

State highway plan good for the rural areas

After years of complaints from sparsely settled rural counties, Kansas highway officials finally have the idea.

People out on rural two-lanes want shoulders on their roads, and they don't care whether the end result meets federal safety standards. They just want the roads safer than they are today, and they don't want to wait for a gold-plated fix.

At a meeting in Salina last month, Jerry Younger, an engineer for the Kansas Department of Transportation, said the agency is looking for ways to add or widen shoulders without bringing roads up to fancy, current federal specifications.

Many state roads, mostly rural secondary routes like K-23 through Hoxie and Gove, or K-25 between Colby and Atwood, lack shoulders. That's most any secondary route built before the 1960s.

These roads haven't been rebuilt to current standards because they have little traffic and few accidents, but that doesn't help much if your wheel slips off the pavement in mud beside the road. It's just a quick trip into the nearby ditch.

Mr. Younger said people at "local scoping" meetings held to kick off planning for a new state transportation plan made it clear they want safer shoulders on these routes, and they don't want to wait.

Part of the problem is that the prevailing wisdom has been that if you touch a road, you have to bring it up to full standards. And that, Mr. Younger said, would cost \$2.6 million or more per mile.

The state just doesn't have the money.

In planning for the current 10-year highway plan, officials rejected shoulder projects on rural roads. Even a special request from Sheridan and

Gove counties for K-23 fell on deaf ears.

Today, with new top officials, the department seems to have a different attitude. This group is listening.

"If there's anything new in this," the engineer said, "it's that we're willing to do something that's not up to standard."

Mr. Younger said highway maintenance crews are trying several approaches to widen shoulders or flatten the slope on ditches to make them safer. They're looking for something short of a full reconstruction, he said, because the money just won't be there for that.

Each of the six maintenance districts is trying an approach, he said, adding that the department still isn't sure how it will pay for the work. One problem is no one is sure any federal money can be used for this kind of work, since the road won't be meeting standards.

"If we're going to have some kind of minimal shoulder project," he said, "that money's going to have to come out of some other pot."

This should be cause for cheer, because more than 40 percent of the rural secondary miles lack adequate shoulders by state standards, and virtually none have been improved in the last 10 years.

This time, the highway plan may include some relief for school bus drivers, cattle truck operators, farmers and others using K-23 or K-25. And that's good thing.

Topeka is listening — finally — and common sense may for once trump federal regulations. We hope.

— Steve Haynes

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



I'm not a vexillologist, but I know a good flag when I see one.

In case you didn't know, a vexillologist is a person who studies flags. I'm not one. In fact, I'm lucky enough to be able to write this column each week, and that's done with a lot of help from my computer's spell check.

But I don't have to be a specialist to appreciate the American flag, and neither do you!

On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress approved the design of a national flag. As the story goes, George Washington commissioned

a Philadelphia seamstress, Betsy Ross, to create a new flag for a new nation.

Since then the 'Stars and Bars' has been through 27 versions. The last was made on July 4, 1960, when a 50th star was added for the new state of Hawaii.

In this day and age of disposable beliefs, 47 years without a change looks pretty good to me.

There is a beauty in the red, white and blue of our flag.

There is not a store front, public building or home that doesn't look better with one flying outside. Even in the corner of a classroom, it adds

color and meaning. Wherever it waves, the American flag stands as a reminder of the great freedoms we have. That makes this country very unique.

Since the flag came into being, it has been carried proudly by troops in every conflict America has been in. Be a patriot, pacifist, objector or other - the flag represents your freedom to be what you choose.

You don't need to be a vexillologist to see the flag's beauty.

Lines from the Library

By Pat Leibbrandt

We have the following new books at the library: *Kingdom Come* by Tim LaHaye; *Fresh Disasters* by Stuart Woods; *The River Knows* by Amanda Quick; *Obsession* by Jonathan Kellerman; *Monday Morning Faith* by Lori Copeland; *Invisible Prey* by John Sandford; *Heartstopper* by Joy Fielding; *Back On Blossom Street* by Debbie Macomber; *The 6th Target* by James Patterson; *Simple Genius* by David Baldacci; *Simple Gifts* by Lori Copeland; *The Brushstroke Legacy* by Lauraine Snelling; *The Overlook* by Michael Connelly; *The Marriage Game* by Fern Michaels; *Laced* by Carol Higgins Clark; *The Good Guy* by Dean Koontz; *Bachelor's Puzzle* by Judith Pella; *Sneaky Uses For Everyday Things* by Cy Tymony; *Cobb - a Biography* by Al Stumpl; *Eat Right 4 (for) Your Type* by Peter D'Adamo; *Lessons In Becoming Myself* by Ellen Burstyn; *Driving Across Kansas* by Ted Cable; *The Bird In The Tree* by Elizabeth Goudge; *Off With Their Heads* by Dick Morris; *Unfit For Command* by John E. O'Neill; *Plumbing 1-2-3* by Jim Stepp; *Vanishing Acts* by Jodi Picoult; *The*

Family Handyman Helpful Hints; *Winning The Future*, Newt Gingrich; *The Mermaid Chair* by Sue Monk Kidd; *The Secret Life Of Bees* by Sue Monk Kidd; *Little Girl Lost* by Leisha Joseph; *What Went Wrong?* by Bernard Lewis; *Inspiration: Your Ultimate Calling* by Wayne W. Dyer.

The following new books have arrived in the Children's Department: *Scavenger Hunt*; *The Dog: Is A Paw A Foot? All About Measurement* by Kris Hirschmann; *The Dog: Why Are Dogs' Noses Wet? And Other True Facts*; *Strawberry Shortcake* by Joanna Spathis; *Open*

Season by Art Mawhinney; *Ice Age 2* by Art Mawhinney; *Disney Princess Worlds of Wonder*; *Cars* by Caleb Burroughs; *Happy Feet* by Art Mawhinney; *Elmo* by Catherine McCafferty; *Sam Goes Next Door* by Mary Labatt; *Sam At The Seaside* by Mary Labatt; *Surf's Up* by Sandra D. Lawrence; *Franklin's Soapbox Derby* by Sharon Jennings; *Franklin And The Bubble Gum* by Sharon Jennings; *Secrets And Surprises* by Megan Bryant; *Join The Club* by Megan Bryant; *Spongebob Lovepants* by Erica Pass; *The Berenstain Bears Hug And Make Up* by Stan Berenstain.

GOD SAYS

"It is mine to avenge: I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."

Deuteronomy 32:35



News From the Past

75 years ago - 1932

Alfred M. Landon, of Independence, Republican candidate for the office of the governor of Kansas, spent a couple of hours in Cheyenne County.

Fred Carman, member of the Future Farmers organization in the local high school, was the outstanding contestant for this school in the state meet in Manhattan.

The city of St. Francis and its suburbs and additions went over the 1,500 mark in population as just reported by the assessor.

The annual junior-senior banquet was held in the high school gym. The idea of "an old-fashioned garden" was carried out.

By vaulting 11 feet, 10 inches, Norval Curry broke the regional pole vault record at Norton on Friday.

Mrs. Hattie Steller has just about completed the remodeling of the of the lunch room on the south side of Washington Avenue. She will be opening up a modern tea room. There has been a lot of remodeling and cleaning done to the establishment.

The senior at the St. Francis Community High School

have received their diplomas. There were 35 members in the senior class.

50 years ago - 1957

The public is invited to attend a reception for Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Greene from 3 to 5 p.m. in the new music addition at the high school on May 5. Mr. Greene is retiring after 27 years in the local school system. During his long service as principal nearly 1100 students have been graduated.

Officials elected last month have now taken office. Elmer Felzien was sworn in as Mayor. New councilmen are Vern Nolan and Harold Raile who are replacing Fred Crum and Ted Roelfs. Councilmen who were re-elected were Jack Rieb, Ted Schlittenhardt and R.W. Stuart. Jack Rieb is the new council president.

45 years ago - 1962

The St. Francis Jaycees received their charter at the banquet held recently. Local president Sam Chestnut was presented with the charter by a State representative.

The St. Francis Rotary Club will celebrate the 25th anniversary of their charter on May 10 at a banquet.

The new post office at Bird City is being officially dedicated on Saturday. Congressman Bob Dole will be the featured speaker.

High school will come to an end for 51 graduating seniors on May 11. This will be the 59th class to graduate from St. Francis Community High School. Thad Douthit will give the invocation, Spencer Graves, Sandra Price, Ron Horwege and Phil Hinz will give talks, Kathleen Haberbosch will play a piano solo, and Don Smith will have a vocal solo. A quartet composed of Jim Touslee, Dan Smith, Glenn

Zweygardt and Don Bash will sing as will a sextet composed of Janet Evins, Carol Blume, Sondra Price, Sondra Dorsch, Vivien Brunswig and Loretta Raile. The benediction will be given by Larry Crabtree.

35 years ago - 1972

Rick Touslee jumped 21-7 in the broad jump to set a new record at the St. Francis Invitational. Winning first place were Dale Crabtree in the javelin and Rick Wolfe in the pole vault.

Dave Uhrlaub presented his resignation to the St. Francis Board of Education. He was the social science teacher and the basketball coach. Ward Cassidy will replace him as the new head basketball coach.

"In Da Godda Da Vida" was the theme of the junior/senior prom. The cafeteria was transformed into a Garden of Eden.

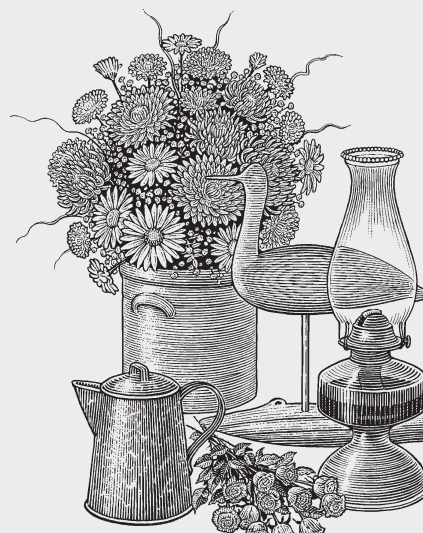
Forty-one senior graduated from St. Francis Community High School. Seniors Dianne Herman and Ed Kite gave the two principal talks at the commencement ceremony.

Mayor Bob Yost and the city council will meet for the purpose of considering and granting a franchise for the construction, operation and maintenance of a cable television service in St. Francis.

The St. Francis Lions Club began work on the "Kiddy Park" between Faulkender Hardware and Hefner Sewing Center. Besides cleaning up the area they erected a fence and installed some playground equipment.

20 years ago - 1987

Ray Huffman announced his retirement at the end of the school year after teaching in the U.S.D. 297 District for 28 years. He arrived in the fall of 1959 to teach drives education and assume football coaching responsibilities.



Church of Christ
332-2380, Pars. 332-3424
502 W. Spencer
Norman Morrow - Minister
Bible Class 11 a.m.
Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

United Methodist
Church Office 332-2292,
Church 332-2254,
512 S. Scott
Pastor Morita Truman
Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
No Summer Sunday School
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Roger Meitl
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

First Christian Church
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Sunday School 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.
Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

Grace Assembly of God
332-2925, Pars. 332-2899
208 E. 2nd
Rev. Rob Meyer
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship Service 10:30 a.m.
Potluck & Communion - Every 2nd Sunday
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Mike Larson
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
J.W. Glidewell, Pastor
Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 9:30 a.m.
with fellowship to follow.

Clough Valley Church of Hope
12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF
Pastor Jason Howard
332-3152
Saturdays
8 p.m. CT or 7 p.m. MT

St. Francis Equity

Knodel Funeral Home
202 S. Benton • St. Francis
785-332-3131

First National Bank
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