

Poster hangs on wall in cafe

By Karen Krien
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 Hanging on the wall at Main St. Coffee, St. Francis, is a 1955 Cheyenne County Fair poster.



AIMEE NORTHRUP holds up the 1955 Cheyenne County Fair poster her daughter purchased on the internet for \$14. The poster hangs in Main St. Coffee, which she owns and operates.

Her mother, Aimee, owner of Main St. Coffee, said she could buy it and that's how it came to hang on the coffee shop's wall. Many people have stopped to look at the poster. It prompted a little looking in a 1955 *Saint Francis Herald*. The county fair in 1955 was held for four days, starting on Tuesday and ending on Friday. The *Herald* stated that nearly 700 exhibits for the fair had been entered. The 4-H livestock judging was held on Tuesday of the fair. On Wednesday, the parade of champions was held in front of the grandstand before the show began. E.T. Sherlock and Son were the auctioneers at the livestock sale the following night. Over \$10,000 was paid out at the sale. The grand champion steer shown by Clinton Schlepp was not sold; Chuck Brunswig's reserve champion steer brought top money. Cheyenne County Bank bought it for \$32 per hundred. Everett Eggers' grand champion Angus was the second high money. Security State Bank bought it for \$30 per hundred. Cathy O'Leary had the grand champion hog and Sharon Little had the reserve.

Entertainment included the first running of the stock car races in front of the grandstand on Tuesday evening. The *Herald* stated that the racing would be under the supervision of the Cheyenne County Racing Association and, according to Les Goodell, president of the association, there would be approximately 25 cars participating. On Wednesday, two games of baseball were scheduled during the afternoon. The second round of stock car races was held that evening. The *Herald* reported that the large cash prize would no doubt stimulate drivers to exhibitions of skill and daring as they roar around the track seeking the winning positions. Thursday was the first performance of two rodeos and horse races held in the afternoon. The night show was put on by Wheeler-Pitman Theatrical Agency of Denver. The Two Luvas, "Queens of the Air," performed trapeze and other aerial acts. The Jacoby Dancers also danced with "precision and unison." On Friday night, after the grandstand show, a 1955 Ford "Mainline" Tudor with overdrive and heater was given away. Second price was \$100 and third was \$50. **Parade** The parade on Friday was "spectacular." Dr. J.H.A. Peck was the chairman and he reported that almost every business establishment, civic organization and professional person had

promised to have some sort of entry. A call for saddle horses and other livestock had been made. Barbara Ewing and Pat Handwerk were in charge of the Music and Pageantry Committee. They also helped with costumes. R.W. Stuart and Joe Winston headed the Float Committee. Costumes had been "secured," among them, can-can girls, Spanish, gypsy, ballerina, frontier and Indian costumes. Dr. Peck had planned a new parade route starting at the high school, west to River Street, then two blocks south to Spencer and back up to the high school. The following week, the *Herald* reported that 1,000 people had turned out to watch the parade.

Visitors to school house make beads

Each day during the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show, children and grownups alike could visit the Old School House and participate in some craft or learn a lesson in high plains living. This year, Dorthy Mast and Rosemary Powell entertained with stories about grandma being an economist and taught youngsters how beads were made in the past from wallpaper.



Before clay or ceramic beads came about, women in the early part of the 20th century made beads from stripping wallpaper from the rooms in their house and make a colorful bracelet or necklace. Throughout the Thresher Show, kids wore these simply made bracelets and shared the story about them with whoever would listen. During the afternoon session, Mrs. Mast taught a lesson on "making do." Talking from an article called "Grandma Was An 'Economist'" by Mabel Dickson Short of Belton, Texas. She shared the understanding grandmothers had of making do with what she had, or went without. From an excerpt from the article, Grandma didn't need shoe polish when she had an old biscuit that could bring up a perfectly good shine. Nor did Grandma need a new washing

machine when she could "wham the daylight" out of the clothes on a tree stump and dry them out on the barb wire between the barn and house. Similarly, thanks to chewing on hackberry twigs until they were soft and sprinkling a mixture of salt and soda, teeth were always clean and strong. And what about mosquitoes! Not a problem with Grandma's own remedy. She would grab an old pair of worn-out overalls out of the ragbag, set them on fire, wait a bit, smother out the flame, and even the most persistent mosquito had to move on! Mabel Dickson ended her article by writing that Grandma was always finding an old-fashioned, frugal solution. "Don't you agree that 'real' economists could learn a lot from her?" said Ms. Dickson.

Book Review

Book review from the St. Francis Public Library
 The Scarecrow
 By Michael Connelly
 Jack McEvoy is at the end of the line as a crime reporter. Once a hotshot in the newsroom, Jack is now in the crosshairs of the latest set of layoffs at the Los Angeles Times. He decides to go out with a bang, using his final days at the paper to write the definitive murder story of his career. Jack focuses on Alonzo Winslow, a 16-year-old drug dealer in jail after confessing to the brutal murder of a young woman found strangled in the trunk of her car. Jack plans to write about how societal dysfunction and neglect

created a teenage killer. But as he delves into the story, Jack realizes that Winslow's so-called confession is bogus. The kid might actually be innocent. When Jack connects the L.A. trunk murder to an earlier murder in Las Vegas, he is off and running on the biggest story he's had since the Poet crossed his path years before. This time Jack is onto a killer who has worked completely below police and FBI radar...and with perfect knowledge of any move against him. What Jack doesn't know is that his investigation has inadvertently set off a digital trip wire. The killer knows Jack is coming...and he's ready.

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