

Modern communication should help rural Kansas

Let's revisit a proposition championed by the late Sen. Stan Clark, who thought the state should have more offices out in the hinterlands and fewer in Topeka.

Sen. Clark once suggested that, instead of buying up more buildings in Topeka to house an ever-expanding work force, the state should start farming out its work to places like Oberlin and St. Francis.

With modern communications, he argued, most jobs could be done in Colby or Hoxie as well as they could in Topeka. Some might argue that the state would get better workers and a better product out in rural Kansas.

Half a century ago, the state built an office tower in Topeka. Today, the government spills out into two more office buildings and a passel of other space.

There's no reason why all that money has to be spent in Topeka. Some of it could be creating economic development in rural counties bypassed by state government in the last few decades.

There's a whole litany of crimes against the rural economy the state should atone for: closing Social and Rehabilitation Services offices, highway shops in smaller towns, consolidating Highway Patrol dispatch centers, the list goes on.

Sure, that's the way utilities like Southwestern Bell (now the "new" AT&T) do business. Once Bell had operators and a business office in nearly every town; today our small towns have been deserted. Those functions have been "centralized" in Wichita, Tulsa, Dallas — or Bangalore.

But Ma Bell isn't run with tax money and has no responsibility to promote economic development. We all know how much she loves us.

The state of Kansas, though, in many ways has been a booster for rural decline. New highways concentrated traffic, drying up commerce along the two-lanes across our state. Consolidations closed school, offices and services.

If we're interested in a stronger state economy, shouldn't we demand that the state reverse this trend? And shouldn't we want every county in Kansas to be prosperous, not just a few?

Stan Clark thought so. He'd only begun the fight before his untimely death in a prairie dust storm three years ago.

The rest of us should take up the torch. A computer center in Atwood. An engineering office in Hill City. Maybe a prison in Oakley and a research center in Goodland.

Oh, here's an idea: welfare offices in every county where people can go down and apply for help — in person, not on the phone. Maybe state service centers where people could get all kinds of services at the county seat without a day-long drive to some consolidated office.

Someone will say state workers don't want to move out to the sticks. Too bad. Hire people who want to live here. Rural Kansas will be a lot more hip with jobs and people.

There are, last time we checked, lots of other jobs in Topeka for those who don't want to move.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

90 years ago - 1917

A meeting was held at the high school to elect officers for the 1917 ball team. John Harkins is the president and Howard Bear, treasurer.

Last Saturday the Johnson Garage was formally opened to the public. Three of the Johnson boys are busy there all the time in the building which is equipped with all the latest devices for repair work. They also have Chevrolets there at all times for sale or to do livery work.

The material is on the ground for the new building, which will be constructed on the lot east, and adjoining the Herald office. Miss Alice Carman purchased the lot last fall and is commencing a building for her book store. This will be a fine improvement on our Main Street.

The Zion Church dedication will take place on March 26. The new church is 8 miles northwest of St. Francis. Pastor C.F. Schmidt said the afternoon service will be in English and the others in German.

75 years ago - 1932

Dr. R. E. Camp, chiropractor, who has practiced in St. Francis for the past two years is moving this week to his farm near Burlington. Dr. Camp has decided to remain on his farm for awhile but said he may return to St. Francis some time in the future.

The big egg case in the St. Francis Hatchery is working in good shape these days. Mr. Erdley states that he now has 21,000 eggs of different breed hatching.

An organizational meeting of the St. Francis Community Athletic Club was held at the high school gym. The club will meet every Monday night and

a portion of the evening will be a workout under a trained superintendent.

The C. H. Overhultz filling station on the Kansas side, just this side of Haigler, was destroyed by fire the first part of the week.

The Nixon Store is this week installing one of those McCray meat counters in the store. It is porcelain lined with porcelain pans and is cooled by Frigidaire. They will be able to keep meat and other perishable items in good condition.

60 years ago - 1947

The St. Francis Milk Products Co., which last week made an announcement of their intention to give the community a new service, pasteurized service, is busy installing new equipment in their building just a block east of the Co-op office.

25 years ago - 1982

The Indian wrestling team placed third at the State tournament. Winning championships were Alan Wahrman at 105 pounds and Terry O'Leary at 112 pounds.

Remodeling at the Cheyenne County Hospital is underway to provide rest room facilities for handicapped visitors is underway and is part of the same project requirements as the inclined ramp installed by federal law because the hospital receives federal funds.

Pastor Darrell D. Hecht, United Methodist Church of St. Francis, will be assuming a new career in professional counseling. He will be working with churches and professional people in the Wichita/Newton area.

5 years ago - 2002

Dr. Brett Poling will open Poling Chiropractic and

Family Health Center in what is now known as the County Health Office. What makes this facility to Dr. Poling is the fact that his grandparents, Joe and Harriet Winston once owned it as the Hilltop Motel and Market.

Janae Glidewell, St. Francis seventh grader, was the Cheyenne County Spelling Bee Champion.

Cheyenne County Junior Miss, Meaghan Jamison, will travel to Belleville to compete in the Kansas Junior Miss State Finals.

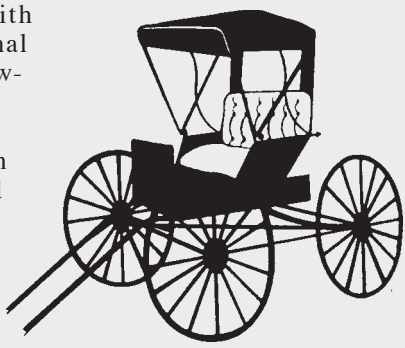
Wiley's Apothecary has a new owner and a new name. Kody and Penny Krien took over March 4 after buying the business from Scott Wiley. The new name is Krien Pharmacy.

Yost Ford-Mercury has a new sign to greet its customers.

First National Bank's latest merger is with the Security State Bank located in Bird City. First National plans on opening in a new building soon.

Basketball players earning Northwest Kansas League honors are Kelsey Andrist, Marcus Dodd and Dustin Dunn.

Ten years ago the Cheyenne Theater was re-opened after being up-dated and decorated. To celebrate the 10 years and the 500th movie shown the Theater Committee will have free popcorn, prizes and movie tickets given away.



Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



Here are two good reasons to visit Bird City this weekend: The Cheyenne County Wildlife Banquet and Big Ed's.

This Friday the annual banquet will begin at 6:30 p.m. at the American Legion Hall. Years ago the event had the feel of a men's only stag. Now it is a place for generations of sons, fathers and grandfathers to come together in the name of wildlife conservation. Also more and more women attend.

Unlike Ducks Unlimited and Pheasants Forever, the money raised from the evening stays in Cheyenne County. The prizes appeal to any outdoors person and the meal is always great.

Speaking of great food, Big Ed's steaks can't be beat. New owners, Robert and Sherry Cherry, have taken over the famous eatery. That's about the only change. Folks are still coming from far and wide for one of

the best steaks around.

Mr. Cherry discovered Big Ed's on hunting trips and knew a good thing when he saw it. If you've never eaten there or if it's been awhile, stop by Bird City for an unforgettable steak.

And don't forget to support the Cheyenne County Wildlife Association on Friday.

Ag Talk with Jeanne

By Jeanne Falk



Wheat Herbicide Impacts on Double Crop Sunflowers

Have you been thinking about planting double crop sunflowers this year after your irrigated wheat? With the moisture this winter to help the wheat out, it may be the year to look at this option. To be successful with this, you need to start planning now and not wait until wheat harvest. One thing to think about is the rotation restrictions of the herbicides applied on wheat.

There are many wheat herbicides that could prevent planting double-crop sunflowers. These herbicides include: Ally, Finesse, Amber, Peak, Rave, and Maverick. Many of these herbicides have rotation restrictions greater than a year. For example, the rotation restriction for Ally for sunflowers is 22 months. Many producers like these herbi-

cides because they have a long residual that help control late emerging weeds in their wheat fields. This long residual also causes problems with the raising double-crop sunflowers.

Weed control in wheat is possible with other herbicides that have rotation restrictions that allow planting double-crop sunflowers. Some of these herbicides are 2,4-D, Banvel or Clarity, and Harmony Extra. These herbicides have shorter residual activity and shorter rotation restrictions. For example, Harmony Extra has a rotation restriction for sunflowers of 45 days. Since these herbicides have shorter residual activity, they will not likely control late flushes of weeds.

Other factors can impact the fit of

these herbicides into your program. It is incredibly important to apply 2,4-D, Banvel or Clarity after the wheat has completely tilled, but before the wheat is jointing. Crop injury is minimized during this time frame. If these herbicides are applied before the wheat is done tilling, it can prevent complete tillering. If applied at jointing, it can cause trapped heads, missing florets, or twisted awns on the wheat heads.

In conclusion, there are viable herbicide options for weed control in wheat when planning to double-crop with sunflowers. If you have any questions, contact the Extension office or the individual herbicide label.

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GOD SAYS

But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Romans 14:10-12

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