



Local graduates need to be encouraged to return home

As graduates filed across the stage during the weekend, how many of them have been encouraged to learn and study and return to St. Francis, or even to some part of rural Kansas, to help make this a better place?

Graduates collected thousands of dollars in scholarships from colleges, civic groups, businesses and the like. Most of that money was earned here, by people who spent their lives building a business, a farming operation, a life on the plains.

Early on, we knew we wanted the best for our children. We wanted them to have the best education possible before they went on to whatever they would do in life.

At first, a great many of them did come back. In the 19th century and the first half of the 20th century, it was expected that children would continue a family business or farm.

All that changed with the end of World War II. The so-called Greatest Generation came home from war wanting other things — a better life in the city being first among those.

And since then, fewer and fewer of our graduates have come home to run businesses, to keep farms going, to make life better for rural America.

And we raise money each year to pay them to go. We send our own children off to a university with little hope they will come back, even though this is a good life.

We help raise money for other people's children to do the same. At the twilight of our lives, those who have made some money often leave a chunk of it for scholarships. It's a wonderful thing, a noble cause.

But in the end, we are financing the flight of our youth to life in the city. We're paying them to flee the plains and the life our grandfathers built.

To some extent, that's just life in America today. Rural areas have been losing population. Opportuni-

ties are fewer and farther between.

But it doesn't have to be that way. The culture of small-town life changed before, and it could change again.

Why do we have to give kids scholarships so they can get a good job in the city?

Why not encourage them, with our money, to learn how to make a living and grow a business or a professional practice here, at home, where life is safe and relatively simple?

We are not talking about coercing anyone. Youths should be free to make their own decisions, and some always have — and always will — chose city life. There are things you can only do in New York or Los Angeles or Washington, after all.

But we could encourage them to value small-town life and we could give them money to study for a career in rural America.

It's our money, after all. We can give it however we like.

The day should come when every scholarship raised here, or in any rural town, encourages somehow not just a good education, but a desire to contribute to a better life in St. Francis, in rural Kansas, in small-town America.

No law, no rule of life, no moral imperative forces us to keep spending as we always have spent, with no thought for where these kids will end up.

If we continue as we are, we are pounding nails in the coffin of rural life. We can change that. We should change that.

We should encourage our lifestyle, cherish its values and pass them on. Not pay kids to make a life in the crowded, crime-ridden cities and sprawling suburbs.

So why don't we?

— Steve Haynes



News From the Past

20 years ago - 1988

A stately addition to the city of St. Francis is the newly constructed public library. The building, located on the corner of Jackson and Scott streets, will be officially dedicated on May 15.

The fair board has announced that the Younger Brothers will be taking top billing on the entertainment list at the fair this year. They will also be playing for the fair dance. The group was hired

for \$3,000.

May 22 is high school graduation day. Thirty-four seniors will be receiving their diplomas. The program includes a talk by Shawna Stevens and the senior farewell by Chris Bracelin, class president.

The school board has accepted the resignations of Michelle Marostica, junior high special science instructor and coach, and Cynthia Roths, vocal music instructor,

grades seven through 12.

Terri Sharp set a new school high jump record of 5-6 at the league meet held in Oakley. She is also one of the Saintry tracksters who will be heading to State. Also qualifying for State are members of the 1600-meter relay team, including Sharp, Jauna Krien, Lorna Hilt and Angie Renk. Krien will also be involved in the 400-meter dash and Renk in the high hurdles.

Hangin' With Marge

Anniversary

By Margaret Bucholtz



margeb@cityofstfrancis.net
Wow! Where do the years go? Sunday Kurt and I had our 23 anniversary. Neither one of us remembered it that week. I finally did about 10 in the morning and I thought about how life changes.

When we had been married about five years I told Kurt that we just got married too late in life to ever be able to celebrate a milestone. I just knew we wouldn't live long enough to see 25 years. Kurt being an optimist told me, no, we will see the 25th but probably not the 50 year mark.

I decided then that we could celebrate 50 years of marriage

if we totaled up our actual married years, but not to each other. I really tried hard to convince him that we could have a big crowd if we invited all of our ex's and their families and called it "Old Home Week." Of course he didn't see the humor in that plan.

Sunday I got up early to go out and burn thistles. Shortly he came out to help and while we were burning it dawned on me that today was our anniversary. Now I am dressed in a old pair of cutoffs that are way to big and an oversized shirt covered with paint. My hair was not only not combed but it was singed by getting too close to the fire when I dropped my pitch-

fork and went over to him.

Kurt isn't too wide awake in the morning so I am sure he was wondering what I was up to. I threw my arms around his neck and kissed him and then said, "Happy anniversary".

He kind of stood there a little stunned. I really wonder if he was shocked by the fact he didn't remember the date or if his mind was looking at me and saying, "What was I thinking at the time."

It doesn't matter because now I know in two years we will have reached a milestone and it sure has been a wonderful trip.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



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"Ask not for whom the bell tolls, it tolls for thee."
(Meditation XVII by John Donne)

Most of you didn't have the opportunity to know Kathryn Thacker-McCormick-Baker. She lived in Ohio, Colorado and California.

But I knew her well as she was my Aunt Sissy.

The oldest sibling with two brothers, and the mother of one child named Kathy.

But she was much more than a sister and mother.

She played piano in New York City auditoriums and was a practitioner to countless Christian Scientist faithful.

Aunt Sissy devoted her whole life to the needs of others. She was providing for her husband of many years. Uncle Bake suffers from dementia and now needs hourly care.

However, in the big scope of this universe, her time of giving

came to an end last Saturday.

I hope we all have someone in our lives who gives much more on this planet than they ever take.

This is my column and opinion, so I can say this: I don't know how often the Lord uses the express train that brought Mother Theresa to Heaven, but I know Aunt Sissy made a very quick trip to the beyond in similar fashion.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Patrick Duncan, Manhattan, Kans.; Gary Gibson, St. Francis; Rueben Schultz, St. Francis; Karna Saunders, Wichita; Chad Miller, Manhattan; David Guthmiller, Sterling, Kans.; Genella Howland, Spring Hill, Kans.; Velda Smith, Goodland; Larry Brunow, St. Francis;

GOD SAYS
He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.
Proverbs 28:13

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World Crohn's and Colitis Day

Dear Editor:

Friday, May 23, is the second annual World Crohn's and Colitis Day. It was founded by Josh Golder, director of the film True Guts, a documentary about people with inflammatory bowel disease (IBD). This day was made to spread awareness about the two most common forms of IBD, Crohn's disease (CD) and Ulcerative Colitis (UC). Only around 1 million people in the United States have been diagnosed with one of these two forms of IBD. That number is always on the rise. Out of the million people, I happen to be one of the few that is suffering from Crohn's.

Crohn's is an auto-immune disease that disrupts the normal function of the body's immune system. The immune system attacks the GI tract which causes the intestines

Letters to the Editor

to become raw and chronically inflamed which is accompanied by deep intestinal ulcers. The inflammation leads to stomach pain, internal bleeding, weight loss, and diarrhea, among many other things. Seventy to eighty percent of all Crohn's disease patients undergo surgery for out-of-control symptoms, or common complications.

There are many theories as to how a person gets Crohn's, but currently no one knows the reason people are effected by this life changing disease. Many different treatments are available for patients including, countless pills, IV infusions, special diets, and eventually surgery. Despite the surgery to take out the inflamed

part of the intestine, Crohn's disease can never be cured. In most cases, Crohn's reappears in a different part of the GI tract in as little as months, or as long as years after surgery is performed.

Now, I wouldn't be surprised if you've never heard of Crohn's or Colitis. I hadn't until my life was forever changed six years ago in fifth grade when I was diagnosed with Crohn's disease.

Since this disease hits so close to home for me I would appreciate your support in helping me celebrate World Crohn's and Colitis day and spreading the word by wearing purple, the color of our cause. If you would like to learn more about Crohn's disease or Ulcerative Colitis please visit www.ccfca.org. There you can become more informed of IBD, or make donations to help support research to put an end to our suffering and help us finally find a cure.

(All information was taken from 100 Questions and Answers about Crohn's disease and Ulcerative Colitis: A Lahey Clinic Guide by Andrew Warner and Amy Barto.)

Your Fellow Crohnie,
Nikki Johnson

Service receives funds

Dear Editor:

The Northwest Kansas Domestic and Sexual Violence Services, Inc. (NKDSVS) has received funding from the City of St. Francis in the amount of \$1500. \$750 for fiscal year 2007 and \$750 for fiscal year 2008. These funds will be used to provide direct ser-

vices to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Kansas, and it is greatly appreciated. It is a fortunate community indeed whose governmental officials recognize the need of all of its citizens.

Sincerely,
Jennifer Follis
NKDSVS, Inc. - Advocate

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

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

United Methodist Church
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
Sunday School: 10:00 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

St. Francis Community Church
332-3150
204 N. Quincy Street
www.sfccfamily.com
Pastor: David Butler
Sunday School 9:15 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

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.

First Christian Church
Pastor Jeff Landers
332-2956 • 118 E. Webster
Bible Fellowship 9:20 a.m.
Church Service 10:30 a.m.

Peace Lutheran Church, AFLC
202 N. College
Pastor Ken Hart
332-2928 Pars. 332-2312
Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday eve Bible Study 7 p.m.



St. Francis Equity

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