



# Book donated to library

The St. Francis Public Library and the Bird City Library have a new book which was donated by Phyllis Wingfield, McDonald, sister of the author. The book, titled "I've Never Been An Old Man," was written by Don Larsen of Livermore, Calif.

"I've Never Been An Old Man" asks the question, "Can you have adventure, sorrow, love, multiple health disasters and happiness at the same time when you are in your 70s?"

It started happening moments after his wife Jacquie and Mr. Larsen's 54th anniversary. Being ill is never funny but some humor can be found around most corners. Encouraged by a fellow writer, Mr. Larsen uses a light-hearted approach to chronicle his wife's serious health problems; dementia, falls, lost ambulances and the HMO losing his ill wife, Jacquie.

Mr. Larsen's life began in earnest in the poultry and livestock judging classes at Kansas State University (then Kansas State College). Later, with a master's degree in education, he began teaching the neighborhood one-room school.

Maintaining order and progress demanded another type of awareness skill development. Observing school progress and evaluating teachers after becoming a principal demanded a high degree of detailed observation.



**PHYLLIS WINGFIELD, McDonald recently donated a book in which was written by her brother, to both the St. Francis and Bird City libraries.**

*Herald staff photo by Karen Krien*

Upon retiring, Mr. Larsen used the perceptive skill of noticing the change of blues as one's eye moved from the horizon to the sky overhead as he took up watercolor painting. After his paintings were accepted in regional and national shows, he was employed to give

demonstrations and judge art shows.

The house inspection business he started with his family was a commercialism of the art of perception perceiving what others saw but did not perceive.

When his wife became ill, Mr.

Larsen, using his observation ability was able to chronicle the nuances as well as the events, minor or major, as her and his health affected them. These observations and anecdotes are the basis of the book, "I've Never Been an Old Man."

## This is the Place

*By Carol Redding  
Cheyenne County  
Development Corporation  
Board Member*

At last, we are closer to spring. Spring is always a time of hope and of looking for possibilities.

What do we usually hope for? Green wheat? To be sure. Greener pastures, literally as well as figuratively? The shop to tell us that our car repairs will be \$20 instead of the estimated \$200? More water in the aquifer? The bank to tell us we don't need to repay the loan? Three new businesses to move to the county and employ 25 people each? And all those employees to have kids to enroll in the schools? Families to come to the county who can do their jobs on a direct computer line with their employers in big cities? Thirty people to come visit the county and leave lots of their money with businesses?

Sure, we'd like all of these things to happen—that's what hope is all about. But how to make such events really happen?

First, look for possibilities and hope. And never stop.

Next, dream. And never stop. Then, let's get to work. And never stop.

On the map, Cheyenne County looks like a box, but it's really a great place to live, raise kids and do business.

Somehow we need to think outside the box, but entice others to come into the box with us. I hear you saying, "Yes, that sounds good, BUT . . . Let's get together and make something happen!"

Cheyenne County has so much to offer. Think about what could be done to bring jobs and families to our area.

The Cheyenne County Development Committee is always eager to hear your ideas and will help wherever it can.

Contact the coordinator, Susan Hobrock, at the office in the lower level of the courthouse, or call her at (785) 332-3508 or (888) 735-2444.



**SIXTH GRADERS Kaycee Williams, left, and Dale Northrup had the opportunity recently to serve as pages for Rep. John Faber.**

## Students serve as pages in Topeka

St. Francis sixth graders, Dale Northrup and Kaycee Williams, recently traveled to Topeka where they served as pages for Rep. John Faber.

Both girls thought the experience was not only lots of fun but very interesting. They were most impressed with the Capitol dome and the stairs which looked like they were hanging in mid-air.

They said Rep. Faber was very nice and told them how he started in politics. He expressed concern about certain people wanting to turn northwest Kansas back to nature, noting that the move is called the

"Buffalo Commons."

They were very impressed to eat Papa John's Pizza with the representative in his office.

Dale and Kaycee agreed that they really enjoyed meeting fellow pages and would like to be a page again. Their duties as pages included taking messages to the representative's secretary.

While their experience was rewarding, neither of the girls were swayed to be in politics when they grew up. Dale said she wanted to be a park ranger or an environmentalist. Kaycee wants to be a doctor.

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