

# BAND SHELL

Continued from Page 1

tion of the audience seated there. One at a time, Dad poured wet cement into a bowl-shaped mold he had devised, and formed planters and lamp posts for the gates and the entry ways. The central fountain was poured on location in a mold of earth he patted in by hand. It was really a triumph of homemade construction.

I tagged along to bring large goldfish from a farmer's tank, and cattails were planted in the fountain's center. Stepping-stones came toward that central fountain from four directions. The American flag, formed

from concrete, used the old floor of the jail house for its platform. Benches were placed along the paths, each with a planned view. A sundial had the motto "I count none but sunny hours."

It was long before the days of sprinkling systems, and the great areas of grass and gardens required faithful hose dragging. For that first year, as new grass appeared, Dad placed little signs saying "No-no" and "Please" to encourage people to give it a chance.

In the rock garden that backed the circle of auditorium seats, a special niche was built on the southwest side, near a shaded

bench. A verse calligraphically lettered by Dad was set behind plate glass, surrounded by ivy growing among the stones. My mother had selected Tennyson's lines for the small sanctuary there:

"Flower in the crannied wall,  
I pluck you out of the crannies  
I hold you here, root and all,  
in my hand. Little flower,

But if I could understand what you are, root and all, and all in all,

I should know what God and man is."

The band shell housed Boy Scout meetings inside, and the piano rolled out onto the stage whenever needed.

I wish there had been colored film then, to show the rainbow that framed that tall arch, meeting at the top with a golden harp. How those wonderful acoustics were designed, I have no idea.

I was six and while Dad painted four murals inside the band shell, I watched and entertained myself. Three floodlights set in stone out in front of the stage had nails protruding from the concrete on top. An inventive stonemason had arranged the nails, thinking he would discourage the public from sitting on what might be mistaken for three little stools. Across the front of the stage were all the notes for "America".

On summer evenings, the band shell had band concerts. The city band was made up of farmers and townspeople from the area. The operating fountain had colored lights and was lovely at night. The flowers were fragrant, and the children rolled on the lush lawn in the amphitheater circle. I was one of them. The music and the lights and the people together, made it a special time in a special place.

## Obituaries

### Harry Roelfs

March 4, 1915 - Dec. 8, 2009

Harry Roelfs died Dec. 8, 2009, in Vancouver Wash. He dedicated his life to his family, his business, his community and his Lord. He inspired all with his kindness, patience, and integrity.

Harry was born in St. Francis, Kan., to Lula (Chapman) and Theodore W. Roelfs. He graduated from St. Francis High School in 1933 and went on to study accounting at the University of Denver. In 1940, he moved to Vancouver where, in 1941, he married Helen Keller, also of St. Francis. He answered the call to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II and was stationed in San Francisco, New Orleans, and Saipan.

After the war, Harry and Helen established a home in Hazel Dell, just outside Vancouver, where they raised two children. For many years he operated a bookkeeping, accounting and tax service. He was one of the organizers of Hazel Dell Fire District 6, then served as a commissioner of the district for 21 years.

He was a member of Memorial Lutheran Church for over 60

years, where he served as treasurer, financial secretary and was a member of the board of elders. He was also part of the Dawnbreakers breakfast club for over 50 years.

Despite not living in St. Francis for almost 70 years, he maintained contact with family and friends there, and was even able to make it to celebrate his 75th high school reunion.

Harry was preceded in death by Helen, who died in 2007; his parents; his sister, Doris, and his brother, Bernard. He is survived by his children, Harriet Scholle of St. Louis, Mo., and Vernon Roelfs, of Eagle River, Alaska; his brothers, T. Raymond, Rowland, Fred and Rex; as well as many nieces and nephews. His love and patient understanding remain in the hearts of all who knew him.

A memorial service was held at Memorial Lutheran Church in Vancouver Dec. 12. Memorials may be sent to the Harry Roelfs Memorial Fund, Memorial Lutheran Church, 2700 East 28th Street, Vancouver, WA 98661.

### Gene Alfred Mears

April 6, 1926 - December 10, 2009

Gene Alfred Mears was born April 6, 1926, in rural Cheyenne County, Kan., to Alfred and Winnie M. (Lavell) Mears. He died in Glendale, Colo., on Dec. 10, 2009, at the age of 83.

Gene accepted Jesus as his Savior when he 9 years old. That faith was a big part of his life.

Gene graduated the eighth grade from the rural Walnut Grove School. He farmed and ranched with his family and later purchased his own land. He remained active in farming and ranching in northwest Kansas until his death.

On Nov. 15, 1953, he was united in marriage to Carol J. Antholz at St. John's Lutheran Church, Bird City, Kan. To this union was born son, Kevin George, in 1954, and daughter, Monica Lea, in 1957. Gene and Carol recently celebrated 56 years together.

One of the highlights of his younger days was coyote hunting with family and friends. His passion was his cow herd and he had an eye for good cattle. For a lot of years, he cared for them from the saddle on one of his horses.

Gene loved his family and enjoyed watching his grandchildren grow up and recently, his great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his brother, Kyle, his parents, sister, Eula Cook; brother, Norman; and sister-in-law, Dorothy Engelman.

Gene is survived by his wife, Carol, of McDonald; son, Kevin and wife, Teresa, of Topeka; daughter, Monica Johnsen, and husband, Dave, of Imperial, Neb.; grandchildren, Jory Mears and wife, Amanda, of Edmond, Okla.; Crystal Thompson and husband, Dallas, of Bonner Springs; Brandee Halbleib and husband, Landen, of Eudora; Ben Johnsen and wife, Sheila, of Lincoln, Neb.; Tara Deyle and husband, Matt, of Russell; Amanda Johnsen of Lincoln; great-grandchildren, Will and Samantha Johnsen, Hayden Deyle, Addyson Thompson, and Avery Mears; sister-in-law, Ivalee Mears, of McDonald; brother-in-law, Don Antholz, and wife, Florence, of Atwood; nieces, nephews



FINISHING REUPHOLSTERING chairs for the home ec room were Tanner Gilliland, left, and Kyler Zwegardt. This was a project in Kaye O'Brien's Life Skills class.



SEVENTH GRADERS in the Life Skills class, Cade Bracelin, left, and Tristan Archer work at putting the covers on the seats. Justice Wiley trims off the excess material.



## NAME

Continued from Page 1

run to Hays. This was during a blizzard and the ambulance performed without flaw, even with 12 inches of snow on the ground in Hays.

**Road and bridge department**  
Jerol DeBoer, Penco Engineering, thanked the commissioners for all their business during the past year. Dave Flemming, road and bridge department supervisor, attended with Mr. DeBoer and the two discussed bridge inspections and possible future projects.

Mr. Flemming noted the landfill was inspected on Dec. 3 and passed the inspection.

The hail damage to Mr. Flemming's pickup had caused consid-

erable damage. The commissioners discussed whether or not to repair the damage or drop the insurance coverage to collision only. No decisions were made pending obtaining the value of the pickup.

**In other business**  
In other business:  
• Communications director, Jennifer Padgett, and sheriff, Craig Van Allen, attended the meeting.

Mrs. Padgett reported on how things were going in the communications department.

• A warrant in the amount of \$13,524, payable to Corporate Plan Management, the county's health insurance plan, was reviewed. This warrant was paid, but wasn't received in time for the scheduled accounts payable run.

• The commissioners agreed to

give out Christmas bonuses.

**Next meeting**

The next meeting of the commissioners will be held at 8 a.m. on Thursday in the commissioners' room at the courthouse.

*Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved Dec. 15 Cheyenne County Commissioners' minutes.*

## NO RESERVE INTERNET AG EQUIPMENT AUCTION

Tues., Dec. 29 | Ends 10 A.M.

- Tractors**
- '00 Kubota utility M4900 MFWD
  - '98 NH TV 140 bi-directional
  - '84 JD 8650 4WD
  - '81 JD 4440 MFWD w/JD 740 scoup
  - '80 JD 4640
  - Versatile 276 bi-directional w/grapple
  - Case IH 4490 4WD
- Harvesting**
- '93 Case IH 1020 flex platform 22.5'
  - '88 Case IH 1680 combine
- Application equipment**
- '07 Apache AS1210 sprayer
  - '05 RoGator 1274C dry spreader
  - '05 RoGator 1274C sprayer
  - '02 Case IH SPX4260 Patriot sprayer
  - '94 Tyler Patriot XL sprayer
  - Melroe Spray Coupe 220



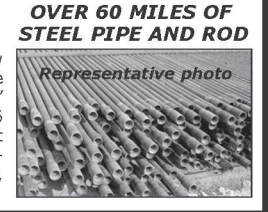
- Hay & Forage**
- '06 JD 704 wheel rake
  - '02 Hesston 8550S disc-bine swather
  - '98 Case IH 8590 large 4x4 baler
  - Vermeer 605 Super J baler

- Utility Equipment**
- Clark 125B Michigan wheel loader
  - Bobcat skid steers (4)
  - Liftall HT80 forklift
- Heavy Trucks & Trailers**
- '00 Doonan stepdeck trailer
  - '94 Freightliner
- Inventory Updated Daily

## NO RESERVE INTERNET PIPE & FENCING MATERIAL SURPLUS AUCTION

Tues., Jan. 12 | Ends 10 A.M.

3/4 rods, 7/8 rods, FG Rods, 1 1/2" K-Bars, 1 1/4" New Factory 2nd, 1 1/2" New Factory 2nd, 1 1/4" Pipe, 1.9" Pipe (new Factory 2nd), 2 3/8" Pipe, 2 3/8" P.L. Pipe, 2 7/8" Pipe, 4 1/2" Pipe, 5 1/2" Pipe, 1" rods, 5 1/2" Drill Pipe, 6 5/8" Pipe, 7" Pipe, 8 5/8" Pipe, 10 3/4" Pipe, I-beam post (6 ft (4" x6" x5'9")), Highway Guardrail 13 1/2" (12"), Highway Tri-Beam 13 1/2" (20"), C-Channel 12 1/2" x6" Galv, C-Channel 25" x6" Galv



866-608-9283

**purple wave auction**

CONSIGN, LEARN MORE & BID NOW!

**purplewave.com**

100% buyers premium applies

## Herald And Times Happenings:

# FIRST BABY CONTEST

With the income of the New Year comes the new arrival of that bundle of joy!

## Winter Sports Special Section

This supplement will feature St. Francis and Bird City Jr. High and High School Basketball players, Wrestlers and Cheerleaders!

To participate in a Special Section contact Casey

**The Saint Francis Herald**  
P.O. Box 1050, St. Francis, KS 67756 • 785-332-3162

— and —

**Bird City Times**  
PO Box 220, Bird City, KS 67731

What better way to say *Merry Christmas* than a St. Francis Equity Give away

*\$100 Gift Certificate winner is Bonnie Bishop*

Office, 123 N. River Street - 785-332-2113  
Service Station, 105 S. River Street - 785-3322421  
Feed/Fertilizer Store, 321 W. Jackson Sreet - 785-332-2129  
Owned by the farmers and ranchers of this community since 1913