

## Obituaries

### Keith Schlepp

May 7, 1939 - Aug. 8, 2008

Keith Schlepp, age 69, husband, brother, father and grandfather died on Aug. 8, 2008, peacefully at home, surrounded by those he loved the most.

He was born on May 7, 1939, in Cheyenne County, Kan., on the family farm to Elmer and Wilda (Ott) Schlepp. He grew up on the farm and graduated from St. Francis Community High School in 1957. He then went on to Colorado State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in agricultural business in 1962.

On Sept. 11, 1960, Keith married Ella Mae Walz in St. Francis. They were blessed with four children: Cindy, Melinda, Mike and Steve. Not long after his college graduation, the family moved from Fort Collins, Colo., to the Denver area. He landed a job at John Deere and Co., and never left. He spent 29 wonderful and loyal years there and retired in 1992.

Keith enjoyed sports, both playing and watching. He loved to hunt pheasant in late fall, fish and play golf. He was not one to shy away from a card game either. Pinochle was his game.

When he wasn't playing, he was watching. Keith spent countless hours watching his kids and grandkids play. He was a huge Bronco fan who spent many Sundays cheering on the orange and blue at Mile High with his wife by his side. Spending time in "grandpa's" garden was also a passion of his.

He was a selfless, loving man who will be dearly missed by all who were lucky enough to know him.

He is survived by his wife of 47 years, Ella Mae; two daughters, Cindy and husband, Pat Tait, and Melinda and husband, Kerwin Brogado; two sons, Mike and Steve and wife, Kathy. Grandpa will be forever missed by Ashley, Jaylee, Michael, Marcus, Tyler, Braydon, Julia, Gabbi and Sydney.

He was preceded in death by his parents, and an infant granddaughter, Charlie Mae.

Services were held on Aug. 13 in St. Francis at Knodel Funeral Home with Reverend James Talarico officiating.

Casket bearers were Jaylee Tait, Ashley Tait, Michael Tait, Marcus Tait, Gale Walz, R.L. Walz, Rod McAtee and Bob Ochsner.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery, St. Francis.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

In lieu of contributions, the family suggests you take the day off and spend the day with someone you love. Go to a ball game, a favorite fishing hole, play a little catch or throw some cards.

### Charles Everett Timmons

Feb. 7, 1927 - July 2008

Charles Everett Timmons was born Feb. 7, 1927, in Hoxie, Kan., to Joseph O. and Elva (Harris) Timmons. He married his wife, Darwina, on Jan. 12, 1947, in Hoxie. She preceded him in death in September of 1999.

He married Carol Hulke of Lambert, Minn., on June 26, 2004, and she survives him.

Charlie served his country during World War II in France and Germany. Following his service, he worked for the Chrysler dealership in WaKeeney.

Mr. Timmons began a career with the United States Post Office in the early 60s. By the mid-70s, he served as an acting postmaster and was soon appointed to postmaster of St. Francis. He was again promoted in the early 80s to postmaster of Osawatimie and served there until his retirement in 1989.

Charlie enjoyed using his knowledge and skills in electrical work, refrigeration and automotive repair to help his family and friends.

He was active in the Masonic Lodge, Shriners, Eastern Star and Job's Daughters.

He was a sports fan and an avid Kansas University Jayhawk fan.

Wintering with friends in Texas, he enjoyed cards, shuffleboard and bowling.

Charlie always looked forward to many trips to see his family and friends.

He is survived by his son, Joseph and wife, Sharon of Loch Lloyd, Mo.; his daughter, Jeanie Whites of Springfield, Mo., and son, Timothy and wife, Patricia of Newton; six grandchildren; five great-grandchildren; three step-grandchildren and six step-great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held Wednesday, July 16, at Petersen's Funeral Home in Newton with interment at a graveside service in to be held later in WaKeeney.

### Irene I. Burkhalter

March 21, 1915 - Aug. 21, 2008

Irene I. Burkhalter of rural Cheyenne County, Kan., died Thursday, Aug. 21, 2008, at the Sarah Ann Hester Memorial Home in Benkelman, Neb., at the age of 93.

She was born in Gaylord to Robert and Elizabeth (Dowd) Conry on March 21, 1915, and moved with her family to Oberlin, and then on to St. Francis, where she graduated from high school After graduation, Irene taught at schools in rural western Kansas, including St. Francis, and in Nebraska, including schools in both Parks and Benkelman.

On Nov. 4, 1947, Irene was united in marriage to Arthur Dale Burkhalter in St. Francis. They made their home in the Big Timber community of Cheyenne County.

To this union, three children were born: Terry, Cynthia "Cindy" and Kevin.

While Irene was serving as a caring mother and a loving wife, she also continued to teach school. She attended summer school for several years at Kearney State Teachers College where she received her bachelor of science degree. She utilized this degree expanding the minds of young kindergartners at the Benkelman schools until she retired in 1986.

As an active citizen of her community, Irene served as a member of St. Joseph Catholic Churches in both Bird City and Benkelman, and was a member of the Altar Society in both parishes.

Irene loved to play cards and to read, continuing to do both until close to the end of her life.

Preceding her in death were her parents, Robert and Elizabeth Conry; her husband, Arthur Burkhalter; her brother, Floyd Conry; her sister, Berniece Conry; and a grandson, Ryan Sloan.

Survivors include her children, Terry Sutton and husband, Clyde of Ness City, Cindy Sloan and husband, Wayne of Manhattan, and Kevin Burkhalter and wife, Jeanette of Bird City; eight grandchildren nine great-grandchildren; one step great-grandchild; sisters, Agnes Annen of Mount Angel, Ore., and Adeline Susa of Woodburn, Ore; and numerous other relatives and friends.

A Vigil and Rosary Service was held Friday, Aug. 22, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Benkelman. A Memorial Mass of Christian Burial was held Saturday, Aug. 23, with Reverend Father Sean Redmond as celebrant. An inurnment followed at the Benkelman Cemetery.

Memorials may be given in her name.

### Wallace F. Gattshall

June 15, 1913 - Aug. 20, 2008

Longtime Sherman County, Kan., resident Wallace F. Gattshall, 95, died Wednesday, Aug. 20, 2008, at Cheyenne County Hospital in St. Francis.

He was born June 15, 1913, in Kit Carson County, Colo., in the home- stead sod house, the son of Frank Quincy and Millie B. (Hartzler) Gattshall.

He grew up in the Flagler, Colo., area, and started school in a sod house north of Flagler. He graduated from high school in St. Francis.

On June 8, 1943, he and Vera Marie Livingston were married at Goodland.

During World War II, he was a United States Army cryptographic technician and code clerk, attached to MacArthur's headquarters, seeing service in Australia, New Guinea, the Philippines and Japan. He waded ashore at the Battle of Leyte Gulf, and while stationed in Japan, he saw the atomic cinders of Hiroshima.

When Wallace returned home from the Army in 1945, he and Vera settled on the farmstead in Grant Township in Sherman County, and he continued farming through the age of 84.

His contributions to community life included serving on the school board of District 6, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) board, Sherman County Farm Bureau board, election board, as a township trustee, and a 4-H

leader.

His memberships included the American Legion Post 117, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Lowell Coleman Post 1133, and Neville Methodist Church.

Preceding him in death were his parents, his wife Vera Gattshall, one sister Laveta Loutzenhiser, and one brother Wayne Gattshall.

Surviving family includes two sons, Robert W. Gattshall and his wife, Kathy of Shawnee and William Q. Gattshall and his wife, Diane of Goodland; six grandchildren Sharla Gattshall and Brian Brynes; Kim Gattshall and Dan Galbraith; Chris Gattshall and his wife, Kelly; Travis Gattshall and his wife, Colleen; Matthew Gattshall and his wife, Erica; and Rebecca Brace and her husband, Logan; and four great-grandchildren, Regan Brynes, Dane Galbraith, Linnea Gattshall, and Carter Brace.

Funeral services were Tuesday, Aug. 26, at Koons Chapel in Goodland, with Pastor Chad DeJong officiating. Burial followed in the Goodland Cemetery, with military honors.

Memorials may be designated to the Cheyenne County Hospital, and may be left at or mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 North Main, Goodland, KS 67735-1555.

### Gene L. Richard

Nov. 21, 1921 - Aug. 19, 2008

Gene L. Richard was born on Nov. 21, 1921, in Dundy County, Neb., to H. Aubrey and Myrtle (Penn) Richard.

Gene grew up on the family farm north of Parks, Neb. He took great pride in sharing the farm work, especially corn shucking. He was a noted top corn shucker in the area.

Later he served in the U.S. Army and was stationed in Japan at the end of World War II. As a sergeant he was put in charge of the U.S. Mail for the troops.

On Aug. 11, 1948, he married Junice Bruns. They made their home in Cheyenne County, Kan., south of Wheeler. Being a man of the earth, he enjoyed farming.

To this union, five children were born, Sherolyn, Vickie, Sandy, Tammy and Tim.

He enjoyed family, farming and animals. Hobbies included collecting arrowheads, fishing with family and working with wood. In later years he took up wood carving. He enjoyed creating western scenes, giving them as gifts especially to his grandchildren.

Gene was confirmed in the Lutheran faith on Feb. 6, 1949, at Zion Lutheran Church by Pastor E. M. Mueller. At the time of his death, Gene was a member of Peace Lutheran Church.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Junice; his parents; a sister, Annie; and a brother, Glen.

Survivors include four daughters, Sherolyn Pittman and husband, Gary of St. Francis; Vickie Moses and husband, Larry of Gothenburg, Neb.; Sandy Patton of Greeley, Colo.; Tammy Riedel and husband, Glen of Salina; one son, Tim Richard and wife, Teri of St. Francis; 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Also surviving are two sisters, Alice Baney of Hudson, Fla., and Leah Els and husband, Byron of Benkelman, Neb.; one brother, Leo Richard and wife, Jean Ann of Benkelman and a nephew, John Moser and wife, Bev of Scotts Bluff, Neb.

Funeral services were held on Aug. 23, at Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis with Pastors Ken Hart and David Butler officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were Leo Richard, John Moser and Byron Els. Casket bearers were Brad Richard, Chris Richard, Tom Richard, Ted Richard, Joe Lutz and Daryl Loyd.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery with military graveside services by the Fort Riley Honor Guard.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.



**PAINTING FACES** — Aubree Schlepp, cheerleader, gives Casey Keller a new look! The cheerleaders are raising money for a trip to Florida. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Cheerleaders raise money

By Karen Krien

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The St. Francis Community High School cheerleaders have been seen in several different places, selling tickets on items and painting faces at the fair, just to name a few. They are trying to earn enough money to go to Orlando, Fla., where they will be performing at the Capital One Bowl Game on Jan. 1.

Eight St. Francis cheerleaders were offered a "trip of a lifetime" to Orlando when they earned a Superior Award at the Universal Cheerleaders Association camp they attended on July 9 and 10.

The girls will be in Florida from Dec. 29 to Jan. 2. During that time, they will also be going to Disney World.

Cheerleaders planning to go to Florida are Candice Wiese, Taryn Richard, Andrea Holzwarth, Sarah Guthmiller, Cara Hunt, Megan Gilliland, Amber Smull and Aubree Schlepp.

The "catch" to the trip is money! The girls need to raise money to cover the cost of the trip and other expenses while they are there and they needed it by Dec. 17.

They are planning fund raisers, looking at grants and scholarships and will gladly accept donations. They are hoping former cheerleaders and alumni will offer to give so they can represent St. Francis and the school.

For more information, contact Kristi Guthmiller, sponsor, at 785-332-3012 or 785-332-2248. The cheerleaders are looking at

### Club Clip

#### Plum Creek 4-H Tour and Swim Party

The members of the Plum Creek 4-H Club met Saturday afternoon, Aug. 2, at the home of Matt and Mila Bandel.

The group toured the farms of five members to see livestock projects.

The group then met back at the Bandel's home for pizza and ice cream.

Members with nonlivestock projects described their fair exhibits.

A short business meeting was held.

The members and parents then gathered at the swimming pool to conclude a fun evening.

Mikaela Grace, Reporter

some fun ways to raise the necessary money so they can fly to Florida. Look for more information in the future.

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