



TAYLOR SWIFT'S trucks stop at Yost Farm Supply in St. Francis for some parts.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Obituary

Rodney Lewis Partch

June 13, 1921 - Sept. 8, 2011

Rodney Lewis Partch, 90, was born June 13, 1921 in Bird City, Kan. He died on Sept. 8, 2011, in Benkelman, Neb.

Rodney was the only child of Faye Partch and Belle Howell Partch. He attended school in Bird City from grade one through his senior year.

Rodney helped his father at the grocery store in Bird City and was active in the Boy Scouts. He always proudly remembered being a member of the mile track relay team his senior year, losing only one race — the finals at the state track meet.

After graduating from high school, Rodney attended Kansas State College of Agriculture, later known as Kansas State University. While at K-State, he worked in the dairy barns and agronomy fields.

He played basketball for the Wildcats and became a member of the Legends Club. He was active in the Sigma Nu Fraternity and graduated from K-State in 1944.

Rodney married Elizabeth (Bette) Petersen on Sept. 6, 1944, in Pasadena, Calif. They returned to Hoxie where he was the county extension agent.

After working in Sheridan, Decatur and Mitchell counties as an agricultural agent and for K-State as a field agronomist, he and Bette moved to Bird City where he joined his father in farming.

He was a member of the Immanuel United Methodist Church in Bird City and taught Sunday school for many years. He enjoyed yard work and flowers,

woodworking, bird watching, checking his fields and K-State sports.

Rodney and Bette had two children, Sue and Ted. He enjoyed attending their school activities.

Rodney and Bette organized the Happy Larks 4-H Club southwest of Bird City. He served as president of the Bird City Board of Education and on the board of directors for the Federal Land Bank.

In 2003, Ted and Rodney were selected as the State Wheat Quality Champions at the Kansas State Fair and had their picture taken with then-Governor Kathleen Sebelius.

Rodney was preceded in death by his parents and wife, Bette, who died in July 2009.

Survivors include Sue and her husband, Glenn, of Salina, and Ted and his wife, Carol, of Bird City; grandchildren, Shelly and Tim Blake of Shawnee, Jill and Drew Paugh of Ellis, Randy and Katie Partch of Benkelman, Kevin Partch of Kearney, Neb., and two great-grandchildren, Cooper Paugh and baby boy Blake (due anytime).

Funeral services were held Sept. 10 at Immanuel United Methodist Church, Bird City, with Rev. Tom Bailey officiating. Casket bearers were Glenn Laubhan, Drew Paugh, Kevin Partch, Randy Partch, Steve Busse and Tony Walden.

Burial was in the Bird City Cemetery. Arrangements were by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

Commissioners hear concern and discuss what to do with road/street

By Karen Krien

karen.k@nwkansas.com

A St. Francis resident brought a drawing and papers to the Thursday Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting in an effort to prove that East Fourth Street was a street, not an easement. At the end of the discussion, the commissioners said they would talk it over with the county road and bridge department supervisor.

Bill Dungan lives on East Fourth Street, St. Francis, and has been to the commissioners' meetings before. This time, it was about the road that runs in front of his house. He had researched records and found that in 1927 and 1947, the road was a street. He had sent a letter to Kari Gilliland, county attorney. Mrs. Gilliland was at the meeting and said that it was a civil matter and she had sent the information on to Kevin Berens, attorney. Mr. Dungan said it was not a civil matter.

He said what he was asking for is to have the county maintain East Fourth Street. He said the county superintendent said it was not a road.

"I agree," Mr. Dungan said, "it is not a road, it is a street."

"In 1974, it was still a street. So, if it is an easement, why is it described as East Fourth Street?"

"At one time, we (Dungan and neighbors) had to move a fence line so they could grade it."

"And, if it is an easement, why doesn't Dave Yost have to pay taxes on it?"

Mr. Dungan added that Mr. Yost had told him that he couldn't walk on the road because it was a private drive.

If it is the county's responsibility to maintain the road, said Dale Patton, commissioner, then we need to investigate the matter.

When Mr. Flemming came in, he said he didn't remember authorizing blading that road or street, whatever it is.

The commissioners questioned that, if it is Fourth Street, why wasn't the city grading it?

Mrs. Gilliland said she would look into the matter. Later, Mr. Dungan came in with copies of the letter he had sent to Mrs. Gilliland.

Road and bridge department report

Mr. Flemming and the commissioners talked about moving dirt for a wellness center/weight lifting facility north of the school in Bird City. Rod Klepper, who is working on the Wellness Center Committee, said the more people and entities they can show working on the project, the better

chance they will have in getting a grant.

The commissioners agreed that if Mr. Flemming can work it in their schedule, then it was agreeable with them.

He had a highway crossing permit for Theron Culwell north of Bird City. It will be a water pipeline and they will trench across the road.

Ernie Ketzner, commissioner, said Rex Linin had talked to him about a road that the county is maintaining, but, he said, no one uses the road. There was no answer.

Executive meeting

The commissioners called for two different executive sessions and both were extended 10 additional minutes.

Mrs. Gilliland called an executive session to discuss personnel. Also present was Jen Dankenbring, communication director. The chairman announced that no decisions were made upon coming out of the session.

Dan and Janelle Bowers went

into executive session to discuss personnel and medical. Again, no decision was made.

In other business

Mary Morrow, register of deeds, was given permission to attend a meeting in Oberlin on Sept. 21. She will go with Sharon Elliott, clerk of the district court.

Mrs. Morrow said she needs shelves and a cabinet in her office. She was given permission to buy the wood and she said her family would cut it.

The August write-offs for the ambulance department was \$6,392.

Randy Fitzgerald, operational manager for Good Samaritan Society, and Jeff Paulsen, administrator for the Good Samaritan Village, discussed the future of the nursing home. See article elsewhere.

Next meeting

The next meeting of the commissioners' will be at 8 a.m. on Friday, Aug. 30, in the commissioners' room in the courthouse.



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Tim Burr
Advertising Manager
tburr@nwkansas.com

310 W. Washington sf.herald@nwkansas.com
PO Box 1050 785-332-3162
St. Francis, KS 67756 785-332-3001 (fax)

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