

Obituaries

Noel Paige Lanci

Dec. 20, 1978 - Dec. 11, 2004

Noel Paige Lanci died of natural causes at her home in Portales, N.M., Dec. 11, 2004. She was born Dec. 20, 1978, in St. Francis, Kan.



Lanci

She attended school in Great Bend, where she was active in 4-H and orchestra, as well as spending hours training and showing her Appaloosa horse. The many awards she received recognized her varied talents.

Her interest in archeology began at an early age and led her to pursue a bachelor's degree in archeology at the University of Kansas. She graduated with honors in 2002.

While at Kansas University, she was selected to participate in several special research projects and excavations in Kansas, Oklahoma, South Dakota and on an international project in Hungary.

Following her graduation from Kansas University, Noel was employed as an archeologist by the Office of Antiquities for the State of New Mexico in Santa Fe.

In the fall of 2004, she was accepted into advanced studies at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, to pursue her master's degree in cultural resource management.

Noel's love of the out-of-doors and all of nature was apparent in everything she did. Her favorite times were spent with her dogs, horses, and family and friends.

Those left to cherish her memories are father, Tom Lanci of Weare, N.H.; mother, Taunia Locker and step-father, Lawrence of Lawrence; grandparents, Daniel Lanci of Florida; Jacque Hayes and her husband, John, of Las Vegas, N.M.; great-grandmother, Barbara Ewing of St. Francis, and numerous aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Preceding her in death were her grandmother, Katie Lanci; grandfather, Melvin Walz; great-grandmother Lydia Walz and her great-grandfather, Budd Ewing and great-great grandmother Laura Rudder.

A memorial service for local family was held Dec. 17 at First Christian Church in St. Francis. A private service for her Connecticut family was held in Shelton, Conn., on Sunday, Dec. 19, and an open ceremony for friends at University of Kansas' Danforth Chapel in Lawrence was held on Dec. 20. Interment will be in Moriarity, N.M.

In lieu of flowers, the family is requesting contributions to the Lawrence Humane Society, 1805 E. 19th Street, Lawrence, KS 66044, or to the Noel Lanci Scholarship Fund, Attention: Dean John Montgomery, at Eastern New Mexico University, ENMU Station

A, Portales, N.M., 88130.

A Journey of Hearts in a Healing Place

Do not stand here and weep. I am not here. I do not sleep.

I am the thousand winds that swiftly blow. I am the diamond glint on newly fallen snow. I am the sunlight on ripened grain. I am the soft and gentle autumn rain.

When you wake from sleep in the early morning hush, I am the swift, uplifting rush Of quiet birds in circling flight. I am the soft starlight at night.

Do not stand there and weep. I am not there. I do not sleep.

Stanley A. Ham

March 30, 1916 - Nov. 22, 2004

Stanley A. Ham, a lifelong resident of Benkelman, Neb., died Monday, Nov. 22, 2004, at Sarah Ann Hester Memorial Home in Benkelman at the age of 88.

He was born March 30, 1916, on his family's farm in Dundey County to Roy A. and Jenny (Roberts) Ham and attended country school near his home. He went on to attend Benkelman High School where he was a member of the graduating class of 1934.

On Nov. 2, 1941, Stan was united in marriage to Thelma A. Mann at Benkelman. They made their home in Benkelman until 1942, when they moved to California for a short time. After returning to Benkelman, Stan farmed for several years, and in 1947, he purchased Four-Corners Service Station in Benkelman, and later Stanley's Oil Company. In 1952, Stan acquired Valley Farm Supply Co., the local John Deere dealership in Benkelman. In later years, the name of the company was changed to Valley Farm, Inc., a company that is still owned and operated by his family.

Stan was a member of the United Methodist Church in Benkelman and recently received his 75-year membership pin. He was a past member of the Justice Lodge No. 180 A.F. & A.M. of Benkelman. Stan enjoyed visiting with his friends, neighbors and customers. He was a salesman at heart and took great pride in providing quality equipment, service and supply to the agriculture industry.

In addition to being a businessman, Stan was also a community-minded citizen. He and his family made contributions to the community in many ways, one of which was donating the land for the Benkelman Country Club, and hiring a draftsman to lay out the golf course that so many area residents enjoy today.

Anyone who knew Stan had to acknowledge his devotion to the

Nebraska Cornhuskers. When his failing eyesight prevented him from reading articles about his beloved Huskers, Stan's wife, Thelma took it upon herself to read those newspaper and magazine articles to him - which in turn, turned her into a huge fan!

After Thelma's death in 2001, Stan's son, Tom was quick to pick up the practice of keeping Stan informed of his Huskers. In later years, Stan enjoyed playing golf and even though he wasn't actively involved in the day-to-day operations of Valley Farm, he enjoyed spending time at the dealership, visiting with all of his friends and customers.

Preceding him in death are his parents, Roy and Jenny Ham; his loving wife of more than 60 years, Thelma A. Ham; sisters, Vernelle and Earnestine; and four brothers, Clifford, Lyle, Bryon and Donald.

Survivors include his son, Tom Ham and wife, Marcy of Benkelman; daughter Sherri Pattison and husband, John of Sioux Falls, S.D.; seven grandchildren, Kerby, Stacey, Stanna, Matt, Billie Jo, Rod and Danielle; 18 great-grandchildren; brothers, Paul Ham and wife, Kathleen and Lawrence Ham, all of Benkelman; sisters-in-law, Eula Ham and Fern Ham both of Benkelman, Ruby Ham of Wauneta, Neb., LaVerne Ham of McCook, Neb., and numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends.

Memorial services were held Nov. 27 at the United Methodist church in Benkelman with Reverend Brian Fong officiating. A private inurnment was held at a later date. Memorials may be given in his name.

Arrangements were under the direction of Forch Funeral Chapel of Benkelman.



CUTTER NEITZEL would rather be anywhere else beside Santa's lap. Colton Neitzel wasn't sure but he did manage to tell Santa what he wanted. Santa's Elf, Hanna Bracelin waited to give them a candy cane.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

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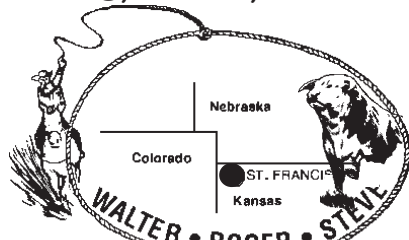
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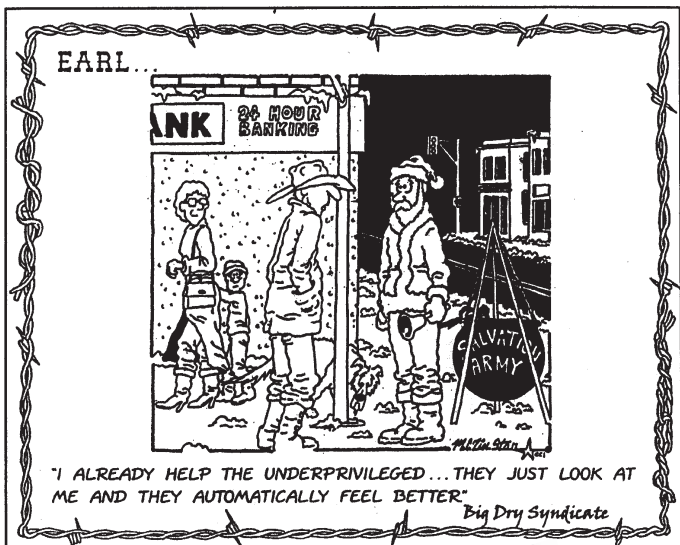
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