

# Covered wagon team travels across Kansas

By Karen Krien

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Thursday, a horse-drawn covered wagon left St. Francis headed toward Lyndon, south of Topeka. They expected the trip to take a month, or, at least, Frank Burkdoll, a sign painter, said that was about all the time he had.

The owners, Frank Burkdoll and Frank Nettleton, both of Lyndon, purchased the wagon from Larry Forsythe, St. Francis, on Nov. 11. They said they were headed down the U.S. 36 when they saw the wagon along the side of the highway with a "For Sale" sign.

They were both interested in the wagon so stopped by Yost Farm Supply where they got Larry's name and phone number. Larry had bought the wagon at the Brighton (Colo.) Draft Horse Sale about five years ago and had a team trained to pull it. However, he had sold the team and was wanting to sell the wagon.

Mr. Nettleton had already crossed the state in a covered wagon pulled by Belgian mules in 1998. His wagon was furnished with many of the conveniences of home including a refrigerator and hot wa-

ter heater. It was too heavy, he said.

Both of the Franks own numerous wagons and the teams to pull them. They belong to the Santa Fe Trail Ride Association and have gone on drives with their teams and wagons. They have also been part of the wagon trains traveling from Council Grove to Independence.

When they saw the wagon beside the road, they said they just couldn't pass up the opportunity to purchase it. They loaded it up and began to make plans to go across Kansas in it.

Back in Lyndon, they spent much of the winter repairing it and putting in improvements including some bunks, stove and turn signals.

They brought the wagon and a team of four haffinger horses named Maggie, Queenie, Lana and Doc.

Before their journey started, Larry took them to the historical landmarks in the county including Three Corners which marks the corners of Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado.

They were hoping for good weather along the way. However, one of their first nights in the cov-

ered wagon, they experienced a thunderstorm and about 2-inches of rain. Mr. Burkdoll said they had packed some blankets but didn't think they would need them.

"The next morning, I was finding those blankets," he said. "It was cold!"

When asked why they liked traveling by team and wagon, they said, "It is in our blood - we like feeling the horse power in our hands."

The two Franks, accompanied by Larry, started down the old Wheeler highway, on Thursday, spending the first night in Wheeler. They hoped to make around 20 miles a day but, Mr. Burkdoll said, never will we injure the horses for our pleasure.

By Friday, they had made it to Bird City but were having some trouble with the equipment. They were able to travel on east, staying the night in McDonald. On Sunday, they were in Atwood.

Along the way, they were stirring the curiosity of the people and were enjoying telling their story. Hopefully, they will let the people of Northwest Kansas know when they arrive in Lyndon.

## RAT ROD

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abandoned cab. Clinton said, that as a child, he used to go with his father to fix fences. While Dad was fixing fence, he played in the old pickup.

The pickup box of the rat rod is a 1954 Dodge except it is about 18-inches shorter and it is narrower.

The chassis is a 1985 Dodge Dakota. The motor and transmission are from a 1964 Buick. For the wheels to be where Pete wanted them, the motor had to be moved back. To hook up the steering, the cross member was split and titled back, then welded back together. It has five universal joints.

The gas tank is out of an old stock car and Mark Cooper made the exhaust pipes which come out the sides.

Many of the original parts were used however, the door and window handles were ordered, mirrors were cut down so they would work, the insides of the doors were finished, and it has air conditioning, heat and

a radio. The windows in the door were special ordered (Pete said that parts for the old vehicles are becoming increasingly difficult to find). He said the windshield and back windows were cut to size by an area glass dealer.

The rod rat has been inspected and certified by the National Street Rod Association. It is as safe as any vehicle on the road, he said. It has every safety feature from seat belts, to emergency brakes and turn signals, to power brakes and power steering.

"I'm not going to build and drive down the road in anything that would endanger myself or others," he said.

Pete has been working with old cars for years, starting with a 1935 Ford which he restored while he was still in high school. He sold that and it was just the beginning of other restorations.

He restored a 1939 Ford pickup which he found in a pasture near

Atwood. He said his father gave him one like it when he was in high school. He has also restored a 1963 Ford Galaxy convertible which was identical to one he had in high school, a 1948 CJ2A Willies and a 1972 Volkswagon convertible.

He said he likes to make the rat rods because they are a lot of fun to put together and less expensive to build compared to a complete restoration. A rat rod also takes less time to build (the one on display Saturday took three to four months to build).

Pete said since he has retired from the redi-mix business, he has more time and has more vehicles waiting to be restored. He said he likes the mechanical work but really doesn't like the painting.

People are urged to stop by and check out the rat rod along with all the other antiques and classics on display during the car show on Saturday. Pete said he always enjoys showing off the cars and talking to the people.

## Garden starter solution

Using a starter solution or "root stimulator" to help new transplants for the garden settle in has been standard practice for decades.

"Research has found, however, these products are only useful for a while. In Kansas, for example, I'd be hesitant to apply them after Mother's Day," said Ward Upham, K-State Research and Extension horticulturist.

"Stimulator" solutions are typically a weak fertilizer that contains nitrogen and phosphate, Upham said. Some gardeners actually make their own. Given the Internet, recipes are easy to find.

Good formulas can be a real boost for transplants moving into the gar-

den while the soil is still cool.

"Early in the growing season, soil nutrients aren't readily available to help plants develop roots and become established," he explained. "So, applying a starter solution near a plant's roots is like providing a substitute meal."

As the environment warms, though, plants can access soil's underground nutrients more easily.

"Unless your soil is nutrient-poor, you're wasting time and solution if you apply a starter product after that," Upham said. "In fact, if your soil is fertile and the weather gets pretty warm, your applying a starter solution might actually cause some plant damage by burning roots."

## DOCTOR

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man, Dr. Chuck Allred, and Dr. Richard Ohmart played a big part in that insight," Dr. Miller said. "I never knew I liked teaching, it just happened.

"Again, initially, I felt I wasn't smart enough to teach. Now I realize teaching is more about connecting with each student in the specific way that helps them learn.

"All the years I spent feeling I wasn't 'smart' enough to do things, I have finally realized that any of us can learn anything. But our success with that is largely affected by how we get along with people.

"I think a person is better at any career when they work well with others. I also realize there is no end to the learning. As long as you like that, medicine is the field to be in. I have always enjoyed being on the learning end! Even when you teach, you learn."

Rick Kellerman, MD (Professor and Chair, Department of Family and Community Medicine, KU School of Medicine-Wichita) writes: "Some people make a permanent imprint on your psyche. For me, Mary Beth Miller, MD is one of those individuals. I remember the very first day that I met her when I served as her preceptor for Rural Health Weekend during the spring of her first year of medical school in 1993. She was smart, personable, enthusiastic, motivated, charming, and yearning to learn. These attributes are as true today as they were almost 20 years ago."

Dr. Miller is also the recipient of the 2011 Doug Parks Community Volunteer Preceptor Award from the Department of Family and Community Medicine at KU School of Medicine-Wichita.

John Dorsch, MD (Director of Rural Programs, Department of Family and Community Medicine, KU School of Medicine-Wichita) writes: "As director of rural programs, I have placed several medical students with Dr. Miller. Students return from their experience inspired by the relationships and trust between Dr. Miller and her patients. I cannot think of a better example for students than Mary Beth Miller, MD. I believe if all students had an opportunity to work with a preceptor of Dr. Miller's caliber, more doctors would go to rural areas of practice."

"Most people could not tell

you where St Francis is located, yet it has become a very popular place for students across many disciplines, in part, because of the exemplary teaching by Dr. Miller," said Megan Brown, MD, a resident in her first year at Smoky Hill Family Medicine Residency Program. "When I think about the kind of physician I want to be in my future practice, I can think of no better role model than Dr. Miller. She is a shining example of family medicine... that wonderful combination of teacher, friend, and advocate."

Dr. Miller is a member of the American Academy of Family Physicians; Kansas Academy of Family Physicians, currently serving as vice president; American Medical Association; Kansas Medical Society; Saline County Medical Society; American Medical Women's Association; and American Medical Director's Association.

sociation.

Current appointments include: Statewide Trauma Council (Northwest Kansas representative); Family Doctor of the Day volunteer; Medical Director, Good Samaritan Village Nursing Home; Medical Director, Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service; St. Francis School Board member; Kansas Health Care Collaborative member; and Kansas Patient Centered Medical Home Initiative clinical site.

Dr. Miller will be recognized at the Kansas Academy of Family Physicians annual meeting and scientific session, June 7-9 at the Marriott Hotel in Overland Park. The awards will be presented during the member luncheon on Friday, June 8. She has also been nominated for the American Academy of Family Physicians Exemplary Teacher Awards, which will be announced in the fall 2012.

## CAR SHOW

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Scott Schultz, one of the coordinators of the show, is urging everyone in town to also bring their vehicles down to show at the park. However, all bicycles, skateboards and dogs are not invited.

"People have invested a lot of money in their vehicles and do not want them damaged," he said. "Enjoy looking but, please, do not touch."

When the owners vehicles register, they will be given a bag full of goodies, coupons and other surprises. Throughout the day, people are encouraged to vote for the "People's Choice Award." At the end of the day, the winner will be awarded a trophy.

"Stop by the registration desk and pick up a ballot," said Nancy Schultz,

Restored bicycles will be given away. Kids can register, no charge, and ride a bike home.

The vendors will be in the city park, west of Sawhill Park. There are lots of vendors, Mrs. Schultz said. They include jewelry, Scen-

sy candles, T-shirts and candies. Food vendors include the Majestic Service, Shriners Wagon, the Wahrmans, the Hobo Wagon, Kettle Korn and Mountain Man nuts and candies.

There will be short poker run starting at St. Francis, then on to Riverside, the Cheyenne County Museum, Good Samaritan Village and Captain Hook's Fine Dining in Wheeler. Those going on the run need to register at the park by 1 p.m. and the run will start at 1:30. There will be 100-percent payback.

The Kids Peddle Pull will begin at 10 a.m. See related article for more information.

The awards ceremony will start at 4 p.m.

"Be sure to come to the park and enjoy the activities," Mr. Schultz said. "Talk to the people about their vehicles - there is always a story to go with each one!"

No alcohol is allowed in the park - just good, clean fun and lots of old, restored cars.

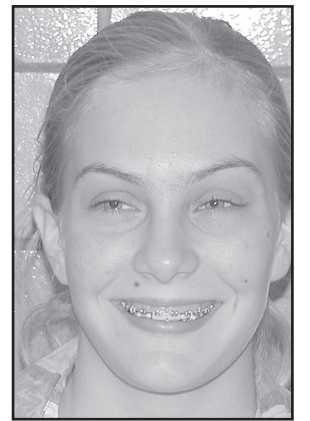
## Stop by for Saturday in the Park

## Accidentally Omitted

From the Spring School Section

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The St. Francis Herald and Bird City Times will be closed on Memorial Day, Monday, May 28th.

Ads and copy DEADLINE for the May 31 issue will be Tues., May 29 at 5 p.m.

Newspapers will be delivered a day later.