

Kansas is blessed to have a good highway system

Kansas is blessed with a good highway system these days.

It's the work of many people, but a couple of governors deserve special credit: Mike Hayden, who gave us the first comprehensive transportation plan, though it may have cost him his job, and Bill Graves, who kicked off the second, current plan.

Hayden inherited a rapidly declining highway system in the 1980s, and set about saving it. The result was an eight-year plan which put Kansas back on top of the transportation world.

He also brought a professional focus to the new Department of Transportation. No longer run by a politically appointed commission, the department was free to focus on facts.

And that has brought Kansas a very good road system. Spending decisions are based on traffic flows and road condition, and our highways are in as good a shape as they've ever been.

Try driving in any adjacent state if you don't believe this. Visitors, from other states, and from around the world, praise Kansas highways.

There is a tradeoff in this focus on engineering, however. It means that the highway system, outside the major metro areas at least, is pretty much frozen as is.

Money goes to maintenance first, and upgrading primary routes second. There is precious little left over to expand the system or promote the economy of any Kansas town. Competition was fierce for the \$100 million a year or so in "enhancement" projects.

This means the status quo reigns. And many towns are on the outside, looking in.

Kansas blessed a relatively small slice of the state when it chose the routes for the Interstate system back in the 1950s. Did anyone then appreciate how much the new freeways would concen-

trate traffic?

In the years since, roadside businesses and industry both have flocked to the Interstate corridors. The areas along other, once-busy east-west routes have withered. Few new motels and restaurants, fewer plants, have been built.

The Bill Bennett era of the 1970s produced a grand plan for a Kansas freeway system serving all parts of the state, especially the hard-to-drive-to regions of the southeast and northeast.

Some of these roads were actually begun. Isolated segments exist on U.S. 75, U.S. 69, U.S. 169 and even U.S. 36, marked by expensive concrete pavement, four-lane rights-of-way and soaring bridges that carry county roads over nothing much.

With the Bennett freeway plan died the idea of building roads to draw business to poor parts of the state. We traded that for good, basic, solid two-lanes.

In most areas, that's what we need.

There are opportunities, though, and there are prospects for economic development. U.S. 81 is an example; it's four lanes to the Nebraska border today because of political influence, not traffic. It was built to draw business, and improve safety, pushed by powerful interests along the road.

And that may not be a bad idea. There's evidence that if you build it, they will come.

The rest of the state is watching the U.S. 81 experiment, because there are a lot of places which could use better roads, especially southeast Kansas, where Independence, Parsons and Pittsburg struggle with two-lane access while southwest Missouri has a freeway to Kansas City.

The northern tier of counties along U.S. 36 falls into this category, too, underserved and underdeveloped.

The state could change that. — Steve Haynes



News From the Past

10 years ago - 1995

The Dairy King has opened under new management. Bill Smith will be running the Dairy King along with being the owner of the Cheyenne Bowl, located just north of his new business.

Members of the St. Francis FFA team were awarded a plaque for taking first in the state of Kansas in the Horse Judging Contest held in Manhattan. Mean members are Nikki Krien, Teresa Douthit, Megan Douthit and Chad Douthit. Lyn Wiley is the adviser.

Retiring City Council member Glen Henderson was recognized for 14 years of service to the City Council. New council member Dale Henderson and incumbents Ernest Lebfrom and Jeff Raile took the oath of office at the May 1 meeting.

Mill & Seed is celebrating 25 years of business in St. Francis.

Wheeler Equity will have 200,000 bushels more capacity to handle the 1995 harvest. Two bins, 100,000 bushels each, are being constructed west of the office.

Vivien Horwege has retired from the presidency of the Northwest Kansas Retired Teachers Association.

Hazel Wiggins is celebrating her 100th birthday.

15 years ago - 1990

Senior citizens donated nearly \$700 to the Cheyenne County Hospital to be used for eye equipment. The money was proceeds from the pancake fee.

The two-day auction of the building and contents of

Faulkender Hardware drew people from all over the tri-state area.

20 years ago - 1985

Darin Stang has been chosen as a delegate to this year's Boys State at Kansas University at Lawrence. Todd Gardner is the alternate.

Mike Ketter, Fort Hays State University student from St. Francis, was on the national horse-judging team from Fort Hays. He and his college teammates won the national competition at Western Kentucky University. Coach Tim Ashley and his six-man team brought home 21 awards from the spring event.

Nine Cheyenne County girls, Dixie Forsythe, Theresa Williams, Melissa Bunjes, Emma Brunswig, Julie Straub, Stacy Sweazy, Christy Curry, Cynthia Orth and Jeanette Voorhies, are involved in the Junior Miss program.

The ribbon-cutting ceremonies for the new bridge over the Republican River west of St. Francis was held on Monday. Many U.S. 36 Highway Association and State representatives including Mike Hayden, Atwood, Speaker of the House, State of Kansas, were in attendance.

Ena Zimbelman, Clerk of the District Court, will officially retire the July 1. She has given 20 years of service in the judicial service with the last 16 as the county clerk.

50 years ago - 1955

Marvin Mills was elected mayor of St. Francis as a result of the last city election. Three new councilmen were also elected including T.W. Roelfs, Jack Rieb and Fred Crum. Incumbents who were re-elected were R.W. Stuart and Ted Schlittenhardt. Leslie Goodell is the

new police judge.

Ellsworth Smith, president of the St. Francis Golf Club, has called a special meeting for the purpose of discussing proposed plans for the construction of a club house.

Mr. and Mrs. Otis Henderson are this week announcing the re-opening of the Sunbeam Cafe, located on Main Street in St. Francis. The cafe was formerly operated by Julia Birkmier and Dorothy Whipple.

Drilling operations for the city's new water well located just east and south of the Good Samaritan Village are in progress.

A St. Francis Future Farmer of America member, Ben Leibbrandt, is among the 145 FFA boys recommended to receive the State Association's highest award, State Farmer Degree. Leibbrandt was named the president of the local Chapter for the next school year.

100 years ago - 1905

The St. Francis baseball club was reorganized last Monday with W.N. Venrick as manager and G.E. Dunn as captain. A committee raised about \$75 from businessmen to have a team.

It will probably be within the truth to say that more fruit and ornamental trees and shrubs have been planted in Cheyenne County this spring than in all the years before since the settlement of the county. Paul O'Leary out at Hackberry is beautifying his place by planting fruit trees.

The Pioneer store in Bird City has received a new coat of paint on the inside.

Hangin' With Marge

Need New Stool

By Margaret Bucholtz



I have been doing a lot of babysitting this summer and it brought back the memory of when the grandchildren were younger and some of the things they have said in the past.

My youngest granddaughter was about 4 when her parents had

left her for a day. She loved just following me around and I really couldn't get very far away from her.

I had gotten out some crayons for her to color me a picture and as she started in I decided to go to the restroom.

I had no more than sat down when the door flew over and there she stood. She had a very shocked look on her face as she gasped "Grandma, you need a bigger pot. You are hanging off all over it!"

This is the Place

Cheyenne County Development Corporation

Carol Redding, Coordinator
Many thanks to the individuals who are taking responsibility and leadership for projects that will benefit our county!

The first project in the works is a countywide flea market and auc-

tion. Everything will sell—no one has to take stuff home and store it for that "next time." Roy Elfers is heading that up—call him for information on how you can help him or if you want to sell something. This will be quite an event and will be lots of fun, so join us for that.

The second project is wind energy. Rick Reeser has spent many hours researching aspects of wind energy, including the technology, cost, suppliers, maintenance, and profits. He has sound information that indicates that wind energy in Cheyenne County is not only very feasible, but should be put into place

to benefit all of us. Give Rick a call for information or to offer your own thoughts.

The third project is agri-tourism. This concept encompasses so many variations on "selling" our rural lifestyle. We can also include ecotourism. Call Lyle Knebel for ideas and to participate in this profitable activity. He recently attended an agri-tourism conference, and has collected additional information to share with you. He will be glad to talk to you about your own agri-tourism concepts.

Take advantage of these three opportunities for profit and for fun!

GOD SAYS

"It is mine to avenge: I will repay. In due time their foot will slip; their day of disaster is near and their doom rushes upon them."

Deuteronomy 32:35

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Worship Warms the Heart

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.

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.

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.

Salem Lutheran Church
332-3002
Pastor Chris Farmer
No Sunday School
Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

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.

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.

Seventh-Day Adventist Church
332-2888 • 3rd & Adams
Pastor Jim Martin
Sabbath School 9:30
Morning Worship 10:45

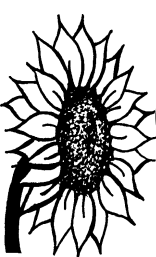
St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church
625 S. River • 332-2680
Fr. Beryl Gibson
Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m.
Weekday Mass 8 a.m.
Confessions Sat. 4-4:30

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:
Intercessory Meeting 7 p.m.
Last Sunday evening of Month:
Revival Service 7 p.m.

St. Francis Equity

Knodel Funeral Home
202 S. Benton • St. Francis
785-332-3131

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On the Plains

Idalia News

By
Elsie
Shanks



Beecher Island News

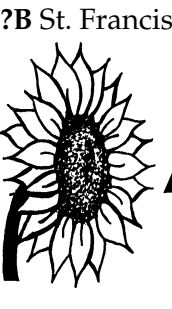
By
Bessie
Dent



Haigler News

By
Opal
Collicott





At Home
