbara, Dawn Nichols of Colby, Denise Nichols Packard, Grainfield, Dru Nichols and wife, Tracey of Laramie, Wyo., JuDee Leaverton of Longmont, Colo., JoDee Leaverton McDonald of Greenville, S.C., and Gregg Leaverton of California; 13 great-grandchildren, eight great-great-grandchildren, other relatives and many friends.

Services were held Tuesday, Jan. 9, at McGee Memorial Chapel with Wednesday, Jan. 10, services at St. John United Methodist Church, Santa Fe, with Reverend Stephanie Harmon officiating.

Pallbearers included Lane Lakey, Dallas; Dru Nichols, Laramie; Nolan Packard, Perry; and Aaron Nichols, Colby.

Following cremation, the inurnment was at Santa Fe Memorial Gardens, on Jan. 11.



THE SNOW once again blankets Main Street over the weekend with another 6 inches.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Club Clip

St. Francis Lions Club



The Jan. 8 meeting of the St. Francis Lions Club was called to order by Dennis Merklin, first vice president, on Jan. 8, at the Windmill Restaurant.

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance and Marvin Zimelman gave the invocation. Francis O'Leary won the drawing. A get-well card was signed by those present for Clarence Iliff.

Secretary and treasurer reports were given by Milton Lampe and Dorothy Kellner.

Mr. Lampe reported he and Tobe Zwegardt had delivered 46 bicycles to the Norton Correctional

Facility and brought back several bicycles for needy children in the community.

A report was read from Don Keihl, district governor, about the Good Morning television show on Tuesday, Jan. 9, having a segment about the Lions International eyeglasses collections.

Mr. O'Leary moved and it was agreed the club donate \$400 to the Cheyenne County Historical Society for repairs on the Ye Olde Country Church.

The Feb. 12 meeting will be Valentine Ladies Night.

The meeting adjourned.



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Teri Walters
Grade: Junior

Parents:
James & Edith Walters

Student of the Month

Teri, a junior at St. Francis Community High school, is the January Student of the Month.

She is involved in volleyball and band.

Teri also participates in AWANAS and 4-H.

After St. Francis Community High School, Teri plans on attending college.

Ten years from now, Teri plans to have a full-time job that she loves and a home.

Teri's favorite quotes are: "We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do." ~ Mother Teresa

"Loneliness is the poverty of self; solitude is the richness of self." ~ May Sarton

"Without faith, nothing is possible. With it nothing is impossible." ~ Mary McLeod Bethune

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The Saint Francis Herald

Cheyenne County Energy Assistance Program (CCEAP)

Rising energy costs have created difficulties for some families to meet their winter heating costs. Assistance with part of your energy bill is now available for income-qualified applicants.

Deadline for applications Jan. 31, 2007. CCEAP Applications will be available at the following locations:

St. Francis

- ☐ Cheyenne County Treasurer's Office ☐ City Office
- ☐ St. Francis Equity Co-op

Bird City

- ☐ City Office ☐ Frontier Equity

SRS Agents

- ☐ Goodland ☐ Colby

You may also request an application by contacting Priority Oil & Gas LLC at (303-296-3435), PriorityOG@aol.com, LaRanaLLC@aol.com, or P.O. Box 27798, Denver, CO 80227-0798.

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