

# Obituaries

## Jack Leroy Ford

Jan. 3, 1929 - Feb. 7, 2003

Jack Leroy Ford, 74, of St. Francis, Kan., died Feb. 7, 2003, at home after a year-long battle with cancer.

Jack was born in Strasburg, Colo., on Jan. 3, 1929, as the first of three children to Daniel and Clarice (Best) Ford. His grandparents, Roy and Libby Best, in Cheyenne County, raised him.

Jack was joined in union with Josephine Holliman on Sept. 18, 1950. To this union there were seven children.

Jack served his country honorably during the Korean War from 1951 to 1953 as a military policeman. After leaving the service, he moved to Greeley, Colo., and did some farming. He has also been a warehouse worker, truck driver, short-order cook, construction worker, and a sheep herder.

Jack was a great husband and a wonderful father. He especially enjoyed his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Jack looked forward to each and every family gathering. He also enjoyed farming, hunting, fishing, camping, and most recently enjoyed participating in and being able to walk in the Relay For Life for the benefit of cancer.

Jack was preceded in death by his father, Daniel Ford; mother, Clarice (Best) Ford O'Leary; brother Gary O'Leary; sister Bonnie (Ford O'Leary) Cote; and a brother-in-law, Larry Lampe.

Jack is survived by his wife, Josephine Holliman Ford; his children: Ed Ford and wife, Michelle, Northglenn, Colo.; Jacquelyn Brydich, Goodland, Gwendolyn and husband, Norm Jacobs, Greeley, Colo.; Bruce Ford and wife, Alice, Greeley, Colo.; Doyle Ford, Goodland; Darrell Ford, St. Francis; and Bryan Ford and wife, Loretta, St. Francis; 10 grandchildren: Tammie, Mark, Chad, Tim, Josh, Adam, Megan, Kattie, Scott and George; five great-grandchildren, Allix, Lukas, Rylie, Tanner and Brooke; two sisters-in-law, llene O'Leary and Kay Lampe; one brother-in-law, Roland Cote.

Jack made so many friends over the years and will be greatly missed and loved by everyone whose heart he may have touched.

Funeral service was held Feb. 10 at the United Methodist Church with Pastor J.W. Glidewell officiating.

Casket bearers were Don Krien, Pete Kinen, Matt Martin, Gary Leach, Gary Yonkey, Dave Yost.

Interment was in St. Francis Cemetery with Military Rites by Fort Riley.

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

## Lydia M. Webster

March 17, 1901 - Feb. 9, 2003

Lydia M. Webster died Sunday, Feb. 9, 2003, at McCook Community Hospital.

She was born March 17, 1901, in Cheyenne County near St. Francis, Kan., to Peter and Mary Catherine (Wagner) Freehling. Lydia was the oldest living child of Peter and Mary, having eight sisters and one brother to share the family home with.

The Freehling family moved in 1908, to a farm near Haigler, Neb., where Lydia attended a rural school and graduated from Haigler High School in 1919.

Lydia and Frank B. Webster, a native of Wray, Colo., were married

at the Haigler Methodist Church on March 30, 1920. Frank began his 50-year career with C B & Q Railroad in Haigler and in this career they were transferred to stations in Colorado and Nebraska. In 1945, they were transferred to McCook, the last move of his career.

Lydia was baptized as a baby and joined the Haigler Methodist Church when she was 14 years of age and has been a faithful member of McCook Memorial United Methodist Church since 1945. Lydia was a devout Christian woman with great faith in her Lord. She quoted from memory many scripture verses. She loved visiting and witnessing her faith with family and friends of all ages. In addition to her church loyalty, she was active in many civic organizations.

She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Frank, two infant siblings, four sisters, Lora Bye, Alma Roberts, Anna Buhl, and Pauline Roberts; one brother, Paul Freehling; son-in-law, Peter C. Balias; and one great-grandson, Shane Webster.

She is survived by her children, Louise Balias of McCook, Donald Webster and wife, Joann, of Haigler, Stanley G. Webster and wife, Marlene, of McCook; and Mary Greeley and husband, Jim, of Colorado Springs, Colo.; 16 grandchildren, 33 plus four step-great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren; sisters, Garnet Miller, Pearlne Rath and Esther Walter, all of St. Francis, and Emma Tilton of Temecula, Calif., survive her as well as many nieces and nephews.

Memorials may be given in her name.

The funeral service was held Wednesday, Feb. 12, at Memorial United Methodist Church. The Reverend Dr. Jeff Thurman officiated. Burial was in Memorial Park Cemetery.

## Gerald L. Nothdurft

Oct. 20, 1930 - Feb. 12, 2003

Gerald L. Nothdurft, 72, died Wednesday, Feb. 12, 2003, at St. Catherine Hospital in Garden City, Kan. He was born Oct. 20, 1930, in Cheyenne County, the son of John Henry and Elsie C. Gellerman Nothdurft.

A resident of Garden City since 1987, moving from Burlington, Colo., he had been a truck driver, a farm laborer and a mill operator for Finney County Feeders.

He was a member of the First Christian Church of Garden City and was a U.S. Army veteran during the Korean Conflict.

On June 5, 1960, he married Georgia L. Hoffman at Goodland.

Survivors include two daughters, Shirley D. Nothdurft, Garden City, and Sherry D. Nothdurft, Garden City.

The funeral service was at 2 p.m. Monday, Feb. 17 at Price and Sons Funeral Home in Garden City with Reverend Donald Carter officiating.

Interment was in Valley View Cemetery in Garden City with Military Graveside Honors being presented by the Fort Riley Veterans Honor Guard.

Memorials may be given to the First Christian Church or to the Beef Empire Days Rodeo Committee both in care of the Price and Sons Funeral Home, 620 N. Main, Garden City.

## Billy Bruce Cole

July 29, 1920 - Feb. 2003

Billy Bruce Cole was born July

29, 1920, to Mertie Marie Arehart and Bruce Cole. Bill's schooling was limited to the eighth grade at the Green Ridge and Long View country schools. It was the 'Dirty 30s' so he helped his dad with the farm work. His jobs included hauling water in barrels to raise watermelons to sell for extra money. He helped his dad with whatever he could do.

There were two chicken houses full of chickens, so you know who got that job! Bill said "I always start itching when you talk about a chicken house." Milking cows went along with the jobs in the 30s as farming wasn't that great!

If Bill was missing he'd be found in the small shop, seeing if he could find out why a Model T or Model A wouldn't run. It might be his family's or the neighbor's. Harold Winston once told, "We'd get Bill if we couldn't get one to run." Bill liked to overhaul the old John Deere D tractors. He was a good mechanic and electrician. "What made the old motors tick" just came natural to him.

Bill married Helen Holzwarth and to this union two children, Allen and Sharon, were born. The family was baptized in the Methodist Church in St. Francis in about 1944.

The 1950s and 60s were more hard years and Bill had numerous jobs including working for Gene Siegfried at the sand and gravel pit. He became a good welder and drove an 18-wheeler hauling frozen foods across country for a year or so.

Bill then came home and drove for Shay Trucking and for the St. Francis and Bird City Co-ops, hauling gas and propane. Bill also farmed and one of his helpers in earlier years was John Stermer.

In 1886, Levi and Sarah Cole homesteaded the farm which Bill was farming. He always loved to farm and in recent years, his good friend Bob Burr assisted him.

Another of Bill's loves was 'old time' western music and he played with various bands.

Bill was a member of the Methodist Church, Odd Fellows Lodge and the Moose Lodge of Goodland.

He was preceded in death by his parents and by his sister Margaret.

Surviving him are his son Allen and wife, Stephanie, along with granddaughters Devon, Kelly and her husband, Don Thais, and great-grandchildren Braxton and Brock; daughter Sharon and her husband, Curtis Siebenthal of Morrison, Colo., and granddaughters Debbie of London, England, and Jay Allyn of Arvada, Colo., along with great-granddaughter Dusty; his grandson Michael Siebenthal of Denver; a special friend Barbara McComas; brother-in-law Delmer Raile of Denver; sister Carol Connett an husband; and Sherry D. Nothdurft, Garden City.

Honorary pallbearers were Bob Burr, Bud Houtman, Gene Siegfried, Doug Austin, Charley Holliday, Brad Waters and Brice Buffington.

Pallbearers were Gary Leach, Marvin Confer, Marlin Zimbelman, Larry Carmichael, Dan Siegfried and Jon Waters.

The funeral service was held on Feb. 11 at Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis, with Norman Morrow officiating. Burial was in the Bird City Cemetery.

## Emil Peter

Dec. 10, 1907 - Feb. 12, 2003

Longtime Kansas resident Emil Peter died Feb. 12, 2003, at Holly Heights Care Center in Denver, Colo. He was 95 years old.

Emil was born in Cheyenne County, Kan., on Dec. 10, 1907, the eldest child of Jacob W. Peter, Jr., and Katharina Hoerth. He was baptized on March 8, 1908, and was confirmed at an early age in the Zion Evangelical Church, which later merged with the Methodist Church. He remained a member of this faith at the time of his death. He attained an eighth-grade education.

Emil lost his mother at the tender age of nine. Joining his father and two younger brothers as wife and stepmother was Anna Wagner, who brought into the fold a small stepsister, Lila. To the latter union, two daughters were born, Irene and Mildred.

On May 17, 1931, Emil was united in marriage to Emma (Em) Eikenberg. This union of 70 years was blessed with six children: Willard, Royce, Lavonne, Janice, Dallas and Sherry.

Surviving Emil are children Willard Peter, daughter-in-law Arlene Peter, Lavonne Zwegardt (Delmer), Dallas Peter (Norma Jean) and Sherry Schultz (Eddy). Also, a sister Mildred Burr and sister-in-law Helen Peter, 12 grandchildren and their spouses, 17 great-grandchildren, one great-great-grandson and four step-great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Emil was preceded in death by his loving wife Em; son Royce; daughter Janice in infancy; daughters-in-law Barbara Peter and Ruth Peter; parents; brothers Reuben and Herbert; sisters Irene in early childhood and Lila; brothers-in-law Marion Drummond and Andrew Burr; sister-in-law Hazel Peter and great-grandson, Bobby Krien. He was also preceded in death by Em's parents and all nine of her siblings and their spouses.

Emil and Em began their married life in Sherman County, where Emil quickly established himself as an excellent farmer and cattleman and earned the reputation as an honest, hard-working man and good provider for his family. He won the Sherman County Corn Husking Contest in 1931 and placed second in the state contest. In 1953, he was a pioneer in the art of irrigation, having the first deep well for this purpose in Sherman County. He served for 13 years as a member and chairman of the St. Francis Equity Board of Directors. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather, dearly loving to have his family around him.

Emil enjoyed hunting big game, and in 1963, when he and Em semi-retired and moved to St. Francis, he became quite an avid fisherman,

which he enjoyed immensely. He also enjoyed many spectator sports. He will be sadly missed by his family, friends and all who knew and loved him.

A funeral service was held at the St. Francis United Methodist Church on Feb. 17 with Pastor Doug Mason officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were Robert Zimbelman, Junior Smull, Pete Kinen, Bill Fuller, Clarence Roberson, Steve Danielski and Andre Moseley.

Casket bears were grandsons Dana Zwegardt, Darol Peter, Geoffrey Peter, Tom DeHerrera, Gaylord Krien, David Krien, Greg Peter, Jack Hausback, Curt Peter and Bob Gross.

Memorials may be given to the St. Francis United Methodist Church, Hospice or Shiner's Hospitals.

"Just a farmer," you said

And I laughed 'cause I knew

All the things that farmers

Must be able to do.

They must study the land,

Then watch the sky

And figure just when

Is the right time and why

To sow and to plant

To buy and to sell

To go to the market

With Cattle and well

You know the books

That farmers must keep

To pay all those taxes

And be able to sleep

And you know the fixin'

That farmers must do

When machines like mad monsters

Blow a gasket or two.

I guess when God needed

Folks to care for His earth

He chose "just farmers"

'Cause He knew their true worth.

Helen G. Coon

## Edwin Neil Nelson

Oct. 9, 1924 - Jan. 16, 2003

Edwin Neil Nelson, son of Marion Nelson and Lillian Nelson Gorthy, was born Oct. 9, 1924, in St. Francis, Kan. He died in Demarest, N.J. at the age of 78.

Ed was known in New Jersey, spent time in and around St. Francis until he entered the Merchant Marines in World War II. On completion of his service, he met and married Frances Maggio. This union was blessed with three daughters and three sons. He worked at several jobs and finally went into business for himself. He was president of Ed Nelson Construction until his retirement.

Ed was a very congenial fellow, never complained and seemed to thrive on hard work. He always found pleasure in good simple things like a good laugh, a family gathering or just visiting with friends.

Survivors including his beloved wife Francis of 56 years include children Lillian and husband Ray

Casello, John and wife Jan Nelson, Patricia and husband Frank Cirillo, Joseph Nelson, Rosemary and husband Michial Ahrendt, and Stephen Nelson; seven loving grandchildren Elizabeth Casello, Sarah Nelson, Michelle, Amanda, and Christina Cirillo, Michial and Danielle Ahrendt; sister and brothers Wanda Reynolds, Don Nelson, Jim Nelson; host of nieces and nephews and friends.

Preceding his death were his mother and father, Marion and Lillian Nelson; brothers, Leonard (Budd) Nelson and Marvin (Mick) Nelson; nephew, Lonny Walkey, son of Wanda Reynolds, nephew and niece, Donald Jr. and Judy Nelson, children of Don Nelson and nephew Ricky Nelson, son of the late Marvin Nelson; three sisters-in-law, Edna, Jean and Marla Nelson; and two brothers-in-law Willis Walkey and Bill Reynolds; and his step-father, Walt Gorthy;

He was a member of the American Legion Post 21 and was honored by them with a memorial service. Funeral service was held at Barrett Funeral Home, Jan. 20. Interment was in the Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the American Legion Post 21, Legion Drive, Cresskill, N.J. 07626.

# Quinter defeats Saintry

By Betty Jean Winston

Quinter defeated St. Francis in eighth grade basketball on Thursday evening. The final score was Quinter 42, St. Francis 19.

Lauren Ross scored eight points for St. Francis to lead the team.

"We had a good start to the game leading 8-4 at one point," Coach Rob Schiltz said. "We got into foul trouble real quick and had to play some smaller girls which was a disadvantage for us given Quinter's size."

"Late in the first quarter, we had several turnover against their press - that's when they pulled ahead of us."

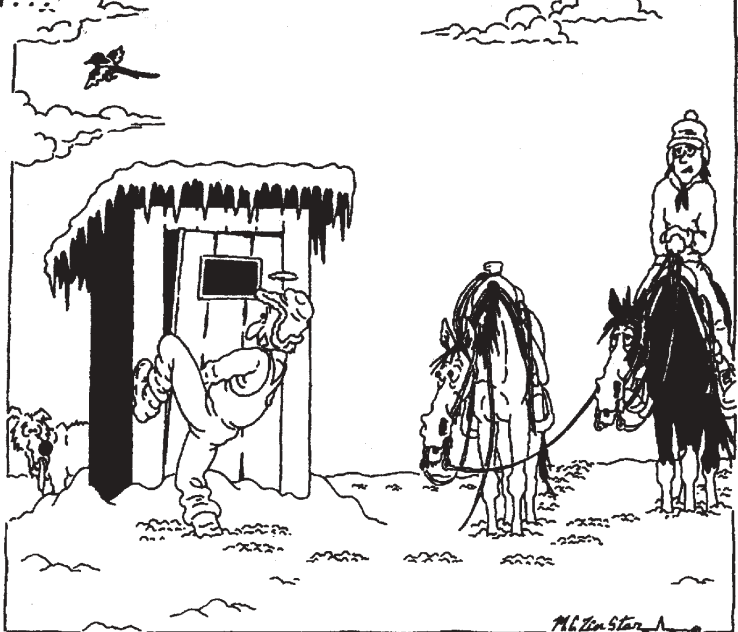
"They hurt us bad on the offensive boards and were able to score several easy baskets from second and third shots."

"Once again, our girls shot poorly. We will have to score at least 30 points to win this year."

St. Francis was successful on only one free throw out of eight attempts for 13 percent while Quinter was 6-of-11 for 55 percent.

SF 08 02 03 06 19  
Q 12 10 12 08 42  
Scoring: Ross 8, Megan Rice 4, Alecia Zimbelman 4, Mindy Cooper 3.

## EARL



"YA KNOW, EARL . . . I BELIEVE IF I WAS YOU ID' KEEP A SCOOP SHOVEL IN CLOSE PROXIMITY TO THAT LITTLE SHACK IN THE WINTERTIME"

Laid-Back West Syndicate

# St. Francis Equity

St. Francis • 785-332-2113

Haigler • 308-297-3223

## ALLTEL Total Freedom Plan

Look at what you get for . . .



\$49<sup>85</sup> month

FREE Activation, save \$35

200 minutes - Nation Wide  
• NO Roam Charges,  
• NO Long Distance Charges

Free 250 minutes  
Mobile to Mobile Calling

FREE 3500 Nights and  
Weekends Calling

Plus Features you can  
actually use:

- Text Messaging
- Mr. Rescue
- Caller ID, Call Waiting
- Voice Mail



FREE\*  
Nokia  
5185i  
Digital  
Phone

Need a Second Phone?  
Add a family line for \$9.95



Mon.-Sat. • 10 a.m.-6 p.m.

Sunday • 1-5 p.m.

414 Washington • St. Francis, KS

785-332-3207

\*Limited time offer, some conditions apply. See agent for details.

AUTHORIZED  
AGENT