

Ground broken for ethanol plan

By Jay Kelley

More than 100 people, including Rep. Jerry Moran, turned out for the groundbreaking of a new ethanol plant in Campus, just a few miles east of Oakley on Thursday.

"This is more people than Campus has ever seen," said Jeff Tourleumke, one of the investors. Mr. Tourleumke and Menlo corn grower Brian Baalman were two of the board members on hand for the ceremony. Other board members include Ben Dickman, Grinnell, Dick Sterrett, Quinter and Bob Casper, Wichita.

"We've raised about \$20 million," Mr. Baalman said, adding the group is financing the rest of the \$41 million price tag for the plant. Tourleumke said there were 563 stockholders in the operation.

Mr. Baalman said they hoped to have the plant up and running in January, but their target date was April 2004. The plant is designed to produce 30 million gallons per year.

He added that the reason for the size of the plant was to take advantage of tax breaks for plants under 30 million gallons capacity.

"They've upped that to 60 mil-

lion," he added, "but we have the capacity for expansion here."

Mr. Baalman said the reason for the plant was to add value to agriculture.

"You got to add value to the product to stay alive."

Rep. Moran told those in the crowd, "It is great to see an individually owned project like this in western Kansas." He also agreed with Baalman that adding value to increase the price of farm products was smart business.

He also said his priority was to help western rural areas maintain their way of life and projects like this were a great way to do that, citing 30 to 40 jobs operating the plant and the money it will bring into the area.

Kansas Rep. Ralph Ostmeier, Grinnell, said the plant was "one of the better things that has happened in our community." He also praised Mr. Tourleumke and the other board members for their "persistence."

Rep. Larry Powell, Kalvesta, was also on hand. "We're looking at doing this in Hodgeman County," he said.

Powell said he wanted to congratulate the board on their hard work in raising the funds during



A DELEGATION FROM Colby Community College attends a ground breaking ceremony for a new ethanol plant east of Oakley.

Photo courtesy of Jay Kelley

such hard economic times.

Sen. Stan Clark, Oakley, also said the persistence of the board

paid off.

"There were a couple of guys who had an idea and were persis-

tent. Hopefully this will lead to a much stronger economy in our area," Sen. Clark said.

Obituary

Harold Ervin Raile

Dec. 15, 1916 - April 11, 2003

Harold grew up on the John Raile farm outside of St. Francis with his eight brothers and sisters.

At age 20 Harold had his eye on a pretty blond waitress at Angel's Cafe and three years later on Sept. 12, 1940, he made Nina his bride.

In 1942, during World War II, Harold enlisted in the U.S. Navy and received his radio operations training at Great Lakes Naval Base near Chicago. Nina joined him in Chicago prior to their move to Philadelphia where he was assigned to the U.S.S. Princeton, an aircraft carrier bound for the Pacific. The Japanese bombed his ship and it sunk in shark-infested waters near the Philippines Islands. Harold survived the sinking of the Princeton and was honorably discharged in 1945 after 3-1/2 years of service to his country.

St. Francis once again became home to Harold and Nina when they returned to start their family after the war. Harold entered the hardware business and served his community in that capacity until his retirement in 1979. He was a devoted and loving father to his two daughters, Coleen and Monica.

The game of golf became a favorite pastime, and one could set his clock by Harold's 1 p.m. tee time at Riverside. It didn't matter how hot the day, Harold showed up looking forward to another day on the course trying, once again, to "golf his age" (which he did on a number of occasions, by the way). Nina used to tease him about how many times he went over that bridge on Hole No. 2, and he'd reply, "too many to count."

Dabbling in the stock market had been a hobby for years, and Harold spent many hours at his desk charting the fluctuations of his portfolio. Later in life he learned more about

gardening and enjoyed watching his corn grow.

Harold was an active and long-time member of the E.U.B. and, later the United Methodist Church in St. Francis. After a four-year battle with illness, he peacefully died at Cheyenne County Hospital with Nina, Coleen, and Monica at his side.

He is survived by his wife of 62-1/2 beautiful years, Nina; his daughter, Coleen Applegate and her husband, Roge, and their children, Gina and Jason; his daughter, Monica Geocarais, and her husband, John, and their children, Alexis and Michael; his brother, Bill; and sisters, Katherine Newman, Leila Hilt and her husband, Walter; and Alice Pulliam, and her husband, George.

Harold is preceded in death by his parents, John and Katherine; his infant son, Rodney; his brothers, Joe, G.J., and Albert, and his sister, Carolina Schleppe.

"As you look down on us from heaven, Dad, we hope you realize how much we loved you and know how much you profoundly touched and enriched the lives of those who had the privilege of knowing you."

Memorials requests: Cheyenne County Hospital, United Methodist Church, or the charity of your choice.

The funeral service was held April 15 at the United Methodist church in St. Francis with Pastor Nel Holmes officiating.

Honorary pallbearers include Marvin Raile, Ruben Hilt, Delmer Raile, Dale Raile, Clifford, Raile, Albert Burr, Bob Zwegardt, Leonard Ochsner, Carl Hendricks, Dave Roberson, Bob Jones.

Casket bearers were Mike Geocarais, Jason Applegate, Johnny Lampe, Dennis Orth, Verlin Raile, Melvin Schleppe.

Interment was in the St. Francis Cemetery.

Knodel Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

By Dorothy Mast

A "go ahead" spirit was the trait that supposedly distinguished the American from other peoples of the world today traceable to his or her experiences in history.

The frontier appealed to the secure, the contemplative and the cautious than to the restless, the men of action and the venturesome; those who traded the known comforts for the hazards of the unknown were men and women who were willing to gamble against nature for the chance of self betterment.

Among these resolute men were five brothers. They were Moritz J., Gustave J., Charles J., Edward J. and Theodore J. Kerndt.

These brothers were reared in Lansing, Allamakee County, Iowa. The parental lineage was out of Marklesse, Germany, behind the Iron Curtain.

All five brothers moved to the newly formed town of Bird City in 1885. Charles Kerndt became the first postmaster of Bird City. Edward J. Kerndt developed a branch mercantile store in Atwood and later became a merchant in St. Francis.

Charles J. Kerndt later moved to McDonald. Theodore J. Kerndt returned to Lansing, Iowa. Gustave J. Kerndt became the main proprietor of the Kerndt Mercantile in Bird City. Materials and supplies for the Kerndt Mercantile were hauled by team and wagon from Benkelman, Neb., (the nearest railroad).

In June of 1885 the Kerndt brothers had built a 20-by-30 foot building and put in a small stock of merchandise. By July 1, 1885, before the floor was finished the store was open for business. The Fourth of July, 1885, was a celebration of the event of the new windmill for water. A dance was held in the Kerndt Mercantile when only one half of

Echoes of the South Wind

the floor was laid and there were only three ladies in attendance.

The Kerndt Mercantile dealt in nearly everything necessary for meeting the residents needs such as general merchandise, hardware, implements and grain for livestock.

From the windmill pipes were laid to the Kerndt Mercantile, Slover's boarding shack, three real estate offices and the hydrant where man and beast could quench their thirst.

The Kerndt family had living quarters above the store until they built a frame house in the block west of the store. This frame house still stands.

The mercantile store was located in block 28; lots 21 and 22 on fourth street. The first post office was located in the Kerndt Mercantile store.

Due to failing health "Gus" Kerndt sold the mercantile to Alonzo E. Wylder and J.A. VanDoren in 1905. About 1920 the store was purchased by the Harrison Mercantile Company of St. Francis. The building burned down in 1926 and was replaced by a brick building.

The "Gus" Kerndt family consisted of his wife, Clara, daughters Alwine (died at age 6), Martha and Bertha. Gustave J. Kerndt passed away in 1912, leaving Clara a widow. Many residents have fond memories of

Clara, Martha and Bertha. The pioneer spirit of the Kerndt fam-

ily is part of the valued history of Bird City.

Traveling string band performs

Presented by the Western Plains Arts Association, The Alferd Packer Memorial String Band performs a lively, engaging stage show that involves the audience, joyously in their own musical traditions. 1870s costuming and raucous humor compliment these accomplished musician's performances of old-time string band, bluegrass, and American folk music.

The Alferd Packer Memorial String Band is six multi-instrumentalists singing, and playing fiddles, banjo, guitars, mandolin, hammered dulcimer, accordion, bass,

shotgun and washboard. Their infectious good humor and high energy leave no toe untapped. They will appear Sunday, April 27 at 3 p.m. at the Quinter High School auditorium. Admission at the door will be by Western Plains Arts Association season passes, or tickets at the door.

The Alferd Packer Memorial String Band is presented by the Kansas Touring Programs and is presented in part by the Kansas Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Bumper Stickers

- Horn broken. Watch for finger.
- Your kid may be an honors student, but you're still an idiot.
- All generalizations are false.
- Cover me. I'm changing lanes.
- I brake for no apparent reason.
- Out of my mind. Back in five minutes.
- I'm not as drunk as you think I am.
- Forget about World Peace... Visualize using your turn signal.

- We have enough youth, how about a fountain of Smart?
- He who laughs last thinks slowest.
- Lottery: A tax on people who are bad at math.
- It IS as bad as you think, and they ARE out to get you.
- Time is what keeps everything from happening at once.
- Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.

EARL....

EARL SAYS AS CRABBY AS SHE IS IN THE MORNING THEY SHOULDN'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT HAVING KIDS THAT WANT TO STAY HOME FROM SCHOOL...

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