

Kansas missed the boat when others expanded

Kansas missed the boat when other states started expanding their freeways and expressways beyond the basic Interstate system.

Today, a lot the traffic goes through one neighboring state or another, and a lot of money flows with it.

The federal government and the states laid out the Interstate system in the 1950s. It's been both a curse and a blessing, but many states saw that it did not plug all the gaps in the road grid.

Nearly 30 years ago under Gov. Bob Bennett, Kansas drew a freeway system that connected the dots. It included four-lane roads south to Pittsburg and Tulsa from Kansas City, over to Paola, and west from St. Joseph along U.S. 36, among others. A few segments were built, but when times got tough in the 1980s, these were stranded, and remain today as two-lane, limited access curiosities.

The Kansas highway system nearly fell apart in those years. The Department of Transportation was occupied with patching potholes and just preserving what it had. It took the visionary Gov. Mike Hayden to raise the gas tax and save our roads — and it cost him his job.

But the Kansas freeway plan died then. Since those days, it's taken a Herculean effort to complete a few short stretches of four-lane road, including U.S. 81 north to Nebraska as an extension of I-135, and K-10 from Kansas City to Lawrence.

South out of Kansas City, Missouri completed an expressway along U.S. 71, and today, the Tulsa

traffic, along with much freight to the West Coast, flows south on the east side of the state line. Little thought it given to parallel U.S. 69, the shorter and more attractive route.

North, I-29 carries the load through Missouri and Iowa. Kansas still lacks a decent route to Omaha, and Nebraska has not seen the potential for an expressway along U.S. 75 north out of Topeka. Kansas has an expressway, but it stops at the door to a casino.

U.S. 54 west of Wichita and U.S. 50 west from Newton and Hutchinson have great potential, but there are not plans to widen either anytime soon. East-west traffic slips off to the south, through Oklahoma.

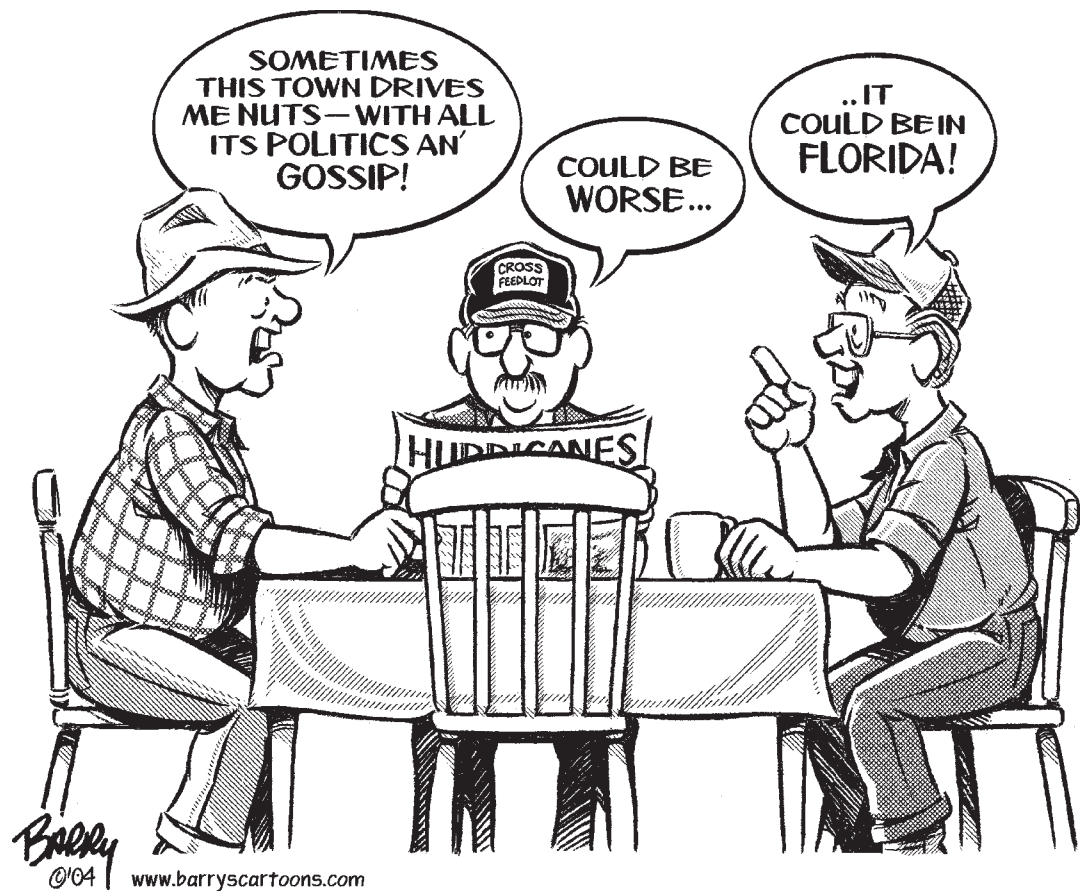
And there is U.S. 36 across northern Kansas, once part of the freeway plan as far west as Belleville. While I-80 through Nebraska runs near capacity, and I-70 is overcrowded in eastern Kansas, through traffic needs a bypass route. Missouri has improved U.S. 36 across three-fourth of the state, but Kansas is barely starting.

Our highway engineers, burdened by the cost of an extensive, and expensive, road system, shudder to think about expansion. Their mantra is, "Wait until the traffic comes."

But sometimes, you have to build it, and they will come.

If you want to snare traffic and build business, it seems, you have to put the cart before the horse.

— Steve Haynes



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News From the Past

5 years ago - 1999

The plan for the new grandstand at the fairground was the main topic at the fair board meeting.

Secretary of State Ron Thornburgh spoke at the annual Farm Bureau meeting held in St. Francis.

The Cheyenne County 4-H Achievement Banquet and Business Appreciation Banquet was held in Bird City during National 4-H Week. Among the awards presented were: Aaron Lindsten, Key Award; Mark and Sue Zimbleman family, 4-H Family of the Year; Amanda Jones, Dale Shoemaker Award; Amaber Havel, Kevin Wright Award; Jennifer Henderson, Tillie Schleppe Memorial Garden Award; and Katie Keller, Paul, Sr., and Vera Gorthy Award.

Tyler Raile was named to the *Kansas Sports Magazine* Pre-season 11-Man All State Football Team as a running back.

Dustin Wiley, Amanda Jones, Adam Jones, Ana Douthit and Jamie Dunn, members of the SFCHS FFA Livestock Judging Team, along with Lyn Wiley, adviser, left for Louisville, Ky., to represent Kansas in the National FFA Judging Contest.

The St. Francis Jaycees are again sponsoring three nights of thrills at the Haunted Basement at the old Equity Hardware building.

15 years ago - 1989

John Stannard of Hay Spring, Nb., has been hired as the new agricultural agent for Cheyenne County. He will fill the vacancy left by Terry Weeden.

New PTA office include: Becky Roberson, president;

Kathy Wiley, vice president; Deb Lindsten, secretary and Denise Andrist, treasurer.

The new computer room at the elementary school is now being used. Installed at the beginning of the school year, an entire classroom of student receive instructions from their home room teacher.

Members of the high school pom ponsquad include Tobi Davis, Shelly Bier, Susan Bracelin, Patty Pittman, Lisa Raile, Angie Zimbleman, Heidi DeGood, Kelly Renk, Kari Krien, Karah Dankenbring, Kelli Schultz, Lori McDuffee, Missy Hefner, Mindy Porter, Chasitri Gutsch and Amy Shay.

Wayne Gerver recently retired from the Cheyenne County Road and Bridge Department, having served the county for the last 11 years.

The Cheyenne County Jaycees sponsored the Punt, Pass and Kick contest. Winners in the 7-year-old division were Tyler Raile, first; Bret Henderson, second and Jonathan Zwegardt, third.

25 years ago - 1979

Lynette Nolan won the "Best of Show" at the St. Francis Garden Club sponsored flower show. Her entry also won the bursting with color class.

A radio controlled device to save electricity at the St. Francis airport was built by Robert Grace. It activates the runway lights by the use of a steady tone over the aircraft radio. The device triggers a relay which turns the lights on for about 12 minutes.

40 years ago - 1964

Ronald Howege has been chosen as one of seven Kansas University students who will take their junior college year's work at Bonn, Ger-

many. He received a \$1,000 scholarship from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Kansas University.

Among the exhibits selected to be taken to the State fair are: White or yellow cake, Kathy Whitmore, Patty Connett; angel food cake, Phyllis Roelfs; yeast rolls, white, Carla Hendricks; refrigerator cookies, Janelle Miller; loaf, quickbread, Sharon Feikert; chiffon type cake, Myra Northrup, Joyce Douthit, Karen Moore; jam, Carla Hendricks; jumper and blouse, Becky Douthit; play or sports outfit, Vickie Mueller; home improvement, Alan DeGood; wheat, Clinton Schleppe; garden display, Susan Schleppe.

Mrs. Helen Gaston began her duties this week as the new administrator of the Cheyenne County Hospital.

Ten 4-H boys caught calves at the catch-it, feed-it contest at the fairgrounds. The boys include Lynn Glasco, Stephen Douthit, Terry Bandel, Larry Feikert, Tommy Luntz, Gary Lillich, Tom Keller, Bill Keller, Dick Keller and Rex O'Brien.

75 years ago - 1929

Workman have been busy these past few days at the electric theater in St. Francis making various changes in the building and installing talking equipment so that the patrons of the play house will hear the latest sound pictures in the future. Talkies have arrived.

The county commissioners are getting nice job of road work down the river toward Benkelman.

Hangin' With Marge

New Baby

By Margaret Bucholtz



We went to see the new baby, Tucker, last weekend. He was just as perfect as the last 14 grandchildren and what a delight to spend some time with him and his family.

I have been impressed with the younger generation and the parenting skills that both the mothers and fathers have. Back in my generation the new borns were the responsibility of the mothers. They were the ones who changed the diapers, fed the baby, bathed the baby and set up in the long nights. Now the parents each play a roll in taking care of the new baby.

When my son called me the sec-

ond day he told me he had really had a learning experience during that night. When the baby woke up he thought he would be helpful and change the diaper. As soon as he took the diaper off he got his own personal shower. The kind each of us has had at one time or another changing a boy. He hurried up and got a new diaper on and then noticing that the little crib had gotten sprayed also so he started wiping it down. By this time the baby was crying again and as he picked him up he found that he needed to change the diaper again. This time he was ready and blocked himself

from getting hit. However with the block the baby then showered himself. This time he had to clean the baby's head and the top of the crib. The baby was screaming and the crib was a mess so he rang the nurse for a little assistance.

Both parents soon learned the art of changing the baby and as soon as I got there they told me how to do it and not have to suffer the shower. I was happy for the warning, but it sure reminded me of the many showers I had already had from changing diapers with my own sons.

Casey's Comments

By Casey McCormick



The other night was one of those wonderful, early Autumn evenings when the sounds played a sort of symphony.

The wind was light and on and off. It was enough to rustle the

leaves on the trees outside the window and carry the lonely moans of corralled cattle who were upwind from me.

Crickets took turns chirping and humming low from the ground. The

comings and goings of 18 wheelers could be heard getting louder and then softer, moving from either east or west and traveling on.

And then further off the sad and eerie howl of the coyote cut the night air. The only thing better would have been lying under the stars and listening to the early Autumn symphony.

Honor Roll

; Sharla Gottschalk, McKinney, Texas; Verlene Runz, Garden City; Tom Sharp, St. Francis; Dulcie Henderson, St. Francis; Pat Owens, St. Francis; Darrell Vandike, Tribune; Philip Crawford, St. Francis; Mrs. William Rabas, Russell; George Evinger, Independence, Mo.; Victor McAtee, Lyons; Frances Orth, Burlington, Colo.; Scotland Cattle Company, Haigler, Neb.; Mildred Stute, Haigler, Neb.; Irene Burkhalter, Bird City.

Clyde Smith, St. Francis; Ned Smith, Bird City; Craig Brent, St. Francis; Otto Lillich, St. Francis; Don Antholz, Atwood; Kathy Hempler, Hays; Don Whitmore, St. Francis; Larry Schultz, St. Francis; Lynn Query, Bird City; James Witt,

Oberlin; John Walz, St. Francis; Donald McQuillen, St. Francis; Carol Redding, St. Francis; Marjorie Hickert, Bird City; Deloris Wiley, St. Francis; Gerald Feikert, St. Francis; Donald Gamblin, Bird City; Walter J Denison, Vacaville, Calif.

GOD SAYS
Even so the tongue is a little member and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!
James 3:5

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Worship Warms the Heart

<p>Wesleyan Church Hwy 36 • 734-2727 Pastor Scott Baker Sunday School 9:45 a.m. Worship 11:00 a.m. Sunday Bible Study 7 p.m.</p> <p>Church of Christ 332-2380, Pars. 332-3424 502 W. Spencer Norman Morrow - Minister Bible Class 9 a.m. Morning Worship 10 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 7 p.m.</p> <p>Grace Assembly of God 332-2925, Pars. 332-2899 208 E. 2nd Rev. Rob Meyer Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 Sunday Eve. Service 6 p.m.</p> <p>Salem Lutheran Church 332-3002 Pastor Chris Farmer Sunday School 10 a.m. Morning Worship 11 a.m.</p> <p>Peace Lutheran Church 202 N. College 332-2928 Pars. 332-2308 Pastor David Rossbach Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:30 a.m.</p>	<p>First Christian Church 332-2956 • 118 E. Webster Pastor Tony Christians Sunday School 9:20 a.m. Church Service 10:30 a.m. Wed. night Bible Study 7 p.m.</p> <p>Seventh-Day Adventist Church 332-2888 • 3rd & Adams Pastor Jim Martin Sabbath School 9:30 Morning Worship 10:45</p> <p>St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church 625 S. River • 332-2680 Fr. Beryl Gibson Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. Weekday Mass 8 a.m. Confessions Sat. 4-4:30</p> <p>Living Water Fellowship Ministry Pastors: Terry & Tiffany Glasco Downtown Bird City 785-734-2363 Sunday: Fellowship 9:30 a.m. Worship & Word 10 a.m. Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Wednesday: Prayer Meeting 7:30 p.m. Last Sunday evening of Month: Healing Service 7:30 p.m.</p>
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