

Air Force needs new planes sooner, not later

The Air Force is taking another round of bids on 179 new tankers to replace aging Boeing 707s ordered under the Eisenhower administration.

Boeing won the bid at least once, but the award was reversed when, among other things, officials alleged that an Air Force general who helped with the review had a promised job waiting for her with Boeing.

Subsequent wrangling over contracts — and political infighting prompted by a plum that could top \$100 billion — have set the project back more than a decade.

There are only two bidders — Boeing, the last maker of large transport aircraft in the U.S. after the departure of Lockheed-Martin and merger of McDonnell-Douglas, and EADS, the government-controlled European Aerospace Defense and Space Co., maker of the Airbus line.

Boeing wants to sell the government a modernized version of its 767 aircraft, first flown in 1982. Production would be in Seattle and Wichita, primarily, as with other Boeing models.

Airbus offers a military version of its A330, a 1992 airframe. The tanker version is already being built for the Australian Air Force, giving the A330 something of an edge. At least Airbus has a picture of its product in action. Production would be at a new plant in Mobile, Ala., and in Arizona.

However, Boeing claims its smaller tanker will save the Air Force as much as \$10 billion in fuel over the life of the planes. The Air Force will have

to sort all that out — again. It will make hundreds of comparisons of cost and performance items.

Bids have been submitted several times. At one point, it looked like Boeing would have its way with the departure of Airbus partner Northrup from the bid. However, the European concern has since decided to go it alone.

Senators and representatives from Alabama and Arizona have lined up behind Airbus while the Kansas and Washington delegations back Boeing. Money and jobs are everything in an election year.

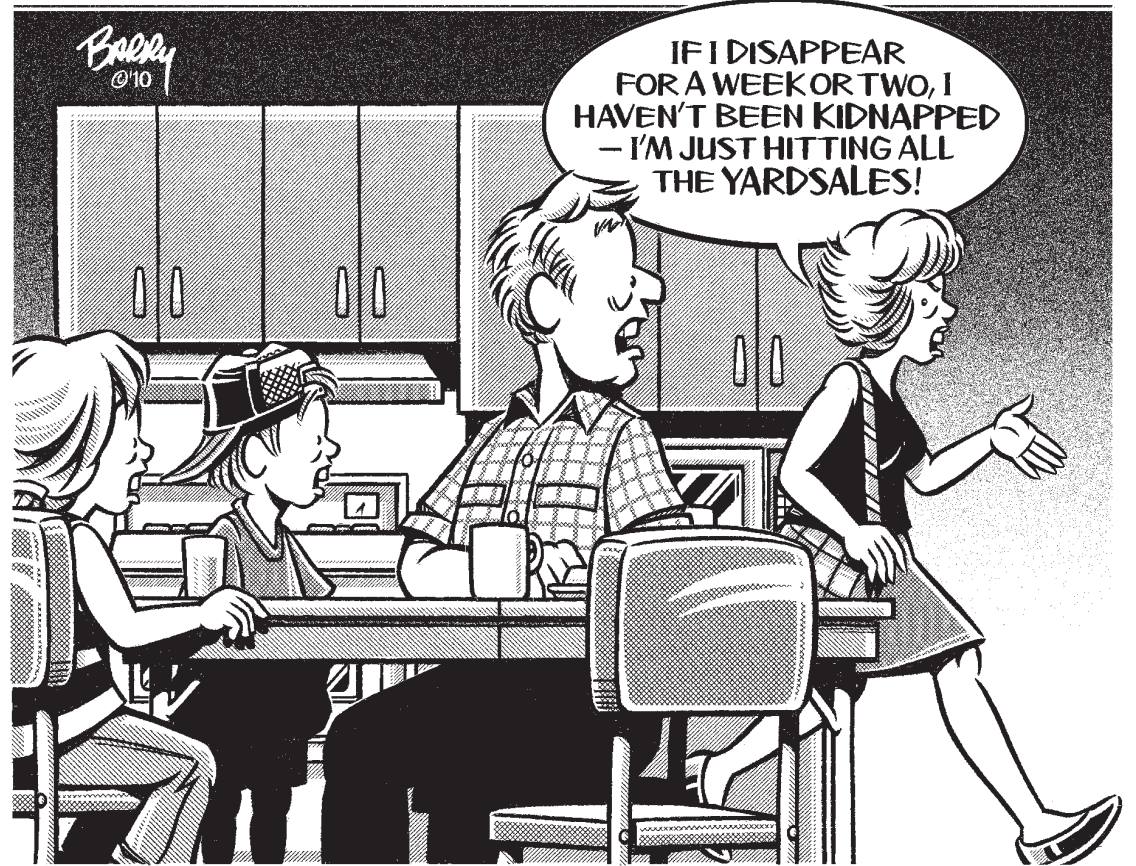
Meantime, American pilots are stuck with tankers that are more than half a century old. They're old, slow, small and increasingly hard to maintain. How long can that go on, especially if it could take 20 to 30 years to replace all the old planes?

It'd be nice to say we should settle this on the basis of who has the best plane, but that question seems to be lost in the political and lobbying wrangle.

What needs to happen is to get the bidding process decided so new tankers can be built and delivered. The Air Force is long since past the point where it needs them.

For Kansans, the answer to the question of who builds them should be obvious, but whichever firm wins, let's get these planes flying.

No airline can afford to fly 707s today, and neither can our air force — Steve Haynes



News From the Past

20 years ago - 1990

Gerri's Floral, one of the local greenhouses, quickly burned down the last Friday in March in the early part of the evening. The building and contents were demolished and the house and out-buildings located north and west of the blazing building were also damaged extensively.

The Cheyenne County Commissioners interviewed and hired Lloyd Walz as new road foreman.

Bob Elliott, district manager for Master Mix, announced Wilson's Service is now carrying Master Mix Feeds and Pharmacy, a complete line of feed and animal health needs for swine, dairy and beef. You are encouraged to stop in and talk to Larry or Ron.

New sidewalks and a parking area west of the courthouse are under construction. A cement wall along with quite a lot of dirt has already been removed and a heated sidewalk will be installed.

The Cub Scout Pinewood Derby was held on April 5. Winners were Brian Siegfried, Ty Jensen and Shannon Wilson.

The FFA and Greenhand Livestock Judging Teams showed well

at Fort Hays State University on April 11, bringing home 26 trophies. Members include Tricia Douthit, Shannon Stevens, Joe Leibbrandt, Jeremy Poling, Tye Faulkender, Kahle Helton, Chris Leibbrandt and Jeremy Busby. Lyn Wiley is the advisor.

35 years ago - 1975

Construction has begun on the new addition to the clubhouse at Riverside Recreation. Members of the club are doing the construction work. The addition is going up on the east side of the building and is an extension to the clubhouse for added floor space.

Henry Hilt was honored for his 12 years of service on the board of supervisors of the Cheyenne County Soil Conservation District at the recent annual meeting. Mr. Hilt retired from the board last year.

After selling general merchandise to the St. Francis community for most of 35 years, Mr. and Mrs. Owen Watkins officially ended their operation of the Watkins Variety Store on Feb. 1. In May of 1957, Mr. Watkins and his wife purchased the Jones Store and operated it as a Ben Franklin Store

until 1968 when they dropped the Ben Franklin franchise and changed the name to Watkins Variety Store. Mr. Watkins came to St. Francis in 1940 to manage the Jones Store.

Brian Burgstahler, a 1975 graduate of the University of Northern Colorado, is the director of the Theatre '75 production of "The Remarkable Mr. Pennypacker." The play is sponsored by the St. Francis Music Club and will be presented on March 15.

The St. Francis Garden Club has taken as a project for 1975, the beautification of the city park, known also as the Howard T. Sawhill Park.

40 years ago - 1970

Members of the Citizens State Bank Junior Board of Directors include Dick Keller, Vicki Jones, Becky Douthit, Greg Wolters, Jeff Cahoj, Sharon Feikert, Monica Raile and Stan Schield.

Five St. Francis wrestlers qualify for the state tournament. They are Terry Holliman, Gale Cook, Randy Cook, Craig Hill and Jim Frewen.

Hangin' With Marge

Different Experience

By Margaret Bucholtz



Everyone has flaws that they either learn to change, if they can, or overcome them through life. One thing I have had to live with is the size of my feet. Feet are just something you can't hide. When they are long and wide you can't even get shoes that make them look smaller. They just don't make them. Finally this past week my large feet got to kill two birds with one stone.

On Wednesday I was getting ready to go to library board meeting. I had been upstairs fixing my hair and when I started

downstairs I saw some dishes that needed carried down so I picked them up and headed down the steps.

I want you to understand that on my left side I have had all the nerves removed in the front part on that foot. Most of the time it doesn't matter but sometimes I misjudge where I am stepping.

About half way down the stairs I missed part of the step and started to fall. For the first time in my life I was glad I had the big feet. They folded forward and the next thing I knew my feet was allowing me to have the unique experience of skiing down the steps.

Yes, I went sailing down like a skier on snow until I hit the bottom. My elbow had worked as my ski pole on the banister and I only had one broken cup as I hit solid on my hip at the bottom.

The bottom of my feet had rug burns, my right arm still has two black-and-blue spots from hitting the light switches, my elbow has the skin burnt off from sliding on the wood and my hip hurt for a few days.

Now I can say I was blessed to have large feet that can turn into skis, and I also got the feeling of what it would be like to ski.

Casey's Comments

By Margaret Bucholtz



I now know that spring has arrived.

Is it the green in the pastures, lawns and ditches? No.

Is it the song birds greeting the morning? Nope.

Is it the days getting longer? Not exactly.

It is the blister that I'm sporting next to my wedding band.

Both are symbolic: the ring is a reminder of the never-ending love that my wife and I share, and the blister lets me know that some work is required to keep that love

never-ending.

Now don't go thinking that my wife is a "task master" like some ladies. It's just that, last weekend, she had some chores to do indoors and mine were outside.

So in some old jeans and a T-shirt, I hit the yard to do a little mowing, weeding and picking up. But that was the easy stuff any kind of old husband could do.

The extra effort came in doing away with our old pond and preparing the garden. Rocks were moved, dirt was redistributed,

grass and weeds were extracted and manure was applied.

Does it sound like I'm blowing my own horn? If so, then I must apologize for misleading my dear readers. My actions were humble and sincere.

For just as the plants need to have a little extra care to grow and flourish, so does our love. And a blister is the least I can do for that.

National Day of prayer coming

Dear Editor:

Thursday, May 6, is the National Day of Prayer. Our Forefathers came to America with the goal and dream that everyone should have freedom of religion and the right to express this right at all times. The National Day of Prayer was created in 1952 by a joint resolution of the United States Congress and signed into law by President Harry S. Truman. The National Day of Prayer is an annual observance that invites people of

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all faiths to pray for the nation. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan permanently set the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day. A lawsuit has been filed saying this is unconstitutional. We all need to be praying for our nation, if a few can try to take away our right

to pray together, and reverse all the freedoms that are granted to us in the constitution and that our military has fought for and many given their lives for. Join with others in the observances around your community to pray for our nation and our leaders.

Phyllis Carson
Bird City

Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Allan Trimble, St. Francis; Brent Rueb, St. Francis; Marcia Rueb, St. Francis; Bill Bracelin, St. Francis; Noel and Alisa Rath, St. Francis; Jerry and Susan Pierce, El Cajon, Calif.; Shannon Grover, St. Francis; John Kamla, Bird City; Leone Freemyer, Greeley, Colo.;

GOD SAYS
For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows I Timothy 6:10

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Morning Worship 10 a.m.
Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.

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Church 332-2254,
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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30 a.m.

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Pastor Jerry Nowack
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

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Weekday Mass 8:30 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

Salem Lutheran Church
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Morning Worship 11 a.m.
Communion 3rd Sunday

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Sunday School 9:30 a.m.
Worship 10:30
Prayer Meeting, Wed
7:30 p.m.

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Church Service 10:15 a.m.

First Baptist Church
2nd & Scott • 332-3921
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Worship 10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening
Service 6:30 p.m.,
Wed. AWANA Club,
6:30 - 8:00 p.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.

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

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Praise the Lord