

GERALD WRIGHT has been performing the pyramid stunt with his 1919 Case steam engine shortly after the engine was purchased in 1965 from a family in Nebraska.

Times staff photo by Peggy Horinek

Family tradition of the pyramid stunt performed for 36 consecutive years

By Peggy Horinek

The pyramid stunt has been performed by Gerald Wright for 36 consecutive years with his 1919 Case steam engine. The Wright family bought the steam engine from the Hunter family in Republic City, Neb., in 1965.

The pyramid stunt was originally done by Seward Brubaker with a 1660 twin cylinder Nickles and Shepherd steam engine when the Thresher Show was being held at the Kite farm. He died in 1964 and people were asking to see the stunt performed at the Thresher Shows.

Mr. Wright started learning the stunt on a Case steam engine standing still.

The old timers did not think kids should be allowed to run steam engines but Chet Sawyer showed him the best way to run four parts of the crank shaft disk to make the engine work smoothly. (He practiced at the show for two years until he could make the crank shaft disk respond to his commands.)

The pyramid stunt was supposed to be done with only a two-cylinder steam engine because the machine cannot get on dead center. Since Mr. Wright didn't own a two cylinder steam engine, he decided to try with his one cylinder simple steam engine. The first time he attempted to do the stunt at a thresher show, Ed Jacobs saw what he was going to attempt and ran across

Kite's field to try and stop him because they said it could not be done with a one-cylinder steam engine. When Jacobs got there, Mr. Wright had already done the pyramid stunt, and Jacobs said he couldn't believe what he had seen.

The pyramid stunt is performed one time a day during the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show and always draws a big crowd.

To prepare for the stunt

Mr. Wright stokes the steamer with coal preparing for the stunt. The black smoke produced indicates the steam pressure is building up to 135 pounds. Since the Case has no brakes, Mr. Wright controls the forward and back-

ward movement with an application of steam to the cylinder using the same lever. He will stop the rear wheel midway between the ground and the top of the pyramid. With careful control he will climb and descend the 16 inch wooden block stopping just short of the top or the ground. Mr. Wright used to use 140 pounds of steam but the state regulations now allow him only 135 pounds which makes the stunt more difficult. When he is done he has a big wave, a smile and a robust laugh as he takes off to the steam engine row at top speed. "Yes, he enjoys the stunt as much as the crowd does," said Stan Dorsch.

Threshershow comes to a close

By Stan Dorsch

The 49th Antique Engine and Thresher Show is history. What can be said, it was a hot show both in temperature and quality. Between three and four thousand braved the elements to see how harvesting was done in the good old days, to see the restored equipment, and in general to take a visit to rural America in the early 1900s.

This year there were 14 operational steam engines at the show, over 200 tractors plus the assortment of antique automobiles and various other pieces of farm equipment. The Tri State Auto Club was in charge of the auto show and the swap spaces inside and outside.

Even though attendance was down because of the weather, the gate receipts were only slightly down from previous years.

"Yes, it was hot, we all got tired. Air conditioning has spoiled us but I enjoy the spoiled feeling. See you next year with some special things already being planned for the 50th."

— Stan Dorsch

This shows support from the membership through renewals. People in the area realize the importance of preserving our rural heritage and the Thresher Show certainly does that.

This year's Thresher Queen was Minnie Busse. Unfortunately Minnie had emergency surgery in Denver prior to the show and was unable to attend. Minnie's family capably filled in for her. Fortunately Minnie is doing well and we're looking forward to her appearance next year.

On Saturday the Federal Land Bank Association from Colby sponsored a free watermelon feed on the grounds. This was a welcome break.

There were 36 quilts brought in for display in the quilt building. An outstanding quilt was Bonnie Michaels' pictorial quilt. Bonnie's first quilt is a

pictorial account of a niece's life in the Fort Collins area. Another fun quilt was the reversible baby quilt done on a serger and owned by Lincoln Waters. One side is Nebraska and the other side is John Deere.

Attendees at the show were treated to a new paint job on the schoolhouse. This was done by Gable Painting from St. Francis this summer. They did a great job and brought the school up to pristine condition.

After the McDonald Lion's Club annual barbeque and corn on the cob, cooked in an antique steam engine, the Saturday evening entertainment was

held outside. A good move. Marion Halligan, a 90 plus harmonica player from McDonald did a great job as a warm up act for Ann Zimmerman. Ann entertained

the crowd with numbers she had composed and recorded. This talented lady is married to Dexter Eggers and also is a lawyer. She offered two CD's for sale.

On Thursday, in addition to the literary at the schoolhouse; the association provided the tractor and trailer for a tour around Bird City. This 49 year ago tour lasted three hours. It was fun seeing who lived where 49 years ago and who lives there now, what happened to so and so and where did that house go. Lots of fun. Look for this next year when the association is celebrating their Golden Anniversary.

Yes, it was hot, we all got tired. Air conditioning has spoiled us but I enjoy the spoiled feeling. See you next year with some special things already being planned for the 50th.

'United We Stand' Cheyenne County Fair days are here!!

The Cheyenne County Fair began Monday with the 4-H Style Revue and on Tuesday, the dog show was held along with the Team Fitting and Showing contest.

The Amusement Authority's home-owned carnival started it's engines for a long four nights of screams, laughter and fun. Wednesday through Friday, the carnival begins at 7 and runs until 11 p.m. On Saturday, the carnival begins at 4 p.m. and runs until midnight. There are a variety of games and rides—all at a price that will keep the youngsters busy most of the evening.

The 4-H food stands opened at 7:30 a.m. and

much of the 4-H judging was held. The 4-H horse show was held in front of the grandstand that morning; livestock weigh in and the 4-H food sale was held. The grandstand action was team roping and barrel racing which began at 7 p.m.

Thursday will host the 4-H and FFA swine

show at 8 a.m. Again, there will be numerous judging of entries and, at 12:30, the open class food sale will take place. Grandstand action will be the Ranch Rodeo which will feature kids in their own rodeo complete with roping, riding and racing. The Ranch Rodeo will begin at 7 p.m.

Friday will feature the 4-H and FFA beef show and the bucket calf show. Later in the afternoon and evening, the Premium Sale and the rodeo will be held. (See articles for more information.)

Saturday is a fun-filled day. There is a separate article listing the events of Saturday.

Primary election slated for Tuesday, candidates featured

Voting locations held in various places

By Karen Krien

The primary election across the nation will be held on Tuesday. Candidates in federal, state and county offices will be elected with the general election set for Nov. 5.

Voting places in Cheyenne County will be held in various places. Those living in Benkelman, Calhoun, Cleveland Run and Orlando townships will vote in the basement of the courthouse in St. Francis. Bird City township voters will cast their ballots in the Bird City American Legion Hall on Bressler Street. In St. Francis, Wano I township voters will go to the Peace Lutheran Church at College and Jackson streets, while Wano II township voters will cast their ballots at the United Methodist Church on Scott and First Street.

There is also an advanced voting booth located in the county clerk's office on the main floor of the courthouse. As of Tuesday, Terry Miller, election officer, reported 28 people voting in the advanced voting booth and expects more before the booth closes on Monday at noon.

There are only a few local candidates in the primary. Commissioner, District 1, has three people running for the position: incumbent Jane Brubaker, Sam Beeson and Dick Bursch. All candidates are Republicans and from Bird City.

Connie Morris, St. Francis, is running for a seat on the Kansas State Board of Education.

All registered voters are urged to show up at the polls and cast their ballots for who they think in the best person for the job.

Connie Morris

"It's going to be tough to win but I feel good about the campaign," said Connie Morris, Republican candidate for the 5th District Kansas State Board of Education. She is running against 14-year incumbent L.B. "Sonny" Rundell and while she thinks he is "okay" she feels that there needs to be some creative and fresh ideas brought to the table.

"We need to do something because the financial path we are now following will not allow our western Kansas schools to keep the doors open," she said.

"I know I'm a greenhorn but I feel that with my experience and ideas, the bits and pieces can be put together and come up with a workable plan," she said, noting that both Rep. John Fabor and Sen. Stan Clark are also concerned and think along the same lines as she does when it comes to education.

She has several issues which she would like addressed and said she knows that she is a little radical. The first is to insist that proof of citizenship be brought when a child is enrolled in school.

"Schools have a big problem in western Kansas with illegal immigrants draining the system of tax dollars and hampering teachers' ability to focus."

She would like to see administration costs cut and to do that, she thinks that there needs to be administration restructuring by reducing or eliminating high-cost positions. She thinks that one area administrator is enough.

"I know that administrators are not going to like this idea," she said.

See Morris on Page 7

Sam Beeson

"You know the old saying, 'you don't know what you've got until it's gone,'" said Sam Beeson, candidate for Cheyenne County Commissioner, District 1.

Mr. Beeson is concerned about filling up the county's landfill and feels, that, as a commissioner, it is important to stress recycling.

"By recycling, we could continue to use the Cheyenne County Landfill for years to come," he said.

Mr. Beeson is concerned with several other issues.

"I live in the country and I drive the county roads daily so I'm able to monitor the conditions of the roads as well as the ditches. I feel that during this dry weather, it is important to keep the weeds well mowed in order to cut the risk of fires."

He would like to make sure the country roads are safe, especially during harvest.

Mr. Beeson is concerned about the shortage of emergency medical technicians.

"Without these important people to respond to accidents or emergencies, lives could be lost," he said.

Lastly, he and many other people in the county know that there is a lack of jobs in the county and Bird City area. He feels that it is important to keep the jobs available not only in Bird City but on both sides of the county.

Otherwise, he thinks the county is running pretty good.

Mr. Beeson was born and raised in Cheyenne County and later raised his family in the county. He served his country as a combat engineer in the

See Beeson on Page 7

Jane Brubaker

Incumbent Jane Brubaker is running for a third term as Cheyenne County Commissioner, District 1 and thinks experience is important, especially in this time when the dollars are short and there is a drought.

"I think it is very important to keep taxes to a minimum while keeping services to the county residents," she said. "Besides, it takes several years working on the board to understand the budget."

She noted that keeping the taxes down is hard to do when the budgets are already cut as far as they possibly can be cut.

"About the only way we can cut taxes is cut services and people don't want that," she said.

Besides keeping the taxes down, Commissioner Brubaker is concerned about the emergency medical service.

"We need more EMTS and, there seems to be more and more regulations to follow," she said, adding that keeping county roads in good condition is always an issue.

"Lately, I have had several people wanting to know if the commissioners are re-considering county-wide law enforcement. I think that this is something that we need to look at closer."

As commissioner, Commissioner Brubaker thinks it is important to be involved in the community and she feels like she is doing that.

"I am the treasurer of the Bird City Community Club, work each year at the Thresher Show, am active in church and attend almost every

See Brubaker on Page 7

Dick Bursch

Dick Bursch, Bird City, feels like it is time for a change and would like to try his hand as commissioner of the 1st District. He said the present commissioner has done a good job but he believes in term limits and she has been in office for eight years.

"Cheyenne County is a great place to live and I hope, on the county level, the commissioners can do something for our schools by working on the roads, work with our hospital and start a push to encourage young people to stay in the county."

"We need to pay close attention to other boards working under the commissioners including the hospital board which takes a big portion of the budget," he said, noting that the budget is something the commissioners need to scrutinize and study well each year.

In the budget, he said, there are probably areas that need to be tightened and others may need to be increased.

"I'm not criticizing. And, I need to see and work with the figures before naming these areas."

He thinks the future for Cheyenne County is not doom and gloom.

"This county has the best soil and wonderful people," he said. "I don't see why Cheyenne County won't continue to survive but having young people staying would help some."

To keep young people on the farm

See Bursch on Page 7

Schools starts Aug. 15

The first day of school for Cheylen students will be Thursday, Aug. 15 and kindergarten students will attend one-half day. However, before school begins, students will need to enroll. Enrollment is Tuesday and Wednesday from 2 to 8 p.m. in the high school library in Bird City. All fees will be paid in the high school office.

Those who are unable to enroll those days, may make arrangements by calling the office at 785-734-2341.

Book rental will be \$15 for students kindergarten through fifth grade. Students sixth through 12th grades will be charged \$25. There is a family limit of \$55 book rental. There are a number of classes for which students will also be charged a fee. That list is available in an ad located elsewhere in this issue.

For all but kindergarten students, a full day of school has been scheduled and breakfast and lunch will be served. Buses will also run their normal routes. The first day of sports practice for the high school students is Aug. 19

All students wanting to participate in sports or physical education must have a current physical on file with the office before they can practice. All kindergarten students and new students to the district must have a physical to enroll. Kindergarten students must also have a certified copy of the birthday certificate and immunization records.



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Garage Sale

CRAFT AND YARD SALE, August 2 and 3, 421 E. Emerson Street, 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., St. Francis. 31*

Thank You

Many thanks to my family and friends for their prayers, cards, flowers and concerns when I had surgery in Colorado Springs. I especially enjoyed the meals sent to my home from the Senior Center, thanks to very thoughtful friends. I love you all. Martha Schultz

I want to sincerely thank you for the prayers, health care, phone calls, cards, flowers, food, gifts and visitations. I also appreciated the offerings of help. You are truly kind. In appreciation, Aletha Murphy

I wish to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and concerns during my recent illness and while recuperating at home. All was appreciated very much. Roger Blume

I would like to thank my family and friends for the flowers, visits, cards and calls; the Presbyterian/St. Luke staff, the Bird City, Benkelman and rural metro ambulances; and a special thanks to Dundy County Hospital staff for all the wonderful care during my stay in the hospitals. I really appreciate all your kindness. Betty Gleason

Thanks to all the businesses and individuals who donated prizes to the 4-Lady Golf Tournament. Due to your generosity we were able to make everyone a winner! Thanks again for all of your contributions! Robin Petersen

The family of Roy Edwards would like to thank the EMT's and the Cheyenne County Hospital staff, including Dr. Miller and Nadja for the hard work, skill, care and comfort they gave Roy Edwards in his hour of need; also Pastor Rossbach for his comfort, love, care and for setting up the meeting with Pastor Peel in Colorado Springs. We never felt alone. We would also like to thank the flight-for-life and the Memorial Hospital teams for their hard work, skill and care of Roy. You did everything humanly possible but it was his time. To all the friends who gave us comfort, brought food, sent flowers, cards and memorial moneys, and gave special hugs, we are sincerely grateful. To all those who helped with the funeral and church lunch many thanks.

A big thank you to our relatives and friends who came to our open house and helped to make our 50th wedding anniversary special. Thank you for the gifts, cards and phone calls we have received. A special thank you to our children, Ray, Pam, Alan and Ana for all they did to make our day so special. Muz and Raoma Johnson

A special thank you to everyone who helped us through mom's fight with cancer. Grandpa for being there, Deb and Rob for keeping track of the kids, Wendy for taking care of the animals and garden, uncles Troy and Tim for taking care of everything, Dawn and Lori for your understanding and concern. Ron and Mary

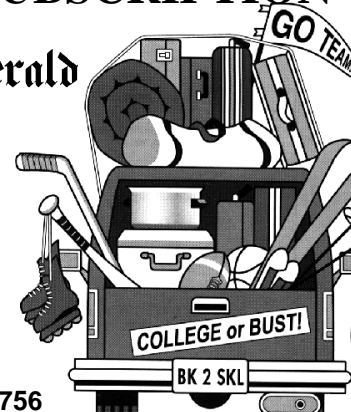


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Public Notice

Published in The St. Francis Herald, St. Francis, Kansas, and The Bird City Times, Bird City, Kansas, Thursdays, July 18, July 25, August 1, 2002. (29-31) NOTICE OF PRIMARY ELECTION AUGUST 6, 2002

STATE OF KANSAS, CHEYENNE COUNTY, ss Office of the County Clerk, St. Francis as required by K.S.A. 25-209, notice is hereby given that there will be a primary election held in Cheyenne County, Kansas, August 6, 2002.

VOTING HOURS AND VOTING PLACES
The polls will be open from 7:00 A.M. until 7 P.M. at the several polling places in Cheyenne County, Kansas, to-wit: Benkelman Township-Basement of Courthouse; Bird City Township-Bird City American Legion Hall; Calhoun Township-Courthouse Basement; Cleveland Run Township-Basement of Courthouse; Jaqua Township-Basement of Courthouse; Orlando Township-Basement of Courthouse; Wano I Township-Peace Lutheran Church; Wano II Township-United Methodist Church.

FEDERAL OFFICE

United States Senate: Democratic: None; Republican: Tom Oyler, Pat Roberts
United States House of Representatives, 1st District: Democratic: None; Republican: Jerry Moran

STATE OFFICE

Governor/Lieutenant Governor: Democratic: Kathleen Sebelius/John Moore
Republican: Dave Bloom/Eric Bloom
Dave Kerr/Mary Birch
Bob Knight/Kent Glasscock
Tim Shallenburger/David Lindstrom

SECRETARY OF STATE

Democratic: David Haley
Republican: Ron Thornburgh

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Democratic: Chris Biggs
Republican: David Adkins
Phil Kline
Charles D. McAtee

STATE TREASURER

Democratic: Sally Finney
Republican: Lynn Jenkins
Dennis M. Wilson

COMMISSIONER OF INSURANCE

Democratic: Jim Garner
Republican: David J. Powell
Sandy Praeger
Bryan Riley

STATE REPRESENTATIVE, 120th DISTRICT

Democratic: Bob Strevey
Republican: John M. Faber
Doug Sebelius

MEMBER, STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION, 5th DISTRICT

Democratic: None
Republican: Connie Morris
I.B. Sonny Rundell

COUNTY OFFICE

COUNTY COMMISSIONER DISTRICT 1:

Democratic: None
Republican: Sam Beeson
Jane C.W. Brubaker
Richard Bursch

PRECINCT COMMITTEEMEN AND COMMITTEEWOMEN

BIRD CITY Steven G. Carpenter, Bird City;
WANO II Rodney W. Shay, St. Francis

/s/ Terry Miller
Terry Miller
County Clerk/Election Officer

Morris

Continued from Page 1

"I also know that whoever is elected will have a challenging time. There needs to be some severe budget cuts and choices need to be made about what gets trimmed or cut."

Mrs. Morris is against raising taxes. She said she was definitely against the \$252 million tax increase at the end of 2002 legislative session.

In an earlier interview, Mrs. Morris said, "A great education begins with strong schools which requires a commitment to learning, discipline and parental involvement... not more tax dollars. As an educator for the past nine years, I have seen, first hand, the potential that lies in every student, teacher, parent and community worker."

"My passion is the provision and protection of children. When I was

a poor, single mother raising two toddlers alone in the Appalachian Mountains, my heart was forged with determination to help others from such degradation. She came to Kansas over a decade ago and feels that she owes her service to Kansas families.

She taught in the Idalia school as a first grade teacher and was recently appointed by Gov. Bill Graves to serve a four-year term on the Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board.

Her autobiography, "From the Darkness, One Woman's Rise to Nobility," details her recovery through Christ from incest, rape, domestic violence and substance abuse.

She lives in Kansas with her husband Kelly who is a business owner and farmer. She has two daughters, Jessica and Lacy.

Beeson

Continued from Page 1

Viet Nam War.

For the last 10 years, he has served as the Bird City City Superintendent and was also a law enforcement officer. Before that, he was an employee on the county road and bridge crew. He has helped out the Bird City Fire Department and is a former Cheyenne County Deputy Sheriff.

"I feel that all of these duties have given me good knowledge of the way our local and federal governments are run," Mr. Beeson said.

Mr. Beeson and his wife Sherry live about 7 miles northwest of Bird City. They have six children who have enjoyed the good life of Bird City and five have graduated from the Cheylin High School (the youngest is an eighth grade student).

Farm bill gives farmers options for establishing or updating bases

By Angie Bock
Director of Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency Office

"The 2002 Farm Bill gives farmers and landowners several options for establishing or updating bases," said Angie Bock, Director of the Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency Office. "We are asking producers to review, verify and update their information now so payments can be issued properly this fall."

"The 2002 Farm Bill provides for direct and counter-cyclical payments to be made to eligible producers of covered commodity crops for the 2002 through 2007 crops," Director Bock said. "Covered commodities for our area include wheat, corn, sorghum, barley, oats, soybeans, sunflowers and flaxseed."

Director Bock said they are mailing planting history letters to owners and operators on Aug. 2. The letter will include a Summary Acreage History Report showing the acreage of covered commodities reported to Farm Service Agency for 1998 through 2001. If the


information is correct, producers do not need to take any action. If the information is incorrect, producers will need to provide verifiable documentation of acreage and yields to the Farm Service Agency office by Aug. 31. Verifiable documentation may include seed receipts, production records and crop insurance records.

"One important thing to note is the fact that only farm owners may make base and yield elections, unless such authority is granted to a designee using a power of attorney, Director Bock said. In addition, we have been informed that all Powers of Attorney with a version date before April 18,

1996 are not valid for any program authorized in the new Farm Bill. This is very significant, so we will also be sending out letters and a new Power of Attorney form to all persons authorizing someone else to sign on an old form. If you would like to get ahead of the game or gain a new authorization," Director Bock said "go online at <http://forms.sc.egov.usda.gov> and obtain the new form (Farm Service Agency-211) with a version date of 07-25-02. The new forms are also available in the Farm Service Agency office.

Contact the Farm Service Agency office at (785) 332-2183 if you have any questions.

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Bursch

Continued from Page 1

is difficult, he said. Land and machinery are high.

"But, if you learn a love for the soil, farming is the best lifestyle in the world."

Mr. Bursch was born and raised in Buffalo near Chanute. However, his roots are in Cheyenne County as his grandfather had a tree claim in this county and then sold it to the Glascos and it is now owned by the Magleys. In the summer, as a boy, he would come to the county to work. He has been living in Cheyenne County for 47 years and his wife Delores (Moffett) was born and raised in the

county.

He graduated from Colorado Springs Bible College (now known as Wesleyan University). That is where he met his wife and today, they have two children who graduated from Cheylin High School and three grandchildren.

He has farmed the same place for 47 years. He also owns a trucking business, hauling specifically from Frontier Equity with most of the work being done by lease operators.

Acreage reports required

By Angie Bock
Director of Cheyenne County Farm Service Agency Office

Cheyenne County farmers who want to receive farm program payments from the U.S. Department of Agriculture are required by the 2002 Farm Bill to file acreage reports for all cropland on the farm as a condition of receiving program payments beginning this year.

Angie Bock, county executive director for the County Farm Service Agency, said producers have until Aug. 1 to file their final acreage reports.

"Under the old farm bill, producers had to report crop acres only for contract commodities for which they wanted a payment and for fruits and vegetables. The new law required them to report all cropland acreage, which may include converted pasture and hayland," Director Bock said.

The requirement to report all cropland on the farm is a condition for receiving direct payments, counter-cyclical payments, loan deficiency payments and marketing assistance loans beginning with the 2002 crop year.

"Late-filed acreage reports will be accepted for crops where the reporting deadline has already passed," Director Bock said. "But late-filed fees will be applied. Late-filed acreage reports filed only to determine bases for direct and counter-cyclical payments will not be charged a late-filed fee."

Producers who earlier this year filed acreage reports for contact commodities only will have to re-file reports to include all cropland.

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