

RETIRED

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Mrs. Cassidy said she likes to cook, ride her bike and spend time with her daughters. She will also spend time with her husband, Ward, who is the 120th District Representative, while he is in Topeka.

"Teaching has been a wonderful career for me and now I am ready for whatever comes next," she concluded.

Lynnette Nolan

Lynnette Nolan started her teaching career as a speech paraprofessional. Several years later, she took the position as the fifth-grade teacher. She has taught for 27 years.

She said "kids" were the reason she went into teaching.

"Even as a para," she said, "it was so great to see the idea register with the kids and then to let them run with it and come up with new ways to show their peers."

I never regretted choosing a teaching career.

She said she "sorta" had her retirement first. She raised her three sons and experienced belonging to Unit, Flower Club, 4-H and helping as a worker on the farm. She was able to paint, read and go to sales.

"It was fun, but when the boys began school, I was ready to go, too," she said.

Her education was earned in several colleges with her "parent" college being Fort Hays State University. Besides her degree in elementary education, she also has an art degree.

One of the highlights of her career is meeting former students everywhere. When her husband, Steve, had heart surgery in Hays, there were former students in attendance, she said. Some of the students may not remember fifth grade but, she said, I remember them and it is obvious that the teachers at the St. Francis schools have been doing a praiseworthy job.

She worked under administrators: Carl Werner, Rob Schiltz, Velma Zimbelman, Larry Gabel and Scott Carmichael.

She said she will miss her teacher friends and the camaraderie they had. "They were a terrific support group," she said. She encourages the new teachers to work together and form their support group. After they have been through some tough stuff together, they will find their support a benefit and, she said, it keeps you sane!

When the teachers started back to school, Mrs. Nolan said, I wanted to be up there, not teaching or stressing out, just seeing what new things were happening.

she has many plans for retirement including visiting her sons and daughter-in-law, as well as grandchildren, relatives and friends. She and Steve have already taken some trips and she is in the process of refinishing a few pieces of furniture.

She will be painting, drawing and doing crafts. She has also been doing some quiet, uninterrupted reading. "I love it!"



Ramona Raile

Ramona Raile began her teaching career in January 1972 after graduating from Kearney State College, now known as The University of Nebraska - Kearney.

In 1972, Carl Sperry was the superintendent and Velma Zimbelman, was the elementary principal.

I came to town as a single teacher, she said. Both Mr. Sperry and Mrs. Zimbelman, along with Leonard Richard, who was the custodian, not only mentored me through my first years of teaching but also took an interest in my personal life. They helped me become acquainted with the community and to get involved with community activities. They were like my "away from home" mother and father. She also taught under Larry Gabel and Scott Carmichael as principals, and Carl Werner and Rob Schiltz, superintendents.

Mrs. Raile taught 26 years in the public schools with three of the years in the Boise Public School system in Boise, Idaho, where she taught kindergarten. In the St. Francis schools, she taught kindergarten and was teaching second grade when she retired.

While her children were little, she taught ABC Preschool for four years and was the lady who taught Story Hour at the St. Francis Public Library. She taught Story Hour for eight years.

Teaching came easily to Mrs. Raile. She said she had always loved working with or around children.

"I came from a large family

and always had nieces and nephews nearby for me to babysit or entertain," she said.

Once she was in junior high, she began babysitting with neighborhood children and enjoyed planning out activities to play while entertaining the children.

"We often played "school" which led me to desire a teaching profession," she said. "Every day of teaching has its rewards with new challenges - no two days are ever the same!"

She said she misses seeing her teacher friends and the school children but, she does plan to have a relaxing and fun retirement. She will be spending more time with her granddaughter, Kathryn, and son, John and his wife, Sondra, in Oklahoma, and her daughter, Darla who lives in Salina.

She also plans to visit her three brothers and four sisters and their families who live in California, Tennessee, Texas, Florida, South Dakota and Nebraska.

Sandy Smull

In the last 38 years, Sandy Smull has taught preschool, first, second, third and fourth grades at the St. Francis Elementary.

"I loved teaching," Mrs. Smull said. "I never regretted making it my career."

She actually started teaching as a little girl in her school room set up in the basement of her home where she taught all of the neighborhood kids. Following high school, she went on to Kansas State University where she graduated with a degree in education in 1972.

Velma Zimbelman was her first principal. There were seven new teachers in the system the year she started.

"Mrs. Zimbelman was so good at taking new teachers under her wing," she said, and Sandy was one of those who benefited from that wing.

Mr. Gabel took Mrs. Zimbelman's place and then Scott Carmichael was the principal. Rob Schiltz was her last superintendent. She also worked under superintendents, Carl Sperry and Carl Werner.

"I am a person who appreciates 'improvements' to the schools and playgrounds - it makes our facility look so much better," she said. "Mr. Schiltz is great about making improvements, moving forward and making positive changes!"

One of the highlights of her teaching career was being the PTA Teacher representative on the Kansas State PTA Board. She said she also enjoyed being the elementary school reading chairman and helped organize the Accelerated Reading program.

"I wanted to promote reading wherever I could," she said.

Teaching, she said, is so rewarding and it is a great profession for a mom with kids.

Mrs. Smull said she is looking forward to retiring and enjoying her family. Her grandkids, Cade, Hanna, Jordan and Matilynn, are in many activities which she wants to be able to attend, and her daughter, Jill, will soon be opening her new beauty salon, J Lou's, and she plans to help her wherever she can.



ALICE KINEN works at her desk in the kitchen cafeteria before school let out.

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Alice Kinen

Alice Kinen has, in the last 35 years, had a diverse career.

She came to St. Francis as a first-year home economics teacher. She had been interviewed and hired for the job by Carl Sperry, superintendent, and Richard Alvers, principal. However, the new superintendent that year was Carl Werner.

For the next 27 years, she taught eighth through 12th graders to sew and cook in home ec.

As a senior in Glasco High School, Alice was a home ec aide and really enjoyed it. That helped her make the decision to become a home economics teacher.

I loved working with the kids and teaching them new ideas and skills, she said. However, she said, teaching was also rewarding to me.

Eight years ago, when home economics was dropped from the curriculum, she took on the job as food service manager for the cafeterias in both the elementary and the junior-senior high school.

Food manager was totally different from the classroom, she said.

"I hated it at first, but things got better as time passed and I became more familiar with everything," she said. However, she added, I would have gone back to the classroom in a heartbeat!

As food manager, she said there

were lots of challenges including deadlines to meet, paperwork to do and planning.

When I ordered food for the following week, she said, I prayed that I ordered everything I needed and that all the food would come in and the orders were correct.

"Needless to say, several times my prayers were not answered and something was wrong," she said. "And, that is when I went to plan B."

Somehow, she said, we always made it work, thanks to the wonderful cooks I had working with me, noting that the supply trucks also came in twice a week.

The other challenge was planning for the banquets served at the schools, never knowing for sure just how many people would be attending.

Mrs. Kinen started as an athletic director in 1997. She was required to find workers for home athletic events, whether it was someone to take gate money, run clocks, keep the books, line judges announce or to help with a track.

There was an assistant director to help with football and the head athletic director arranged transportation, found officials, did scheduling and set up for the events.

"To pull off an event well," she said, "it took many people."

Some days were busier than others. I didn't enjoy constantly asking people to help out or work an

event, she said. But, I knew it had to be done and most of the time, people were willing to help out.

"I always teasingly said that it seemed like, by the end of the year, people were hiding and avoiding me so I wouldn't ask them to help with something," she said. "But, everyone who helped throughout the years were truly appreciated and I could not have done it without each and everyone of them."

Through the years, Mrs. Kinen was a FHA sponsor for 23 years. She enjoyed being the sponsor and took many fun trips to Denver at the end of each school year.

Mrs. Kinen was also the assistant high school volleyball coach for seven years and the assistant high school track coach for five years.

Retirement will find Mrs. Kinen completing some projects that she has been putting off for years including sorting through old pictures, finishing up some scrapbooks and making quilts.

"I still love to sew and cook, so I am looking forward to doing that," she said. "I will be able to go see family and friends when I want - it will be wonderful!"

However, she added, her husband, Pete, seems to think he has jobs for her on the farm. So, she said, I will have to see if I can work those into my schedule!

BANK

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this area of Kansas, and people are using the profits to buy locally ... It won't be a real sales-tax boom for anyone, but as long as we can be profitable, we will be beneficial to the communities we're in."

Goodland, will still have the branch there, plus ones in Oberlin and St. Francis, and two in Colorado, in Kirk and Bennett, just off of Interstate 70. They will simply have three less branches within their organization as a whole, Mr. Walter said.

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