

Memorial Day services held



TYSON OCHOA stands at his great-great-grandparent's grave, Velva and Victor Follett, at the service on Monday. He is the son of Tyrone and Jessica Ochoa. His father is in military training.



HELENE LANDEMBERGER recited a patriotic poem she had written at the Cheyenne Valley Cemetery service.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien



DRESSED IN WORLD WAR I doughboy garb, Barb Ewing gave the devotional at the Cheyenne Valley Memorial Day service on Monday.

Service remembers former board member

By Karen Krien
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The Memorial Day service at Cheyenne Valley Cemetery south of Wheeler is generally attended by a small group of people. This year, one of the leaders, Fred Magley, was missing as he had died in April after a long battle with cancer. However, he was fondly remembered several times during the service. The cemetery board's president, Tiffany Hamilton, was also gone as she was now in basic training so several of the people present helped with the program.

Dot Hill gave the welcome and the Pledge of Allegiance was said. Marsha Magley gave the invocation which was often given by her late husband, Fred.

Helene Landenberger gave a patriotic presentation then recited the poem, "Honor it" which she had written.

Barb Ewing, dressed in World War I Doughboy uniform, gave the devotional.

Mrs. Magley recognized Jack Weinstein for mowing the cemetery. He, along with Lavern Young, Ron Hill, and Mrs. Ewing, had put up the flags. Virginia Fiedler had mended the flags which were damaged after a wind storm came up last year during the Me-

morial weekend. Mr. Hill had also seen that all the veterans' graves had new flags.

Election of officers was held with Daryl and Keely Loyd sharing the duties of president and vice president; Mrs. Magley as secretary; Jean Loyd as treasurer. Mr. Weinstein was re-elected to serve on the board along with Oscar Whitman and Ms. Landenberger.

Each year, a family which has a member buried in the cemetery is recognized. This year, Mrs. Magley had the Willt family in the spotlight.

The Willt family

Christian "Christ" Willt was born Feb. 20, 1877, in Neudorf, South Russia, an area near Odesa. He was baptized seven days after birth and confirmed around 14 years of age in the Evangelical Lutheran Church at Neudorf.

Magdalena Feikert was born Oct. 11, 1881, in Neudorf, the daughter of Johan (John) and Barbara Zwegardt Feikert. She was the second daughter of a family of 10. Her sisters were: Christina, who died in infancy, Dorothea, Katharina, Jake, John, Emilie, Louise who died in infancy, Carolina and Christina.

On his 25th birthday (1902), Christian married Magdalena

and they made their home for 12 years in Neudorf. Six of their nine children, Katie, Lena, Fred, John, Christian Jr., and Jacob, were born there.

Shortly before World War I began, the family emigrated, leaving from Bremen, Germany, and arriving at Baltimore, Md., on May 15, 1914. They traveled on the SS Barbarossa North German Lloyd Line. They came to Cheyenne County by train.

During the first years after their arrival in America, the family lived on various farms north of St. Francis and were blessed with three younger children, Henry, Martha and Rudolph. They were members of the Salem Evangelical Lutheran Church located northwest of St. Francis.

Christian and the nine children were saddened when Magdalena died on March 21, 1919, at the age of 37 years. At that time, the children ranged in age from 1 to 16 and life was hard raising a large family without a mother.

In 1922, Christian brought his family to a farm he had purchased 2 miles south of Wheeler. His health failed in August of 1937 and he died of stomach cancer on Jan. 9, 1938, at the age of 60 years.

Folding flag demonstrated at St. Francis Cemetery service

By Karen Krien
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Memorial Day services were held at the St. Francis Cemetery and Cheyenne Valley Cemetery which is south of Wheeler. The day before, services were held at Hope Valley Cemetery, northwest of St. Francis.

Memorial services at the St. Francis Cemetery were conducted by the VFW Post 1528 and the Auxiliary. Connie Rooney and Sam Miller welcomed the crowd. The flag was raised with the Scouts standing at attention.

The 13 folds of the flag were read by Mrs. Rooney as Pete Jensen, Robert Odgen, Jerry White and Mr. Miller demonstrated the folding.

Scott Carmichael, the guest speaker, recognized those who have served so everyone is able to enjoy the freedom in this country. There are 15 of the 50 states, he said, that make up 75 percent of those serving in the military. Kansas is one of the 15. Many people look at Memorial Day as a three-day get-away and they forget about the commitment of our servicemen.

Are we fortunate to live in the U.S.A.? he asked. "You betcha!" He talked about growing up and as a young boy, he and his brother



SCOTT CARMICHAEL was the speaker at the St. Francis Cemetery service. Also pictured is Robert Odgen and Sam Miller, right.

helped his grandpa put out the flags on the graves in the Benkelman Cemetery and then gathering them up after Memorial Day. As he grew older, he one day asked his grandfather if he should be running across the graves - maybe that wasn't showing respect.

That is the reason these soldiers served and some died, he said, so little boys can run over graves and get flags.

He told, that, as a principal at the high school, servicemen who were not able to graduate, are given honorary diplomas at the high school



FOLDING THE FLAG was demonstrated. Folding, l to r, are Pete Jensen, Jerry White, Robert Odgen and Sam Miller.

Herald staff photos by Karen Krien

graduation. Lyle Lucas was one of those men.

"I told him I was so proud to know someone like him who was so brave."

Mr. Lucas told him that he wasn't brave but he was scared to death! He was on a ship and he

knew everyone was depending on each other.

But, Mr. Carmichael said, he conquered his fear.

"I am thankful to all those serving our country," he said. "We are safer because of your service."

Kris Blair read the national Voice

of Democracy winning essay and Mrs. Rooney read the national Patriot Pen essay.

The story of "Taps" was read and played to close the ceremony.