

Behind The Scenes

By Janet Carman



THE UNDERGROUND OIL well was shown in this photo.

SPILL

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famed Joe that made the headlines during the presidential election. However, he is a retired plumber and has been one since he was 15 years old.

He and hundreds of other plumbers, he said, all realized that plugging the gusher was a matter of "plain, common plumber sense."

When they started showing the break in the pipe, his wife, Jamie said, he shook his head and said, why don't they just plug it?

He started making sketches of ways to stop the oil spill which happened the middle of May. He talked to an engineer at BP in Houston, Texas. He was told that the company was not interested in stopping the leak but instead, harvesting the oil. However, the engineer said he could submit his drawings to Deep Water Horizon Response, the company which built the well.

In the meantime, the condition of the oil spill was getting worse.

Deep Water sent back a form which detailed the design, equipment needed and the cost. He filled out the form and sent it back. He was told the idea was transferred to the logistic office for review.

Three days later, he called BP and a secretary answered the phone. She put her hand over the mouthpiece, then told the other person in the room that he was calling about the design. Caldart could hear the response which was, "him and every other small-town idiot!"

Caldart had three different drawings and all were based on the way a plumber would cap a sewer break only on a much bigger scale.

The first design was to install a hydraulic piston on the containment cap and there were bars to hold the cap in place. The second drawing, after the pipe was cut, was to internally thread the pipe and put the cap in place by screwing it on. The third drawing was like a fire hydrant with the top flange with an internal seal bolted on the blowout preventer.

The equipment used to stop the leak, Caldart said, is a steel cap and underneath it is the internal seal – a design he had drawn on May 25.

He thought he had been brushed off, so he said he started e-mailing everybody his design. One reached the desk of Dr. Robert Bea, a University of California at Berkeley petroleum engineer, who, when called by the *Monitor* writer, said Caldart's plan was very similar to the successful capping operation.

"Kevin Costner and James Cameron had tried to help and they didn't get anywhere so I didn't think I had a chance," Caldart said. "People think plumbers don't know more than scientists."

However, he added, by that time, the scientists were thinking about plugging the hole with garbage and tires. Can you imagine what that would have been like when it broke lose and blew tires and garbage all over the coast!

Caldart said he isn't a hero, that there were other plumbers who sent in designs and they probably took "nuts and bolts" from all the designs. However, he thinks that BP should recognize all the people who did take the time to send in drawings.

We are all a bunch of plumbers working together to help the people who did the actual work to stop the leak. Stopping the leak was the main concern of everyone.

Caldart said he didn't believe there had ever been the pressure in the well that BP had claimed there to be. Nevertheless, it had released 60,000 barrels of oil which was coming into the Gulf each day.

As of Tuesday, the oil had been contained in the well but there is a small amount of leaking of oil from somewhere. Caldart said that BP hadn't decided whether to close the well or release the pressure and continue surface containment efforts. They are talking about filling the pipe with mud

Two new temporary exhibits at museum

A set of Franklinware with a delicate floral design trimmed in 22 carat gold is on display for the next several weeks in the dining room at the museum. The dishes belonged to John Zimbelman and Christina Hoerth Zimbelman. This special display is courtesy of Marvin and Donna Zimbelman.

John Zimbelman was born in Rohrbach near Odessa on the Black Sea in 1879. Christina Hoerth was born in nearby Buhajolka in 1883. The Zimbelmans immigrated to the St. Francis area in 1892, and the Hoerth family came in 1893. John and Christina were married in 1903 in Cheyenne County, Kansas. Together they lived 12 miles northwest of St. Francis. Many children graced this German marriage; a union between two handsome people. (Vielen kinder diese Deutsche Heirat geveherein; eintract zusammen zwei hubsch Laute.) The first was Lydia (Lida), then followed Emil, Albert, August, Ella, Erna, Ernest, Robert, Clarence, Raymond and Calvin.

To be next on the list to display a set of your family's dishes, just call Janet Carman, Sally Wieck or Marge Lampe.

The Joy Photoshop display highlighted the museum tour for many returning alumni the weekend of June 19 and 20. This wonderful collection assembled by Joy Blume Fisher generated animated discussions, laughter and even a few tears. Some were so

captivated by the baskets of old photos that they spent hours trying to put names to faces. "Oh! That's my aunt's wedding picture!" Phyllis Wright exclaimed when she picked a photo from the basket. "This is my brother's eighth grade graduation portrait," said Donna Zimbelman, as she held up a small photo of a handsome dark-haired young man. The Joy photo collection is still on exhibit. Come on up, reminisce, and take home any of the photos that bring back memories.

A display of work by a local craftsman is scheduled for later in the season. More details will follow. Don't miss it.

Alumni Weekend
There was action at the museum on reunion weekend. The 60th and 65th honor classes met for coffee on Saturday morning. Over 90 people enjoyed the brat lunch served by the Historical Society Saturday at noon. During the day Saturday many alumni and friends toured the museum. Sunday morning the 50-year class gathered for brunch followed by services at the old country church. A big thanks to all volunteers who helped make these events a success.

More History Books Ordered
More Cheyenne County History Books have been printed and are waiting to be picked up at the Koerperich Bindery in Selden. Printing and binding costs have increased, so the history books will cost more than in previous



JOY FISHER arranged the photo display at the Cheyenne County Museum. The photos were a hit at the St. Francis high school alumni reunion in June.

years. The good news is that the history book will be available for sale once again. The Museum has frequent requests for this book. It has become the "Handbook of Cheyenne County"!

Visit the Museum This Summer
More than 150 guests have signed the register since May. Summer Museum hours are Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday

from 1:30 to 4:30. If you have summer guests, or you just want a place to take the kids, call Sally at 332-4839 or Janet at 332-3569 to schedule a visit at any other time. The museum is a great place to visit, so stop by and spend some time in the local "treasure chest" of Cheyenne County. Discover historical items from the Ice Age to the Space Age!

Lady golfers compete

Eighteen ladies formed six teams for a morning of three-lady scramble on Saturday at Riverside Recreation.

"The weather was hot, hot, hot but the last hour a little breeze came through which helped," Cynthia Poling, one of the organizers said. "It was a great tournament, a fun day."

All of the team participated in the one flight with the winners listed below.

First place: Connie Livengood, Audrey Hines, Cara Daise, posted a 68.

Second place: Kim Lankas, April Green and Leslie Focke, posted a 75.

Third place: Lana Mireles, Julie Huddleston, Deb Miller, posted a 78.

There were also five hole prizes with the following winners:

Hole two, get on the green: Cynthia Poling, Audrey Hines.

Hole five, closest to the pin on a chip shot: Sharissa Andrist, 20 inches from the pin.

Hole six, shortest drive, Judy Gienger, no one else pulled back so she was the winner.

Hole seven: longest putt, Audrey Hines, 7-11.

Hole nine: longest drive, Leslie Focke.



PRACTICING BEFORE THE TOURNEY was Carol Rogers. Herald staff photo by Betty Winston

City cleanup efforts made

It's summer, it's hot and the weeds are growing. City cleanup of property was at the top of the agenda when the St. Francis City Council met on Monday, June 12.

J.R. Landenberger, city superintendent, said there are five properties on the list to be mowed. Some of those are chronics, he said, those which are on the list year after year.

Two of the properties are on West Emerson Street. The house on the corner belongs to Wayne Ritter. Mr. Landenberger said the house is in poor condition and a window is broken. Condemnation of the property was started in May. The other property next door belongs to Kenny Richers. The weeds on this property have been mowed.

The River Street property belonging to Bud Erskin has seen some minor improvements but not enough. Mr. Erskin had complained because the letter which he received from the city indicated that the inside of the building was also included in the cleanup. The council agreed that they had not been inside the building and it was an error on their part.

The owners of these properties will be considered as "non-compliant" and affidavit to appear in court will be served. If they do not appear in court, they will be found in contempt.

Another property talked about was the Roger Sowers property at Webster and Quincy streets. Council members said some of the stuff had been moved so he can mow but there is still a problem. A lot of the stuff ended up in a trailer that has been sitting on the street for four weeks. They also talked about a possible animal problem on the Sower property.

Those showing improvement are Sherry Smith on Emerson Street, Terry Toler on Adam Street and the Hankins place on Emerson Street.

It was noted that there had been complaints about condition of the antique store property on U.S. 36.

DERBY

Continued from Page 1

a championship derby. The association is focused on promoting a first class event with quality rules, inspection and officiating in a non-biased environment.

Not just any driver can compete, said Zimbelman.

"Only drivers that qualify at one of the 31 association derbies in the state are eligible," he said.

In order to qualify, each driver must place either first, second or third in one of the shows listed below. Qualified drivers will be com-

peting for their share of a \$7,000 purse as well as other derby-related products.

For more information, visit www.wecrash.com.

The 31 derbies include those in St. Francis along with Abilene, Blue Rapids, Salina, Hillsboro, Herington, Osage, Cheney, Gardner, Caldwell, Harper, Minneapolis, Colby, Newton, Hays, Coffeyville, KS Badlands, Clyde, Hoisington, Heartland Park, Cimarron, Mound City, Wyandotte County, Tonganoxie, Stockton, Emporia and Ness City.

Club Clip

Red Hat Mamas

Answering to the call of wearing funny hats to McDonald's annual ice cream social and talent show, 17 Red Hat Mamas proudly donned their red hats with some adding a patriotic touch on July 11.

A short business meeting was conducted by the queen, Margaret Voorhies. Humorous reading chairwoman, Phyllis Wingfield read a couple of stories and then it was time to relax and be entertained.

The various acts ranged from youth to semi-professional levels. Red Hat Mama, Florence Antholz, a member of the Prairie Rose Harmony, and seven other members of the Sweet Adelaines sang seven patriotic medleys. Next it was time to enjoy desserts of cake and ice cream, compliments of the McDonald Area De-

velopment group.

Members entranced with the gaiety of the evening were: Florence Antholz, Frieda Black, Bonnie Burr, Linda Carroll, Vernetta Haack, Beverly Higgins, Betty Lewis, Iris McIntosh, Carol Mears, Lois Morelock, Edna Roesener, Connie Rooney, Joan Tongish, Margaret Voorhies, LaVina Waters, Phyllis Wingfield, Marlene Young and Margaret's granddaughter, Tiernan Heydt of Georgia. The August meeting will be in Burlington, Colo



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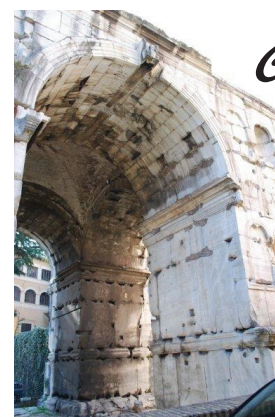
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