

# Wheeler Store watercolor prints made available by artist

By Karen Krien

Today, those driving by the old Shoemaker Store in Wheeler may not recognize it as it was 20 years ago but R.L. Crouse captured it in watercolor and gave the print to Joe and Chris Adamson. Just recently, Mr. Crouse made the watercolor available in limited prints and only 10 will be made. When the last is gone, there will be no more.

For more information about the Wheeler Store prints, call Ms. Adamson at 785-332-3101. She will also have a booth at the Cheyenne County Fair in St. Francis.

Ms. Adamson reported that the Wheeler Store original picture cannot be sold or traded, so she is loaning it to the Cheyenne County Museum on U.S. 36, St. Francis. At the museum is a setting which displays all of Wheeler's 50 post office boxes and counter line. She is hoping that the painting can be displayed with this memorabilia.

**More about the Wheeler Store**  
When the Orlando Post Office closed in the fall of 1888, the mail was sent to the new town of Wheeler. Captain Bridgford put up the first store, a little blue shack. The next and only other known location for the Wheeler Store was in the building which had once housed the United Brethren Church. With the erection of the new brick schoolhouse in Wheeler, the old frame school was attached to the north side of this building to enlarge the store.

Walter Stalder and Isaac Schild ran a merchandise business in the building until it was sold to Homer Follett, Sr. and his wife Hattie in 1907. After just three years, the Folletts traded the store to Melvin and Stella Archer

in 1910.

In 1948, the store was purchased by Vern and Helen Shoemaker who remained in the merchandise, grocery and post office business until 1984. After 36 years as post master, Mr. Shoemaker and his wife closed the store.

The Wheeler Post Office came under the jurisdiction of the St. Francis Post Office.

The following were Wheeler post masters: William Bridgford, Spencer Hotchkiss, Jasper Gochenouer,

Theodore Lockard, Joshua Freemyer, Isaac Schield, Homer Follett, Stella Archer and Vern Shoemaker.

**About the artist**

R.L. Crouse has committed his life to recording the history of America's rural farming community. Deere and Company, Danbury Milt and others have commissioned the artist to portray the past, present and future of farming and ranching.

For more information, see www.RLCROUSE.com on the web.

## Board held meeting to review budget

A special meeting of the St. Francis Board of Education was held July 22 where board members reviewed the proposed budget for the fiscal year 2003.

During the budget review, it was indicated that plans are to keep meal prices the same as they were in 2001-2002. Elementary meals will be: 75 cents per breakfast, \$1.15 per lunch; in the junior high-senior high: \$1 per breakfast and \$1.50 per lunch. Adult meal tickets are slightly higher.

Textbook rental fees will also remain the same with kindergarten students rental at \$10 and grades one through 12 paying \$15 per student.

The 2003 budget will show an increase of 2.858 mills from 30.430 mills last year to 33.288 mills this fiscal year. In terms of dollars and cents, the actual dollars budgeted for this fiscal year are \$446,925 for the

General Fund, \$209,464 for the Local Option Budget, \$101,095 for Capital Outlay, and \$25,274 for the Recreation Fund.

The budget hearing was scheduled for Aug. 8 but because of an error in printing the budget at The St. Francis Herald, the hearing will be held on Aug. 13.

In other business, the board was informed that one more contract from noncertified personnel had been signed and returned for board signature. It was noted that all but one of the offered contracts for the new school year had been signed and returned.

There was also a brief discussion of a few vacant teaching and coaching assignments that will need to be filled. Superintendent Carl Werner will have recommendations for these positions at the next meeting.



4-Her's are waiting their turn to at the fashion revue Monday. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Ethanol investor meetings being held

By Karen Krien

In past weeks, Western Plains Energy has been holding a number of ethanol meetings with one being held recently in Bird City. The board has been pleased that the investor meetings were well attended with over 500 attending in northwest Kansas and eastern Colorado.

The attendance has shown interests with construction on a plant site in Campus to begin in the fall.

Because of the interest, three additional evening meetings have been scheduled. At 7 p.m. on Aug. 5, there will be a meeting at the Plaza Inn in Garden City; at 7 p.m. on Aug. 6, a meeting will be held in the Holiday Inn, Great Bend; and finally, at 7 p.m.

on Aug. 7, the last meeting in this area will be held at the Comfort Inn City Limits, Colby.

"We have had several requests for additional evening meetings for those who had problems attending our day meetings," said Jeff Torluemke, chief executive officer for Western Plains Energy.

The board of managers also plans to hold meetings in Salina, Topeka, Kansas City and Wichita the week of Aug. 12.

Each investor meeting will feature an in-depth description of the plant's proposed location, a description of the plant's design and a discussion of the risks of investing. The presentation will also include information regard-

ing the plant's design and builder, the plant's distiller's grain marketers, and the plant's ethanol marketers. At the conclusion of the presentation, a question-and-answer session will be held.

Attending a meeting does not commit the individual to invest. However, attendees will have an opportunity to invest after the discussion. The meetings are designed to inform potential investors of the opportunities and risks associated with investing in the proposed ethanol plant.

Investments will only be accepted in accordance with the terms of a written prospectus that will be distributed at the meeting.

For more information, call Mr. Torluemke at 785754-2119.

## Haigler News

**Haigler Elementary Library**

The Haigler Elementary Library will be open from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Aug. 1, all students who will attend Haigler Elementary this fall are encouraged to come and listen to a story and check out books to read this summer. Remember it is very important to keep reading even during the summer.

**Gazebo park**

The roof is on the gazebo park bulletin board following the terrible winds a year ago. Rusty Frost and Marlin Crouse helped and Woman's Club members Helen Woods, Marilyn Bannister, Laura Pearl Wall and Sherry Morabito stained the bulletin board, fence and gazebo last week.

**Celebrates second birthday**

Laura Perila celebrated her second birthday at her home in Westminster, Colo., on July 28. Her parents, Laurie and Randy and grandparents Merry Lu and Robert Simmons entertained guests for dinner at a Princess Fairyland midst chariots and castles in the Perila yard.

Guests included Amber Simmons, Shea Daniels, Robin Neergaard, Heather Duncan, Linda Shearman, Terish and Brandy Amerijo, Carol and Jay Flaming, Quentin Simmons, Dwight and Lyndsay Wall, Heather, Greg and Logan Klein, Dusty, Christy, Sydney and Gracie Wall, Duane and LuAnn Wall, Wendy, Jeff and Blaine Lee, Richard and Laura Pearl Wall.

Grandmother Merry Lu Simmons baked the birthday cake in the form of a Cinderella stagecoach. Laura enjoyed opening her gifts and cards under a fairyland canopy. The children played games and contests in the yard.

LaVoine Collicott returned to his home Wednesday, July 24 from the Dundy County Hospital following recent hip surgery on June 25 at North Medical Center, Greeley.

Eunice Richardson of Tucson, Ariz., and Sherri Gregory of Lincoln, Neb., visited Saturday afternoon in the home of their aunt, Floy (Fisher) Ruggles and Ray.

Florence Douglass and grandson Mike Parker visited Tuesday at the home of Steve and Pat Gardner in Wray. Mike and his grandmother had dinner at the Golden Inn in Haigler. Sydney Wall was a Wednesday dinner guest in her great-grandparents home. Laura Pearl took her to her home later in the afternoon.

Mike Parker and his grandmother Florence Douglass were Wray visitors on Friday, where they were met by her son Pastor Terry Douglass of Yuma. Mike visited his mother Gayle White and Terry and Florence had lunch at the Sandhillier.

Laura Pearl Wall visited Thursday morning at the home of Florence Douglass.

Florence Douglass and grandson Mike attended the Wray Daze Parade on Saturday. Lunch was enjoyed at the Sandhillier where they were joined by the following relatives,

Pastor Terry and Karen Douglass of Yuma, Brigitte Douglass and Rob White, Lawrence and Bernice Douglass, Tim and Gayle White. In the afternoon they all visited in the Steve and Pat Gardner home. In the evening the birthday of Kerri Gardner of Divide, Colo., was celebrated with cake and homemade ice cream. Other guests attending were Jeff and Robin Helms and Nolan. Kerri Gardner was an overnight guest of her grandmother Florence Douglass in Haigler.

Pastor Reverend Doctor Njenga Kariuki visited Sunday morning at the LaVoine Collicott home following church services.

Sunday luncheon guests in the home of Steve and Pat Gardner, Wray, Colo., were Kerri Gardner, Divide, Colo., Robin, Jeff and Nolan Helms of Laramie, Wyo., Mike Parker and Florence Douglass. Jeff Helms was baptized Sunday morning at the Nazarene Church.



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