

# The Gardener

## Gardener loves asparagus

Lightly salted and lavishly buttered, just snapped off in the garden, briefly steamed asparagus is such a delight! It must be sinful! Every spring, I wolf down tender spears with shameless gluttony... at least until my wife reminds me that she's hooked on the stuff, too! There never seems to be enough.

I think back about 30 years ago when I planted that "much too small" patch of the old Mary Washington variety of asparagus. It certainly wasn't easy. My instructions were to dig a foot-wide trench, at least a foot deep, add 3 or 4 inches of horse manure, plus a little old straw or rotten hay. Then carefully lay out the spider-like roots and crowns of a dozen plants. Cover deeply with good soil, and then wait.

I waited most of the summer because that's what the book said to do. A few skinny spears emerged. The next spring more skinny spears showed up that grew into frilly fern-like plants, but still nothing to eat.

But the second year! Along came scattered half inch diameter spears that were crammed into the steamer and enjoyed for dinner. It has been much the same procedure

for the last 23 years; light pickings of absolutely delicious steamed, or occasionally creamed goodness, the true gustatory pleasure of the spring garden!

And that's the true story of my "much too small" asparagus patch. I'm writing about asparagus today to encourage you not to make the same mistakes I did.

For one thing, don't be so chintzy! Plant TWO dozen crowns, and you just might harvest enough for TWO hungry adults. For another thing, don't plant Mary (or Martha) Washington crowns, which were actually the only varieties available when I started my patch. Plant the highly productive all-male crowns called Jersey Supreme, or Jersey Giant, or any other variety that has carries the Jersey name.

Here's another thing. You do not have to spend so much time preparing the bed when you plant asparagus. Not anymore. The book has changed! A six inch deep trench is plenty deep enough. Scatter a little chicken or horse manure in the trench, or even a sprinkling of commercial fertilizer with a label of 0-20-0. Avoid adding nitrogen. And another

thing. You do not have to carefully spread out the spider-like roots in the trench. Most folks just toss the whole crown in the trench and get perfect results. You no longer have to coddle those things! You can if you want to but you don't have to!

And wait 2 years for the first harvest? You just don't need to. Snap off a few tender spears that very next spring, and then in two years, you too can aspire to a severe case of asparagus gluttony.

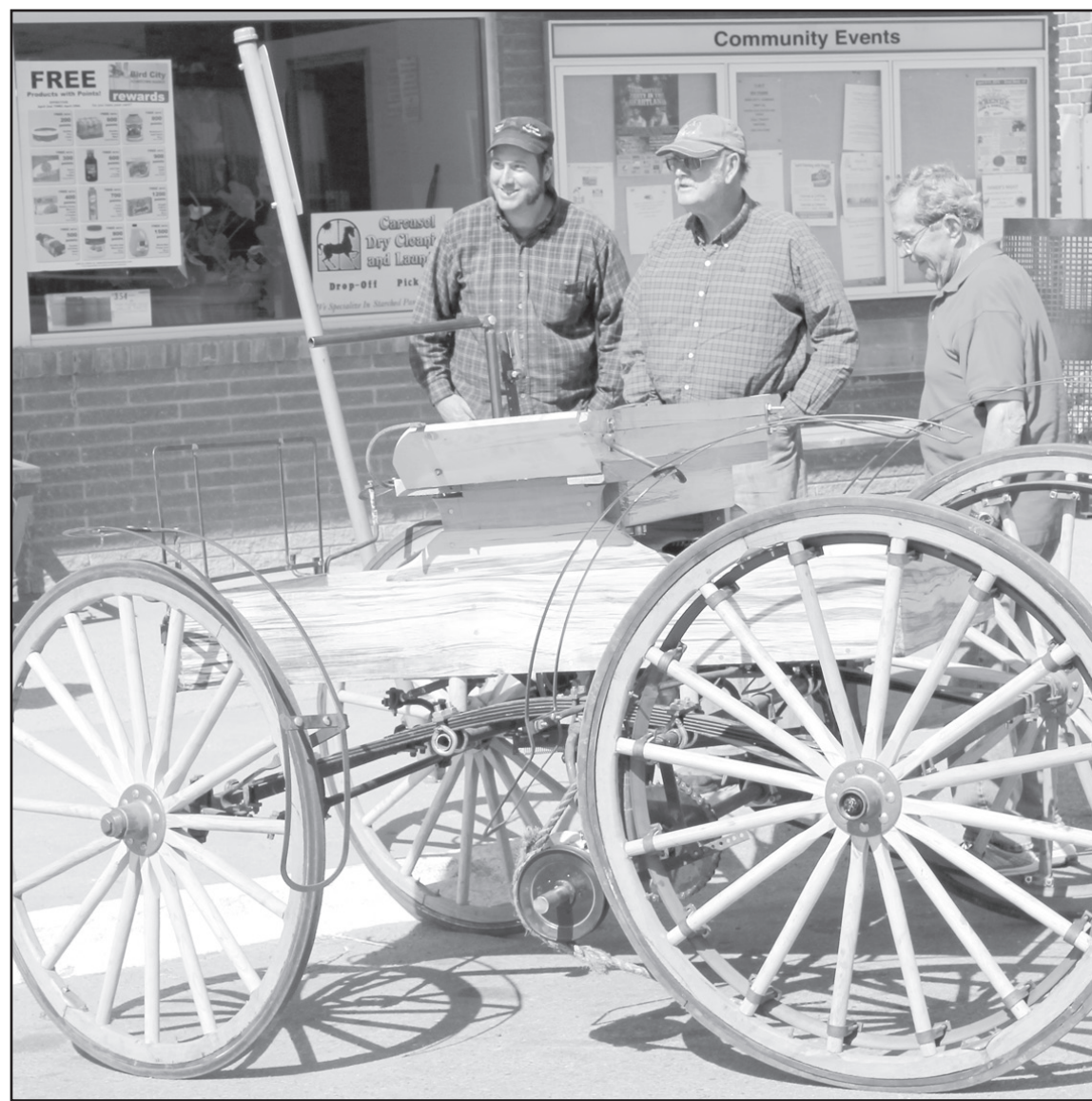
Here's the main thing. If you dislike the taste of asparagus, then don't dig trenches in your garden and don't worry about spider-like roots and stay away from the chicken and horse manure.

The best and final thing about establishing an asparagus bed is the almost certain result. We used to make hard work out of planting asparagus, but with improved varieties and planting methods, the heavy work has been eliminated.

So, go ahead and plant THREE dozen crowns this spring. You'll make new friends and happier neighbors!

By Kay Melia

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MIKE AND BEN MCGILVRAY show off their horseless carriage to Smiley Raile. Herald staff photo by Norma Martinez

## Idalia News

By Chuck Wright



### Community News

Tuesday, April 29, 6 p.m., the Idalia Book Club will meet at the Cornerstone Center to share a potluck meal and discuss, The Heart Is A Lonely Hunter, by Carson McCullers. All Idalia bookies are invited.

May 1 and 2. The annual plant sale will be held at the Idalia green house.

### St. John News

Sunday, April 27, 10:30 a.m., the worship service will include a discussion of The Story, Chapter 28: Acts 1-2.

Sunday, May 4, 10:30 a.m. Recognition Sunday at St. John. The Children's Choir and Youth Praise Band will participate in the worship service. Sunday School awards will be awarded for participation and Bible memory work and the Sunday School teachers will be recognized for their dedicated work with youth over the past school year.

### Idalia school news

Friday, April 28. 4-6 grades to Waterfest in Wray.

April 28-May 2. Scholastic Book Fair

Thursday, May 1, 7 p.m. Elementary music program. The Idalia community is invited to join the elementary students as they present the musical, Get In The Game, about the first day of gym

class and the truth that everyone has something they can be great at.

Friday, May 2. Elementary Field Day

Wednesday, May 7, 7 p.m. 5th - 8th grade and High School

music program in the school gym. The Middle School band and High School vocalists will present a concert for everyone in the Idalia community.

## ALUMNI

### Continued from Page 1

flavor of the steaks. Baked potato with butter and sour cream will be placed on each table.

Sturdy plates and silverware will be provided, but Chef Linda suggests each person bring their own steak knife.

To finish off the meal, there will be sugar cookies created by Cindy Henderson, St. Francis. Each cookie will have "2014" on the top.

### Volunteers

We are looking for volunteers to grill steaks and students to serve the steaks. Anyone interested in grilling and/or having a large grill they are willing to let the cooks use should contact Chef Linda at 785-772-1029 (call or text) or e-mail lindaketzner@att.net.

The high school football team will be setting up tables and chairs.

### Equipment needed

The Methodist Thrift Store has

already donated some baskets and tongs, but more are needed. Chef Linda said the donated baskets will be used for dinner rolls and the tongs for salad. Those wanting to donate these items can leave them at the Thrift Store.

Large salad bowls will need to be purchased, and people wanting to donate for this cause are appreciated.

All the supplies will be set aside to use for future alumni celebrations, Chef Linda said. Donations can be left with Tom Keller or Raedell Winston, alumni committee.

We are expecting a large crowd and planning to have lots of fun, Chef Linda concluded!

Look for more information about the alumni banquet in upcoming *Heralds* as well as the alumni letters that will be coming in the near future.

## Horseless carriage takes test drive in Bird City

By Norma Martinez

Spring weather gave the McGilvray's an opportunity to test drive their newest piece of art. They drove the model of a Holsmans 1902 horseless cart over to the Bird City Diner and

to the post office where they gave Roy Schrader a ride around the block to check it out for bugs that needed to be removed.

The only thing original on this cart is the motor, shaft and carriage springs. Everything

else has been made mostly by hand by them. It still isn't quite finished. They need to install a step, the back and seat cushions, and an auto top on the front. This Holsman model was only built from 1902 to 1911.

### — Filler Facts —

Common baking soda found in most kitchens can be used in other ways besides baking.

- Scrub pans. Sprinkle soda on crusted casseroles and roasting pans and let sit for five minutes. Lightly scrub and rinse.
- Brush teeth. Use a paste of baking soda and water.
- Fight class-B fires (flammable liquids, such as gasoline, oil, and grease). Baking soda can be used to smother only a small flame.
- Deodorize. Dust baking soda under your arms to absorb body odor.

## MOONLIGHT GARDENS Greenhouse - Colby

OPEN FOR THE SEASON

Time to bring planters out for "re-pots"

**Hours:**  
Monday - Saturday  
9:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.  
Sunday - 12 - 4 p.m.  
Tuesday & Thursday  
open until 8 p.m.

**Located:**  
From Colby  
Hwy 24/25  
stop light:  
3 miles North  
on Hwy 25,  
½ mile West  
**785-462-6355**

## Public Notices

# Ordinance to exempt Primary election board requirements is coming in August

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IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF CHEYENNE COUNTY, KANSAS PROBATE DIVISION

### NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION

I, the undersigned County Clerk, hereby give notice that a Primary Election will be held on August 5, 2014, this being the first Tuesday of election month, at which time candidates for the following offices will be nominated according to the provisions of law by EACH of the political parties of this state who qualify to participate in said Primary Election as specified by law:

- One candidate for United States Senate.
- One candidate for United States Representative 1st District.
- One pair of candidates for Governor/Lieutenant Governor.
- One candidate for Secretary of State.
- One candidate for Attorney General.
- One candidate for State Treasurer.
- One candidate for Commissioner of Insurance.
- One candidate for State Representative 120th District.
- One candidate for Member, State Board of Education 5th District.
- One candidate for County Commissioner 1st District.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Benkelman Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Bird City Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Calhoun Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Cleveland Run Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Jaqua Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Orlando Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Wano I Township.
- One candidate for Township Clerk for Wano II Township.

The following officers will be elected in EACH political party which has qualified to participate in the Primary Election:

- One Precinct Committeeman in each Precinct.
- One Precinct Committeewoman in each Precinct.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I hereto set my hand and cause to be affixed my official seal. Done at the County of Cheyenne, this 4th of April, 2014.

Debra Lindsten  
Cheyenne County Clerk / Election Officer

## Got Drugs?

Drop off your unused medications for safe disposal.

### National Drug Takeback Day

Saturday, April 26  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Visit [www.ag.ks.gov](http://www.ag.ks.gov) to find a location near you.



**Kansas Attorney General  
Derek Schmidt**

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