

Obituaries

Jessie Smith

Aug. 26, 1919 - March 27, 2004

Jessie Smith was born Aug. 26, 1919, in a sodhouse north of Brewster, Kan., the youngest of three children of Lewis and Alice Duncan. She died March 27, 2004, in Denver after a short illness.



Smith

Jessie attended Brewster public schools and later earned her General Education Degree from Colby Community College in 1979. She married Kenneth D. "Ted" Smith in 1936, and to this union three children, Gordon, Janice and Joyce were born.

Ted and Jessie moved to St. Francis in the early 1940s where Ted operated a service station on Main Street. Jessie and Ted later built the Bay Service and Cafe on U.S. 36, a popular truck stop and restaurant. Jessie was a loving and caring person to her family and to those in need. Many needy highway travelers were treated to full meals at the Bay Cafe. Jessie was proud of her and Ted's business success but she was probably most proud of her service as a nurse's aid at the Cheyenne County Hospital, putting in over 15 years of service as an aid, and more years later as a cook.

Jessie was a friend to many and she loved her friends and family dearly. She was also very grateful for the kindness extended to her by everyone who knew and loved her. One of her favorite expressions was "thanks a million for everything!"

Jessie loved to travel and spend time with her children and grandchildren especially around the holidays where her cooking skills were greatly appreciated and passed on to her extended family.

She loved animals especially her little poodle "Fluffy." She was always setting out bird seed and water for the birds. She was also a devoted Christian and a long-time member of the First Christian Church of St. Francis.

As much as Jessie loved her family and friends, she also loved the town of St. Francis. Another of her favorite sayings was "there are a lot of nice people living in St. Francis!" Jessie will be remem-

bered with fondness by those whose lives she touched and she will be missed.

Jessie is survived by her three children and their spouses: Gordon K Smith and wife Judy of Greeley, Colo., Janice Jane McClelland and Ray Lalicker of Goodland, Joyce Lee Peak and husband Carl of Arvada, Colo.; eight grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and one-great-great-grandchild. She is also survived by her sister Eva Hubbard of Oregon City, Ore.; brother-in-law Lewis Patten of Brewster; numerous neices and nephews and one very special niece, Florice Lauer and husband Eddie of St. Francis.

Jessie is predeceased by her husband Kenneth "Ted," her parents Lewis and Alice Duncan (Hunt), sister Letha Patten and half-sister Elsie Thomas and half-brother Frank Hetrick.

Pallbearers were Paul Smith, Troy Pickett, Kenny Pickett, Jeremy Skrdlant, Alan Frank, Jim Bender, Erik Frank and Carl Peak. Honorary pallbearers were Eddie Lauer, Harold Mitchell, Willard Peter, Dave Roberson, Ray Lalicker, Jimmy McClelland, Maurice Barnhart and Stan Wahrman.

Funeral services were held at the First Christian Church with Rev. John Bartlett officiating. Burial was in the St. Francis Cemetery. Knodel Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Cheyenne County Hospital, St. Francis Senior Center or Christian Church, St. Francis.

Gladys Mae Confer

May 30, 1916 - April 3, 2004

Gladys Mae Confer was born to Herman and Pearl Mace Kanel on May 30, 1916 in Bird City, Kan. She was the fifth child born with sisters, Alice, Helen and Hazel along with brothers Ray, Vern, Guy and Bill. They lived and grew up on a farm south of St. Francis, Kan.

Gladys married Edgar Edmonds early in her life at the age of 15 in 1931. They spent their married life southwest of St. Francis working together on the farm. Gladys and Edgar had no children of their own, but spent a lot of time helping with the neighborhood children and special nephew, Dick Edmonds. Gladys

was member of the Neville Methodist Church and thoroughly enjoyed being a Sunday school teacher and helping during Bible School each year. She later moved her membership into the United Methodist Church in St. Francis after the closing of the Neville Methodist Church.

On April 25, 1964, Gladys was married to Lester Confer. Along with this union she became a major part of the lives of Lester's daughter, Arlene, and granddaughter, Glenda. She and Lester worked side by side all through their nearly 40 years of marriage from everything to do with housework to farming. Together they enjoyed being a special part in the lives and hearts of their great-grandchildren- Bobby, David, Kari and Dustin Krien and later on the great-great-grandchildren, Chase and Kensley Krien and Chanell, Chauntell, Kylie and Tracen Peter.

Gladys died on Saturday, April 3, 2004, after a short illness. She was preceded in death by her parents, three sisters, three brothers, her first husband Edgar, son-in-law Royce Peter, and great-grandson Bobby Krien.

Gladys leaves behind her husband, Lester, stepdaughter, Arlene Peter. Step-granddaughter, Glenda and husband Gaylord Krien, Step-granddaughter, Peggy and husband, Bob Gross, and step-grandson Greg and wife Christina Peter. Also, step-grandchildren David and wife DeAndrea Krien of Hays, Kari and husband Tracy Peter of Windsor, Colo., Dustin Krien of St. Francis, Justin, Chad and Britany Peter of Huntsville, Tex., and Lauren and Bret Gross of Wichita.

There are also great-great-grandchildren, Chase and Kensley Krien, and Kyle, Tracen, Chauntell and Chanell Peter. All of these children (young and old) will always carry special memories in their hearts of "grandma Gladys." A brother, Bill Kanel of Las Vegas and a sister, Helen Kyle of Cottage Grove, Ore.

Services were held at the United Methodist Church April 6, with Marvin Zimelman and Jack Abendschan officiating. Pallbearers were Rick Rogers, Rod Ritchey, Marlin Rueb, Terry Culwell, Larry Brunow and Marvin Miller.



HANGING QUILTS—Virginia Cooper and Bonnie McQuillen hang the display of quilts at the library. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Quilts on display at library

The St. Francis Public Library is hosting a "Cuddles" Quilt Showing with quilts made by the ladies of the Prairie Piecemakers Quilt Guild. The quilts will be on display from April 1 through April 30.

Chenille Cuddlers are made by layering four or five pieces of flannel together. They are sewn 1/2 inch apart on a 45-degree angle and cut down the center of each

row. Quilters take care to be careful not to cut the base fabric. Borders are then sewn on and the quilt is washed and dried.

The quilters say that the more the quilts are washed and dry, the fluffier they get. "Check the lint filter often as it makes lots of lint."

Debbie Fixen taught the method at the Quilt Guild meetings held in Goodland at the Rock House, 326 E. 6th Street. The Guild started in

October and there are 10 to 15 members, with five or six of the members being from St. Francis. The rest are from Goodland.

Additional quilters would make the meetings more fun and interesting. The ladies meet at 7 p.m. mountain time on the second Thursday of each month. For more information on the Quilt Guild, contact Bonnie McQuillen at 785-332-3444.

Unusual calf born at clinic

By Casey McCormick

St. Francis saw the unusual with the birth of an eight-legged calf on Thursday, March 25. Local veterinarian, Dr. Judy Mallet-Baxter, performed the difficult pull but despite her efforts the animal did not live.

"I've seen a lot of unusual births but this is the very first eight-legged calf I've ever seen," Dr. Mallet-Baxter said.

Fortunately the mother survived the ordeal.

"The mother's good," said Dr. Mallet-Baxter, "After the birth, she got up and walked away."

The unique calf was part of the herd owned by Kelly Gienger and Perry Keller. Dr. Mallet-Baxter believes that the animal should have been twins, however, "the embryos did not completely divide."

Dr. Mallet-Baxter has been a small and large animal veterinarian in St. Francis for 13 years. She sees a disturbing decline in the numbers of calves that she has



EIGHT LEGGED CALF—Dr. Judy Mallet-Baxter delivered this calf a couple weeks ago. Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

delivered during the past few years.

"There are not as many calves," she said, "people have sold cattle due to the drought."

Although she did not have scientific data to support her statement, she believes that calf births could be down by as much as 40 percent this year.

Red River Commodities, Inc.

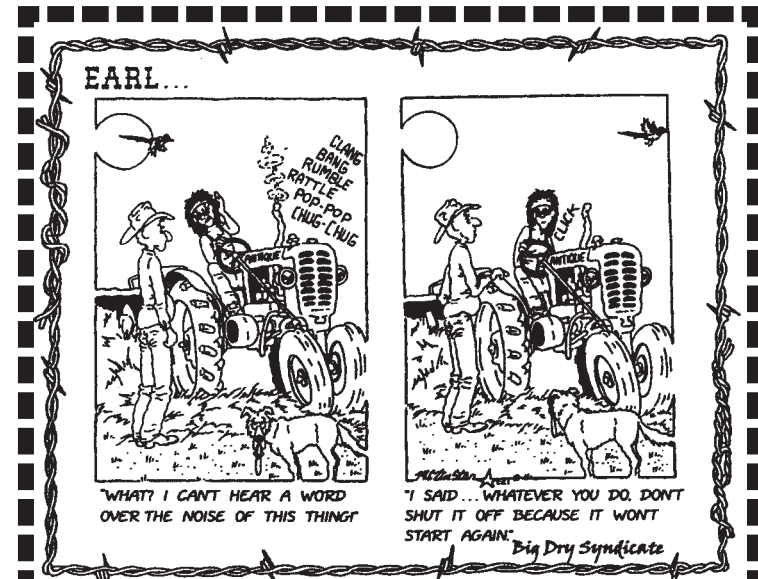
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