



## When disaster hits — charity scams are around

It seems with every disaster comes the reports of people asking for donations to various alleged charitable causes. It comes at a time when people are grieving over those lost in the disaster and an underlying guilty feeling that they are glad it wasn't one of their loved ones.

A donation to the cause makes them feel better but be careful who you give to! There are charity scams out there and people are calling or writing asking for contributions.

Asking for donations for a cause which is not legitimate is illegal but there are many people who fall prey to these types of charity scams.

There are several rules to follow including:

- When solicited by an unfamiliar individual or organization, always request that they mail information to your home.
- Do not allow yourself to be pressured into giving.

Legitimate charities will not pressure you into making an immediate decision to contribute.

• Never make an immediate contribution to charities soliciting door-to-door. Ask them to leave information with you and verify their legitimacy before contributing.

• If you decide to give, never pay in cash. If you pay by check, never make it out to an individual or company name that is different from the charity itself.

• Never give your credit card, bank account number, or Social Security number to anyone who calls you on the telephone.

Consumers should always check out charitable organizations before making any contribution either by going online at [www.kscharitycheck.org](http://www.kscharitycheck.org), by calling the Kansas Secretary of State's office at (785) 296-4564, or the Better Business Bureau.

—Karen Krien

## Landowner disagrees with article

Letter to the editor:

This letter is in response to the article entitled *Organization tells other side of story* which appeared in last week's edition of the *Herald* relating to HB 2027 being considered by our state legislators at this time. As concerned landowners, we feel HB 2027 restricts landowners' rights pertaining to control of prairie dog populations on their land. Please understand, we are against total eradication of the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog, or any other species. Nevertheless, this proposed bill adds yet more bureaucratic red tape by requiring Kansas Wildlife and Parks along with local county commission to approve the individual "management" plans.

Senator Stan Clark has opposed this bill, and we feel for good reason. This proposed legislation has more to it than meets the eye. Among other things, this legislation is born out of the threat of a lawsuit by environmental groups to list the Black-Tailed Prairie Dog under the Endangered Species Act. Currently, the Secretary of Agriculture of each state has the ultimate authority for management of species that constitute any threat to humans, health, livestock and other wildlife

### Letter to the Editor

under the Endangered Species Act. HB 2027 shifts that authority to the State Wildlife and Parks and the county commission.

Why is this a problem? The Secretary of Agriculture's authority extends to federal laws that were enacted before the Endangered Species Act, which prescribe "control of range-destroying rodents," or which authorize the Secretary's best methods of "eradication, suppression, or bringing under control" on federal, state and privately-owned land prairie dogs, gophers, ground squirrels, etc. This authority presently supersedes any other under the Endangered Species Act. By shifting that authority away from the Secretary of Agriculture, research shows environmental groups are attempting to limit the functions of the Secretary in protecting agriculture and controlling range-destroying rodents. In essence, if it's not broke, why try and fix it?

What happens once they shift that authority? As in the case of the Bureau of Land Management, for example, an environmental group

called Center for Native Ecosystems is putting pressure on Bureau of Land Management in Paonia, Colo. Center for Native Ecosystems recommends prohibition of prairie dog shooting, protecting prairie dog colonies from oil and gas development activities, prohibition of poisoning prairie dog colonies, relocating prairie dogs on private land threatened with imminent destruction, etc. If Center for Native Ecosystems is successful, many landowners will no longer have control of their land when it comes to management of prairie dogs.

Although this may seem like a benign, non-issue to most Kansans, this is a matter of *grave importance* to the landowners in our state. We feel it opens the door for litigation such as involved in the Klamath Lake incident, the fight to end logging because of supposed environmental concerns, etc. which uses the Endangered Species Act as its battle weapon and destroys rural economics. This is not to mention the potential health hazards to area residents because of exposure to Bubonic Plague inherent in prairie dog populations, decreased grazing land prices and stocking rates because of infestation, relocation of prairie dogs on private land, etc.

In the words of a prominent researcher on this issue, "We are just beginning to see the start of a huge fight over this — bigger than any we've seen before"... "It's fixin' to get ugly — very, very ugly." We need to protect our heritage, and our best weapon is getting educated about this issue. If you oppose this legislation, our legislators need to hear from you. Please contact Senator Stan Clark or Representative John Fabor on this issue and let your voice be heard.

Perry and Paula Keller, Concerned Kansas landowners, St. Francis

## Hangin' with Marge

Life

By Margaret Bucholtz



Life—something that we all take for granted but is very complex. How many times when we are in a conversation with someone do you hear "I wish I would have done that differently?"

Probably if we would be honest with ourselves we would have at least one of those times each day that we could say, "If only I would have done it this way it wouldn't have taken so long, or why did I say that to the person or child you were talking to?"

When we are young, life travels by so slowly and we can't wait until we get out of school or get our first job, or make our first million. Then we get a little older and we can't wait until the baby is sleeping all night, or the kids go to school so we have a little more time to ourselves, then the time comes and they are gone from home and we see that those days were the good ones. We might not have made that million in the form of a dollar, but we each have a wealth in memories of our families.

Whatever choices you have made

in your lives so far have made you the person that you are. If you would have made different choices you wouldn't be able to have learned from your experiences so you would be different than you are right now. That's why we need to think about our attitudes and realize that each day is a gift of life to us and it is up to us to either enjoy it or waste it.

Remember — "Life can only be understood backward, but must be lived forward."

**GOD SAYS**  
**The words of his mouth were smoother than butter, but war was in his heart: his words were softer than oil, yet were they drawn swords.**  
 Psalms 55:21

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"GREAT ACHIEVEMENTS CALL FOR GREAT RISKS..."  
NASA Astronaut in training

## Echoes on the Southwind

### Bird City, Kansas 1885

By Dorothy L. Mast

Water, precious water, was the jewel of the plains country. In Bird City, as well as in other early towns, construction of hand dug wells became a necessity.

The ground water was frozen in the winter and swarming with insects in the summer. Ground water was often the source of what was commonly called "prairie fever" or typhoid which ravaged the settlers. However, hand dug wells were a treacherous occupation that could be accomplished only with the help of a partner. While one dug the other one hauled the dirt to the surface in a bucket operated with a windlass until a hole several feet across reached down to water level.

Dangers associated with the digging of this type of well included *Black Damp*, *Fire Damp*, and falling objects. *Black Damp* also called *choking damp*, is a gas compound of a mixture of carbon dioxide and nitrogen found in deep holes of the earth. *Fire Damp* is a combustible gas,

chiefly methane, that occurs naturally in narrow confines of the earth and forms in an explosive mixture with air. Commonly known as a gas heavier than air that gathers in the bottom of wells and overcomes diggers with rapid suffocation.

Once water was secured from the dug well a system had to be established to bring the water to the surface. Just above the well was a galvanized pulley beam and just below its greatest height was a wooden stock tank. Attached to a 20 gallon bucket, and running over a double pulley was a three quarter inch *manilla rope* at the free end of which was a single-tree to which a mouse colored jenny mule was hitched during the hours the works were in operation.

The technique of raising the water was to start the jenny mule up the well beaten path which led to a barrier at the proper distance to raise the bucket to the right height for the engineer to tip its contents into the tank. When this process was completed the bucket then hung down over the mouth of the well and at a signal the jenny mule retraced her

steps back to the well. The bucket in the meantime dropping down into the water and refilling and then drawn up and dumped again. This was done until the tank was filled.

The hand dug well water was an improvement over much of the ground water but as water was brought to the surface and left standing in the tank, bacteria began to develop and once more the settlers were besieged with sickness.

This well was located at the very center of the intersection of Bird Avenue and Fourth Street.

May 12, 1885 there were five men and one lady who resided in the town proper. They were: Mr. and Mrs. James Slover, Charles Brown, G.C. Rusk and R.L. Koester. Mrs. Slover was employed by the Town Site Company to cook for the surveyors and the men working at the well and for the first two months was the only lady residing in the town proper.

Next month-The continuing growth of the town.

## Honor Roll

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*Worship Warms the Heart*

<p><b>Peace Lutheran Church</b>          202 N. College          332-2928 Pars. 332-2308          Pastor David Rossbach          Sunday School 9:30 a.m.          Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p><b>United Methodist Church Office</b> 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.</p>
<p><b>First Christian Church</b>          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.</p>	<p><b>First Baptist Church</b>          2nd &amp; 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.</p>
<p><b>Seventh-Day Adventist Church</b>          332-2888 • 3rd &amp; Adams          Pastor Arlin Cochran          Sabbath School 9:30          Morning Worship 10:45</p>	<p><b>Clough Valley Baptist Church</b>          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</p>
<p><b>Church of Christ</b>          332-2380, Pars. 332-3424          502 W. Spencer          Norman Morrow - Minister          Bible Class 9 a.m.          Morning Worship 10 a.m.          Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church</b>          625 S. River • 332-2680          Fr. Beryl Gibson          Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.          Weekday Mass 8 a.m.          Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p>
<p><b>Grace Assembly of God</b>          332-2925, Pars. 332-2899          208 E. 2nd          Rev. Rob Meyer          Sunday School 9:30 a.m.          Worship 10:30          Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.</p>	<p><b>St. Francis Equity</b></p>
<p><b>Salem Lutheran Church</b>          332-3002          Pastor Chris Farmer          Sunday School 10:00 a.m.          Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.</p>	<p><b>First National Bank</b>          Member FDIC</p>

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