



## Can last year's disaster in legislature be corrected?

After last year's marathon disaster in Topeka, there'll be a real movement this year to cut the Legislature back to just 60 days.

Some people will say that's not enough time, but we think it's more than the House and Senate require to get done what's important.

And what isn't important probably shouldn't get done.

Last year, the Legislature put in more than a week of overtime. With the clock running on their salaries and expenses, that cost thousands. Since the state is broke, we certainly can't afford any extra legislating.

That means just cutting the session isn't enough. The members abused the current 90-day limit last year, and they'd be just as likely to overrun 60 next year.

We also need to eliminate any extra pay or expense money for members. If they stay past the deadline, they'd be on their own nickel.

We bet that won't happen too often.

Only if the governor calls a special session to clean up some unfinished business should there be any extra pay, the members would have to appropriate the money.

Somebody is going to say that the Legislature isn't going to have time to get anything done in 60 days, but that's just so much BS. Last year, and every year, the members spent the first two months posturing and didn't get around to any serious business until March. That's the way it usually

works.

Members are supposed to be citizen-legislators, and it's not good for them to be in Topeka too long. They get to feeling important. They are, but they shouldn't act like they know it.

In 60 days, the Legislature can do everything it did last year, and if the members work at it, they might be able to balance the state's budget.

We're not saying it's going to be an easy year. The state faces a budget gap nearing a billion dollars. Everyone has promised not to increase taxes and not to cut education, so there won't be many decisions to make.

Cut the posturing and the squabbling with the governor, and they'll be home in no time. And we'll only have to read about it for two months instead of four.

The change might save the state a little money, too, what with expenses and heating the big chambers. But that's not the real point.

As voters and taxpayers, we want the Legislature to get its work done and go home. We don't need the delays and carping that have marred recent sessions.

So go ahead, cut the session. But do it right, and take away the automatic overtime for long sessions.

That's what we need in Topeka. Less bluster and debate, more common-sense solutions.

— Steve Haynes

## Echoes on the Southwind

By Dorothy L. Mast

Once a town site was established the town promoters had to procure a town charter through a special act of the territorial or state legislature. This legal instrument incorporated the group and authorized the town site company to resell the land either by lots or shares. A single share, with an engraved certificate, could represent from two to 20 town lots. Each shareholder was entitled to dividends from the sale of lots that were set aside in the name of the corporation. Therefore, the development of the Northwest Town Site Company.

Being duly organized, a plat of the projected city of Birdton/Bird City was drawn up. The plat was constructed and the said city charter was signed on May 5, 1885. We have been unable to locate the original charter.

During its infant years Cheyenne County was attached to Rawlins County for judicial purposes and its earliest records were retained at that location. It is probable that the original city charter was destroyed during a blazing fire at the Rawlins County Courthouse in Atwood many years ago. The Northwest Town Site Company was formed at

the time when a local railroad was a possibility.

At sunset one late evening in 1885, a covered wagon approached the newly formed town site of Bird City. The homesteader's wife had no inkling of what she was about to see. After crossing the Republican River she had seen only one sod house on the landscape. Traveling several more miles, a few lights appeared with raucous noise and confusion everywhere. As the wagon came to a stop the woman asked the bystander, "what is happening?" The bystander yelled back, "the building of a town." As real darkness trailed off into the sounds of the night but as the sun arose the next morning the sounds of building a town began again. With minor variations the same scene was being played out all over the west.

Searching for water was a major priority for the homesteaders and the town builders. If the homesteader's home was near a stream he hauled the precious water to his home in barrels. If not, water was collected from swamps, buffalo wallows or hand dug cisterns.

James G. Butler, a pioneer resi-

dent of Bird City, related that when the town started, "the early settlers hauled water from the Beaver Creek, Big Timber and lagoons. In April of 1885 men were put to work digging a well."

Many of the settlers who came during that time frame were, of course, only indirectly concerned with the building of a town. They came to wrest a living from the region by tilling the soil or grazing cattle upon its grassland. Along with them or only a step behind them came men and women who proposed to find their livelihood by providing goods and services for the rest of the population. These were call the "Townsmen."

Survival, much less success, was never a certainty for a new town in the west but as long as the town appeared to have a future, the townsmen continued to build. Benjamin Bird continued to attempt to promote the interests of the new city from its beginning.

Land patents adjoining the early town site were held by W.W. Holmes, Thomas Cave, Edward C. Webster, The Lincoln Land Co., Northwest Cattle Co. and Hilan B. Ketcham.

## Honor Roll

New and renewed Herald subscriptions: Ervin Peters, Bird City; Dr. Greg Peter, Huntsville, Texas; Bob Gross, Wichita; Alvin Holzwarth, St. Francis; Jess Williams, St. Francis; Fred Crum, St. Francis;

Virginia Bouza, Leavenworth; Rodney Shay, St. Francis; Kenneth Knitig, Goodland; Warren Cook, St. Francis; T.D. Whitham, Nixa, Mo.; Doug Flemming, Bird City; Rex Murray, Goodland; Kent Kechter, St. Francis; Terry Corder, St. Francis; Jerry Whitmore, St. Francis; Coleen Jensen, Anaheim, Calif.; Ron Loudon, St. Francis; Al

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Tammy Pettijohn, St. Francis; Bill Pugh, Steamboat Springs, Colo.; Beulah Stull, St. Francis.

**GOD SAYS**  
**For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he ...**  
 Proverbs 23:7

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## News From the Past

5 years ago - 1997

Around 130 people attended the Madrigal Madness hosted by the high school drama and music students under the direction of Colleen Gardner and Debbie Fiala. The queen was portrayed by LeAnn Schielke. Other cast members included Gabe Jenkins, Heather Sowers, T.J. Burr, Kelley Faylor, Kaycee Frewen, Beth Renk, Katie Keller, Megan Burns, Trista Kriegh, Ashley Feikert, Tammy Sherman, Jessica Raile, Jill Dodd, Vincicia Krien, Kelly Gabel, Lee Parker, Roxy Stuart, Lisa Zweygardt, Erin Day, Jeff Rhoden, Kammi Sanchez, Heidi Straub, Kiedra Riedel, Nicole Howard, Amber Lyons and Amy Rieger.

Winners of the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Lighting Contest were the Fred G. Krien residence, the Ruben Schultz residence and the Raymond Zimbelman residence. The St. Francis Board of Education is discussing the football stadium at Greene Field where the home fans, who are on the west side have the sun in their face. It was decided to have the administration investigate various alternatives and costs.

35 years ago - 1967

Fourteen seniors will be playing their final game at Greene Field when the football Indians host Hoxie. Senior team members include Joe Shoemaker, Jerry Andrist, Jerry Busby, Glenn Shoemaker, Larry Johnston, Steve Miller, Bill Keller, Brad Burnham, Darrell Dankenbring, Marv Raile, Buster Schneider, Stan Faulkender, Tom Kite, Dave Roberson and Mike Holliman.

Approximately 375 4-H'ers, their families and invited guests attended the 4-H Achievement banquet. Receiving the Gold Achievement Award were Ann Keller, Jeanne Maring and Phyllis Roelfs. The highlight of the awards is the Gold Key Award presentation, given each year to approximately 1 percent of all 4-H'ers in Kansas.

Cheyenne County had three members who were honored with this award: DeeAnn Smith, Darrell Busby and Bill Keller.

The St. Francis Indians and Norton Blue Jays were co-champions of the Northwest Kansas League in football. St. Francis last won the league in 1942. St. Francis and Norton both had 6-1 records in league play. Atwood finished the league season 0-7.

The Cheyenne County Hospital Guild has announced that their project for the year will be the purchasing of new draperies for the hospital.

The remodeling of the grade school cafeteria is complete. Superintendent Carl Sperry noted 'the cafeteria looks 100 percent better now.' The folding doors, which formed part of the north wall, were removed. They were replaced by windows, drapes and a planter box and a new ceiling and lights were installed over the summer. Enclosed overhead heaters were also installed

## Hangin' With Marge

Running away from Home

By Margaret Bucholtz



I am sure that at one time or another we have all had a child who decided to run away from home for some reason. Luckily most of the time it is not something that is serious but something that we can all laugh about later on in life.

When my daughter was about 8-years old she was very unhappy with her mother so she decided to run away.

She went to her room with a large black trash bag and filled it full then proceeded to drag it down the road. She never got any farther away from home that she couldn't at least see the house but it did take a while for her to come back.

We all watched as the little body went down the road and over the little hill and then she stopped and sat on the bag and kept watching for someone to come after her. About every 15 minutes she would pick the bag up and drag it a little closer back up the hill. Then she would sit down again and wait.

Finally she got back to the top of the hill when her older brother said, "Mom, I am going to go and talk to her." I told him he could but the choice was hers.

He spent a few minutes and then he came back and told us that he thought she would come back. Finally she worked her way back to

across the street so I went over and asked her if she had changed her mind. Of course she was a little strong willed (I'm sure that came from the father's side) so I just told her if she wanted to come back it would really make me happy.

I never told her that I was relieved when she finally crossed that street, but I did hug her and then told her she had to go unpack the bag.

She never ran away again and to this day I think it was probably the having to put the clothes away that did it!

*Worship Warms the Heart*

**Peace Lutheran Church**  
 202 N. College  
 332-2928 Pars. 332-2308  
 Pastor David Rossbach  
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

**First Christian Church**  
 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster  
 Pastor Richard Garcia  
 Sunday School 9:15 a.m.  
 Church Service 10:30 a.m.  
 Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.

**Seventh-Day Adventist Church**  
 332-2888 • 3rd & Adams  
 Pastor Arlin Cochran  
 Sabbath School 9:30  
 Morning Worship 10:45

**St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church**  
 625 S. River • 332-2680  
 Fr. Beryl Gibson  
 Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.  
 Weekday Mass 8 a.m.  
 Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

**Salem Lutheran Church**  
 332-3002  
 Pastor Chris Farmer  
 Sunday School 10:00 a.m.  
 Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

**United Methodist Church**  
 Church Office 332-2292,  
 Church 332-2254,  
 Pars. 332-3170  
 512 S. Scott  
 Pastor Nel Holmes  
 Early Bird Service 8:30 a.m.  
 Sunday School 9:30 a.m.  
 Worship 10:30 a.m.

**First Baptist Church**  
 2nd & Scott • 332-3921  
 J.W. Glidewell, Pastor  
 Sunday School 9:30  
 Worship 10:30 a.m.  
 Sunday Evening Service 6:30 p.m.,  
 Wednesday prayer service, 6:00 p.m.  
 Wed. AWANA Club 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

**Clough Valley Baptist Church**  
 Pastor Al Davis D. Min.  
 12 m. west, 6 m. north of SF  
 332-2506  
 Sunday School 9:00 a.m. CT  
 Worship 10:00 a.m. CT

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