



Legislature moving to ease consolidation

The Kansas Legislature is moving toward a compromise which could ease the way for cities and counties to consolidate, both or rural and urban areas.

The key to this is a decision by the Kansas Farm Bureau to back off a longtime stance against any such bill. One provision of this year's version would allow local residents to decide critical issues about a consolidation plan, including the requirement for a "dual majority" in any vote.

Farm Bureau for years has insisted on a dual majority in any consolidation plan. This usually kills the plan, because it's hard to get a separate majority in the city and rural sections of a county.

And so, the consolidation movement has been stalled for years. A couple have taken place, in tiny Greeley County and urban Wyandotte, but both required a special act of the Legislature.

It's not hard to see why Farm Bureau might want to back off now, however. A proposal this year to consolidate Kansas' 105 counties into 13 megacounties would threaten the very fabric of our rural life.

Filed by Sen. Chris Steineger of Kansas City, Kansas, the bill proposed a state commission to write an actual consolidation plan, but lists possible combinations for 13 supercounties. Fifteen counties in northwest Kansas would be merged into one, for instance. Three nearby counties would disappear into Sedgwick, dominated by Wichita.

Some Kansas conservatives have jumped on this bandwagon, lured perhaps by outrageous claims that the forced consolidation would save the state upwards of three-quarters of a billion dollars.

First, it's unlikely that savings would be anywhere near that. Most government consolida-

tions wind up with as many employees and as much expense as before. It's just a way to centralize power.

Second, it's not likely that forming huge counties will make things more efficient, as some have claimed. If size equated with efficiency in government, then the federal government would be the most efficient and the county government the least.

And everyone knows how true that it. What this proposal is about is disenfranchising thousands of people in rural and suburban areas who would no longer have access to their county government. Commissioners often seen in the Main Street coffee shop would be replaced by faceless county council members living dozens, maybe hundreds of miles away.

Courthouses would be closed to save money and services doled out over the Internet or by mail in a soulless "Wal-Mart" approach to government.

Taxes won't go down, but you won't be able to find anyone to complain to about them.

No, this is not a pleasant future.

Far better to do what the state Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations proposed in the compromise bill this year and allow cities and counties, or adjacent counties, to merge if they wish.

Voluntary mergers, determined by voters in the areas affected, would result in more efficiency while keeping government closer to voters. It would make a lot more sense to consolidate El Dorado and Butler County, for instance, than to merge both into one county with Wichita.

In the end, local voters, not the Legislature, should decide if they want and can afford to keep their cities and counties. We're glad Farm Bureau has seen the light.

— Steve Haynes

Hangin' With Marge

The moving carts

By Margaret Bucholtz



While we were in Wichita the last time we almost had a wreck, and wasn't with another vehicle.

We were in Darrin's van because that was the only car that can hold the entire family. It isn't like the days of old when you could pile in a car and the adults held the babies. Now you have to have car seats and with three little ones that pretty well fills a car up.

Kurt got to sit in the very back between two car seats as he is the thinnest. Then Dina sits in one captain's chair with the baby in the other and they placed me

in the front with Darrin.

We were just leaving the parking lot and I was talking to Darrin when this look of horror filled his face. Thinking a car was about to hit us (on my side) I glanced over and here was one of the shopping carts flying down a parking lane headed straight for us. Darrin started to stop, but it kind of curved our way. So he speeded up, but a car was in front of us. Next thing I knew he was gunning the car and turning in front of an oncoming car to get across to a vacant parking place.

As we got to the street, the cart

was still headed for curb, jumped it and ended up in the street.

When we were safe we all started teasing him about worrying about a moving cart, but he informed us that it would have put a good ding in the side of the car.

As we pulled into the next parking lot we looked up and there was a cart rolling toward us, but not as close.

It must have been a celebration of cart ghosts having fun with the people of Wichita.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



The other day I crossed the street, taking a different angle than usual. I made an interesting discovery.

A child's footprints make a path on a patch of concrete on Main Street, along the corner where Lampe Hardware stands.

No doubt the construction worker whose pad had been altered was not pleased at the time, but the bare foot tracks show the path some tiny feet took years ago.

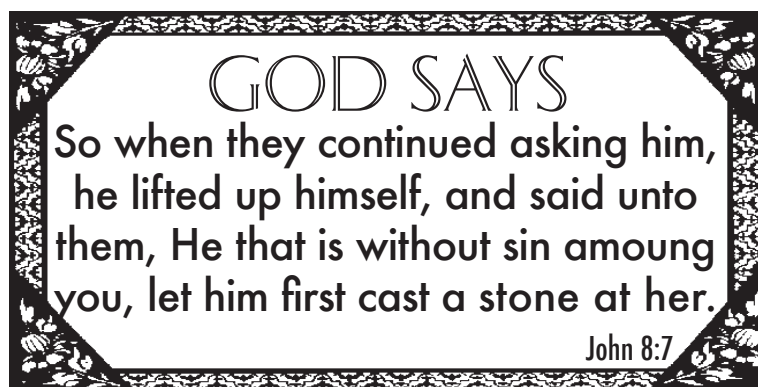
In our lives we leave imprints on the world we live in, whether we notice or not.

Traces of our past are left for others to see. Perhaps it is in a photograph that still hangs in the high school we attended, marking

a major accomplishment at that time. Or an address with our name and number that leaves clues in a tattered, out-of-date phone directory. And it might even be in a kid who carries the same color hair and eyes from past generations.

Often we feel that our lives are

unnoticed and we aren't making a difference. But, even subtly, our time here touches others and the footprints of our past leave a mark.



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News From the Past

90 years ago - 1919

School Notes:

The seniors have already written their graduating orations and have handed them in for corrections.

Not many parents are visiting the school and they are encouraged to visit at least once before it closes.

John and Frank Wolbach entered the first grade last week.

Our dealers enjoyed a phenomenal sale of implements and harness this week as the farmers are getting ready for spring work.

Marion Reed of Norcatour has answered R.M. Roberts' advertisement for a barber and has been doing good work in the shop.

An election will be held in April for a mayor, a police judge and five members of the common council.

Dr. G.F. Finger, who has had charge of the dental parlors here for the past seven months has departed for Idaho to open his office.

Roy J. Taylor was appointed street commissioner at the city council meeting as L.A. Barton has resigned.

There will be a basket supper given at union school district 94 on Friday. The proceeds will be

used for the purchase of a dictionary for the school.

50 years ago - 1959

The Silver Award, Exploring's highest award, will be presented to four Explorers and two leaders of Post 120. Those receiving the award will be James Lundin, Kenneth Horwege, Ronald Horwege, David Garrison, Dr. C.W. Wilson, advisor and James M. Bonnell, former advisor.

Miss Betty McBee began work in February as Home Economics agent for Cheyenne County. She came from Atchison County.

Carl Hart, former resident of St. Francis and employee of the Riddell Funeral Home and Furniture Store has purchased the Schandier Mortuary in Colby.

Sainty wrestlers placed third at regionals and qualified six for state including Don Keller, Junior Bandel, Darrell Carmichael, Glenn Isernhagen, Galen Schauer and John Keller. Frank Brown is the head coach and Will Derby, assistant.

"Old Jumbo" faithfully served the St. Francis Municipal Light Plant since 1929 but has given way to a new engine recently ordered by the city. City workers had to tear down as much of the huge engine as possible to move

it out of the building.

45 years ago - 1964

Mr. and Mrs. L.L. Trumbull attended the National Association of Soil and Water Conservation District gathering in Kansas City. They were Cheyenne County delegates.

Local FFA officers include Rudy Douthit, president; Clinton Schlepp, vice president; Roger Wieck, secretary; Clifford Raile, treasurer; Royce Schield, reporter, and Jim Worley, sentinel. Mr. Don Hall is the adviser.

Three St. Francis wrestlers qualified for the state tournament including Larry Carroll, Bob Moberly and Rudy Douthit.

Vickie Shaver has been chosen by the American Legion to attend Sunflower Girls State. The alternate is Cindy Rueb. The session will take place June 7 on the Kansas University campus.

40 years ago - 1969

Members of two small ensembles will perform at the high school spring band concert. Members of the trumpet trio are Jonene Rueb, Ione Cram and Terry Touslee; members of the sax quartet include Myra Zimbelman, Vickie Jones, Sheryl Keeler and Cindy Stagner.

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Rick Kriegh, Fort Morgan, Colo.; Shirley Amack, Bird City; Beverly Kite, Benkelman, Neb.; Ray Lee, St. Francis; Ed Marin, St. Francis; Marshall Squires, Goodland; Verla Inness, Denver, Colo.; Meta Dankenbring, Bird City; Dean Blanka, Wamego; Pastor Ken Hart, St. Francis; Gail Roy, Norton; De-

loris Zuege, Haigler, Neb.; Don Love, St. Francis; Patti Lawrukiewicz, Plains; Frontier Ag, Bird City; Cheyenne County Clerk, St. Francis; Bob Ogden, St. Francis; Sheree Downs, Golden, Colo.; Wendi Krishock, Manhattan; Scott Northrup, St. Francis; Bob Ochsner, St. Francis; Ramona Raile, St. Francis; Dan Sowers, Bird City; Arlene Peter, St. Fran-

cis; Tobe Zweygardt, St. Francis; Nadine Fleming, Bird City; Chris Bracelin, St. Francis; Carl Jenkins, St. Francis; Ken Rice, St. Francis; Mrs. C.R. Allen, Hideaway, Texas; Dorothy Firestone, Topeka; David Busby, Napa, Calif.; Jean Brenner, Burlington, Colo.; Iris Neitzel, Colby; Candice Sekich, Mead, Colo.;

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 11:00 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 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 a.m.
Morning Worship 11 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
785-890-5718 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jerry Nowack
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.

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.
Communion 1st Sunday
of the month

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

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Equity

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