



FLOOD OF 1935 — The flood caught many people unaware. Juhl's Cabins, located on the southeast corner of St. Francis, were surrounded by water in 1935.

Photo courtesy of the Cheyenne County Museum

Candidate accepts nomination

By Tom Betz
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Thursday was a perfect sunny day with just enough breeze to keep the heat down as more than 80,000 gathered at Invesco Field at Mile High to witness the historic moment when Sen. Barack Obama accepted the nomination for president at the Democratic National Convention.

Obama's acceptance speech was a high point the four-day convention had been pointing to, and he did not disappoint the crowd who cheered, waved flags, stomped their feet and celebrated as he spoke about changing the country.

"With profound gratitude and great humility, I accept your nomination for the presidency of the United States," Obama said in opening his speech.

The gates of Invesco had opened at 1 p.m., and the crowd had to snake its way through the security checkpoints to be in their seats by 7 p.m. when the gates were closed about an hour before Obama was to speak. In the setting sun the lines of people could be seen getting shorter as the last stragglers rushed to get into their seats.

Yonder Mountain String Band entertained the crowd before Speaker Nancy Pelosi gavelled opened the final day of the convention.

Speakers in the first hours included Colorado Gov. Bill Ritter, and Colorado Congressional members Ed Perlmutter, John Salazar and Diana DeGette.

The afternoon included a salute to the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. who had made his famous "I have a dream" speech at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington 45 years ago on Aug. 28. Among those speaking were Rev. Bernice King, Dr. King's daughter, and Martin Luther King, III, his oldest son.

Musical entertainment between speeches was provided by Will.I.Am and John Legend, Sheryl Crow, Stevie Wonder and Michael McDonald.

As darkness fell over the sta-

dium the speakers picked up pace as former vice president Al Gore talked about how important close elections could be.

"I know something about that," he said to a wild cheer from the crowd.

Susan Eisenhower, granddaughter of President Dwight D. Eisenhower, said she is crossing party lines as an American because of the moral and financial failings of the current leadership.

"Our nation's discourse has turned into a petty squabble," she said. "Impulsive action has replaced measured response. I believe Barack Obama has the temperament to lead the country."

Vice presidential nominee Joe Biden introduced a group of six Americans who each had a personal story to tell.

Monica Early of Detroit said she got an e-mail questioning Obama's faith and patriotism. She investigated and became a strong Obama supporter.

"I am grateful for the email which made me investigate Obama and brought me here," she said.

Barney Smith a Marion, Ind. plant worker said he was a proud Republican, but not any more. After 31 years he received 90 days severance pay and a foreign worker is doing his job.

"We need a president who puts Barney Smith before Smith-Barney," he said. The crowd cracked up as did the press room.

The crowd cheered and waved signs and flags as Obama took the stage, and it took several minutes before he could begin his speech.

The speech lasted about 43 minutes and was marked with many cheers and ovations before he finished. When he finished he was joined on stage by his wife, Michelle and daughters Sasha and Malia and by vice president nominee Joe Biden and his wife Jill to more cheers from the crowd.

With the benediction Speaker Pelosi brought the gavel down and adjourned the 45th Democratic National Convention.

Plans in place if there is another flood

By Karen Krien
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On Thursday, May 30, 1935, there was heavy rainfall which came in downpours. Early Friday morning found the Republican

River in a devastating flood. The river runs through eastern Colorado, northwest Kansas and southwestern Nebraska.

An estimated 18- to 20-inches fell west of Cheyenne County

around Flagler and Seibert, Colo. One farmer in St. Francis measured 24 inches. The river was 1.5 miles wide when it swept through St. Francis and, those seeing it, said it was a "wall of water."

The events of the flood are told by several families in the *Cheyenne County History* book and, in the book, *The Flood of 1935*. People tell about their recollections of the flood which took over 100 lives.

It was about 3 o'clock in the morning when, without warning, the water roared through, trapping people in their homes while they slept, taking everything in its path including bridges, roads, buildings, machinery and livestock.

A second wave came down the valley four hours later and caused even more damage. Many people thought that the worst of the flood was over after the first wave came through and were unprepared.

There were tragic stories of those seeing family members disappear but there were also stories of neighbors saving neighbors and others who barely escaped the flood waters.

That was 73 years ago and, today, only a small stream makes up the Republican River through Cheyenne County and Dundy County, Neb.

The Bonny Dam was built in 1948 to 1951 by the Bureau of Reclamation. For years, it was used for irrigation as well as a recreational lake for boating, skiing and fishing. Today, there is little water and there has been talk of completely draining the lake.

However, there is a plan if there is ever a flood again. Gary Rogers, Cheyenne County Emergency Manager, said it took 3 years to complete.

He said if there was a heavy rain below the dam or if there was a terrorist threat to blow up the dam when there is a lot of water or there would be a fault in the dam, the emergency plan is in place.

The dam is in Yuma County, Colo., and owned by the United

States Bureau of Reclamation. St. Francis is the nearest town downstream of the dam.

An exercise is conducted every year. Some are more extensive than others. Mr. Rogers said communication is the most important part of the plan.

Around a year ago, a group of people who would be instrumental in an exercise or actual emergency, met at the emergency office of control in St. Francis. Among those present were the fire chief, city superintendent, emergency medical service director, sheriff, chief of police and Mr. Rogers.

The Colorado Wildlife and Parks superintendent at the lake would contact the Bureau of Reclamation field office in McCook and Yuma County law officers would be dispatched. The National Weather Service would be in contact if there is a threatening weather condition.

The water in the dam has to be at a certain level before any emergency alert is made, Mr. Rogers said.

The exercises are serious businesses. Ten years ago, there was an onsite exercise which involved picking up hazardous tanks and checking areas where the water was supposed to be over the banks of the river.

Mr. Rogers said that he seriously doubts that there will ever be another flood. For one thing, besides having Bonny Dam, the farming practices using terraces to catch water are so much better than they were 75 years ago.

However, there is always that chance. When the emergency preparedness office is moved into the new St. Francis Emergency building, located on U.S. 36, he said there will be better equipment and communication which will help if and when it is need.

For more information about the 1935 flood, turn to the *Cheyenne County History* book or the *1935 Flood* book, both of which can be purchased at the Cheyenne County Museum, St. Francis.

Committee selects member to serve

St. Francis Lion Milton Lampe, past district governor, has been selected to serve as Historian Committee chairperson with District Governor John Lee of Kismet. Mr. Lampe attended the first District Cabinet meeting of the year at Rush Center on Aug. 16.

Lions Club is the largest community service organization in the world numbering 1.3 million members in over 45,000 clubs in 202

countries and geographical areas. The Lions of western Kansas is comprised 1,650 members in 72 clubs which covers the entire western half of Kansas.



Lampe

Kansas soil included at the Smithsonian

The Kansas state soil, the Harney Silt Loam, will be among those included in a historic new exhibition at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. The exhibition, entitled "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil," opened July 19, and will remain on display in the Nation's Capital through January 3, 2010. Thereafter, it will travel to 10 museums nationwide until 2013.

The exhibit will likely awe visitors with seemingly improbable facts on this underfoot resource. The abundance of life in soil is one such example. It turns out there are more living creatures in a shovelful of soil than there are human beings on the planet; so many organisms contribute to the health of soil that scientists have not even named them all. Yet, the exhibit tells us, more is known about the dark side of the moon than about soil.

The exhibit aims to improve soil literacy with a 5,000-square-foot exhibition revealing the complex soil ecosystem and how it supports nearly every form of life on Earth. The exhibit includes interactive displays, hands-on models, videos and soil samples.

Budding detectives are likely to enjoy the crime scene investigation video focusing on the processes of decay, while a computer kiosk allows visitors to learn about their state soil.

The Kansas state soil, Harney Silt Loam, will be displayed along with 53 other designated state and territory soils. The Harney, found in north central Kansas, represents just one of the thousands of soils identified and mapped in Kansas as part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey lead by NRCS. "Dig It!" shows the public how every type of soil is unique.

For more information about the traveling exhibition, visit www.sites.si.edu/soils. Additional information about "Dig It! The Secrets of Soil" is available at <http://forces.si.edu/soils>. The National Museum of Natural History is located at 10th Street and Constitution Avenue N.W. in Washington, D.C. Admission is free.

Not traveling to Washington, D.C. anytime soon, h said Cleveland Watts, State Soil Scientist, for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Kansas, gThen attend the Kansas State Fair, Sept. 5 through Sept. 14, and stop by the Kansas Conservation Partnership booth in the Pride of Kansas building and learn about the Kansas state

Scoreboard show begins it's new season

The "Scoreboard Show," featured on Smoky Hills Public Television, will begin its sixth season at 10:30 p.m. on Friday and run each week through mid-November. The program is on St. Francis cable television, Channel 3. The program is replayed at 10 a.m. the following Saturday each week.

The station's highly popular, weekly, high school sports roundup program will feature live coverage from six high school football games each week, along with scores of high school football, vol-

leyball, soccer, cross country, golf and tennis events from throughout central and western Kansas.

The 2008 edition of the show will be hosted by Troy Waymaster of Russell.

In addition, the station's web site, www.shptv.org, will feature a separate "Scoreboard Show" page with scores and results.

Among the six games featured this week is Hoxie vs Trego Community/WaKeeney, Golden Plains vs Quinter and Quivira Heights vs Claffin.

Introducing the Newest Members Of Our Surgical Team!



Dr. Anthony Hornick
Surgeon



Dr. Afaq Zaman Khan
Surgeon

Welcome, Drs. Hornick and Khan

Hays Medical Center welcomes Dr. Anthony Hornick and Dr. Afaq Khan to our general surgery team, joining Dr. Charles Schultz and Dr. Zurab Tsereteli.

Anthony Hornick, MD. Dr. Hornick has previously served as a visiting surgeon for Hays Medical Center and now permanently joins the surgical medical staff. He earned his medical degree from the University of Kansas and completed his internship and residency at Maricopa Medical Center in Phoenix. He served a fellowship at St. Vincent's Hospital in Toledo. Dr. Hornick is board certified.

Afaq Zaman Khan, MD, FRCS. Dr. Khan completed his medical training in Pakistan, Scotland and Ireland. He completed his residency at Michigan State University, Grand Rapids, Michigan. This was followed by a foregut fellowship at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California.

Dr. Hornick and Dr. Khan are now accepting appointments for new patients. For referrals contact your primary care physician, or for more information, call 785-623-5000.



HaysMedicalCenter

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