

Retiring journalist receives prestigious press award

By Tom Betz
 nt.betz@nwkansas.com

Tom Dreiling, former Goodland Daily News editor, was honored at the Kansas Press Association convention on Friday with presentation of the Clyde M. Reed Jr. Master Editor Award. He became the 15th recipient.

Dreiling was recognized for his 44 years in the newspaper business including his work at the Hays Daily News where he was photographer, sports editor and city editor in the early 1960s before moving to Goodland to become editor of the Daily News.

Richard Gannon, former Goodland resident and state representative, and Steve Haynes, owner of Haynes Publishing, presented the award. Haynes said he enjoyed working with Dreiling after he had hired him to be the publisher of The Colby Free Press in 1998, and later as the publisher of The Norton Telegram.

Dreiling was born in Hays, the second youngest of nine children and attended high school at St. Joseph's Military Academy, now Thomas More Prep-Marian, graduating in 1953. He continued his studies at Fort Hays State University, opting out to join the United States Air Force in 1955 as the cold war was heating up. He was sent to Keesler AFB, Biloxi, Miss., where he studied International Morse Code and related courses dealing with foreign assignments. This field of study took him to Misawa, Japan, where he was stationed under the supervision of the Air Force Security Service for slightly more than two years. He was released from the Air Force in 1959 and officially discharged in 1963 after serving an eight-year active and inactive enlistment.

Returning to civilian life, he worked for a year and a half at The Ellis County Star, a Hays-based weekly newspaper before he was hired by the Hays Daily News in 1962.

Dreiling moved to Goodland in 1965, and said when he arrived at the newspaper, he asked

where the reporters were. He said he was shown a desk in the corner of the front office and was told, "you're it!"

He continued to work in Goodland for nearly 24 years where he raised two sons, Lance and Todd, ages 5 and 3, after the death of his wife Jean who died of leukemia at age 37 in 1975.

When the Goodland newspaper was sold in January 1989, the new owners encouraged Dreiling to remain, but told him he would have to take a hefty cut in salary. He advised the new owners to expect his keys the following morning. For several months after leaving the newspaper, KLOE radio owner Kay Melia put him to work. He later accepted a position at Thomas More Prep-Marian as Alumni Association/Development Director; he remained at the school for six years.

Dreiling was back in the newspaper business when he moved to Sheridan, Wyo., in 1995 to become editor of The Sheridan Press, a six-day a week publication. He recalled that Sheridan was the only place he'd ever lived where in the winter months he would plug his bed and his car into the same outlet so neither would freeze up. The extreme Wyoming winters helped him to decide to accept the publisher's post in 1998 at the Colby Free Press.

While sports editor in Hays he began a column, "Time out with TD," and has continued writing that column to this day.

Dreiling is known for his special writing style and his outspoken opinion on a wide variety of topics. Another aspect to his columns is handing out "Thumbs up" for good deeds that people write, call or e-mail him about.

He has always ended his column by inviting people to attend the church of their choice.

Special memories of Dreiling and his years in Goodland were written by Don and Bonnie Smith and Attorney Ron Vignery.

"When we moved to Goodland in 1979, our two oldest sons, Troy and Doug, met the Dreiling boys who were the

same age," wrote Don and Bonnie Smith. "Troy and Lance became close friends as did Doug and Todd. Tom opened his home to the new boys in Goodland and made them feel a part of his family. The Dreilings lived one block west of us and it was not uncommon to see the boys scaling the neighbor's fence in order to get to the other house. As the years progressed, the Smith boys were either at the Dreiling house or the Dreiling boys were at the Smith house.

"Tom was never concerned about having extra young people at his home. Overnight excursions were a source of a lot of laughter when Tom and us would get together and discuss the boys' activities. One time Troy spent the night with Lance and the boys watched a scary movie. He couldn't go to sleep, so in the middle of the night Troy got up and walked home without telling anyone. The next morning, when Tom realized he was missing a 'son' he called our house to let us know Troy was missing. What a relief to Tom when we were able to tell him Troy was home and safe in bed.

"Tom was always supportive of the boys' school activities. He always attended the cross country meets and basketball games. The Smith, Dreiling and Minner boys would play a lot of pick-up basketball games or go running together. Then they would show up either at the Dreiling house or the Smith house to hang out and eat.

"Troy and Doug Smith always felt Tom Dreiling was a great father to his kids and a special friend to them. Thanks, Tom, for all you did for our boys. The Smith family considers it a privilege to call Tom Dreiling a friend. Special friendships last forever!"

Attorney Ron Vignery wrote about Dreiling's writing style and impact of his words.

"When I was much younger it is hard for me to remember when Tom Dreiling wasn't the Editor at The Goodland Daily News," wrote Ron Vignery. "I do remember he had a most interesting writing style which I



RECEIVES KANSAS PRESS AWARD – Tom Dreiling (right) received the Clyde M. Reed, Jr. Master Editor Award at the Kansas Press Convention for his 44 years in the newspaper business. His son, Todd Dreiling, (left) surprised him at the awards ceremony, and Steve Haynes, (center) owner of Haynes Publishing, presented the award.

believe could be defined more as prose than journalism.

"I do know his words were certainly inciteful to the whole community and in some instances incited positive responses and in some instances negative responses to his writing. That, as I understand it, is a successful journalist, at least in the eyes of a journalist.

"I especially remember the poignant writings of Tom Dreiling as his first and beloved wife Jean slowly succumbed to the effects of cancer. I would read and re-read his articles as they poured out his emotions about his love for his wife and his children and the effect of her death upon them.

"I remember the great pride he expressed in his sons in their school and athletic pursuits as well as their service to their community and to their country while in the military.

"Although a Protestant, I was always impressed with Tom Dreiling's devout religious belief in his church, the Roman Catholic Church. Loyalty and devotion at that level and of that

nature are to be admired and they, too, showed through in his writing style and content

"Finally, even though on more than one occasion I disagreed with Tom Dreiling in his editorials, I never doubted the power of his pen. His absolutely unique style of writing always caused me to want to read more of his article, even though I was in strong disagreement with the premise. To me that is the ultimate compliment to be paid to the journalist which Tom was, and remains.

"Tom truly proves and lives the saying that the pen is mightier than the sword.

"Congratulations on your most recent award, Tom. You are certainly deserving of it."

Dreiling's son Todd was in Topeka to surprise his father and be present for the award ceremony. Longtime Goodland Daily

News pressman Jim Bowker and his wife Sharon were in Topeka to also surprise Dreiling at the award ceremony.

Todd, Lance and stepdaughter Denise live in Centennial, Colo. Lance is in the Air Force (20 years now) and was recently transferred to Buckley Air Force Base, Aurora, Colo., with his family.

Tom said he is glad the kids and grandkids are that close, and is looking forward to joining them in the very near future.

Dreiling retired from Norton in August 2009 and moved back to Goodland in October. He writes his column and editorials for The Goodland Star-News and has also been writing a column for The Hays Daily News.

When asked what his future plans are, he replied, "grandfathering!"

Come & Go
Wedding Reception for
Trey and Dr. Nichole Hilt
Saturday, May 8
7 p.m.
at the St. Francis Senior Center,
322 W. Washington,
St. Francis.
The couple was married in
Riviera Maya, Mexico
on April 28.

Coming Soon!

MGT50

June 2, 1960 - June 2, 2010

Saturday In The Park Car Show
Kid's Pedal Pull
Saturday, May 8
East Side of Band Shell
Registration: 1:30 p.m. — Pull: 2 p.m.
9 Classes — Ages: 4 yrs. - 12 yrs.
Qualify for the State Pull at the Kansas State Fair!

The new Fifth Street Apartments in Bird City, Kansas, will have four 2-bedroom duplex apartments for rent and two single family 3-bedroom homes for rent to own. Applicants must income qualify for this property. Please contact N.W. Kansas Housing, Inc. at 785-421-2151 for more information and application, or see Century II in Bird City for applications.

Hem Cure

Tired of pain?
 Tired of embarrassment?
 Tired of using creams that don't work?
 Tired of hearing that painful surgery is your only option?

Try HemCure today!
 Non-surgical treatment of hemorrhoids.
1-800-593-0009
Dr. Ferris will be at 291 15th St. in Burlington, CO. on May 19 and 22.

MACHINERY AUCTION
Wednesday, May 12, 2010 @ 10 am CT

Auction Location: On the farm: 11.5 mi. South St. Francis, Ks at the intersection of Road 14 & C

Greg & Julie Wolters & Etal, Sellers

Check out our website at:
 www.westernauctionandrealstate.com

Licensed in Kansas, Colorado, and Nebraska for your Real Estate needs!

Western Auction & Real Estate, LLC

Skip Petersen, Sales Agent & Auctioneer ~ 785.332.2368
 Robin A. Petersen, Assoc. Broker, Auctioneer ~ 785.332.5586
 Brett Petersen, KS Sales Agent & Auctioneer
 Gary L. Wickwar, Ks Sales Agent
 W. Hwy. 36 ~ P.O. Box 928
 St. Francis, Kansas 67756 ~ 785.332.8990
 Betty L. Petersen, Broker

Need a Gift For Mom?
IPL and Laser Treatments
Great Gift for Mothers Day!!!

No More Shaving...Permanently Remove Hair
 Remove Sunspots and Rosacea for Even Skin Tone
 Reduce or Remove Spider Veins and Acne

Gift Certificates Available

Frontier Medical Rejuvenation
Dr. Rebecca Allard
St. Francis, Kansas (785)772-1906
 All Major Credit Cards Accepted

Hilltop General Store
Front Porch Sale
Saturday, May 8, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
(Mother's Day & Car Show Weekend)

We'll feature fresh fruits and veggies, potted flowers, hanging baskets, bake sale (by Kathy Vandike and Barb Holzwarth) and more.

We'll also introduce our new line of Colorado Country Kitchen canned items (over 35 products) and Colorado Cider from Loveland.

Enjoy the day in St. Francis
 Hwy. 36 & Benton Street ~ St. Francis
 Open 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. 7 days a week
785-332-2277

With More Spring Driving
Have your oil changed at the St. Francis Equity Station.

We carry Conoco, Mobile, Coop, Quaker State.

All major brands available in quarts, 2.5 gallons and 30 gallon barrels.

Equity Exchange
 Station
785-332-2421

Owned by the farmers and ranchers of this community since 1913

Western Sprinklers, your complete Irrigation Store.

For all your irrigation needs.

- Pump Repair
- Gear Heads
- Electric Motors
- Undergrnd PVC Pipe & Wire
- Valley Pivots
- Pivot Parts - All Brands

Western Sprinklers Inc.
 Colby, Kan. 67701
 785-462-6755
Precision Irrigation Made Easy

WESTERN SPRINKLERS, INC.
 COLBY, KANSAS
 VALLEY 785-462-6755