

The Cheyenne County Fair Parade will begin on St. Francis' Main Street at 10 a.m. on Saturday.

Dawn Lucas, coordinator of the parade, reported that entries were slow coming in but it looks like the parade is going to be another great one! Entries will be taken up to Friday and late comers may join the parade Saturday morning but they might not be announced as they come down the street.

This year's parade is one of special meaning since the Sept. 11 attack. The theme is "United We Stand."

Everyone is encouraged to support the nation as they participate in the parade. Mrs. Lucas expects a lot of red, white and blue.

Those planning on having 4-wheelers, vehicles, motorcycles or decorated golf carts and want their name mentioned as they go through the parade, will need to fill out an entry form. Forms can be picked up at Bankwest, First National Bank, the extension office or at the St. Francis Herald.

"Please don't wait until Saturday morning to register," Mrs. Lucas said.

The parade will follow the same route as last year and it will begin at the high school on College Street. The parade will leave the school at 9:30 so it can be on Main Street at 10. All entries are expected to be at the high school around 8:30 a.m.

For more questions, contact Mrs. Lucas at Bankwest, 785-332-3333 or at home, 785-332-3212.

Fair parade marshal

John Finley has been selected as this year's fair parade marshal. He has been helping with the Cheyenne County Fair for years and seldom missed a parade. Check this week's *St. Francis Herald* and *Bird City Times* for more about the Grand Marshal.

Maverick Band to perform

For the past two years, the Maverick Band has provided music for the fair parade and this year, they plan to play again. Van Burrus along with Abby Burr and Hal Sager will be participating with the band. Following the parade, the band will be in concert in the park behind the courthouse. Later, the Cheyenne County Shrine Club members will be providing lunch for the band members.



St. Francis farmer, former 4-H leader is marshal of parade

By Karen Krien



Finley

John Finley will be the Grand Marshal of the Cheyenne County Fair Parade on Aug. 3. The parade entries will gather at the high school about 9 a.m. and the parade will begin at 10 a.m. on St. Francis' Main Street.

Mr. Finley is a familiar sight around the area especially at fair time when he volunteers hours and days of his time to helping the fair be one of the best. He can be seen in the livestock barns, helping with the sale or nailing tin on the roof of a fair building but this year, he will take the seat of honor as Grand Marshal.

Mr. Finley has spent almost his entire life in Cheyenne County. As a youngster, he was a member of a 4-H club which longer exists. Each year he took a steer and dairy heifers to the fair. He liked working with livestock but especially liked horses.

When he went to college at Kansas State University in Manhattan, he received a degree in animal science but his main interest was horses and rodeo. He was a charter member of the K-State Rodeo Club and participated in the calf roping event in the first Inter-Collegiate Rodeo Association Rodeo which was held in the Cow Palace in San Francisco.

His trip to San Francisco was long and tiring. Six of the rodeo enthusiasts took two cars and drove non-stop to California, stopping only long enough for short breaks, food and gas.

"I didn't place but I can say that I was there and participated," Mr. Finley said.

One winter while he was at K-State, he took a horse with him. He kept him at the railroad stockyards but the stockyards were across town from where he was staying. He had a bike which he put a motor on. The saddle was placed across the handlebars and he was off with the rest of the gear strapped on elsewhere. He was probably quite a site but it was the only way he had to get from home to the horse.

He was active in rodeo for 10 years,

often being a participant in the local rodeos. He worked with the Fair Rodeo Committee from 1949 to this year and helped construct the fair rodeo arena. In 1985, he was awarded the RCA Gold Membership card.

Mr. Finley said he was 7- or 8-years-old when he attended the first fair. The exhibit area was behind the courthouse in St. Francis and temporary pens were put up. Harvey Stuart was in charge of the exhibits. Then the livestock exhibits were moved to the sale barn.

In the late 30s or early 40s, the fair-ground was established at the present site. He remembers Jenkins Hall being erected and he pointed out that this is the only building at the fairgrounds which is named for a person. Mrs. Jenkins (Mr. Finley couldn't remember her first name) was a home economic agent.

"Everyone liked her," he said.

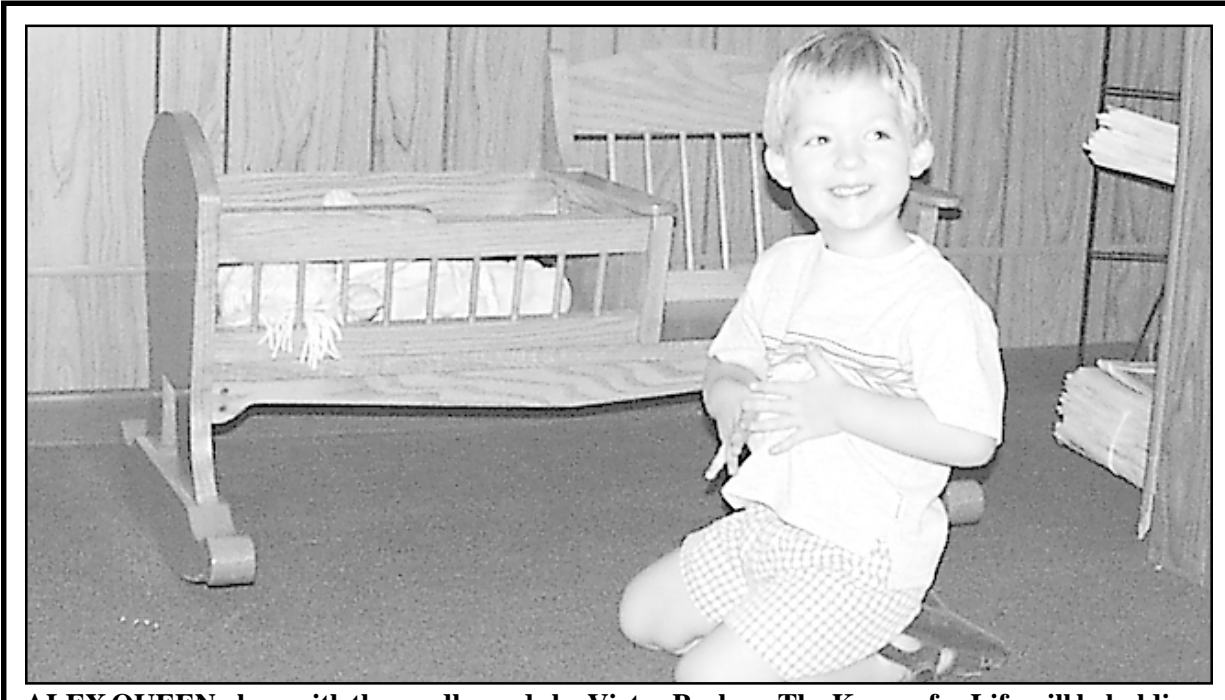
From Jenkins Hall, the livestock barn was added to the west and hog barns to the north. During the 1960s, the Western Republican Hereford Association was active and holding yearly sales in Jenkins Hall but it really wasn't satisfactory. They, with the permission of the fair board, added the sale ring where the Premium Sales are held today.

When Mr. Finley returned to St. Francis after graduating from college, he worked with Joe and Gladys Neilan, who were the Plum Creek 4-H leaders. Later, he and his wife Bernadine were married and when their children came along, they again became active in 4-H, being club leaders for 14 years.

"We always supported 4-H and thought that it and the fair were invaluable," he said.

In years past, he has ridden a horse in the parade but this year, he has changed his form of horse-power to a convertible. He also plans to have part of his grandchildren with him.

He will be 75-years-old on Aug. 8 and he has seen a lot of fairs and workers and, when he was asked what makes a fair — a good fair —, he said, "Volunteers! There wouldn't be a fair without volunteers and the support of parents and the community!"



ALEX QUEEN plays with the cradle made by Victor Pochop. The Kansas for Life will beholding a drawing during the fair as a fund raiser. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

More about band members told

By Karen Krien

The Maverick Band which will be playing in the parade and in concert on Aug. 3 will have about 25, maybe 30 members and three of them will be from Cheyenne County. Everyone is urged to bring their chairs and a sack lunch to the park following the parade so they can enjoy the band.

Van Burrus has been playing with the band for a number of years and last year, Abby Burr, playing the coronet, and Hal Sager, on the snare

drums, joined the band and Mr. Burrus said that he thought they were planning to play with the band again this year.

Mr. Burrus, who plays clarinet, began playing with Shriner Band in 1969 but there were not enough Shriners so Rolland Emmett of Arapahoe, Neb., organized a band. Now anyone is welcome to join them.

The mailing list of members is about 120 but usually 30 to 35 show

up to play. It depends on how far away it is. Mr. Burrus has already traveled a few miles this season to play with the band. One weekend he and his wife Nola, who goes along for the ride (not to play in the band), went to Mason City, Neb., which is a 450-mile round trip. Another weekend, they went to Arapahoe where they played in the parade and held a concert. That same weekend, they played at the Warp Museum in Mindon and in the "Arch" at Kearney. Last weekend, the temperature was 106 degrees but they played in the parade and held several performances later in Lincoln, Neb.

Mr. Burrus said that he and his clarinet have been a number of places and it is a fun way to bring a smile to people watching the parade.

Bob Holms of Mason City is also a member of the band and was at St. Francis last year. He reported that he got up at 3 a.m. to do his chores and made it to St. Francis in time for the parade. His sister lives in York, Neb., and she made the drive with him so she could be in the parade.

Following the parade and concert on Aug. 3, the Cheyenne County Shriners will feed the band in the Shriner's shelter at the St. Francis city park.

Service News

Second Lieutenant James T. Keller Second Lieutenant Melissa S. Keller

James T. Keller and Melissa S. Keller have been commissioned as second lieutenants in the U.S. Air Force after completing the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program and graduating with a bachelor's degree from Kansas State University.

Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps is an educational program designed to provide college students an opportunity to be Air Force officers after completing military study courses and bachelor's degree requirements at a host college or university. The program is the largest and oldest source of commissioning officers for

the Air Force, with a mission to produce highly qualified military leaders and better citizens for America.

J. Keller is a civil engineer normally assigned to the 75th Civil Engineer Group at Hill Air Force Base, Odgen, Utah.

M. Keller is a research and development project engineer normally assigned to the Air Logistics Center at Hill Air Force Base, Odgen, Utah. Second Lieutenant James Keller and Second Lieutenant Melissa Keller are husband and wife.

He is the son of Tom E. and Lea B. Keller of St. Francis and a 1997 graduate of St. Francis Community High School and she is the daughter of Galen R. and Sharon McDonald of Mullinville and a 1996 graduate of Greensburg High School.

Will be CLOSED Sat., Aug. 3 to enjoy the fair activities. See you at the Fair!

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I would appreciate your vote on Aug. 6

Pol. Adv. pd. for by Jane C.W. Brubaker

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