

Obituaries

Shirley F. Neel

Aug. 6, 1951 - March 1, 2009

Shirley F. Neel, age 57, of Wamego, Kan., died Sunday, March 1, 2009, at the Promise Regional Hospital, Hutchinson.

She was born on Aug. 6, 1951, in Manhattan, the daughter of William A. and Marjorie F. (Noll) Schlegel. She was a clerk for the Topeka Post Office.

Shirley was united in marriage to James "Pat" Neel on April 15, 1968, in Manhattan. This union was blessed with 18 children.

In 1983, the Neel family moved to St. Francis where Pat was the postmaster and the children attended the St. Francis schools.

She loved being a mother, grandmother, wife and dear friend. Family was very important to Shirley and she loved providing for her "babies." Her Catholic faith was very near to her heart and she was a true follower of the Lord. Shirley showed her strength as she vigorously fought cancer for 6 years.

Shirley was preceded in death by her son: William Charles "Billy" Neel on July 3, 1969; her father, William in 1996, and her brother, Matthew in October 2008.

Survivors include her husband, Pat of the home; her mother, Marjorie Schlegel of Manhattan; 17 children: Jimmy Neel and his wife, Kelly of Junction City; Jeff Neel of Manhattan; Greg Neel of Wamego; Kristi Fouraker and her

husband, Jeff of Blair, Neb.; Kim Long and her husband, Duke of Topeka; Brandi Neel, Sean Neel and Brooke Smith and her husband, Brad, all of Wamego; Heather Isbell and her husband, Corey of Concordia; Shane Neel and Erin Steele and her husband, Joe, all of Wamego; Ashleigh Kohler and her husband, Jonathan of Tonganoxie; Whitney Neel, Chelsie Neel, Shaeleigh Neel, Shamus Neel and Teagan Neel, all of Wamego. She is also survived by two brothers; Terry Schlegel of Manhattan and Andrew Schlegel of Wamego; a sister, Teresa McMillan of Home City; 22 grandchildren and many nieces, nephews, other family members and many friends.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held on March 5 at the Seven Dolores Catholic Church, Manhattan, with Father Joseph Popelka, Father John Pilcher and Father Carl Dekat officiating. Interment followed in the Sunrise Cemetery, Manhattan.

A Rosary Service was held on March 4.

Memorial contributions may be made in her name and left in care of the Yorgensen-Meloan-Londeen Funeral Home, 1616 Poyntz Ave., Manhattan, KS 66502.

On-line condolences may be left for the family through the funeral home website at www.ymlfuneralhome.com

Rosella "Rosie" Ritchey

Oct. 25, 1930 - Feb. 26, 2009

Rosella was born Oct. 25, 1930, to Dowell Tucker and Ella (Fister) Tucker in Best, Neb.

She was a resident of Haigler, Neb., for most of her early years. She was born eighth of 15 children.

She cleaned apartments in Haigler while in high school and babysat children of friends, nieces and nephews for several years while her own children were pre-school age. She also worked briefly at the U.S. 36 Cafe.

On Jan. 5, 1948, she married Clarence Wayne Ritchey in Benkelman, Neb., after his honorable discharge and release from Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver, Colo.

She assisted Wayne while he worked at the Mills Ranch. It was there that she developed a love of riding horses. She was later a housewife and devoted mother and grandmother. It was not uncommon to see her assisting her husband with his many jobs before and after retirement.

She and Wayne had five children: Elaine, Calvin, LaVern, Rodney and Kevin. Grandchildren include: Annette Kripchak, Wendy Shearin, David Bird, Scott Ritchey, Michelle Ritchey, Justin Ritchey, Marissa Ritchey, Mercedes Ritchey, Kalin Ritchey and Tasha Ritchey; a stepgrandchild, Michael Hanson and great-grandchildren, Katarina Shearin, Christopher Shearin, Austin Ritchey, Mackenzie Ritchey, Jordon Ritchey, Jaide Ritchey, Racquel Bird and Madeline Bird.

Rosella was surrounded by her four sons at the time of her death. She was a patient at the Swedish Medical Center in Denver from Feb. 15 until her death.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Dowell Henry and

Ella Tucker; brothers, Kenneth, Alvie and David; sisters, Esther, Dorothy and Betty; in laws, George Grover and Ellen (Roach) Ritchey; sisters-in-law, Dorothy, Sylvia and Mildred Ritchey, Lucille Tucker and Ida Tucker; an aunt, Goldie Ott; brothers-in-law, Marlin, Tom, Orral Ritchey and Glen Raile, Oscar Straub, Harold Peter, Hurb Rose, Howard Irwin, Roy Reutzell, Buck Lovenburg, Ely Hunt and a grandson, William Tomastik.

She leaves by her death: daughter, Elaine of Decatur, Texas; sons, Calvin of Laramie, Wyo.; LaVern and Jackie, Rodney, Kevin and Cathy, all of St. Francis; brother, John Tucker of Athol, Idaho; sisters, Allie Townsend of Gresham, Ore, Naomi DeBoer of Hillsboro, Ore, Joyce Lovenburg of Molalla, Ore., Doris Edwards of Ogallala, Neb.; Eunice Tucker of Mappa, Idaho; Alice Straub and Leota Hunt of St. Francis; brother-in-law, Neal and Lucille Ritchey of Aurora, Colo.; sisters-in-law: Floris Raile and Bonnie Stebbins of St. Francis; many nieces and nephews, special friends and acquaintances.

Funeral services were held March 3 at the First Christian Church in St. Francis with Reverend Jeff Landers officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were all of her family and friends.

Casket bearers were Leonard Richard, Dave Roberson, Dave Wright, Jeff Raile, Michael Hanson and Sean Straub.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery.

Memorials may be given to help with medical expenses in care of the funeral home.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Karna Merle Saunders

Oct. 18, 1935 - Jan. 16, 2009

Karna Merle Saunders, 73, died on Jan. 16, 2009, after a bout with cancer.

Karna was born on Oct. 18, 1935, to Merle and Irma Alsbury on the family farm 10 miles south of St. Francis, Kan. The birth took place in the northwest bedroom.

She grew up with her two sisters, Marilyn and Janice. They attended Fairview and Lawn Ridge country schools in Cheyenne County.

Karna graduated from St. Francis Community High School with the class of 1953, went on to college and became a teacher. While teaching in Colby, she met Robert Saunders, who worked for Phillips Seismograph. After their meeting, she said it took two weeks for him to ask her out on a date. They were married on July 6, 1958, in the First Christian Church in St. Francis. The reception was held on the farm.

From there, they moved a number of times, living in Texas, Oklahoma, Colorado and finally staying put in Kansas. Their daughter, Kay Ann, was born in 1960 while they were living in Kansas. Daughter, Linda, was born in Midland, Texas, in 1961. They were transferred to Wichita and son, Duskin, was born in 1964.

While they were living in Grand

Junction, Colo., Kay Ann died of leukemia. Robert died in 1986 with colon cancer.

After being diagnosed with cancer, Karna moved to Clearwater to be near Linda. Linda said she was able to spend many special moments with her mother and enjoyed her great sense of humor and the way she continued to care about her children and grandchildren.

Besides Robert and Kay Ann, Karna was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by son, R. Duskin Saunders; daughter, Linda (Randy) Evans; sisters, Marilyn (Walt) Thompson and Janice (Floyd) Neitzel; and five grandchildren: Benjamin Saunders, Victoria Tillotson, Michael, Grand and Jay Lindal.

Services were held at Woodridge Christian Church with interment in Lakeview Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Woodridge Christian Church, 12111 E. 13th St. N., Wichita, KS 67206; and Clearwater Retirement Community, 620 East Wood St., Clearwater, KS 67026.

Linda would enjoy hearing from people who knew her mother. Her address is Linda Evans, 623 E. Wood, Clearwater, KS 67026.



APURPLE TOILET??? Eddie Brunk checks out the purple toilet left in his parking lot by the First Christian Church youth group.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Youth group uses toilet for profit

There are purple cars, purple houses and purple clothes. Now there are purple toilets mysteriously appearing in people's yards.

The St. Francis First Christian Church youth group is presenting the "30 Hours of Famine." This is a fund-raising project to raise money for World Vision, an organization which helps out third-world countries. The money is used to help with food, clothing and medicine.

The youth group has been raising money to send by putting a purple toilet in church members' yards. The only way that the toilet

will go away is to pay \$15 to the church or World Vision.

"This is a great opportunity for the community to help us out and to help kids out all over the world," said Taylor Kennedy, youth group member.

The group is also taking part in the actual 30 Hours of Famine. Beginning March 6, the group will fast for 30 hours to actually feel what it is like to go hungry.

Anyone who would like to contribute or donate money to the cause should see Pastor Jeff Landers, or any of the youth group members.

Old building on Main becomes a liability

By Peggy Horinek

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Adjoining properties with shared walls on St. Francis' Main Street may be put in jeopardy.

At the Monday, Feb. 23, St. Francis City Council meeting, the old pool hall on West Washington has fallen into such disrepair that it has become a liability. It has not been secured in any way and could be a danger to kids or anyone venturing inside. The floor has partially fallen into the basement and most of the roof is gone. Mike Day, city attorney, is starting condemnation proceedings for the city.

J-turns were again a subject brought before the city council. There has been a little improvement according to Shane Guggenmos, chief of police. He is looking into "No J-turn" signs as four are needed for Washington and two need to be placed on College St. near the school. Better enforcement of the J-turn law will be bringing warnings and tickets to those disobeying this new ordinance.

Loyce Schamberger with the Northwest Kansas Planning and Development was ill and couldn't attend the council meeting. She said she would be at the March 23 city council meeting and would like to have 30 to 45 minutes of their time.

The St. Francis Equity should have their new building done by spring according to Karol Lohman, Equity manager. It has to be completed before applying for a tax abatement. After being

approved for the tax abatement, it has to be renewed on an annual basis.

It was announced that Kyle Schultz has decided not to give the city an easement on his property at this time. Since a service access is needed, other options will be looked at and discussed at the next meeting.

Three bids were opened regarding sewer cleaning. The bids ran from \$69,550 for three years to the low bid of \$36,950 also for three years. Johnson Service Company, Kearney, Neb., was approved with the low bid and they have been doing the cleaning in the past and done a good job. They are also cleaning several other towns in the area.

J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, has been looking at various graders for the city. The hydraulic system on the old grader is shot. He found one in Colby which he thought was what the city needed. It has good rubber on it and has a new transmission and recent engine work. It is larger and heavier and would be good for breaking ice as well as the other jobs it is needed for. The city had budgeted \$90,000 for a grader and

this one is \$55,500. The council approved the purchase of the grader.

Old city ordinances are being amended; new ordinance 557, which is water, ordinance 558, refuse and ordinance 559, electricity, will be bringing rate hikes which will go into effect on April 15.

A quit claim deed was received by Travis Milne on the Jones property at 215 N. Adams which was being condemned. He has been asked to come to the city council meeting and present a cleanup proposal on the property and a time frame. There are also special assessments that have been put on the property to be discussed.

A 25- by 8-foot sign was discussed to be placed on U.S. 36. The sign is rounded on the top and would have Saint Francis on it. The sign itself has eight panes which would hold an advertisement for eight businesses. There would need to be an annual state permit and the city would do the site preparation and it would be maintained by the city. Different businesses are being checked to see if there would be enough

interest to go ahead with this.

There are benches being made out of a new plastic composite and a company in Concordia is making them. Mr. Landenberger asked to order a 4-foot bench at a cost of \$349. He would like to check it out and see how feasible it might be to order more later. The council agreed for the purchase of one bench.

The Cheyenne County Development Corporation has asked for some financial help from the council. After some checking it was noted that \$10,000 had been budgeted for them last year but only half of it had been paid. It voted on and approved that the \$5,000 from last year be paid now.

One building permit was presented to the board for Esther Confer to pour a cement pad for a gardening shed to be erected. The permit was approved.

Five minute executive sessions were called by Mr. Landenberger, Natalie Knodel and Mr. Guggenmos. After two of sessions, no decisions were made. On the third it was decided that there will be a wage increase for non-insured employees.

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Notice

Personal Property Assessments

These must be completed by March 16, 2009 without penalty. This deadline applies to all persons who render or list personal property. Assessments must be personally signed.

Taxable Items Include:

Pickups and trucks with 16 M or larger tags; boats; boat motors and trailers; golf carts, snowmobiles, jet skis and skidos; mopeds; campers and camping trailers that are not self-contained; mobile homes on rented or leased land; business equipment and fixtures. Real estate improvements or structural changes to buildings should be reported to the County Appraiser's Office.

Anyone having questions should contact the Appraiser's Office at 785-332-8830.

K.S.A. 79-1422: Penalty for late filing: 5% per month up to a maximum of 25%. Penalty for failure to file: 50%. Cheyenne County Appraiser's Office