

New parade plans

By Karen Krien

The Cheyenne County Fair Parade is less than a month away and it's time to start making plans.

The theme for this year's parade is "Proud to be an American." There are many of ideas for floats and other entries.

In past year, there have been many rules for the parade but, the St. Francis Area Chamber of Commerce Float Committee decided that it was time the parade was simplified. The committee had conducted the Light Parade during the Christmas season and had found that less rules made for less headaches and more fun.

They have eliminated numbering the floats and entries, thus eliminating an announcer.

"Most of the people, unless they were within a block distance, couldn't hear the announcer," said Carla Lampe, Chamber president.

Getting numbers on entries, especially those entering at the last minute, was a hassle to everybody.

All entries are encouraged to have their names on the float. The committee will determine which category each entry will be placed and they will be judged. There will be Community, Family and Organization divisions with first, second and third places given. There will also be an overall grand champion for the parade.

"We are excited about the changes and think the parade will run smoother," Mrs. Lampe said.

The locations of categories will be determined later and a map will be posted closer to fair time.

While it is not necessary to register, all entries are encouraged to please turn in a registration so the committee will know how many entries to plan on. Registration

See PARADE on Page 8A



LEMONADE AND COOKIES hit the spot on Thursday when temps were in the high 80s. Jude Faulkender had his lemonade stand set up on Benton Street and was catching much of the traffic. One of his customers is Lori Beth Faulkender. Herald staff photo by Karen Krien

Fire truck bids must meet specs

By Karen Krien

Selecting the fire truck bid which met the specs sent to the companies was the main topic of business at both the regular and a special Cheyenne County Commissioners' meeting. Following the special meeting on Monday after hearing what those representing Hays Fire Equipment agreed to approve the second low bid from Hays Fire for \$264,881. The fire trucks are being purchased with a Community Development Block Grant.

At the June 30 meeting, George Harper, St. Francis Fire Chief, reported on the bids which had been opened at the June 15 meeting. The low bid was from Weis Fire Equipment, Salina, for \$263,205. However, Chief Harper had found several areas in the bid which were not what the specifications had requested. The biggest discrepancies were the aluminum skid plate, an aluminum overlay unibody construction and valve differences.

Don Spangler, representing Weis Fire, said the company had worked with a skid where the equipment is set into it—basically, there is a hole with equipment bolted onto the frame. He said there is constantly a problem with bolts breaking off.

"We put everything on top of the floor and we have not had any problem with that. We don't think the center of gravity is a consideration. We have never had a problem and we have 100 trucks on the road," Mr. Spangler said.

Mr. Spangler said the company was willing to meet all the specifications but stressed that he thought the steel construction was better than the aluminum. He said the company would put aluminum over the steel. He also said the company would work with the firemen on the valves. To help the firemen, he said he was willing to give them phone numbers of references.

The commissioners stressed that they wanted the firemen to be happy

See SPECS on Page 8A

Changes should give faster service

The Saint Francis Herald is making changes in its Internet system that should make service faster and more reliable.

We are using an upgraded line for inbound and outbound traffic. Dialup Internet customers should not notice any changes or problems. If you do, please call Tom Betz at

785-899-2338, or Evan Barnum, 785-462-3963. They can give you a new domain name server, or "DNS," number to enter into your computer's control panel.

Using the new number may provide faster downloads, even if your computer is working OK. To find out, call Tom.

Board approves year-end transfers

By Karen Krien

A special St. Francis Board of Education meeting was held on June 29 to make end of the year transfers. They also discussed several other matters including approving more employee contracts, filling vacancies and reviewing the bids for the new seats in the high school auditorium.

Superintendent Carl Werner told the board that Kansas schools will not receive the final state payment of state aid for the month of June until sometime in early July. This happened last year but now the law requires that this July receipt be recorded as a June receipt so the final state aid payment (\$52,355 for the St. Francis schools) already shows in the reports being reviewed at the meeting.

The board and administration discussed the situation, reviewing the finance laws and regulations and the effects on various funds. Superin-

tendent Werner then recommended that the transfers from the General Fund to various other funds. The administration and school auditors were given authority to make any necessary adjustments.

The board had received bids from two companies for new seats for the high school auditorium. The board reviewed the bids and then decided to award the low bid to Heartland Seating of Shawnee. They will work further with the company to develop a seating arrangement that provides the desired spacing between rows and then reconsider the design and price of the project at the next board meeting on July 14.

Most of the project will be paid for with the Ray and Vergie Rogers Memorial Funds. The work on the project will begin after the new heating/air-conditioning system has been installed in the auditorium. The goal is to have the entire project

See TRANSFERS on Page 8A

Wheat harvest nears end



WHEAT WAS BEING HARVESTED in a field near the Ben Leibbrandt farm north of St. Francis.

Herald staff photo by Casey McCormick

Open class wheat contest begins

By Karen Krien

The 2005 Cheyenne County Fair open class wheat show is sponsored by county grain dealers. While it is connected to the fair, the wheat samples need to be brought to the Extension office in the basement of the courthouse in St. Francis by 5 p.m. on Monday.

The wheat will be judged at Colby on July 22 and the top 10 will be entered in the Kansas State Fair Wheat Show.

Tye Faulkender, Extension director, said the grand champion will get \$75 and a plaque; reserve will receive \$50 and a plaque.

People entering need to submit a 5- to 8-pound bin-run sample to

the office. The wheat must be in a full 1-gallon zip-lock bag and it can be only Cheyenne County wheat.

They must complete and enclose an entry form in or on the bag.

"The information on the entry form is important so we can notify the winners," Director Faulkender said.

Individuals can submit as many samples as they wish but only one sample per field.

For more information, contact the Extension office at 785-332-3171.



Harvest better than last year

By Karen Krien

Harvest is winding down with only a few fields left to be cut. Most of the custom harvest crews have moved on and farmers are finishing up with their equipment. Tim Burr, St. Francis Equity manager, said the end of harvest could drag on for another week or two.

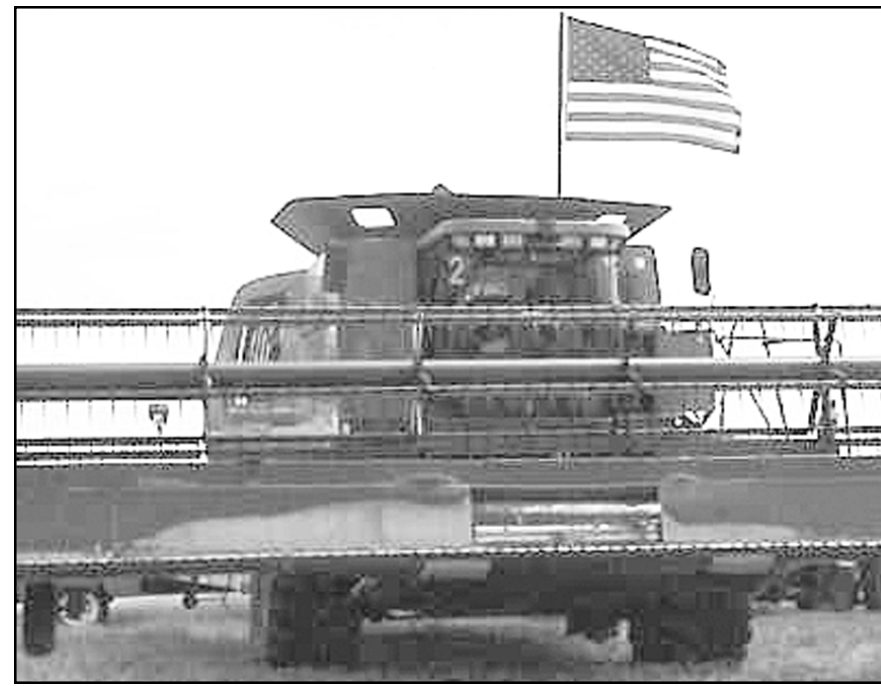
Manager Burr reported that harvest was better than last year but still poor compared to the good years.

"We were just one or two rains away from having a tremendous harvest," Manager Burr said. "We just needed those timely rains."

Rains did come to the county but most were too late. There were some fields, especially north of St. Francis which had some good wheat but hail storms came through and took out many of those. Most of the wheat south of town was poor.

Manager Burr said that the price of wheat is up this week and figures this is due to the lack of rain in Illinois. The price seems to go up and down 10 cents at a

See HARVEST on Page 8A



PATRIOTIC HARVEST CREW flew the flag on July 4. The photo was snapped south of St. Francis, just over the county line in Sherman County. The equipment belongs to Pat Maloney.

Herald staff photo by Margaret Bucholtz

McDonald cafe has new owners

By DeAnza Church

When Richard and Earla Connell's son, Galen, showed his parents an ad for a restaurant located in a small, northwest Kansas town, the California couple knew it was time to fulfill their life-long dream.

Mrs. Connell was a marketing manager for seventeen years while her husband worked for *The Whittier Daily News*.

"I spent a lot of time in Lawrence as a kid," said Mrs. Connell. "I knew I wanted to retire to a small Kansas community. We came out and looked at the Frosty Mug, looked at the town (McDonald), checked out the school and decided this was where we wanted to be."

Mr. and Mrs. Connell and two of their four children moved to McDonald from La Mirada, Calif. Their oldest sons, Jeff, 23, and Galen, 21, stayed in California to attend college. Ricky, 17, will be attending Cheylin High School as a senior and his sister, Nicole, 12, will be entering the seventh grade.

Nicole is busy making friends and helping at the family's restaurant. She has become a member of the Cheylin softball and swim teams and hopes to become a Cheylin cheerleader.

Mrs. Connell wiped tears from her eyes as she spoke about the reception

she and her family have received from the community.

"It has been such an overwhelming experience," she said. "It is such a wonderful feeling to be supported by the community like we have been. People we didn't even know have come in just to help us paint. People have welcomed our children. We love it here."

The Connells have made plenty of changes to the Frosty Mug. They have added many decorations to give it a quaint, home-like feel. Woven table runners, flowers and painted, ceramic mugs adorn each table to create an elegant, yet comfortable atmosphere.

"We plan to keep adding new stuff as we go along," Mrs. Connell said. "We are taking it one step at a time. We plan on having a special night for kids as well as hire kids from the community to work here. We are here to make this work for the community."

The Connells are preparing for their grand opening which will be held over Labor Day weekend.

"I want this to be a place where people can come and have a really, really good time," Mrs. Connell said. "We jumped into this with both feet. We came here to do this, so this is what we're going to do. I have to say I have no regrets."



THE SOD HOUSE will be featured at the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show which is held July 28 through the

31 in Bird City. The house shows how the early settlers lived in their home made from prairie sod. Herald staff photo by DeAnza Church

Sod house featured at Thresher Show

This year, the sod house is the featured attraction at the 52 annual Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show in Bird City. The show will be held July 28 through July 31.

The sod house is featured on this year's membership pin. It was built in 1985 for the Bird City Centennial. A standard joke was that the soddie cost \$2,000 to build. The concrete floor and the reinforced roof were the contributing factors for the cost overrun.

Normally a sod house was constructed for almost nothing. The walls were sod bricks laid upside down. The roof was sod bricks that were right side up, allowing for growth on the roof.

Many times, soddies were built into a hillside and they were called dugouts. Grazing horses and cattle would sometimes fall through the roof of a dugout.

"We have a soddie depression on ground we own north of Bird City," said Stan Dorsch.

The location is along the Traders Trail. This depression shows that

there was a 3-4 foot deep base and the walls were 4-5 feet tall. This provided additional warmth in the winter and cool in the summer. The walls provided excellent insulation. The settlers faced their doors to the south. Settlers created deep window wells that were excellent places to grow house plants and provide additional seating for the family.

"My mother was raised in a sod house," said Mr. Dorsch. "The tales she told about the snakes, insects and generally dirty conditions really made for interesting listening when I was growing up."

When snakes appeared from behind the sheets on the walls, as evidenced by their slithering sight behind the coverings, the people would take a broom and work them to the door and outside to dispose of them.

The sod house is located between the Neville Church and the Highland District Country School on the thresher grounds. These buildings are well maintained. The school hosts the old time literary on Thurs-

day evening and there are two services at the church on Sunday.

Other permanent buildings with living history characters in them include the cook shack, creamery and the blacksmith shop. There are a total of 14 permanent buildings on the 45-acre grounds. You will see over a dozen live steam engines in operation, plowing with steamers, threshing, shingle making, log sawing and steamer races. There are over 200 tractors on display outside and inside.

There is a permanent car museum with vintage vehicles. For ladies, there is an air conditioned quilt building housing a colorful show. The Eggers Museum features living history demonstrations and valuable collections throughout the show. The printing building is busy printing fliers the old fashioned way.

For those of you on-line, you can find more information on the website at www.networksplus.net/threshershow.

Evening activities are the get-ac-

quainted pot luck on Wednesday, the Thursday literary, the Pearce

Family Singers from Wallace will entertain on Friday, along with the hamburger fry. Saturday, is the McDonald Lions barbecue and the popular Antique Tractor Pull. All of the evening entertainment is free of charge.

The Sunday program will not feature the parade and live power. There will be church services and the kitchen will be open.

Four large outdoor water coolers have been added to the dining hall, swap area building, the Eggers museum and the main building.

"Air conditioning has spoiled us," Mr. Dorsch said. "I don't know about you, but I'm glad I live now and enjoy these comforts. I wouldn't want to live in the sod house. It's fun to see, but living there would be something else. Don't forget to bring your spare change and pick up a great bargain at the swap spaces. See you at the show."

SPECS

Continued from Page 1A

with the new trucks so they delayed making a decision on the bids until the firemen had a chance to go over everything.

Amy Griffey, Northwest Kansas Planning and Development Grant administrator, warned that it was important to comply with grant requirements and to go with the lowest responsible bidder and, if not going with the low bidder, there needed to be a very good reason. She said in a letter to clerk Terry Miller that, the Kansas Department of Commerce (awards of the grants) would probably not give a yes or no answer if there is a problem with bids but, instead, will suggest that the commissioners obtain legal council to review the situation and advise them.

At the meeting held Monday morning, there were 10 St. Francis firemen plus three representatives from Hays and Jeff Raile representing Yost Ford-Mercury, St. Francis.

Commissioner chairman Jane Brubaker started off the meeting by stating she had talked to Ms. Griffey and she had been advised there was not enough difference to not take the low bid for the trucks. Mrs. Brubaker was concerned that, if the commissioners did not take the low bid, they may hinder the county's chance of getting any other Community Development Block Grants. These grants help fund bridges, hospital and other community and county projects.

The Hays Fire representatives, Kelly Meyer, Roger Rife and Eldon Hammerschidt, said Weis' proposal to put aluminum over the steel frame would cause electrolysis which results when two metals are put together (causes the metals to turn to a white powder and eventually ruin or weaken the structure). They said they had worked on a truck which was only one year old and there was already a problem with electrolysis.

There was also the problem that the trucks would be Ford trucks purchased from Yost Farm Supply. Fire Chief Harper works for Yost Farm Supply. There were indications that

his involvement with the bids would be considered a "conflict of interest."

Mr. Raile said that the two businesses were completely separate and this should not be a consideration.

Mr. Rife said that Ms. Griffey had threatened Chief Harper. Clerk Miller re-read some of the letter where Ms. Griffey had used the word "warn" which he did not read as a threat.

The representatives did say that they would sue the county if the bid was awarded to Weis instead of them because the bid specs were not met by Weis. Mr. Rife said they had sued Weis and Weis had sued them. However, Mike Weis of Weis Fire Equipment, when called on Wednesday, said the company has never sued Hays Fire, nor had Hays Fire sued his company.

The commissioners agreed to call Linda Hunsicker, Regional Department of Commerce representative, for her opinion. Ms. Hunsicker said that not taking the lowest bid would not affect the county for the next grant selection. She advised that the county attorney draw up a conflict-of-interest waiver for Chief Harper and publish a public meeting for this matter. She advised that the matter concerning the fire truck bids should be documented in the minutes of the commissioners' meeting.

Commissioner Andy Beikman said his concern about having Weis change their bid to meet the specs. It could back fire as they had already said they didn't think the aluminum chassis was as strong and, if were to break down, they could come back on the county.

Mr. Beikman moved to go with Hays Fire Equipment. Commissioner Ray Lee seconded the bid saying that a Weis representative had not come to the meeting even though they had been advised there would be a meeting. Mrs. Brubaker said she had voted yes because she felt the firemen showed the low bid did not meet the specifications.

Hays Fire Equipment has the bid to provide the three new fire trucks for the county.

Another Tribute to Daddy (Ernest R. Cram)

By Ole Cram ~ July 2, 2005

Many of you have been able to see insights into my Dad with the tribute written by my brother Richard and Dad's obituary in the Herald these past couple of weeks. I wish to also share some insights into my wonderful dad that you might enjoy reading.



First I need to shed a bit more light concerning the incident Richard wrote about when I filled the new convertible with water. I was experimenting with the idea of having a swimming pool on wheels. I loved swimming in the city pool each day and loved riding in the convertible. Why couldn't I have both in one vehicle? I don't remember Dad's reaction, but mom was the one that saw what I was doing and quickly put me in the house to keep me out of sight (and safe from being killed) as she frantically tried to dry out the car.

I only remember one time when Dad ever really got mad. Mom and I went through a phase in our lives when we used to be quite ornery (if you can believe that). About 30 years ago we used to have dream whip fights all the time with my sisters Claudia and Adele. Well, mom got the idea to put some dream whip on Dad's smooth shaved head, just to get a reaction. We planned out the entire event to such an extent that I had a movie camera positioned under a blanket I was wearing for warmth to capture the moment for all eternity. This event was to happen as Dad sat down to enjoy a relaxing lunch while reading his medical journals, as he always did each day. Dad came over from working in the office and greeted us as he sat reading his journal while awaiting a nice lunch. Mom greeted him while slowly executing our plan. Poor Dad had no idea what was in store for him.

What happened in the next minute was so fast that it makes a hummingbird seem motionless in mid-air. Mom reached her hand into a newly made bowl of dream whip and moved cautiously toward Dad's shiny smooth head from behind. As Mom approached, I knew this was the climactic moment we had waited for and quickly drew out the movie camera to begin filming.

What Mom and I didn't know was that Dad could move faster than light when motivated to do so. What we also had not planned on is that Dad's head was warm and dream whip melts quickly. The instant Mom put the dream whip on his head he jumped up, turned to move Mom aside, and went into the bathroom to clean off the dream whip from his suit. This all happened so quickly that I only got about five frames of filming before Dad went into the bathroom. Boy was he mad! However, Dad was always one to laugh at himself (after cooling off!) and later got many laughs from watching those famed five frames of film. He was such a sport, and had to be in order to stay married to Mom! Ha!

Another incident happened a few years later. Dad loved flying in his small airplane all over the country to doctor meetings. He would often take us kids on those trips with him and Mom. On one such trip, we got caught up in a severe thunder storm. It was dark, there was lightning and severe wind turbulence that bounced the plane around like a basketball. There was zero visibility and Dad had to fly by instrument (that is where you fly by readings from the various location, altitude, speed, and other gauges). I don't think I have ever been that scared in my life. Dad, on the other hand, was calm and collect, methodically reading instrument gauges and making course adjustments as if he were flying on a clear day. One thing I remember about Dad is that he was always genuinely confident about his abilities. He never had to fake anything.

I, on the other hand, was a wreck! My nerves were shot! To top it off, we were getting ready to land at Denver's Stapleton Airport along

with many other planes in the same storm cloud, while having no visibility. Then my worse fears became magnified as I heard the air traffic controller repeatedly give Dad instructions on where to turn by preceding each announcement with "Far too risky, turn right 40 degrees" or "Far too risky, turn left 10 degrees." I thought that was odd that a professional air traffic controller who deals with many near collisions would call our flight pattern "Far too risky." This went on for quite a while before I asked "why are they telling us our flight patterns are 'Far too risky' all the time?" Dad laughed and said our airplane's call letters are 42W and they are saying "Four Two Whisky!" Once I understood that, I was able to relax knowing Dad had everything under control. He proceeded to safely land the airplane in zero visibility by using his instrument gauges. He was such an experienced and confident pilot. However, I would not want to repeat that incident again! At least I felt the air traffic controller was being very nice and honest by telling us up front that our flight in the storm cloud was far too risky! Ha!

Another funny insight into Dad was how he was embarrassed by some of my early entrepreneurial ventures. I can remember selling hand painted candles door to door and putting on concerts where I charged for admission. I remember one of my first money-making ideas happened when I was about three. Dad used to host the civil air patrol meetings in his office once a month or so. I noticed that almost everyone drank the coffee Mom made for these meetings and I knew people usually paid for coffee at restaurants. So, putting two and two together, I went around to everyone with a cup and asked for a dime to pay for their coffee. I made good money for a kid and the men at the meeting got a kick out of my idea. Unfortunately for me, Dad found out and asked me to stop. Dad felt uncomfortable with me charging for things since he worried people would think we were broke and needed a handout.

Dad was always a loving and gentle disciplinarian. In another one of my experiments when I was about three, I was fascinated with fire. I was trying to find out what things burn and what things didn't. Our neighbor, Mr. Walters, was a quiet man and his garage was behind our house. I gathered some dry grass and placed it under the corner of his garage as part of the experiment. As I lit a match and got ready to light the grass, Mr. Walters calmly came around the corner and said "What are you doing Ole?" I told him about my experiment and he told me that was not such a good idea. He then called Mom and Dad to tell them about my experiment. When I got home, Dad was in the front room as I walked into the door. He said "Ole, I don't want to do this, but pull your pants down and come to me." Dad sat on the couch, bent me over his knee, and gave me three swats on my bottom. After he finished, he took me into his arms and hugged me saying "I love you son. I don't like having to spank you." That has stayed in my memory all these years as an example of how I want to discipline my children with love, not in anger. It takes a strong person to stay composed to discipline in love.

In closing, I want to talk about the amazing unconditional love that Mom and Dad shared. This love was formed over the 57+ years of marriage they enjoyed. You would not expect a marriage of such differences to work since Mom is very extroverted and Dad is very introverted (except when acting in plays). However, they learned to respect their differences and stay committed to each other always. Because of that commitment, they were able to grow a love for each other that I have never seen in any other marriage. They were lovers and best friends. I know Dad's love for Mom is what enabled him to have such a remarkable recovery from his first stroke over four years ago. It also got him through all of the other strokes and health issues that plagued him these past few years. Through it all, he and Mom ended with a love that was heaven sent. God gave them these extra four years as a gift, allowing an even stronger growth in their love for one another. Looking back on Dad's life, I sometimes wonder if he wasn't an angel sent from heaven. I love my Dad and thank God for allowing me to be called his son.

HARVEST

Continued from Page 1A

time and on Wednesday, was over \$3 per bushel.

The fall crops are looking a little better and hopefully, the county can turn the corner on the drought situation.

TRANSFERS

Continued from Page 1A

completed by the end of October.

Nine additional employee contracts had been signed and returned to the board for signature. The board and administration also discussed actual and possible vacancies for custodians within the schools. Various alternatives for filling the vacancies and alternatives will be looked at before advertising for applicants.

The next meeting of the school board will be held at 8 p.m. on July 14 in the board room at the high school.

Editor's note: The above article was taken from the unapproved minutes of the June 29 board of education meeting.

PARADE

Continued from Page 1A

forms can be picked up at the bank in Bird City, and the two banks and The Herald office in St. Francis. There will still be a table on the west side of the high school gym for those registering the day of the parade and for more information or directions.

As in the past few years, the parade will go west on St. Francis' Washington Street.