

Obituaries

Donald Ray Crane

Nov. 17, 1935 - June 8, 2010

Donald Ray Crane, 74, Hugoton, died Tuesday, June 8, 2010, at Kansas Medical Center, Andover.

The son of Walter Eugene and Sarah Gracie (Armour) Crane, he was born Nov. 17, 1935, at Hugoton. He was a lifetime resident.

Her served his country in the United States Army during the Korean Conflict.

He married Carolyn Gentzler on Aug. 25, 1957, and later married Beverly Lueschen on Sept. 5, 1987, at Las Vegas, Nev.

He was a member of the First Christian Church, Hugoton, Jaycee's, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Masonic Lodge, Shriner's, Scottish Rights, Consistory, Kansas University Lifetime Member of K Club. He was owner and operator of Crane Supply Auto Parts Store, Hugoton.

Survivors include his wife, Beverly Crane, Hugoton; two sons, Perry Don Crane and wife, Billie, Hugoton, Barry Matthew Crane, Hugoton; two daughters, Tammie Renae Peterson and husband, Steve, Hugoton, Tricia Diane Ungles and husband, Barry, Ulysses;

a stepson, Steven Collins and wife, Yi, Dodge City, stepdaughter, Jerri Collins and Jane Bergenschneider, Topeka; a brother, Robert Crane and wife, Marilyn, Hugoton; a sister, Linda Teel and husband, Ike, Cheyenne, Okla.; nine grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; a daughter, Jenanetta Lynn Crane, a grandson, Chassee Peterson; a brother, Charles Crane; a nephew, Ronald Crane and a niece, Charla Holder.

Memorials have been established for either the ALS or Hugoton Veterans of Foreign Wars. Memorials may be mailed to Paul's Funeral Home, Box 236, Hugoton, KS 67951.

Funeral services were held on June 11 at First Christian Church, Hugoton, with Minister Randy Nash presiding.

Military graveside services will be conducted by Hugoton Vets Group, Fort Riley Honor Guard and Patriot Guard at the Hugoton Cemetery.

Virgil Loyd Eslinger

April 16, 1945 - June 4, 2010

Virgil Loyd Eslinger was born on April 16, 1945, to Pearl (Geering) and Willie Eslinger, north of Bethune, Colo., at the family farm. He was raised on that farm and attended Bethune School, where he graduated in 1960.



Eslinger

After graduation, he enlisted in the Army and was based in Ft. Benning, Ga. He was honorably discharged after the death of his father and returned to the family farm to help his mother, where he farmed for 20 years.

On June 21, 1964, he married his high school sweetheart, Marie Schaal. Together they farmed and began their journey on the Schaal homestead north of Bethune. Virgil partnered with his mother-in-law Martha in raising cattle and farming. With Marie by his side, they enjoyed the country life and in 1965, began their family.

To this union, four children were born, Carla, Jimmy, Jason and Connie. He saw to it that his children were taught the meaning of hard work and instilled in them solid morals. Although Virgil and Marie raised four children, there were many more that called them Mom and Dad.

Virgil loved kids and never passed up an opportunity to tease them. Many nieces and nephews hold treasured memories of having fun with Uncle Virgil. He enjoyed teaching kids and always had the patience to do so. He was very active in the 4-H program and served several years as a main leader, as well as a superintendent at the county fair. He was honored for his 25 years of service.

Although he called himself a farmer, his true passion in life was caring for his cattle and attending auctions. He worked many hard and long days, but was never too busy to visit with a neighbor, sharing his ideas about crops, gardening and building things. He was a very creative man and enjoyed welding unique sculptures of animals and could make something out of nothing. Often times if he needed a tool or a piece of equipment, he would invent one. He never hesitated to lend a helping hand to anyone and never knew a stranger. Car-

ing for people came natural to Virgil, as he was known to open his home to many in their time of need.

His greatest joy in life came when his grandchildren were born. Whether it was bouncing the babies on his knee, teaching them how to ride a bike or build a fence, he loved every second of being a grandpa. Spending time on the farm with them and attending family gatherings, he saw to it that they will have memories that they will cherish for a lifetime. His sense of humor was endless and his grandchildren provided him many good laughs. His life was well lived - his way. He died in June 4, 2010, on his farm north of Bethune.

Preceding him in death was his father, Willie Eslinger; mother, Pearl Eslinger; brothers, Melvin and Wallace Eslinger; sisters, Opal Schaal and Velma Sweet.

He leaves to mourn his wife Marie of 46 years; daughter, Carla and husband, Ted Foth of Burlington, Colo.; sons, Jimmy Eslinger of Goodland; Jason and wife, Aron, of Sandy, Ore.; daughter, Connie and husband Rob Reynolds of Billings, Mont.; grandchildren: Andy, Chelsey and Lindsey Foth; Danielle, Hannah, Walker, Jakob, Jenna, Alison and Alex Eslinger; brother, Wesley and wife, Evelyn Eslinger of Burlington, Colo.; sisters, Viva Witzel of Perry, Kan.; Ruby and husband, Harry Hundertmark of Garden City, Annabell Weehunt of Twin Falls, Idaho, and Goldie Weber of Garden City; and brother-in-laws, Carl Schaal and wife, Pamela of Longmont, Colo., Darrell Witzel of Colby, and Clifford Sweet of Flagler, Colo., and a very special aunt by marriage, Esther Schlichenmayer; as well as many nieces, nephews, good friends and neighbors.

Memorial services for Virgil were held on Friday, June 11 at the Immanuel Lutheran Church with Pastor Bill Viergut officiating. Inurnment followed in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery north of Bethune. There was no visitation held.

Memorials may be made in Virgil's name and may be left at or sent to the Bank of Burlington, Burlington, Colo.

Friends may go to www.love-funeralhomes.com to leave a condolence for the family and to sign their register book.

Lois Vivien Hurlock Horwege, the eldest child of Francis Marion Hurlock and Elizabeth Mentlick Hurlock, was born Aug. 25, 1912, on the homestead of her maternal grandparents, Joseph and Anna Kupka Mentlick, in the Tully Community in southeast Rawlins County, Kan., which was near the town of Gem in Thomas County. Vivien's parents farmed the land and cared for her widowed grandmother until Mrs. Mentlick died and the land passed to Vivien's uncle, Tony Mentlick.



Horwege

When Vivien was 5 years old in 1917, she and her 3-year-old brother Wyndon moved with their parents by horse-drawn wagon to Cherry Creek Ranch, which her parents had purchased 4 miles northwest of St. Francis, in Cheyenne County. She grew up there with her brother Wyndon and her sister Lola Manette, who was born on the farm four years after the move. The farm on Cherry Creek was a beautiful location with interesting terrain and had the advantage of extensive orchards that provided both fruit and time-consuming chores. Farming and ranching filled her father's agenda. The family worked hard on the farm and shared many happy times as well.

When other crops were not good, it was the sale of apples (including home-pressed cider) and other fruit that saved the day. Times were very hard, but the farm was also the setting of many picnics and other social gatherings using the creek for swimming and ice-skating.

Vivien attended the St. Francis schools beginning when she was 7. Since her father owned land in both Cherry Creek and Wano Townships, Vivien was allowed to go to school in St. Francis. First grade in 1919 was conducted in the basement of the Christian Church. That year the St. Francis school building was built.

Her mother drove her and Wyndon to school in a buggy. When the weather was bad, her father would drive them in a sleigh with warm wrapped bricks at their feet and a cowhide lap robe covering them. To her knowledge they never missed school. When they were a little older, she and Wyndon shared a horse to ride to school, but in time they each rode their own horses. After they tethered the horses by the lumberyard, they walked up to the school.

Vivien took the collegiate course of study at St. Francis Community High School and graduated in 1931. Her parents could not afford to send her to college, so after graduation, she went to postgraduate studies in St. Francis for a year. She was tested and received a Second Grade Certificate to teach school. Later, she was tested on 17 subjects and scored 90 to earn her First Grade Certificate. (These certifications had nothing to do with grade levels in school.) She began her career as a teacher in 1932-1933 school term near the South Fork community of White Lily, District 4, with four students. She taught there 1 year, then at Cherry Creek, District 74 (1 year); Broadview, District 25 (3 years); Cox School, District 4 (1 year); and the St. Francis Grade School, District 297 (3 years).

A college degree was still her goal. Originally she had hoped to become a teacher of home economics and journalism. In 1933, Vivien started to summer school at Fort Hays State Teachers College (now Fort Hays State University). She earned her Life Certificate to teach in Kansas public schools in 1938 from Fort Hays after completing 60 credit hours. Vivien completed her bach-

elor of science in education in the summer of 1961. All of her college work was summer school, correspondence, and extension. She also completed many graduate hours of study from Fort Hays, University of Kansas, and Denver University and lacked nine hours of completing her master's degree.

After 9 years teaching in Cheyenne County schools, her career was interrupted for marriage, moving around as an Army wife, and motherhood. When her youngest son, Richard, began first grade in 1952, she returned to teaching at Pleasant Ridge, District 32 (2 years); Pleasant Hill, District 21 (8 years); and back to Pleasant Ridge (4 years). When county schools closed in 1966, she came to town and taught fifth and sixth grades in the St. Francis Grade School for 11 years. She sometimes did private tutoring during the summers. She retired from teaching in May 1977 after completing 34 years in the classroom. She continued to serve as a substitute teacher for several years, sometimes encountering the grandchildren of some of her early students. A master's thesis written by Kaye O'Brien in 1994, Vivien Horwege: Adventures in Country Schools, tells her story.

In August 1941, Vivien married Lynn Arthur Horwege, a journalism graduate of Kansas State University and commissioned Army officer, who grew up in Belleville. Lynn had come to St. Francis to work for A. A. Gillispie at The Saint Francis Herald. His uncle, Rev. Lynn Canfield, was pastor at the Methodist Church and he lived with his uncle's family in the Methodist parsonage while they resided in St. Francis.

Vivien and Lynn were married in the parsonage by Rev. Hantla on Aug. 17, 1941. Beginning married life in Mineral Wells, Texas, Vivien lived the life of an Army wife, traveling with Lynn to live in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Massachusetts, and California. Their first son, Kenneth Lynn, was born in Ft. Benning, Ga., on May 30, 1942. When Lynn went overseas to the South Pacific, Vivien returned to St. Francis to live and shared a house with her sister.

Lynn and Vivien's second son, Ronald Eugene, was born in St. Francis on March 5, 1944, 7 months after his father went overseas. He was nearly 2 before his father came home from the South Pacific. After World War II, Lynn resumed work at The Saint Francis Herald, which had been purchased by Jerry Ingamells, with whom he had worked in Belleville and at Kansas State in Manhattan. Lynn and Vivien and their two young sons lived in the basement apartment at the Ingamells' home.

The Horweges had a finished basement constructed on a lot Vivien had purchased at 110 East 1st Street in St. Francis and moved in 2 months before their third son, Richard Alan, was born on Oct. 5, 1946. In time, they had the house built on top of the basement and did much of the interior finishing themselves. Much of the wood for the construction was salvaged from an old house that they dismantled together on her parents' farm. The Hurlock farm continued to play a big part in the life of the young Horwege family. When Vivien's father died in 1950, her mother moved into town to live with them in their basement home. The first rooms completed in the house were a bath and bedroom for "Grandma" Hurlock. The fact that her mother was living with her family made it easier for Vivien to return to teaching in 1952. Her mother died in 1957.

Both Vivien and Lynn were strong believers in education and worked

long and hard to obtain theirs. They saw to it that all three of their sons attended college. All graduated from Kansas University: Ken in 1964, Ron in 1966, and Richard in 1968. They were very proud of them and especially pleased that Ron went on to complete his master's and doctorate degrees at Indiana University. He is professor of German at Sweet Briar College in Virginia. In the 1970s they were able to travel with Ron in Europe. Ken is a commercial artist for Southeast Denver Graphics, Denver, Colo., and Richard is senior editor for The Donning Company Publishers in Virginia Beach, Va.

Vivien and Lynn were both active in numerous organizations throughout their lives and in the Methodist Church. Vivien taught Sunday school for several years when her sons were growing up and she and Lynn helped with the Methodist Youth Fellowship group. Unfortunately they didn't have much time together after her retirement in 1977. After 38 years of marriage, Lynn died in 1979 of lung cancer and spondylitis (the "printer's disease caused by lead poisoning). After his death, Vivien continued to live in their home and stayed active in many things and was always on the go. In general she enjoyed good health for several years, though at different times she had to have both of her knee joints replaced. Over the years she visited her sons, Ronald and Richard, several times in Virginia.

Vivien remained active in many local civic and social groups and the Northwest Kansas Retired Teachers Association. Vivien was the recipient of many honors: Life Member of Delta Kappa Gamma Society, Business and Professional Womens Club (BPWC) Woman of the Year in 1969, Cheyenne County Master Teacher in 1969-1970, National Award for Leader of American Education in 1971, her biography in the 1971 edition of Leaders of American Elementary and Secondary Education, state officer of the American Association of University Women (AAUW and Business and Professional Womens Club, United Methodist Women Hays District president, Silver Haired Legislator from Hays District, Advisory Council Department of Aging, Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging, and Life Member of Parent Teachers Association and Kansas National Education Association (KNEA). She was nominated for Teachers Hall of Fame in 1995.

Vivien said that the secret of her

happiness was keeping busy and reaching out to others. She listed her hobbies as reading, gardening, knitting and crocheting, and people.

She resided in the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis since May 1999 and continued to participate in life's activities as much as she could. She loved to visit with friends old and new and it was said of her, since she was a child, that she never knew a stranger.

Vivien died in St. Francis on Sunday, June 6, 2010, at the age of 97.

She was preceded in death by her infant brother Donald Hurlock; her parents; her husband Lynn Horwege; Lynn's sisters: Laura Goldberg, and her husband, Irv, of Cresco, Penn., and Ruth Patterson of Burt, Iowa; her brother Wyndon V. Hurlock and his wife Velma of Fort Morgan, Colo.; her sister's husband Cliff Keeler and their son Gary Keeler.

Survivors include her sons: Kenneth Horwege of Aurora; Ronald (Sandra) of Amherst, Va.; and Richard of Norfolk, Va. Also, her grandson Christopher Horwege (Christine) of Bel Air, Md., and their children: Cassie, Cathlene and Joseph; her granddaughter Monika Horwege of Richmond, Va; her sister Lola Manette Keeler of St. Francis; her niece Sheryl Keeler Kenoyer (Jay) of Aiken, S. C.; her brother's children: Judy Hurlock Savage (Bob) of Oak Harbor, Wash.; Wyndon F. Hurlock (Connie) of Littleton, Colo.; Sara Hurlock Nelson (Leonard) of Basin, Wyo.; and Jane Hurlock Krous (Ed) of Colorado Springs. Also, her brother-in-law Russell Patterson of Kasson, Minn., and his children: Rev. Clint Patterson (Judy) of Kasson, Minn.; Kathy Patterson Montagne (Charles) of Shoreline, Wash.; Cynthia Patterson of Central Point, Ore.; and Sharon Patterson Davis (Greg) of Manhattan.

The funeral service was held at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis on Thursday, June 10, with Reverend Morita Truman officiating.

Casket bearers were Tom Bandel, Dale Hill, Pat Owens, Patrick Mills, Tim Raile and Daryl Loyd.

Interment is in the St. Francis Cemetery with a Rebekah service being held.

Memorials may be made to the Vivien Horwege Memorial Scholarship for Higher Education, 12074 E. 3rd Ave, Aurora, CO 80011, or the Good Samaritan Village, 820 S. Denison, St. Francis, 67756.

Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Club Clip

Plum Creek 4-H

The Plum Creek 4-H Club met on Thursday, April 8, at the United Methodist Church. There were 14 members and one leader present who answered roll call of "Did you find any Easter Eggs?"

Sue Zimbelman, leader, reported that the small animal weigh-in will be April 28 starting at 5 p.m. at the fairgrounds.

The 4-H'ers decided to continue the community service project at the Good Samaritan Village of taking care of the flower garden.

The 4-H'ers discussed having a fun event for the club. Ideas suggested were: The Rolling Hills Refuge which is down by Salina; a Rockies game; the Water Park in Denver and Niobrara (water rafting in Nebraska). Prices and information will be brought back to the next meeting on each idea.

Joel Hill gave a project talk on his bird hunting dog and dog trials that he competes in. Martin Beikman gave a project talk on his market hog project and handed out sugar cook-

ies and 4-H'ers had to say which breed of pig they had.

The Hill family led recreation and Elfers and Jeniks served refreshments.

Shakotah Blanka, reporter

The Plum Creek 4-H Club met on January 19 in the Equity meeting room. "What is your favorite Christmas memory" was answered by 18 members and 1 leader.

Sue Zimbelman gave the leader's report. Beef weigh-in is March 7 from 2-4 p.m.; Model Meeting, March 9 at the Methodist Church; County 4-H Days, March 22 at the high school starting at 5 p.m.

The club decided to have the 4-H Days Committee come up with a club activity for 4-H Days. The 4-H'ers decided to participate in the model meeting.

Officer's training will be Sunday, January 31 in the high school art room.

Trevor Reed gave a project talk. Shakotah Blanka, reporter

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