

Auto queen crowned

Mary Weaver Shahan was crowned as the 2005 Tri-State Antique Auto Club Queen.

Mary Elizabeth Weaver Shahan was born on her parents' homeplace southwest of Bird City on May 11, 1925, with Dr. T.J. Walz and Grandmother Albrecht in attendance.

While attending Glendale school, District 7, she endured the dust bowl scares as all youngsters did, with wet handkerchiefs over their noses.

When she was ready to enter the 7th grade, her sister Margaret, four years older, was already a hand at driving the Ford to school in Bird City, and decided that Mary might as well attend junior high school in town.

After Margaret graduated, (1939), Mary had the little green Ford for her personal use and she, too, learned to change a tire in seven minutes to avoid being tardy.

Mary attended college in Greeley, Colo. and, in 1945-1946, taught fifth grade in the St. Francis school system.

About that time, Demi Shahan, her fiancé, was discharged from the military service and wedding plans were made for August 4, 1946. During the war years, one could not buy meat, shoes were rationed as were sugar, gasoline and other items. Wedding gowns were not available in Denver or places between, because none had been made during the war.

Her sister, Margaret, who happened to be in Chicago in June 1946, went into the Marshall-Fields store there and nearly got scolded for asking for such a frivolous thing as a wedding gown.

Continued inquiries of clerks indicated that a small shop near the Loop might have some wedding gowns. Lucky for Mary, they had one in her size. She ordered it and



MARY WEAVER SHAHAN was crowned 2005 Tri-State Antique Auto Club Queen by Marsha Magley during the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Show held last week.

Herald staff photo by DeAnza Church

had it mailed home in time for the wedding at the Methodist Church in Bird City.

For many years, Demi and Mary farmed and resided one mile south of the Glendale school location. They had a daughter and a son, Diane and Vernon, and served as leaders of the Jay-hawker 4-H Club.

On the farm, they raised sheep, had an egg laying operation, raised grain and followed conservation practices, putting up water retaining terraces on the land. Later, irrigation wells were used to increase the grain yield.

Mary had always wanted to be a nurse but it didn't work out that way for her. After moving from the farm into Bird City, she became an Emergency Medical Technician, was librarian at Bird City Library, served

as State President of the American Legion Auxiliary (1975-1976) and held various staff positions for the National Legion Auxiliary.

For about 15 years, she was involved with the Girl's State each June and she and Demi attended several National Legion conventions.

The Shahans are members of the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association and are actively engaged as members of the Tri-State Antique Auto Club, Demi presently serving as first vice-president. They are the happy owners of a 1954 International three-quarter ton pickup which appears regularly in local parades.

Congratulations to Mary Shahan, the 2005 Tri-State Antique Auto Club Queen!

State board member makes news

Connie Morris, area Kansas State School Board member, made the Salina Journal again.

The St. Francis woman is a part of a conservative majority on the 10-member state board which is working on new science standards for Kansas public schoolchildren. Mrs. Morris has strongly supported efforts to interject criticisms of evolution into the standards.

Now, a young man has started a campaign to recall Mrs. Morris.

In a *Salina Journal* article written by Chris Grenz, Harris News service, it stated that Derik Newell, 24, has secured the Web site www.recallconniemorris.com and hopes to have a formal petition drafted soon. The site says the recall is "a grassroots effort to restore sanity to the Kansas State Board of Education."

Mr. Newell, who works for a Direct TV subcontractor, is upset about her views and viological theory of evolution. He also criticized Mrs. Morris for her controversial stance on illegal immigration and spending nearly \$3,500 on a conference trip she took to Florida.

Mr. Newell thinks that it is embarrassing, saying that just be-

cause we live in Kansas doesn't mean we have to be the butt end of jokes.

Mrs. Morris, on the other hand, doesn't feel threatened, saying that she would serve at the will of the people and will be honored to continue to serve as long as they'd like her to do so.

Mrs. Morris took office in January 2003, and has gotten her share of controversy. She started off by saying the state shouldn't have to pay to educate children of illegal immigrants.

She falsely accused former Garden City Mayor Tim Cruz, a third-generation Garden City resident, of being an illegal immigrant. She did apologize.

She was also criticized for sending out a taxpayer-funded newsletter that personally attacked a coalition of moderate Republicans and Democrats on the board and for comments she made to some of those same members during a heated school board meeting last month.

Recalling an elected official is not easy. A representative spokesman for Ron Thornburgh, the state's chief elections official, said,

in this case, applying for a recall petition would require 6,870 signatures from voters who live in Mrs. Morris' district. Mrs. Morris' district covers about the western half of Kansas (41 counties). Had the district been a more populated area such as Lawrence, it would have been much easier to obtain that many signatures.

As of last week on Wednesday, he had collected 115 votes.

Mrs. Morris is serving a three-year term and will be up for re-election next year.

Demolition derby planned for Saturday night excitement

By Karen Krien

The demolition derby at the Cheyenne County Fair is generally one of the best in the area. Crowds pack the grandstand and the pit area is full. Seldom do people go away without knowing they have been entertained by lots of crashing, banging and excitement.

This year's demolition derby starts at 7 p.m. in front of the grandstand at the fairgrounds in St. Francis.

New this year

New this year will be the ATV (All-Terrain Vehicles) mud bog races held between the derby heats. The mud bog is 100-foot long and the challenge will be getting to the end.

There will be two-age divisions in both the two-wheel drive and four-wheel drive competitions.

Ages are: 13 to 18 years; and 19 and older.

This competition was held in Atwood recently and was said to be the highlight of the show.

There will be a small entry fee which will be paid back to the winning competitors.

To enter, call Roger Zweggardt at 785-332-3458.

Prizes for the derby

There will be five places awarded prize money plus money given to the top two per heat (except slop), two slop heats and the heat flag. The first prize winner will take home \$1,000 based on a twenty car participation. Plaques will be awarded to all heat and main event winners (except slop).

A new name will be added to the "Bonzaï" Bobby Krien plaque for the driver who is the "crowd

pleaser." This driver is determined by Bobby Krien's family and they chose Brett Poling, St. Francis, last year. The year before, the award went to Blake Krien.

The Randy Zweggardt award went to Kelley Faylor.

"We plan to have a good derby with lots of action and the winners will get some good money," Wade Krien, coordinator, said.

The "heat flags" will be placed in the center of the action — the car knocking it down first receives \$25.

For more information or to pre-register the fair's demolition derby contact Mr. Krien at 785-332-8545 or Jared Douthit at 785-332-0124. Those wanting to mail their entries in should mail them to 702 S. River St. or Box 178, St. Francis, KS 67756.

City will enforce dog leash law

There has been a concentrated effort to keep dogs on a leash or fenced in. The law enforcement officers are clamping down on pet owners who do not follow the law.

Several people have shown concern about loose dogs including Barb Parker, St. Francis, who walks her little dog and has had large dogs come after her pet. She also noted that a St. Francis woman was recently knocked down by a large dog.

On Friday, she brought down an article which had appeared in Good Housekeeping which told about a part-time mail carrier, Ruth Askins,

Arnold, Mo.

She was near the end of her shift when she saw a terrier go straight for a little boy who had just gotten off the school bus. At first, she thought it his pet but she immediately thought different when the dog latched on to the boy's cheek with its teeth. She said the dog was tearing him apart.

Ms. Askins jerked the 20-pound animal away and yelled to the crying child to "run!" The dog wriggled free and started to attack again. Ms. Askins kicked the animal and sent him scurrying to a yard across the street.

She followed the boy into the house, called 911 and began tending his wounds. In addition to a torn-up cheek, the child had bites all over his neck, back and arm. She was grateful she'd stopped the dog before he could go for his victim's jugular.

The boy was taken to the hospital where doctors sewed him up. The animal was destroyed.

The incident happened so quickly and something similar could happen in St. Francis. People are asked to please keep their pets on a leash or in a pen.

T-shirts need to be picked up

Kathy Weber, chairman of the Cancer Relay for Live Survivors Committee, asked that all cancer survivors please attend a "Survivors Appreciation Nite" on Wednesday, Aug. 10, at the St. Francis Equity meeting room.

The Relay For Life T-shirts can be picked up then and refreshments will be served. All those who plan to walk or ride the survivors lap at the Relay should attend. If there are any questions regarding the Relay For Life which will be held at Sawhill Park, St. Francis, on Saturday, Aug. 20, please call Mrs. Weber at 785-332-3386.



'Bank Night' set for team captains

All team captains for the Cheyenne County Cancer Relay For Life are asked to attend "Bank Night" at the Equity meeting room, St. Francis, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 10. At this time, they should turn in all money collected from their teams and for the luminaries they have sold.

Deb Lindsten, county chairman of the Relay, will go over all plans for the night of the Relay, which is Saturday, Aug. 20.

"Enthusiasm is high and we have heard of many fun games and decorations planned for Sawhill Park that night," Ms. Lindsten said.

For additional information, call her at 785-332-2022.

The public still has time to purchase a luminaria in honor of, or in memorial to a friend or relative who has been impacted by cancer.

"If you have not been contacted by one of the Relay team members to purchase one, please call Sherry Schultz and she can see that you get one put in the park Saturday evening for the awesome ceremony," said Betty Loudon, publicity chairman.

Mrs. Schultz can be reached at 785-332-2860.

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