

# Field Day changes families

By Karen Krien

Bill Leach and his family began helping with the county's Wheat Field Day in the 1950s where they shared the effort with E.W. Underwood. But, after more than 45 years, Mr. Leach and his son Gary have decided that someone else should have the honor and that person is John Keller who will furnish the plot, plant and harvest it just east of Wheeler.

Wheat Field Day is a day where area farmers enjoy a noon meal, tour the countryside with specialists from Kansas State University and extension agents, ending up at a wheat field plot where a number of varieties of wheat are planted in sections. After studying the varieties, how they have grown and produced in the northwest Kansas climate, whether it be a hot, dry, cool or wet year, the producers retire to the American Legion Hall in Bird City for an evening meal provided by area elevator operators. This has been the schedule of Wheat Field Day through the years.

Mr. Leach said that he did not begin this tradition — that Mr. Underwood, who lived south of Bird City, had planted the first wheat plots and Edgar Robertson, Bird City banker, had furnished the noon meal. Mr. Leach had agreed to plant a second plot on land he rented east of Wheeler which was more accessible to everyone in the county. There were also several others who planted plots but they did not continue.

The land rented by Mr. Leach was by the highway and when there was a lot of traffic, it was hard to hear the specialists so when the land was no longer available for him to rent, he moved the wheat plot east of his home located northeast of Wheeler.

"It was a family effort — Gary and Merilee, Dexter (son) and Veda (Bill's wife) all helped," he said.

Having the county's Wheat Day Plot is not easy. They dedicated 2.5 acres to the plot, plowed and planted it. Then each section of wheat was planted but after a variety was planted, the drill had to be completely cleaned before the next variety could be planted. Then, at harvest, they had to be careful about keeping the wheat separated, weighed and bagged.

## Wheat varieties

"Farmers, do you remember 'Turkey?'" Mr. Leach asked.

Turkey wheat is a variety that is one of the oldest. It came from Turkey and really wasn't a good variety.

Through the years, there were several wheat varieties which stood out including: Scout which was a variety



AFTER MORE THAN 45 YEARS, Bill Leach and his family have given the honor of hosting Wheat Field Day to the John Keller family. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Variety	Pounds	Test Wt.	Moisture	Dockage	S & B	Ad. Moist	Width	Length	% Acre	Yield	Adj. Yield	Protein
Akron	150	54.5	10.5	0.6	0.1	12.5	11	320	0.0808	30.90	0.15	14.7
Alliance	150	52.7	10.4	0.7	0.1	12.5	11	320	0.0808	30.90	0.15	15.6
Arapahoe	180	53.3	10.2	0.6	0.1	12.5	11	320	0.0808	37.10	0.15	16.2
TAM 107	140	54.1	10.4	0.5	0.1	12.5	11	320	0.0808	28.90	0.15	14.5
TAM 110	130	53.11	10.5	1.1	0.1	12.5	11	320	0.0808	26.80	0.15	13.3
Ike	160	54.6	10.2	0.9	0.0	12.5	11	320	0.0808	33.00	0.15	15.2
Karl 92	180	56.7	10.4	0.5	0.0	12.5	11	320	0.0808	37.10	0.15	14.7
#2137	140	53.9	11.0	0.9	0.0	12.5	11	320	0.0808	28.00	0.15	14.4
Jagger	180	56.1	10.8	0.5	0.0	12.5	11	320	0.0808	37.10	0.15	14.8
Niobrara	120	53.8	11.1	0.6	0.0	12.5	11	320	0.0808	24.70	0.15	15.1
Kalvesta	160	56.0	10.9	0.7	0.0	12.5	11	320	0.0808	33.00	0.15	14.7
Venango	160	57.3	10.7	0.8	0.0	12.5	11	320	0.0808	33.00	0.15	13.9
Nuplains	130	58.0	10.0	0.7	0.1	12.5	11	320	0.0808	26.80	0.15	14.3
Trego	170	58.9	10.3	0.7	0.1	12.5	11	320	0.0808	35.00	0.15	13.2

## Cheyenne County Wheat Plot Results 2002

all its own; Eagle — a good, stable variety; Tenmark (Mr. Leach remembers this variety was around when he was a kid); Cheyenne; and Early Black Hull, which had a tendency to go down as it matured. In those first years, the Leaches also planted several varieties of barley but barley winter killed so they quit planting it.

The highest yielding year for the Leach wheat plot was in 1999. The variety Arapahoe was the highest yielding with 91.7 bushels per acre and Tam 110 was the lowest yielding at 41 bushels per acre.

Mr. Leach thought it was interesting that in 2000, Arapahoe dropped to the lowest yielding variety, producing

only 15.87 per acre. He attributed the drop to the drought conditions.

Through the years, Tam 107 and Newton varieties have been planted year after year. The K-State specialists recommended that Tam 107 be replaced and, today, Jagger has taken over.

New to the area is the winter white wheat varieties. White wheat, which makes good pasta, has been planted in northwest Kansas the last few years and appears to have adjusted well. The white wheats need to be kept separate from other wheat which causes a storage problem.

### Decisions

Both Mr. Leach and son Gary were

providing the area, work and time for the Wheat Field Day Plot and, this year, when it came time to plant again, they both decided that it was time for them to let someone else take over.

"I've really enjoyed the plot and having the people out but there was a lot of work and it just seemed like a good time to stop," he said. "Through the years, I have made many friends including those specialists at K-State and the extension agents."

There may be a few changes next year besides the location of the wheat plot as Mr. Robertson died and his bank has changed hands but sometimes change is good and it could easily be better than in years past.

# Cheyenne County acquires drug dog

By Karen Krien

The officers at the Cheyenne County Sheriff's office have been talking about acquiring a drug dog for some time and about the end of October, they ran onto a good deal on a drug dog which they purchased. The dog came from a former canine policeman from Junction City who has just recently started raising dogs to train as drug dogs.

Cliff Flock, undersheriff, attended two weeks of training with the dog. During that time, he learned how to "read" the dog, knowing when he came upon the scent of drugs and how to point out where the dog was supposed to be. In the two weeks of training, Branson (the dog) missed only two hits and Officer Flock blames those misses on himself because of wrong commands coming from him.

He and the dog sniffed everything from schools, factory warehouses, cars and grassy areas trying to get all types of training.

Since he and Branson have returned to St. Francis, he and sheriff Eddie Dankenbring have used the dog to search an 18-wheeler, two houses, one

car, a feedlot and in a grassy/tree-covered area. No drugs were found but, in one of the houses, the dog picked up the residue odor in an area where drugs had been made.

Branson is a 2-year-old, going on 3-year-old German shepherd which cost \$1,500. Unfortunately, the dog is not yet paid for but donations are being sought. However, the undersheriff feels that the dog will be valuable in helping stop a lot of the drug traffic in the area. Earlier, Sheriff Dankenbring had stated that much of the drug traffic which previously traveled down U.S. 70 has moved north to U.S. 36 and when traffic stops are made, Branson will be able to sniff out those carrying drugs.

In neighboring counties, drug money has been confiscated and kept in the county's law department where it is used to make improvements and purchase equipment.

Those interested in making a donation to the Drug Dog Fund can do so by contacting Sheriff Dankenbring, Undersheriff Flock or sending a check to the Cheyenne County Sheriff's Office, P.O. Box 613, St. Francis, KS 67756.

# Everyone participates in the lighting contest

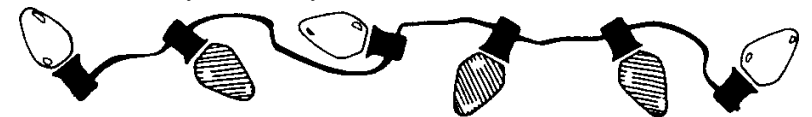
St. Francis is known for the many homes beautifully lit for the Christmas holiday but few of the residents of these homes sign up for the Christmas Lighting Contest. So, when planning for the holiday festivities, the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Christmas Committee decided to eliminate the "sign up" and everyone, whether they have only a few lights or many lights will be judged for the contest.

There will be three categories: 1) Most lights; 2) Religious; and 3) Fantasy. Judges will be two of the winning families from last year and they will be

judging Dec. 15 with the results known the next morning. Pictures will also be published in that week's issue of *The St. Francis Herald*.

The weather turned cold on Sunday but it was evident that a number of homes had thought ahead and have their lights brightly shining. Other residents will undoubtedly brave the cold temperatures, wind and snow and have their lights up soon.

There will be three prizes of \$50 each in scrip. That scrip could help pay for the extra lights put up or purchase more lights for next year's Christmas season.



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- Tasteful Treasures
- Town & Country Clothing
- Sainty Super Foods
- Video Kingdom
- Dusty Farmer
- Pizza Hut
- Park Hill Restaurant
- Windmill Restaurant

Those businesses open only on Sun., Dec. 15

- Goodell Greenhouse & Floral
- Krien Pharmacy
- KM Clothier



Lions Club Annual

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6:30 a.m.-2 p.m.

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CLASS	BEGINNING DATE	TIMES	AVAILABLE CLASSES DURATION
Microsoft Frontpage 2000	Dec. 2	8-9:45 a.m.	3 wks. (30 hrs.)
Microsoft Access 2000	Dec. 2	10:15 a.m.-Noon	6 wks. (60 hrs.)
Written Communications	Jan. 9	10:15 a.m.-Noon	6 wks. (60 hrs.)
Microsoft Publisher 2000	Jan. 9	12:30-2:30 p.m.	3 wks. (30 hrs.)
Microsoft PowerPoint 2000	Jan. 30	10:15 a.m.-Noon	3 wks. (30 hrs.)
Microsoft Outlook 2000	Jan. 30	12:30-2:30 p.m.	3 wks. (30 hrs.)
Peachtree	Feb. 21	8-9:45 a.m.	3 wks. (30 hrs.)
Speedwriting	Feb. 21	10:15 a.m.-Noon	6 wks. (30 hrs.)
Medical Patient Acct.	Feb. 21	10:15 a.m.-Noon	3 wks. (30 hrs.)
MOUS* Certification	Feb. 21	12:30-2:30 p.m.	3 wks. (30 hrs.)
Payroll Accounting	Feb. 21	12:30-2:30 p.m.	6-12 wks. (60-120 hrs.)
QuickBooks	Mar. 14	8-9:45 a.m.	3 wks. (30 hrs.)
Records Management	Mar. 14	10:15 a.m.-Noon	3 wks. (30 hrs.)
Adm Office Procedures	Mar. 14	12:30-2:30 p.m.	9 wks. (90 hrs.)
Machine Transcription	Apr. 11	10:15 a.m.-Noon	6 wks. (60 hrs.)
Medical Transcription	Apr. 11	10:15 a.m.-Noon	6 wks. (60 hrs.)

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