

Government spends money on military draft

Raise your hands. How many of you knew the U.S. still has a military draft?

No, you're not being called up. The draft is inactive. Real inactive. But the government still spends about \$24 million each year to keep it up. And, apparently, that's not enough.

Nearly 13.5 million men age 18 to 25 are registered with the moribund Selective Service system, though no one has been drafted since the Vietnam War.

To activate the draft, Congress would have to pass a law and the president would have to sign it. Chances of that happening are minimal in this day and age.

Once on duty, the system would have to deliver its first draftees in 193 days, a little less than seven months. No one believes that will or can happen, and no one, apparently, is going to find out.

Last week, the system ditched plans to test the draft machinery for the first time in 10 years. The agency said it lacked the staff or the money to finish the test, which would have included a mock draft and a mock appeals board to handle conscientious objectors.

In its goals for this year, the agency said the test would be "a total mobilization exercise that will be tailored to evaluate the Selective Service System's mandates for a mobilization of any kind. The sheer size and detail of the exercise will take approximately 18 months to produce."

Last week, a spokesman admitted nothing had

been done to prepare for the test. While one official likened the exercise to a fire extinguisher, which has to be tested every so often, even if not used, there appears to be no commitment to test this turkey.

In the nearly 35 years since the end of the old draft, registration was suspended for five years from 1975 to 1980. Then President Jimmy Carter ordered it activated when the Soviets invaded Afghanistan. Young men are told to register when they turn 18, and find they can't get federal aid for college tuition unless they do.

Oddly enough, in this age of the all-volunteer, coed military, women are not required to register and wouldn't be drafted.

All in all, this draft is a nonstarter, so why are we spending money on it?

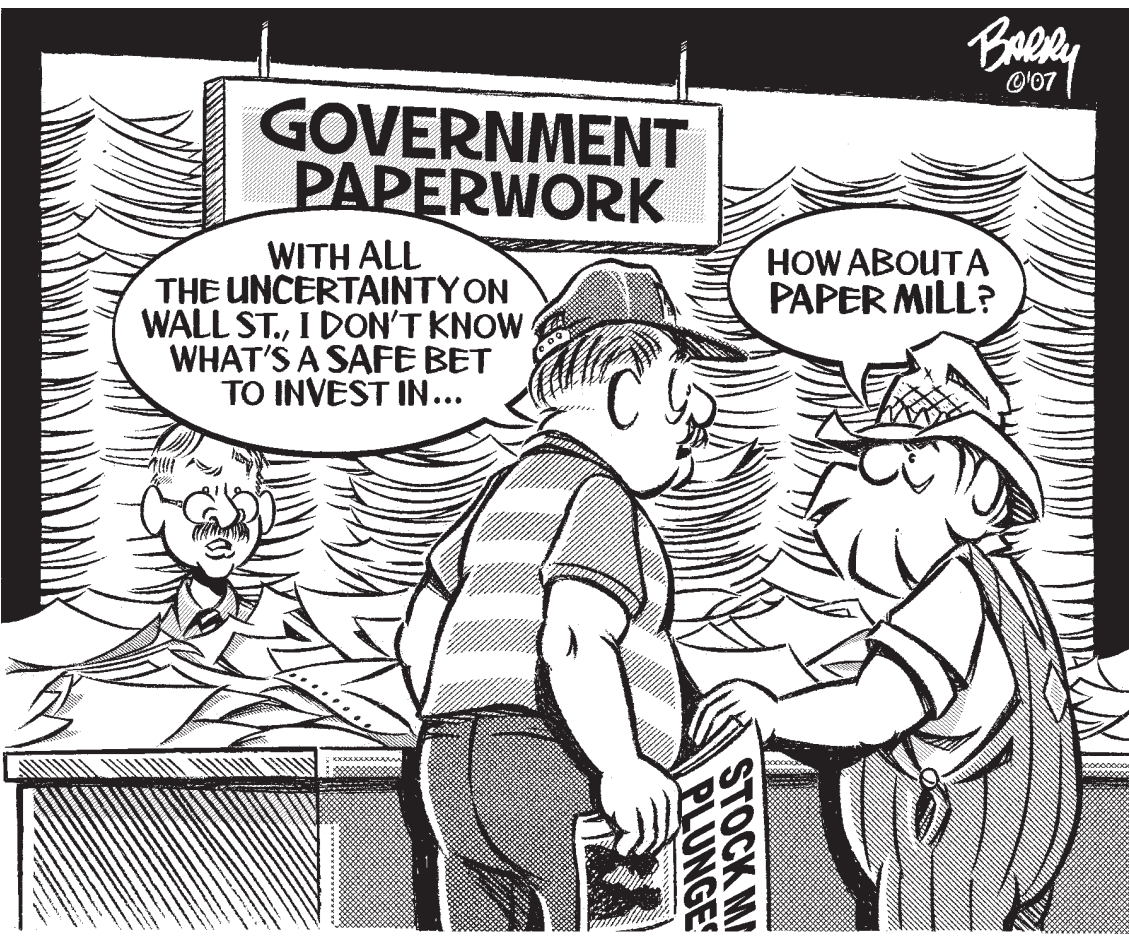
Mostly because some people who think we'll someday need a draft and because the government never really closes any program. Somewhere, deep in some agency of Agriculture or Commerce, there's probably still a subsidy for buggy-whip manufacturers.

But we think the time has come to cut this one loose.

The nation banished the draft after the last unpopular war and we're unlikely to need it again any time soon. If the nation really needs to mobilize, the will to win should appear and there'll be plenty of time to create a draft — if we need it.

Today's phony preparedness is just a sham. Let's get rid of it.

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

5 years ago - 2002

The Culpepper and Merryweather Circus was in St. Francis early in the month.

The St. Francis Community High School alumni reunion was held the third weekend of June with pictures being printed in the July 4 issue of the Herald. Iva (Indorf) Blacker, Wallace Gattshall and Vera Gattshall represented the 70-year class. One member of the 65-year class attended. It was Josephine (Firkins) Cram.

With the new city hall being remodeled, the St. Francis City Council began talking about selling the present facility at 113 West Washington.

Dr. Lucille Stephenson celebrated her 96th birthday on July 20.

RL Walz had the Grand Champion breeding heifer at the Dundy County FFA/4-H Beef Show held in Benkelman. He was also the Grand Champion Junior Showman.

The Classy Cuts building, located east of Bankwest on Main Street in St. Francis, was to be moved but before they

could move it, it collapsed in a heap. It is not known when the building was built or if it was moved in from Wano. Through the years it has generally been a barber shop or a beauty shop.

Dustin Dunn of St. Francis will be playing in the Kansas Shrine Bowl on July 27 at Pittsburg State University. He was a running back/linebacker for the St. Francis Indians and plans to play football for Fort Hays State University.

20 years ago - 1987

Leslie O'Brien, native of St. Francis, was chosen to reign as the 1988 Miss Frontier on Aug. 1 during the scholarship pageant in Norton.

Glen Henderson announced Friday, July 31, was his last official day for milk delivery. Henderson purchased the Meadow Gold milk delivery business 13 1/2 years ago from Lyle Ewing. Glen's retirement is the end of this service not only in St. Francis but in the state of Kansas. There were approximately 100 regular customers on his route.

Champions in the 4-H Fashion Revue were Sharissa Stevens, Leigh Ann Faulkender, Ryan McAtee, Angela Eggers, Kari

Milliken, Lori Houtman and Kody Krien.

"Accentuate the Positive" was the theme for the Cheyenne County Fair Parade.

Evelynn Harvey was crown the Tri-State Antique Auto Queen on July 31.

4-H results: Matt Bandel had the Grand Champion Market Hog; Jennie Schultz had the Grand Champion Market Lamb; Noel Ketzner had the Grand Champion Steer; Jeremy Busby was the overall Senior Division Showman Champion.

40 years ago - 1967

Mrs. Lyle Seymour of Bird City has been installed as president of the Kansas American Legion Auxiliary. A bright red 1967 Buick will be the grand prize attendance award at the Cheyenne County Fair.

Mayor Ernie Touslee this week has announced that the city has hired Mr. Bernard Roelfs as assistant city superintendent.

Harold Bracelin is now the sole operator of the St. Francis Livestock Sale Company.

Hangin' with Marge

Gardens

By Margaret Bucholtz



For those of you who have been asking what happened to me, I am going to try and explain it.

Last year you might have remembered that I planted a flower garden and just enjoyed working in it every day. Then in the winter I spent lots of time making a picket fence.

This year for Christmas, Darrin and Dina gave us a pretty black, old fashioned light for the yard. All of the above inspired me to have another flower yard. Of course, I can do a lot of things, but I need Kurt to work with me on all of this as I couldn't wire in the light and someone had to level the land.

First we had some dirt hauled in, and then we leveled the ground. Meanwhile we put up the picket fence and I was ready to go.

Kurt told me that I was taking on more than I could do, but I just knew he was wrong. After all I liked doing all of this so how could it be too much.

Well — I was wrong. I had not calculated the 150 trees that we had planted into my life. Because we didn't get the plastic down in time it wasn't long until the weeds outgrew the trees.

I spent my entire time leaning over pulling weeds every day of

the week!

I never thought much about it as I was still having fun even though I was behind on all the work.

Finally, it really hit me that Kurt was right. I came to town and the neighbors didn't speak to me. Then I dropped something on the street and when I leaned over a neighbor from behind said, "Well, hello Margaret, I haven't seen you around town much."

It finally dawned on me that the only way anyone recognizes me is when I am on leaning over.

Reader finds an old article

Letters to the Editor

To the editor:

I was born in Abilene, Kan., and lived there until early 1960. I have always appreciated my ancestry and my home state of Kansas.

My father, Carl L. Nicolay, also was raised there. His grandfather built the first school in Abilene. My grandfather farmed approximately 1 mile south of Abilene. I should include my grandmother also. She was the all-important farmer's wife, and a true Kansas woman. My adventurousism could very well go all the way back to her.

The purpose of my letter and the interesting title comes from when my father, Carl, became City Manager of Abilene in 1953. He did a lot for the city of Abilene for a decade before his untimely death. Such as the Mud Creek flood dam and building roads in the Kansas area. He was a Civil Engineer and was educated at Kansas University for two and one-half years. He was a very conscientious City Manager and well liked. I like to remember that he played sandlot baseball with President Eisenhower; also football in high school.

Recently I have been going through my parents scrapbook and found this article which made an impression on him. He had it printed in

the Abilene Reflector Chronicle.

How to be a dead town

"What project has your town chosen for its betterment during 1954? No town improves without projects; they are the breath of community life. Unless the council or the service clubs, the Chamber of Commerce or a group of individuals are promoting some upward step for your community standard of living, your town is dead. If there is a projection, and it depends on getting Federal money to pay the cost, your town may be alive, but not in good health. The improvement that home folks push through and pay for testi-

fies to vigorous life and liveliness."

How is our community of St. Francis doing in 2007? My hope is that we must ambitiously, and I emphasize ambitiously, bring in more businesses and corporations. That means more families and children for our schools. We all know this. Then even Cheyenne County will grow and all the surrounding counties in Northwest Kansas. We must realize it takes individuals push and not just a few — but all of us! We don't want our town to be just alive. Do we?

Nancy McCumber
St. Francis

GOD SAYS

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God: and knoweth God.

I John 4:7

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Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick

By Casey McCormick

It's time to take a quick breath. There is a short break between the Thresher Show and county fair.

Spend a minute to think about all the time and effort that goes into these two events. There is no one on the payroll to get everything organized for either one.

Yet, year after year, they both happen. For Cheyenne County they are a big deal. People come from far

away to make it a homecoming, or they come just to see a giant steam engine chug across a field, or watch a 4-H'er show the animal they have nurtured and worked with, or enjoy the excitement of the carnival.

What makes all this possible is the volunteers. Everyone from the person mailing out the programs, to ordering needed supplies, or the one who operates a ticket booth or carnival game. It is the volunteer who

makes the Thresher Show and fair a time to remember.

And to the Thresher Association and Cheyenne County Fair Board, thank you for the countless hours you put in so folks may realize the many great things this area has to offer. I am sure the summer of 2007 will be unforgettable!

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.

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

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

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.

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.

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.

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

Solid Rock Baptist Church
412 S. Denison
Welcomes You!
Pastor Allen Coon
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed 7:30 p.m.

Peace Lutheran Church
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
No Summer Sunday School
Worship 9:30 a.m.
with fellowship to following

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.

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

Praise the Lord

St. Francis Equity

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