

# Local volunteer firemen report busy year in 2003

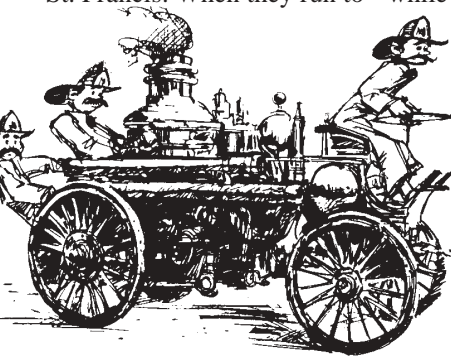
George Harper, St. Francis fire chief, reported that in 2003, the St. Francis firemen attended 28 fires which took a total of 251 hours. Firemen also helped with 16 vehicle accidents which took 129 hours and helped look for a missing person. There are 18 volunteer firemen in St. Francis. When they run to

extinguish a fire or go to an accident, whether it be for an hour or all day and night, they receive a token fee of \$10. It takes an understanding employer who allows the fireman to leave and an even a more understanding employer when he pays the employee for the time he missed while out on the emergency.

Their dedication to the residents of St. Francis and the rural area often requires more than most people know. They spend hours in required trainings each year. There are piles of statistics to keep plus making sure their equipment is in good order. Firemen carry a pager and, at the sound of a

call, they are in their vehicle on their way to the firehouse and soon aboard the fire engine on their way. They also are called to help with vehicle accidents where hydraulic extraction equipment is needed. Those not needed with the emergency equipment often help direct traffic. Last year, the firemen logged 129 hours helping with accidents.

Last year, the number of runs and man hours were: 21 grass/hay bale fires which took 141 man hours; five structure fires for a total of 99 hours; 16 vehicle accidents, 129 hours; two vehicle fires, 12 hours; one missing person, nine hours; and 14 trainings for 767 hours.



## Obituaries

### Lyle Sheldon Cook

Aug. 4, 1929 - Jan. 18, 2004

Longtime Cheyenne County resident Lyle Sheldon Cook, age 74, died Sunday, Jan. 18, 2004, at Presbyterian/St. Luke Hospital in Denver, Colo., with his family by his side.

Lyle was born Aug. 4, 1929, near St. Francis, Kan., to Elsie (Brown) and John Cook. He attended school in St. Francis. As a young boy he helped his family on the farm. A true jack-of-all-trades, Lyle tried his hand at many things and was good at everything he did. He established his own dairy and later farmed near Idalia, Colo., and St. Francis. Lyle was very successful in his ranching and farming.

On Jan. 21, 1978, Lyle was united in marriage to Dorothy Atteberry at the Christian Church in St. Francis. Lyle was a member of the Christian Church in St. Francis.

Preceding Lyle in death were his parents, and a stepdaughter, Karen Unger.

Surviving family members include his wife, Dorothy, of the home in St. Francis; two sons, Lyle Cook Jr., of Williston, N.D., and Michael Cook of Gillette, Wyo.; two daughters, Sherry Ledbetter (Jammy) of Fort Morgan, Colo., and Kristi Dillehay (Don) of Brush, Colo., and one sister Joyce Doherty of Santa Fe, Texas. Also surviving are three stepsons, Buyrel Ritter of Mullenville, Lloyd Ritter

(Shirley) of Kiowa, Colo., and Wayne Ritter of St. Francis; 18 grandchildren, 11 step-grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren and 19 step-great-grandchildren, also a host of cousins, nieces, nephews and special friends.

Lyle enjoyed woodworking, playing pool and cards at his "office." He also enjoyed dancing, gardening, all kinds of animals and all sporting events. He especially loved being with his grandchildren. Lyle worked and played hard.

Funeral services for Lyle were held Thursday, Jan. 22, at 11 a.m. at the First Christian Church in St. Francis. Pastor John Bartlett officiated. Burial was private.

Honorary pallbearers were Colburn Cook, Brian Cook, Shawn Cook, Casey Cook, David Cook, Jeremy Ritter, Kerry Ritter, Daniel Cooper.

Memorial contributions may be made in Lyle's name to the Cheyenne County Hospital or to a scholarship fund, being established by his family, for a student going to an agricultural school.

### Scott Dean Armstrong

Aug. 24, 1962 - Jan. 14, 2004

Fayetteville, N.C., resident Scott Dean "Giggles" Armstrong, 41, died Jan. 14, 2004, at his home.

He was born on Aug. 24, 1962, at Goodland, Kan., the son of Donna (Collins) and Harry Merle Armstrong. He graduated with the class of 1980 from Goodland High

School. He served his country in the United States Army for 15 years, earning the rank of staff sergeant. He enjoyed performing and creating balloon animals for children of all ages at parades and at other functions as "Giggles, the Clown."

Preceding him in death were his paternal grandfather Harry M. Armstrong, and his maternal grandparents Lewis and Mae Collins.

Surviving family members include three sons, Nicholas Armstrong of Chapel Hill, N.C., Patrick Armstrong of Hope Mills, N.C., Daniel Armstrong of Hope Mills; one daughter, Elizabeth Armstrong of Hope Mills; parents, Merle and Donna Armstrong of Goodland; one brother, Michael Armstrong of Fairway; two sisters, Vickie Haremza of Flagstaff, Ariz.; Brenda Lingo of Maricopa, Ariz., and paternal grandmother, Evelyn Armstrong of Goodland.

His body was cremated. A memorial service will be held in Goodland in early summer.

Memorials may be designated to the Scott Armstrong Children's Education Fund, and may be mailed to Koons funeral Home, 211 North Main, Goodland, KS 67735-1555.

### Elaine Burrus Davis

Died Jan. 22, 2004

L. Elaine (Burrus) Davis, born in Danbury, Neb., and most recently residing in Lincoln, Neb., died of cancer on Jan. 22, 2004, at her daughter's house in Larkspur, Colo.

She was preceded in death by her father, Tom Burrus of Ogallala, Neb., and her husband, Loren Davis, of Elburn, Ill.

She is survived by her mother, Dorothy (Van Vleet) Burrus and one brother, Van Burrus and wife, Nola, of St. Francis. She has three daughters, Jerri Witt of San Francisco, Calif., Carol Nickal and husband, Cal of Longmont, Colo., and Bonnie (BJ) and husband, Steve of Larkspur. She has four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

She was a member of the American Legion Auxiliary, the Order of the Eastern Star, past Noble Grand of the Rebekah Lodge and a member of the Moose Lodge.

The body was cremated and the ashes will be scattered at a later date by the family. There was no services, per, Elaine's request.

Memorials may be made to The Dumb Friends League and mailed in care of BJ Williams, 4271 Cheyenne Drive, Larkspur, CO 80118.



**GAS PUMP RESTORED** — Pete Jensen, member of the Cruiser Car Club, restores a 1940 Bowser gas pump which will be given away at the third 'Saturday in the Park' car show which is held in May.

Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

## Junior high students recognized

In the ongoing Character Development program at St. Francis Community Junior High School, Citizens of the Month for December were recently selected. The character trait studied in December was "Perseverance."

Seventh grade students were given the assignment of selecting an area in which they needed to work to accomplish a personal goal. Matt Whitmore was chosen as "Citizen of the Month" for his goal to improve on his guitar playing. He would like to perform at different events throughout the year. Matt says, "Someday I'm determined to get a record deal and become famous!"

Sarah Guthmiller was selected as honorable mention. Other students completing in the assignment in seventh grade were: Chase Barnhart, Kim Church, Sidnee



Sherlock



Loyd



Whitmore



Guthmiller

Crabtree, Jon Finley, Scott Ford, Elizabeth Gienger, Tiffany Henderson, Trevor Hilt, Andrea Holzwarth, Cara Hunt, Talon Jones, Taylor Kennedy, Trent Kinen, Tyler Larson, Dalton McFarland, Tyler Miller, Lance Owens, Jesse Pacheco, Jamie Pevler, Joni Pevler, Taryn Richard, Jacob Riedel, Sam Sowers, Kim Voeller, Shawn Warren, Candice Wiese, Hailey Woodcox, Ashley Zwegardt and Ethan Zwegardt.

Eight grade students were given

the assignment of selecting a task which would take creativity and perseverance to complete. Corbin Sherlock was chosen as the eighth grade "Citizen of the Month. He cooked a meal for his family, after he planned the menu and shopped for the food.

Dara Loyd was honorable mention in the eighth grade class. Also completing the assignment were eighth graders: Kattie Ford, Chance Hobrock, Katelyn Jones, Sara Miller, Gavin Smull and Teri Walters.

## Echoes on the Southwind

By Dorthy L. Mast

The historical article with the byline, "Echoes on the Southwind," has been an integral part of the Cheyenne County Historical Society ever since I began writing it during the 1970s and 80s. It has always been written with only one purpose and that is to bring an awareness of the value of local history to the reader and to promote the mission of the Cheyenne County Historical Society. It has never been written with a personal agenda.

During the years from 1980 to 1985, Marsha Magley and I spent nearly five years collecting and compiling historical information (without computers) for the book "Early Bird City" that was published by the Cheyenne County Historical Society in 1985 to commemorate Bird City's centennial year. I wrote only a few of the articles of Echoes on the Southwind

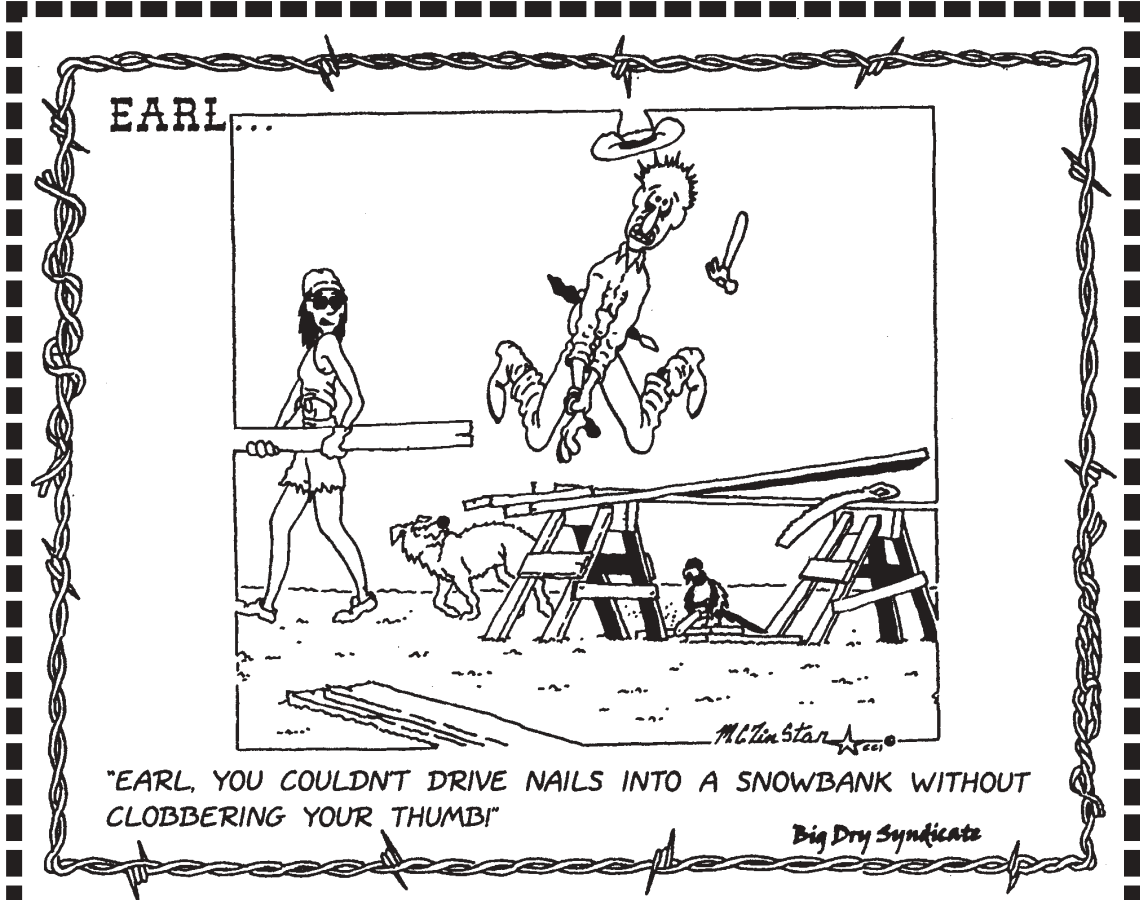
during this time.

After 1985, my priority became the continual care of my mother during her last years.

During the 1990s through 2000, due to other commitments and health reasons, I was not actively involved in the Historical Society, therefore during that time, I did not write the articles.

In 2001, I re-established my membership and involvement in the Cheyenne County Historical Society. Due to the inquires received from the new generation of readers about the history of Bird City, I began, once again, to write the articles with the same byline, "Echoes on the Southwind" adhering to the same purpose as stated above — for the Cheyenne County Historical Society.

The byline "Echoes on (not of) the Southwind" that I chose has its own historical significance.



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