

Obituaries

Rachael Keller

May 13, 1918-Aug. 19, 2010

Rachael Keller died peacefully in the presence of her family on Aug. 19, 2010, at the age of 92. She was born in Burlington, Kan., on May 13, 1918, the first child of Chester and Nellie Wagaman. Rachael grew up on the family farm near Emporia, along with her two brothers, Loren and Roy.



Keller

After graduating from Emporia High School, Rachael attended Emporia Teacher's College to obtain a teaching certificate. She then taught in rural elementary schools near Emporia for three years and saved funds for further education. At Kansas State College, she was a resident of Clovia Sorority and was inducted into Omicron Nu and Phi Kappa Phi honorary societies. Also at Kansas State, Rachael met her future husband, Ed Keller, on a blind date. She graduated with honors from Kansas State in 1942, with a degree in home economics.

Rachael rekindled her relationship with Ed Keller after starting her new job as a home economics extension agent in Marion County, where Ed was working as a veterinarian. They were married on Aug. 15, 1943, in Oakland, Calif., where Ed had started serving in the Veterinary Corps of the U.S. Army. After Ed's discharge, they established their family home on a farm just outside of St. Francis. Together, Ed and Rachael managed Ed's veterinary practice, a purebred Hereford cattle herd, and a farming operation in Northwest Kansas and Eastern Colorado from 1945 until Ed's death in 1976.

Rachael used her home eco-

nomics degree in many endeavors. Shortly after arriving in St. Francis, she was recruited to teach home economics at the high school for a year. She also served as a Weight Watchers lecturer and leader for many years. As a homemaker and a wife of a rancher and veterinarian, she kept books for the family enterprises, served as the anesthetist for small animal surgery, fed and groomed show cattle, fixed fence, stacked hay, and raised five children.

One of her longest lasting responsibilities was as a community and project leader in the Plum Creek 4-H Club for 50 years. She was also an active member of P.E.O., American Association of University Woman, American Legion Auxiliary, Tuesday Club, Better Homes Extension Unit, the Cheyenne County Airport Authority, and the Cheyenne County Cancer Society.

Rachael was also very active in the Zion and Peace Lutheran Churches in St. Francis. She taught adult Sunday School until she reached 91 years of age, served as a Church Council director and officer, sang in the choir, served as a sponsor for Luther League, and baked home-made rolls for countless church dinners.

Rachael would say her most important roles were those as a wife and a mother of five children, and as a mother-in-law, a grandmother, a great-grandmother, and an aunt. She supported her children, nieces, nephews and grandchildren in their church, school, 4-H, athletic, music, and community activities. In addition to supporting local schools, she was an avid fan of Kansas State University activities and athletics for over 70 years. She even attended Kansas State football and basketball games in

her 91st year. After Ed's death in 1976, Rachael moved to a new home in St. Francis, where she lived 34 years and continued an active role in the community. In 1977, she helped establish the St. Francis Nutrition Site Senior Center. She was a co-manager and manager of the Senior Center until her retirement at age 84 and continued to volunteer there until age 91.

Rachael also helped organize the Cheyenne County Alcohol and Drug Council and served as a co-director and a volunteer until the age of 90. After Ed's memorial funds were used to help establish a local Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) program, she took classes and served as one of the initial first responders. Throughout her life, she was a wonderful role model for the many lives she touched and was a great example of a servant-leader.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Chester and Nellie; her husband, Ed; and her brother, Roy Wagaman.

Survivors include: her children and their spouses, Linda Fornelli (Rick), Tom Keller (Lea), Bill Keller (Cindy), Richard Keller (Mary), and Laura Lee Harwood (Doug); 14 grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; and her brother, Loren Wagaman.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorial contributions to the St. Francis Senior Center, sent in care of Knodel Funeral Home, Box 606, St. Francis, KS 67756.

Funeral services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 27, at Peace Lutheran Church.

Visitation will be held at Knodel Funeral Home on Thursday, Aug. 26, from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. with the family present from 7-9 p.m.

Cheryl K. "Mosley" Fink

July 4, 1967 - Aug. 12, 2010

Cheryl K. Fink, age 43, of Walsh, Colo., formerly of Strong City, Kan., died Thursday, Aug. 12, 2010, at her home. A celebration of life service was held Wednesday, Aug. 18 at the Brown-Bennett-Alexander Funeral Home, Cottonwood Falls. Officiant was Steve Fink. Burial followed the in Strong City Cemetery in Strong City. A service was held Monday at the Rich Funeral Home in Springfield, Colo.

The daughter of Russell "Dee" and Margie Wright Fink, Cheryl was born July 4, 1967, in Emporia. She grew up in Strong City and graduated in 1985 from Chase County High School.

She married Fred Mosley and to this union one child, Laramie Brent Mosley was born. They later divorced.

Cheryl was employed at the Baca County Feed Yard in Walsh, Colo. She spent over 20 years working in feed yards and there wasn't a job on the yard she could not do.

Her main passion in life was her son, Laramie. She was very involved with his choice to ride bulls in the Little Britches Rodeo. This past July, they spent a week in

Pueblo, Colo., at the National Little Britches Finals Rodeo. It was the first year Laramie qualified for the finals. She was so proud.

Cheryl loved to cook and often smoked meat for cookouts. She dreamed of owning her own barbecue restaurant.

She is survived by her son of the home; one sister, Patricia Parrish of Satanta; one nephew, Bradley Reynolds of Ottawa; two nieces: Mickayla Fink of Wichita and Traci Reynolds of Sublette; seven

great nieces and nephews, and many other family and friends.

She was preceded in death by her parents, a brother, Kim Fink, and her grandparents: Frank and Ida Belle Wright and Clarence Fink and Jessie Fink Sherman.

Memorial contributions to the Laramie Mosley Education Fund may be sent in care of the Rich Funeral Home in Springfield, Colo., or the Brown-Bennett-Alexander Funeral Home, 201 Cherry, Cottonwood Falls, KS 66845.



JUST PASSING THROUGH. A Le Tourneau wheel loader stops in St. Francis before continuing on to a mine in British Columbia, Canada. Making the journey from Longview, Texas, was the crew of Harlin and Nancy Nusser, Springfield, Colo., and Greg Horsnell of Edmonton, Alberta, Canada.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Ag Talk with Jeanne

By Jeanne Falk



Agronomy Specialist

Wheat seeding tips for good stand establishment

By Jeanne Falk

Getting a good stand of wheat during the optimum time in the fall is an important first step in getting good yields. Often, problems with plant growth and development later in the year can be traced back to poor emergence or inadequate root growth and tiller development in the fall and early winter.

According to Jim Shoryer, Kansas State wheat specialist, here are a few important steps producers can take to improve their chances of getting a good stand of wheat:

- Proper tractor speed. It is best to use a tractor speed of between 5 and 6 mile per hour in most cases when drilling wheat. If higher speeds are used, the openers will tend to "ride up" in the soil, similar to effects of a speedboat pulling a water skier. At slow speeds, the water skier sinks into the water

a bit; but once the boat picks up speed the water skier lifts to the surface of the water. The same principle applies to a tractor pulling a grain drill.

- Proper, uniform seeding depth. Ideal planting depth for wheat, in most cases, is about 1.5 inches. When planting early into very warm soils, it is especially important not to plant too deeply since coleoptile lengths are shorter than normal under warm conditions. On the other extreme, producers should also be especially careful not to plant too deeply when planting later than the recommended time into very cool soils.

- Getting a uniform seeding depth is also important. Where producers are planting into fields with heavy residue, or where there is uneven distribution of chaff, uneven planting depth can be a serious problem. In those situations, it is common to end up with poor stand establishment in areas of the

field where the drill opener rode up over the residue or chaff, and was unable to penetrate the soil to the same depth as in other areas of the field.

- Firm seedbed. One of the most common problems in wheat stand establishment is planting into loose, fluffy soils. This problem tends to occur most often where soils have been tilled repeatedly during the summer. When seeds are planted into loose soils, rains in the fall will settle the soil and leave the crowns of the seedlings too close to the soil surface. Having a good closing system behind the drill openers, with adequate down pressure, should help.

- Adequate soil fertility. In general, producers should apply at least part of their nitrogen needs before or at planting time to get the plants off to a strong start. If the soil is low or very low in phosphorus or potassium, these nutrients should also be applied at planting time. This way plants benefit early in their development.

- Make adjustments for planting into row crop stubble. When planting wheat into grain sorghum stubble, producers will need an extra 30 pounds nitrogen per acre over their normal nitrogen rate. When planting wheat into soybean stubble, producers should not reduce their nitrogen rates since the nitrogen credit from soybeans doesn't take effect until the following spring. If the wheat is being planted no-till after row crop harvest, nitrog rates should be increased by 20 pounds nitrogen per acre. Seeding rates should be increased when planting wheat late after row crop harvest. It's best to increase to 75-100 pounds per acre in Western Kansas. When planting more than three weeks after the Hessian fly-free date, producers should use a seeding rate up to 120 pounds per acre.

Family reunion held

The descendants of Ed and Lettie Duncan held their 2010 Duncan Family Reunion in St. Francis on Aug. 6-7. It was a wonderful time for the family to "reunite" and get reacquainted. There were family members from nine states represented.

Kansas: Verda and Junior Smull, Tom and Sandy Smull, Matt, Trista, Jordan and Matilynn Smull, Chris, Jill, Cade and Hanna Bracelin, all from St. Francis; Pat, Janet and Mike Duncan from Manhattan; Phyllis and Ray Reade from Hutchinson; Larry and Cindy Smull, Melissa, Steve and Dalton Catania, Lena and G. Cook, James Smull, Shonell, Taryn, Ja'nesa and Teja Edwards, Paul, Chris and Brianna Smull, all of Salina; Richard and Darlene Burr, Mike and Belinda Boyson, Nick, Heather, Jayden and Jackson Boyson, Coary and Trisha Taylor and family of Bird City; Marci, Jason, Peyton, Teylon Finley of Goodland.

Missouri: Ike and Shirley Gordon of Anderson.

Colorado: Kristal Smull Griffith, Tessa Smull, Jeni Mattingley of Denver; John and Marilyn Lukas, Lyle and Betty Lukas, Nancy and Dwight Rockwell, Kris, Laurie, Megan and Lindsey Jones from Wray; Keith and Sharon Jones of Yuma; and Pastor Francis Killinger and Delores Baker of Brighton.

South Dakota: Mary Kriber of Springfield and Marge Stoebner of Tyn dall.

Maryland: Stephanie Gordon of College Park.

Connecticut: Bob and Doris Dallon, Linda, Steve and Shane Gordon, Jennifer Skelly, all of Bristol; Diane Dallon Skelly of Farmington.

Kentucky: Cara, Mark, Alicia and Emma Lavigne from Hebron.

Ohio: Dan and Jeanette Duncan of Dayton.

Texas: Daniele Jones of Irving.

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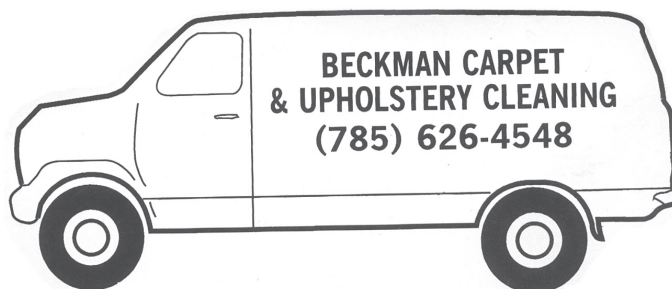


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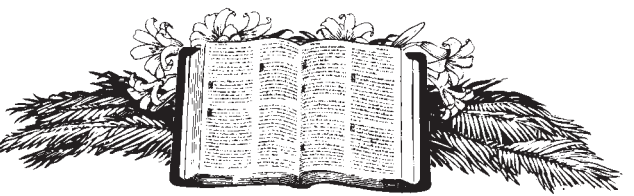
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