

Courthouse steps open, no handrail is a concern

By Karen Krien

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The new steps to the front of the courthouse are now open and being used. However, there are complaints that there needs to be a handrail. The county commissioners, when they met on Friday, spent time trying to solve the problem.

The courthouse is on the Kansas State Historical Society register which will not always allow changes from the original drawings. The original steps did not have a handrail. The rail that was there when the steps were removed was not in the original plan. The commissioners discussed that, if the railing is installed, it will destroy the integrity of the limestone steps. They were also concerned that a railing on the wing walls would not be sturdy enough to hold a handrail.

These problems brought them to look at another way to solve the problem of older people or those with handicaps having better accessibility to the courthouse.

Several years ago, the commissioners had talked about extending the handicap drive on the west side of the courthouse, making it a drive-thru. The present drive is narrow and hard to back out of.

They reasoned that if it were wider and there was a 15 minute parking limit, people could use the handicap entrance.

"We spend money to have the elevator maintained, we should be encouraging people to use it more," said Dale Patton, commissioner.

This would also be a good suggestion as, when the snow and ice accumulate on the steps and new sidewalk, no salt can be used for two years.

The commissioners agreed to look into extending the drive and what it would cost. It will be discussed at a future commissioners' meeting.

Census bureau

Lech Wisniewski with the U.S. Department of Commerce, census bureau, in Topeka, talked about how counties are losing tax dollars because not everyone is filling out census forms. He said he has been working with Chuck and Diane Kribs with the Cheyenne County Development Corporation and his goal is to get more dollars back for the county. The county was at 69 percent in having forms returned. Every county, including Cheyenne County, needs to be at least 80 percent in having the forms returned.

This can mean more money for schools, hospitals, highways and bridges. There are many ways, he said, that the tax dollars can come back to the county.

Mr. Wisniewski will be working with the Development Cor-

poration and others. In January or February, a census will be taken. Look for more information closer to that time.

Road and bridge

Dave Flemming, road and bridge supervisor, talked about the cracks in the asphalt on the old Wheeler Road, Road O, between St. Francis and Wheeler. The road was a detour and the state had asphalted the road at that time.

Now, Mr. Flemming was asking if the commissioners wanted to continue to save the asphalt by sealing and/or patching or to tear it up and put it back into gravel.

The commissioners asked him to fill the cracks for this year so the moisture didn't penetrate causing freezing and expanding. They will talk about chip sealing it next year.

Mr. Flemming was given permission to purchase four tires for the loader at the landfill. The cost for a tire at the Federal Reserve in Topeka was \$300 compared to \$700-\$900.

He also asked the commissioners to consider giving his department more money this year.

The commissioners noted that, in the winter, the four-wheeler that is used for prairie dog baiting was not used. It could be used at the courthouse for snow removal if the commissioners purchased a snow blade.

Before the decision about the snow blade would be made, the commissioners agreed to check on the cost of the blade and if Dan Schlittenhardt would be agreeable.

County attorney

County attorney, Kari Gilliland, reported she had sent information concerning the Bill Dungan complaints to the attorney general's office for review and is waiting for his decision. She noted that Mr. Dungan had asked for her resignation.

She said she had talked to Mike Day, St. Francis city attorney, about the 911 board. It was noted that all members needed to work together.

Those involved, said Mr. Patton, need to realize there is a problem.

Emergency medical service
Janelle Bowers, emergency medical service director, said \$675 in insurance adjustments had been made in June. She said there had been fewer runs in July.

She had a list of those who had portable radios. She said the department has 20 radios which were accounted for.

She was given permission to purchase a guard grill for the front of the new ambulance. She gave the example of an ambulance in a neighboring county which had hit a deer but, because of the grill,

was able to continue with the patient.

The grill will cost between \$500 and \$1,000. The commissioners agreed that it would be a good investment.

She said the new emergency building on U.S. 36, St. Francis, has a bug problem. The St. Francis city crew had brought some spray in for them to use but, she said she didn't know how to use it and had assumed that, since the city owned the building, they would be spraying. Andy Beikman, commissioner, said he would talk to the mayor, Scott Schultz. They also talked about turning off some of the outside lights which were drawing the bugs at night.

Mrs. Bowers called an executive session to discuss the financial situation of the third party. No decision was made after coming back out of the session.

In other business

In other business:

- The construction of the airport runway will start Aug. 17. The commissioners talked about how medical emergency would be handled. They were informed that the hospital administrator had been informed.



EQUITY HOLDS OPEN HOUSE. Michelle Wolff and Sharon Barnhart are being served by Shirley Zwegardt and Don Keeker. Karol Lohman, manager, is in the background.
Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Queen is crowned at Thresher show

By Linda Schneider

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The 2009 Thresher Queen was crowned and surprisingly, no one guessed who it was. It was Mary (Harrison) Dorsch.

"I had talked to Lucille (Wright) recently and she asked me if she knew who the queen was this year," said Mrs. Dorsch. "I told her she knew her alright!"

Mrs. Dorsch's daughter, Pat Traffas of Merriam, Kan., read to the crowd her mother's story. Also present were her grandson Levi Traffas Kansas City, Mo., James and Amanda Dorsch from Wichita, sister, Betty Miller, nephews Rodney Bracelin and Bob Dorsch and friend Connie all of St. Francis.

Mary Esther Harrison was born in 1929 in Benkelman, Neb., to parents, Robert Leroy Harrison and Bertha Rebecca (Yost) Harrison. She was named after Mary Petrey, who with her husband, Joe, owned a café in Alma, Neb. where her mother worked for one dollar a day. Esther is for Esther Jones, the nurse who helped deliver her.

Mrs. Traffas continued to talk about her mother living in a sod house and a time when there were no locks on the doors or window, and the "dirty thirties" when Mrs. Dorsch's mother would hang wet sheets on the windows to stop dust from coming into the house.

Mrs. Dorsch went to school in the same building that served as church. She recalled they all played a "mean" game of softball and lots of running games.

She had her first date with her husband on New Year's Eve and soon after went into the Army, and how he would hock his high school class ring to buy a bus ticket from Colorado Springs, Colo., for his dates with Mary and his parents would give him the money to get the ring out of hock.



THRESHER QUEEN Mary Dorsch and her sister, Betty Miller look at the past years thresher queens' dolls on display at the show.
Herald staff photo by Linda Schneider

Mrs. Dorsch grew up to see the birth of radio, television, and electricity on the farm. She has gone from pumping and carrying water to an automatic dishwasher, to having a refrigerator, microwave, and cell phones. She has seen a man walk on the moon, and she believes that whatever may be achieved will be reevaluated and whatever accumulated will erase. All that will really last is the love that is shared with others.

"I know I have lived through exciting times. And do you know what?" said Mrs. Dorsch. "I think the best is yet to come!"

In addition, one of the antique tractors, a 1937 Farnall F20, which had been restored by Norman and could be seen in the

tractor parade, was the first tractor her father owned.

Obituary

Larry Lundin

July 3, 1937 - July 13, 2009

Larry Lundin was born in St. Francis, Kan., on July 3, 1937, to Lillian and Joel Lundin. He died on July 13, 2009.

The family moved to Denver, Colo., in 1942.

After graduating from high school, Larry lived in Eugene, Ore., where he graduated from the University of Oregon.

Mr. Lundin married and had two sons, Larry Jr. and Steve. He and his wife later divorced after which Larry established a contracting business in Denver called Lundin Plastering, which he operated for over 15 years.

He was preceded in death by his parents, along with brothers, Eugene and Billy and sisters, Leona and Lorene.

He is survived by his sister, Vera Grant of Silt, Colo., and sons Larry Lundin of Bend, Ore., and Steve Lundin of Hillsboro, Ore., along with several grandchildren and many friends.

There was a cremation. A memorial service will follow at an as-yet undetermined date and time.



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