

Corn field to help research in Kansas

By Karen Krien

"People keep asking me what I'm doing with that corn field," said Gary Yonkey, who has a special corn field just west of Wheeler along U.S. 36.

As it was growing in the early stages, it was obvious that the corn was being planted differently. A special research planter was brought to the acreage and it plants a different hybrid every 1/1000 of an acre — in other words, there is a different hybrid planted every 17 feet.

In the 8-acre plot, Mr. Yonkey reported that there are at least 2,400 different varieties planted.

This small piece of land is a research plot and Pioneer Hi-Bred International is developing new inbred corn lines which are eventually cross pollinated to make new hybrid corn lines commonly grown in most producers' fields.

One of the key steps in developing new hybrids is to determine their resistance or susceptibility to key disease strains.

"Gary is cooperating with us to screen our corn for susceptibility to head smut, a devastating disease on the increase especially in Kansas," said Troy Bauer, Ph.D., with Garden City Corn Research. Shane Wurm, the crop consultant for Mr. Yonkey, had recommended that the Yonkey land be used as a research plot because he had several years where the crop had head smut.

Head smut is a soil-borne disease that infects the plant shortly after germination and consumes the entire reproductive system of the plant, not allowing it to produce any grain.

"So if your field is 1 percent infected with head smut, you will experience 1 percent yield loss — if it is 5 percent infected, you will experience 5 percent yield loss — the disease can be disastrous for a producer," Mr. Boer said.

From the first part of July to the first part of August, workers for Pioneer go into the fields to per-

form the inbred germination. Each worker has his/her designated area and they bag the top ear of the plant and bag the tassel with a paper bag. At about 10 a.m., when the temperature is 85 degrees, the pollen begins raining. That is when those working the field take the bag and beat it by hand which gently shakes the pollen from the tassel into the bag. After tapping the pollen in the bag, it is carefully placed over the ear so that the silk and the pollen mingle. That way, the plant can pollinate itself.

"Our ultimate goal is a better hybrid for the producer," Mr. Bauer said.

The goal at the Garden City Corn Research Station is to develop greater than 105- to 120-day hybrids for the entire western half of the United States.

At the Garden City Research Station, corn is being developed for drought resistance. It is picked and shelled, and the seed is shipped to three of Pioneer's warm climate nurseries in Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Mexico. There the seed is grown again the same year, is harvested and shipped back to Kansas where it will be planted next year.

In the instance of the Yonkey research plot, those at the research station are screening a specific disease. They will be collecting the data and from that information, they will decide which seed will be sent to Hawaii, Puerto Rico and Mexico.

Mr. Bauer remarked that Mr. Yonkey is an excellent producer who has "stepped up to the plate to help screen the company's corn lines for susceptibility to this disease."

Mr. Yonkey feels like this is a win-win situation because not only is he helping develop better hybrids but the company furnishes and plants the seeds and he will reap the yields.

"Finding a seed that would be 'smut free' would be great help to myself as well as other farmers,"



GARY YONKEY points out one of the division lines in his research plot.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

he said.

"If we can develop better hybrids for producers, it helps our product line and it helps our customers' bottom line," Mr. Bauer said.

Mr. Yonkey has dedicated the

plot to research for the next few years so when people turn their heads and stare at the Yonkey corn plot, keep in mind, it might look a little different but it is going to help area farmers grow better corn which will produce better yields.

Man fulfills goal of visiting county

G.N. "Swede" Calnon was recently featured in the De Smet (South Dakota) News as finally fulfilling his goal of visiting the county that was the namesake of a ship he served on during World War II.

After years of wondering what Kingsbury county was like he found it to be a nice place. Mr. Calnon said, "It's a framing community about like St. Francis."

Mr. Calnon was drafted into the Navy in 1944 and spent 16 months aboard the USS Kingsbury during 1944-45. He sailed on the Kingsbury to the Philippines, Guam and Saipan.

Mr. Calnon's duty was on an amphibious landing craft and he transported Marines to Japanese-occupied islands in the Philippines and the 4th Marines to Iwo Jima. They went on maneuvers in preparation of the land assaults on Japan. In the meantime, the atomic bomb was dropped and 10 days later, the second one was dropped. They then hauled servicemen back to the states.

"We were on the move most of the time," he said.

One of the most frightening events during the fighting was when the Japanese pilots made a kamikaze attack.

"They would circle just out of firing range and then they would target in on a ship. We shot everything we had at them but one came over the top of the Kingsbury and took out the next ship," Mr. Calnon said.

While stationed there he witnessed many interesting events. He thought that the hurricane that hit near Japan was almost as frightening as the battles fought.

However, he lived to come back to the states and he and his wife Elberta farm south of St. Francis. They have been married 60 years and Mr. Calnon remarked that "she is still training me!"

He doesn't think too highly of Operation Freedom in Iraq.

"I didn't want them (U.S.) to do it. I felt we could whip 'em but how

do we get out of it!" he said. "When the body bags with our men keep coming in, I don't know how long the American people are going to accept it.

"It's costing billions and killing our young people and those people over there hate us."

"It's a frightening time and people don't want to face it. We are in a depression."

However, he will state over and over again, "The U.S. is the greatest country in the whole world."

While the ship was named after Kingsbury County, the men who served on her were from all over the country and Mr. Calnon was just one of them, but it was one of the most memorable two years of his life.

In an article written by Dale Blegen, De Smet News editor, more is written about the USS Kingsbury which was commissioned as a Haskell Class attack transport. The Navy names attack transports for counties and this ship was named for Kingsbury County, S.D.

The Kingsbury was 440 feet long. It was 50 feet wide and had a displacement of 12,450 tons. It carried around 3,500 troops and 550 crew members.

According to the Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships, it was built by Oregon Shipbuilding Corp of Portland and was launched on Nov. 16, 1944.

Between Dec. 2 and Jan 9, 1946, the Kingsbury made another trip to the Far East, carrying 935 replacement troops to Manila and returning 2,058 veterans to the West Coast.

The Kingsbury then sailed on Feb. 11 for the East Coast, arriving in Norfolk, Va., on March 3. She was decommissioned at Portsmouth, Va., on April 19 and her name was struck from the Naval Register on May 1 when she was "moth balled".

But the ship got new life in 1969 when it was recommissioned as an amphibious transport. It was disposed of in August 1983.

Thank you to everyone that helped and supported the 2003 Fair Parade. From the youngest to the oldest, the biggest to the littlest and of course the nosiest, we appreciate your participation!

A Special thanks to our:

Announcers - Tim Burr and Gary Cooper
Assts. - Abbey Burr and Jim Bolin
Judges - Kary Zwegardt, Jill Bracelin and Mikeala Grace.
Organizers - Barb Fromholtz (Derby Cars);
Roy & Linda Elfers and Tom & Virginia Cooper (Antique and Classic Cars).

Thank you to the St. Francis Police Department and City of St. Francis for organizing the route. A big thank you to Sam Miller for wiring us up and Kim and Rick for their assistance. Once again thank you for everyone's help and participation!

The Parade Committee
Gloria, Dawn & Carla

Mill & Seed
will close Friday @ 4:00
p.m. and Will be closed
all day Saturday!

300 W. Emerson - St. Francis, KS - 785-332-3191

Meet the Teachers

Aug. 26

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Grade School Cafeteria

Welcome Back - Open House

A Pizza, Pop & Ice Cream Snack will be furnished!

Thank you to Shay Realty and Farm Credit for buying the premium on our Hefer and Cow/Calf pair. We appreciate your support.
- Cody & Matt Raile

ANTIQUe and Personal Property AUCTION

Sat., Aug. 30, 2003 - 9:30 a.m. MT

Auction Location: 26975 Crites Ave., Idalia, CO

Seller: Elsie Lidke Estate

Antiques - Collectibles - Glassware - Furniture - Household Misc.

Original Idalia Western Electric phone Switch Board complete w/ headset - Great Condition!
Antique Wood Telephone Operators Chair
Original First State Bank of Idalia Teller Window, good condition
Original Idalia Post Office mail window, oak. Manufactured by the Postmaster Supply Co., Baltimore, MD. Excellent Cond.
Burroughs Bank Machine w/ Stand
Idalia Postal Records & Letters from 1895-1907
Friend, Colorado post office records 1895
Old payroll schedules, ledgers, letters, etc. pertaining to post office & telephone company
Old Phone line maps of Idalia
1889 Records of district meeting of Idalia School Dist. #68
1944-45 Life Magazines - Good Condition
1946 Eads Lehman Weather Reports
Lots of Idalia advertising memorabilia from 1926 and many years from businesses such as Esch Lumber, Idalia Oil Co., George Conrad, Eads W. Lehman, Idalia Flour Mills, Brenner Hardware, Clark's Construction, Edmund Ebeler Motor Co., 1930 Edith Finch Calendar, 1958 Prairie Vista Motel, Midway Garage, First State Bank, Farmers Union Coop, Wray, CO, Colorado Cafe, Stratton, CO, some from Kirk, CO, Wray, CO, and St. Francis, KS - Calendars, Mirrors, Postcards, Yardsticks, & much more
Serval Electrolux Refrigerator advertising fan, OLD
Penns Chewing Tobacco Tin, Old
Mortons Salt Carton, Old
Swift Premium Dried Beef Box
Ibens Graham Cracker Tin
Antique Wall Phone, Good Condition
Fairbanks Morse Platform Scale w/ Weights
Carnival Glass Pitcher & Glasses, OLD
Many collector glass pieces
Royal, Copley, Fenton, Hobnall, Milk Glass, Deft, Lead, Crystal Glassware, Cut Glass & Pressed Glass
Ruby Glassware
Pink Depression - Cups, Saucers & Plates
Green Depression Glass - plates & saucers
Candle Holders
Lots of Glassware
Several Shot Glasses
Several Pieces of Japanese art "Sent from Japan"
Japanese Hand painted Glass Globe
Several Carnival Glass pieces
English China - Several Pieces
William Rogers Silverware
Nauilue Eggshell China
Copper Bowl
Several Guardianware pots
Coal Buckets
2 - Oak Buffets - Good Condition
Writing Table Desk
Large Oak Display Case
Butter Mold
Antique Popcorn Popper
Wood Cheese Box
Many Old Manuals
1929 CU Band Hats
Old Silverware
4 Drawer Dresser
Antique Wardrobe
Glass washboard
Kraut Cutter
2 - Antique Night Stands
Sev. ornate Wood Chairs
Old Picture Frames
Leather Satchel
Perfection Smokeless Oil Heater
OLD Shaving Mugs
OLD Razors and Various Shaving Items
Many OLD Tins
Several Salt & Pepper Shakers
Sadd Irons
Old Hat Pins
Blue Canning Jars
Old Time Magazines
Wood Cheese Box
Old Saws
Many Old Manuals
Lots of Old Books 1925 & up
Lucas Cemetery Plot Map - OLD
Many Decanters
Misc Wall Hangings
Many Whiskey Decanters

Lunch Will be served day of sale.
Not responsible for Theft or Accident.
Announcements made day of sale shall take precedence over printed material.
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TERMS CASH OR GOOD CHECK - NO CREDIT CARDS WILL BE ACCEPTED.
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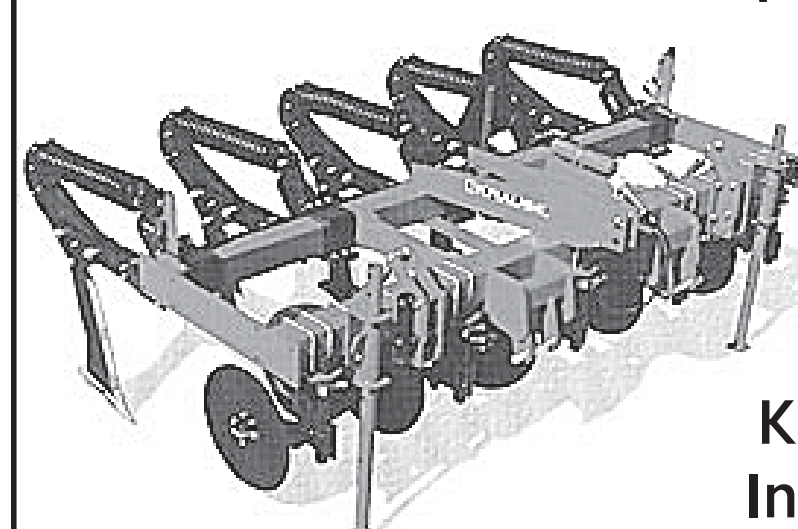
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Auctioneers Note:

The Elsie Lidke Estate auction offers a fantastic collection of more than 80 years. Elsie was an Idalia pioneer, having been active in many areas of community and historical happenings. The items being offered at this auction have much of Idalia & Eastern Colorado history — from the phone switch board, the Bank Teller window to the Postal Mail window — these items are rare and in great condition. Plan to attend this auction and take a walk through time. This is only a partial listing of items to be sold. Don't miss this auction!

Van Allen, Inc. • Wheeler, KS.
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Fall Field Day
Aug. 26
10:00 a.m. CDT
Location: 1/4 mile N. of Van Allen, Inc.
East side of road.
Tom Stevens - Cooperator



Featuring:
Krause 4830
In-Line Ripper

Wedding Registry
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-Furniture Items
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The Saint Francis Herald
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