

Bus barn manager retires after giving 33 years of service

By Karen Krien

It has been 33 years since Stan Wahrman first began the job as bus driver and mechanic and June 30 will be his last day.

"It is time (to retire)," Mr. Wahrman said. "I am looking forward to the summer but I will miss the other drivers and people I have worked with in the school."

Mr. Wahrman, who said he always liked working on cars, had attended Vo-Tech in Goodland. He had worked at several jobs when Bill Fuller, then a school board member, encouraged him to apply for the bus mechanic job. That was the beginning of his career.

In 33 years, there have been lots of changes. Mr. Wahrman remembers when the buses were parked on the lot where the Equity station stands and Spud Lockard, who owned and operated the old Sinclair station, now Video Kingdom, listened for drivers as they called in over their citizen's band radios (CBs). The radios were not too reliable but they were better than nothing.

Mr. Wahrman sees the communication system between drivers and the bus garage to be one of the bigger and better changes through the years.

When he began, there were more students attending school so there were more buses and routes. There were 16 routes plus a route which took special students to Atwood and Goodland (there are five routes today) and he had 24 buses to keep running.

Sometimes he went to work at 5 a.m. and would work until midnight trying to get the buses in running

order before the next day.

"Those were the days when the buses had split-rim wheels and tires with tubes. Those nylon tires picked up every nail they ran over and there were always flat tires," he said.

"Now, the buses have steel-belt tires and we don't have that problem."

Buses are now built better with better motors.

Thirty years ago, each bus averaged around 20,000 miles a year but today, they only average 15,000 miles. The superintendent and board generally trade buses off when they have around 100,000 miles.

He said that there was generally always something going on at the bus barn which made the work enjoyable but there were several stressful moments like the time when he was driving an activity bus home in the middle of winter when it caught fire.

"The bus had the motor in the back and it froze up," he said.

"It was nerve-racking getting those kids off the bus and putting out the fire," he said.

The kids were loaded in cars for the rest of the trip to St. Francis. However, Mr. Wahrman was working on the bus.

Mr. Wahrman's wife Neva added that when he got home, his hands were injured from working in the below-freezing temperatures and dipping them into the gas in the engine. They were so bad that he had to keep saline and wraps on them for a week.

Another hair-raising trip came when taking students on a field trip to Denver.

"On the way out of Denver, the sun was shining but we soon ran into a pouring rain. A car passed us shortly before we met a truck which splashed water on the car to where the driver couldn't see. The driver just stopped! When we finally came to a stop, I couldn't even see the back of the car be-



AFTER 33 YEARS OF SERVICE to the St. Francis schools system, Stan Wahrman will serve his last bus on June 30.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

cause we were so close to hitting it." The Wahrman's would like to do some traveling seeing the kids: Alan in Hays, Laurie in Overland Park and Paul, who they already see frequently, lives in Goodland.

"I'd just like to see some of the

country while I still can," he said.

And, if that motor home breaks down along the way, Mrs. Wahrman knows a good mechanic who will probably fix it pretty cheap!

Ball Schedule

Wednesday: makeup game - Boys C-team, Reds vs Sox, 7 p.m.

Thursday: K-18, Goodland at 6:30 p.m.; Girls B and C softball, Atwood at St. Francis; Girls A softball, Stratton at St. Francis

Friday: Boys C-team, Cheylin at Sox at 6:30 p.m. ay evening K-18, St. Francis at Oakley at 6:30 p.m.; Boys C-team, Reds at Sox at 6:30 p.m.; Sox at Reds at 8 p.m.; Cheylin at A's at Cheylin

at 6:30 p.m., A's at Cheylin at Cheylin at 8 p.m.; T-Ball, Green vs Orange at 7 p.m.; Yellow vs Blue at 8 p.m.

Tuesday: Girls B softball, St. Francis at Wray, doubleheader, 6 p.m.

Wednesday: Pitching Machine, Green vs Red at 7 p.m.; Yellow vs Haigler Blue at 8 p.m.

Thursday, June 19: K-18, Quinter at St. Francis



93rd birthday celebrated

Pearl Busby will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on Thursday, June 19, at the Good Samaritan Village in St. Francis. She would enjoy hearing from friends and relatives at Box 1140, St. Francis, KS 67756. Her phone number is 785-332-2094



Busby

SHOWTIME: 8:00 p.m. 2 hours 18 min.

Showing **Matrix Reloaded**
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SAVE \$5,000	1999 F150 SC, 4x4, #81831.....	\$15,975.
2003 Ford Escape XLS	1999 F350 SC, 7.3 AT, #16296.....	\$15,995.
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Rebate \$3,000	2000 Windstar SEL, #89067.....	\$16,595.
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2003 Ford Windstar SE	2001 Tacoma SR5, 4x4, #11376.....	\$15,995.
3.8L, V6, AT, #33722	1975 LeSabre, #529010.....	\$1,195.
MSRP \$30,760	1995 Windstar LX, #71162.....	\$3,425.
Rebate \$3,000	1999 Metro, #705465.....	\$4,195.
Our Discount \$3,000	2001 F150, Super Crew, 4x4, #29829.....	\$22,500.
\$24,760	2001 F150 Super Crew, 4x4, XLT #18492.....	\$18,000.
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Ryan Runyon

Dealership hires new salesman

Yost Ford Mercury has added a new person, Ryan Runyon, to its sales staff and introduced him to the St. Francis and Cheyenne County communities.



Runyon

Mr. Runyon, almost 23, grew up in Springville, Calif., a small ranching community. Following graduation from high school, he attended the Western Culinary Institute in Portland, Ore. His internship was done in Steamboat Springs, Colo. He said he had worked his way up from the bottom to a management position.

He had met Clay Zimbelman, who was raised in St. Francis. Mr. Zimbelman had recently moved back to St. Francis and Mr. Runyon was working towards a business degree but looking for a new location.

"Clay called me to tell me about this job at Yost's, they inter-

viewed me over the phone and two weeks later, I was here," Mr. Runyon said, adding that he liked the community and was happy to be in St. Francis.

"And, we're glad to have him here," said Jeff Raile, sales manager.

Even though Mr. Runyon came from a farming community the types of crops raised in California were different from this region. They included citrus, cotton and other tree fruit. However, like in Kansas, corn was raised there and he is confident that he will soon be familiar with the other crops raised in this area.

Mr. Runyon expects his parents to be traveling through the area in the very near future and they will be stopping in St. Francis for a visit with him. Mr. Runyon also has three older sisters, each living in California, Texas and Rhode Island.

Bob Yost, owner, and Mr. Raile urge people to stop in and meet Mr. Runyon and look at their line of new and used vehicles while they are there.

Noxious weeds in full swing this year, time to control

With all the rains this spring, the countryside is green with grasses, trees and even noxious weeds — What! Noxious Weeds??!!

With northwest Kansas in a drought for several years a lot of noxious weeds have suffered but, this year they are thriving quite well. Cheyenne County Noxious Weed director Dan Schlittenhart reports that now is the time to scout pastures and fields for noxious weeds.

"Bindweed and Canadian thistle grow from seeds and roots, so these plants must be sprayed to destroy them," he said. "Do not dig them or your problem will be worse."

In pastures there may be some tall dark green plants growing, possibly musk or bull thistle. These weeds are a biennial plant which means the first year is just a rosette and the second year it will grow tall and produce flowers. These plants can be dug or mowed to control them.

People are urged to call the noxious weed office to have the director come out to look at what you believe might be a noxious weed. He will be available to advise in



Canadian thistle

the proper treatment. The number is 785-332-8840. People may also go to the Kansas Department of Ag website at www.ks-agr.org and visit the photo gallery of Kansas Noxious Weeds.

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would like to introduce his sister

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Length: 18 inches

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Greg & Maribeth Lauer

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For appointments call:
Rawlins County Health Center
785-626-3211

Wed., June 18
Cheyenne County Hospital - P.M.
210 W. 1st • 332-2104

Thur., June 19
Atwood - A.M.
Colby - P.M.
CSMC, 175 S. Range
462-3332

CMC, 100 E. College Dr.
462-7511

Fri., June 20
Atwood - All Day