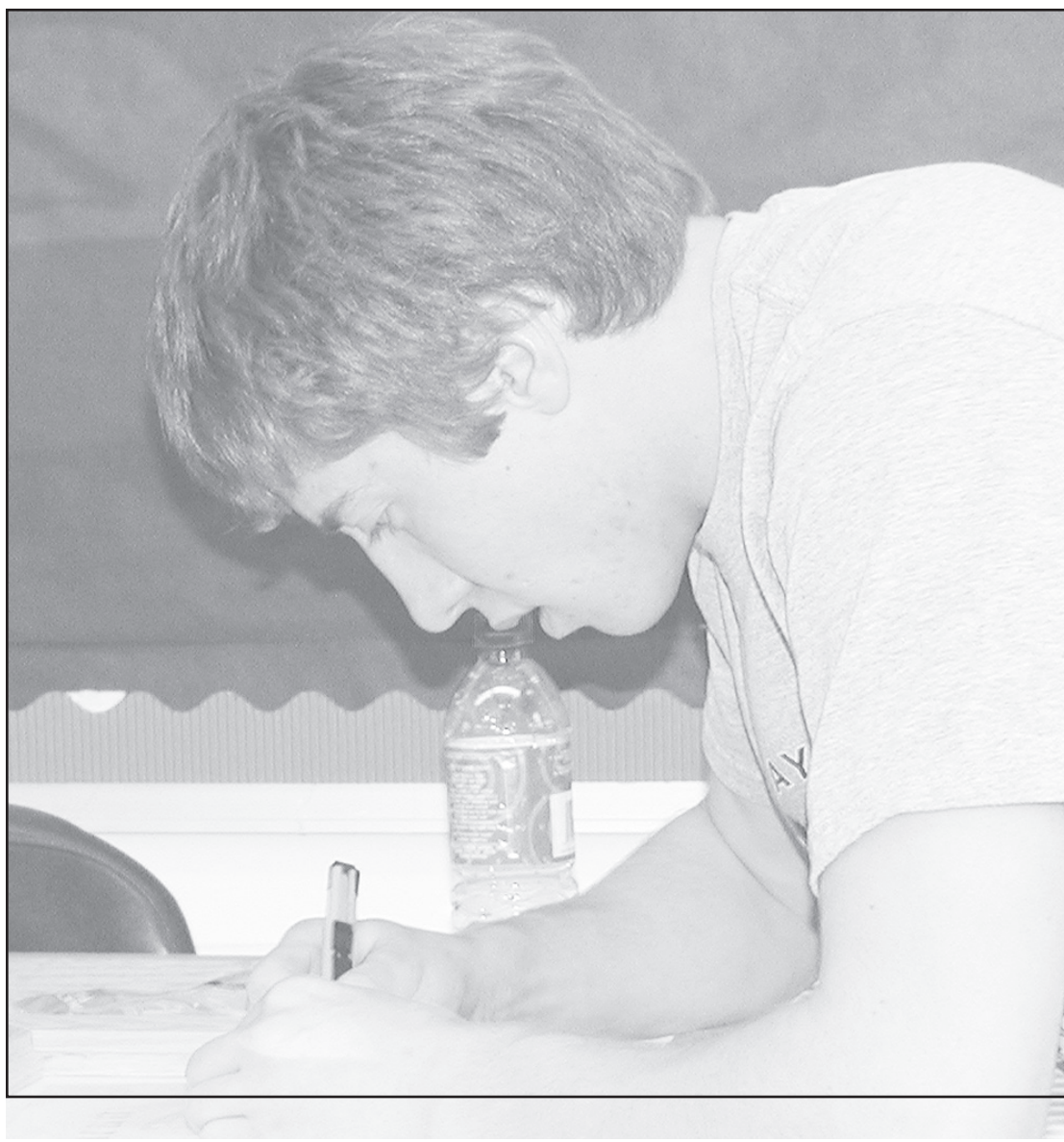




PREPARING FOR THE ART SHOW is a big job. Mary Beikman, instructor, spends hours getting art work ready to be transported to the league art show. This year, the show is held in Atwood on Wednesday and Thursday. Getting pieces ready to go are: above, Justin Sherlock; and to the right, Josh Carpenter.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien



Barrel racing results are told

The Northeast Barrel Association season began Saturday, March 29, at Dan and Kindi Kirchenschlager's indoor arena south of Yuma. This is the second year for the association's barrel races in northeast Colorado.

Throughout the season members will earn points. A lot of the barrel racers are members of an association called Better Barrel Races, out of Oklahoma. The Northeast Barrel Association is sanctioning approximately 36 races this year with Better Barrel Races helping members qualify for the Better Barrel World Finals.

The results of the March 29 contest were:

1D - Brenda Delano, St. Francis, first; Susan Jensen, Bird City, second; Kindi Kirchenschlager, third; and Evelyn Cochran, fourth.

2D - Dixie Kuehl, first.
3D - Kuehl, first; Nancy Smith, second.

4D - Kerste Wamsley, first.
5D - Janie Rasmussen, first; Debbie Drury, second; Monica Drury, third.

The second race results are:
1D - Delano, first; Jensen, second; Cochran, third.

2D - Kuehl, first; Kirchenschlager, second.

The 3D and 4D divisions were open.

5D - Rasmussen, first; D. Drury, second; M Drury, third.

At the end of last year, the association's awards included saddles, breast collars, headstalls, bronc halters, buckles, gift certificates and much more. The association was also able to give prizes throughout the year.

For more information on activities, races and dates, check the Better Barrel website at www.betterbarrelraces.com or the association's site www.freewebs.com/diggin3cans or call 970-332-3527 or 970-848-2412.

Frances Emersons adventures in Sainty told

By Margaret Bucholtz
margeb@cityofstfrancis.net

Captain A. L. and Frances Emerson were the people largely responsible for the city of St. Francis which lies in the northwest corner of Cheyenne County, Kan.

Captain Emerson had purchased the land to raise livestock, but horses were his main love. It was on their land that the town of Wano was moved to and thus began the town, St. Francis. There are conflicting stories about whether the name was after the Captain's brother, who had died earlier, or others write that he named the town after his dear wife, Frances.

When Frances and Captain Emerson left York Village, Maine, to head west to Kansas, she wasn't afraid of what lay before her. She knew she would miss the English-style village and her many friends,

but adventure was not a new experience in her life.

Frances Phillips was born Nov. 11, 1840, in York, Maine, to parents who were of New England descent. It was in this home that Fannie learned the meaning of thrift, a sense of obligation, a love of mankind and, above all, a strong religious faith.

When she married Captain Emerson she knew that he had chosen the occupation of trading by the sails of the sea. It was the days of trade between the Atlantic Seaboard, the California coast and the Orient and Far East.

The only way to make this journey was traveling around Cape Horn. Cape Horn was the most tedious part of the entire trip. There was the very bitter cold to endure, the danger of hitting an iceberg but not even that could compare

to the winds. The prevailing winds would blow from west to east causing waves up to 100-feet high. The sails on the boats would not nor could not take them in the right direction so they would have to sail by tacking the ship to get pass the waves. Then there was an area of shallow water that had to be passed so they would not wreck on the shores. Finally after skilled maneuvers, they would pass into the blue water of the Pacific.

Mrs. Emerson went with her husband around the horn 13 times. Only once did the Captain fear for her safety and put her aboard another boat until all the danger was over.

The other times that Mr. Emerson would go she would be left at home, in York and wait until he would return again. It was at one of these times that she suffered the

lost of their child, born only to die.

The Captain gave up his sailing, but he missed the adventure in his life and that was when he and Fannie packed their belonging and came to Kansas in 1885.

There was nothing here that reminded Mrs. Emerson of her home in Maine, but she never once said anything about. There were no trees, no roads, no houses, only unbroken sod and very few people. Fannie never noticed the bareness of the ground, but she saw the possibilities of the people. She made friends with everyone and everyone was her friend. She especially was interested in the young people and this is how she made her contribution to the people of this county.

Mrs. Emerson had the background of culture and training and with a strong religious faith she saw the possibilities of the people.

One of her first services to the community was to organize a Sunday school. She used her home as the first place of meeting until a church could be built. It was with her encouragement and knowledge that the Congregational Church was established in Wano Township.

Each year she presented Christmas programs and held bazaars for raising money. With these efforts she made it possible that the community could buy the first organ.

In 1902 the Emerson's moved



to Colorado Springs where they remained for five years. The captain was broken in health and wished to return to his home in York, Mine, where he died in 1909.

No, it was no wonder that Fannie wasn't afraid of coming west; she had the spirit of a true pioneer. She was someone who had the insight to education, be a friend and, above all, share of herself.

Mrs. Emerson lived until 1921, but Cheyenne County still continues to remember her for the roll she had in building the community.

Book Review

Woman in Red

Book review from St. Francis Public Library
By Eileen Goudge

Alice Kessler spent nine years in prison for the attempted murder of the drunk driver who killed her eldest son. Now she has returned home to Gray's Island to reconnect with the son she left behind. Her boy, Jeremy, now an angry teenager, is falsely accused of rape, and so mother and son are united in a desperate attempt to prove his innocence. At the same time, Alice must

battle the man responsible for putting her behind bars, who has since become the mayor of her hometown. She is aided by Colin McGinty, a recovering alcoholic and 9/11 widower, also recently returned to the island following the death of his grandfather, a famous artist best known for his haunting portrait entitled "Woman in Red," which just so happens to be of Alice's grandmother. As Alice and Colin are drawn into a fragile romance of their own, the strange destiny that connects them

gradually comes to light.

In a tale that weaves the past with the present, we come to know the story behind the portrait, of the forbidden wartime romance between William McGinty and Eleanor Styles, and the deadly secret that bound them more tightly than ever in their love for each other. A secret that, more than half a century later, is about to be unburied....

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