

Ellsworth J. "Gus" Wilkens

May 19, 1924 - March 26, 2006

Ellsworth Joseph Wilkens, 81, died Sunday, March 26, 2006, at the Salina Regional Health Center in Salina, Kan., at the age of 81 years, 10 months and seven days.

He was born May 19, 1924, in Atwood, Kan., the only child to Frank and Jennie May (Wolfe) Wilkens. At birth he weighed 1.5 pounds. Because of his mother's ill health, his mother's sister, Goldie Wolfe Wilkens, also raised him.

He attended Walnut Grove schools in Cheyenne County. After completing the eight grades, he went on to help with the family farm.

On January 1945, he married Regina Mary Horinek, at St. John's Catholic Church in Beardsley, Kan. They lived in McCook and Arapahoe for a short time returning to McDonald to operate their family farm. Raising cattle, hogs, horses, wheat, corn and sunflowers, until retiring to Bird City in 1998. Ellsworth took pride in his family and farm.

He was a true farmer and rancher. He was a member of the St. Joseph Catholic Church and Knights of Columbus, St. Pius X Assembly, Bird City, as well as a member of the McDonald Lions Club, McCook Elks Club, Bird City Saddle Club and the Tri-State Antique Engine and Thresher Association.

Both Ellsworth and Regina enjoyed polka dancing, traveling clear to Omaha just to dance. He loved playing cards, dominos, marbles, bird watching, fishing, baseball, rodeo, hat and John Deere tractor collections, Bible study and travel.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Regina Mary (Horinek) Wilkens, on March 24, 1998.

He is survived by four children, Arlene Robert Wilkens and wife Beverly of Hays, Kan.; Diane Rose Wilkens Moro and husband Jim of Milford, N.H.; Duane Paul Wilkens of McDonald, and Daniel Joe Wilkens of Johnson Lake, Neb. He was also survived by 10 grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren and two on the way.

A Mass of Christian Burial was held April 21 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bird City with the Rev. Roger Meitl as celebrant. The service was followed by a family dinner in the church hall.

Interment was in the Bird City Cemetery.

Thomas Lester Cooper

Oct 5, 1930 - April 16, 2006

Thomas (Tom) Cooper of St. Francis, Kan., died Easter Sunday, April 16, 2006 at the age of 75 years. He was born in Hutchinson, Kan., at the home of his Aunt Don. While attending high school in Hutchinson, he worked at an auto dealership doing mechanic work.

After attending college in Greeley, Colo., he quit to ranch with an uncle in Limon, Colo. On Oct 7 1951, he was united in marriage to Virginia Roth in Hutchinson. In 1953, he was drafted into the Army and served one year in Germany.

On being released from the Army, he and Virginia moved to Aurora Colo., and Tom worked in

auto repair and farmed. In 1972, he bought a farm in the St. Francis area and moved here. Tom later opened a auto repair business in town.

He is survived by his wife Virginia and daughters Linda and husband Roy Elfers, Melissa and husband Roger Zwegardt; four granddaughters, Christina, Samantha, Amy and Emily; two brothers, Jerry of Canon City, Colo., and Franklin of Culver, Ore., and a step-sister Maxine Hostetter, Coffeyville, Kan.

Services were held at United Methodist Church on April 19 with burial in the Salem Lutheran Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Eddie Brunk, Roger Orth, Jeff Raile, Brent Henderson, Larry Carmichael and Darrel Zwegardt. Honorary pallbearers were Clay Zimbelman, Keith Dankenbring and Roger Lauer.

Memorials are suggested to Cheyenne County Emergency Medical Service or Cheyenne County Gymkhana Club.

Gordon E. Pledger

July 4, 1918 - March 8, 18, 2006

Gordon Pledger died March 8, 2006. He was born in Roddy, Texas, July 4, 1918, to James Henry Pledger and Sally Constance "Duke" Pledger. He had two older brothers and one younger sister. He enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1937 and was sent to MCRD in San Diego for his military training. He was honorably discharged in 1941 and married Pauline D. Holmes of Lansing, Mich., whom he had met in San Diego, in April of 1941. His first son, James R. Pledger, was born in September of 1942. His wife, Pauline, died in February of 1943 at the young age of 23.

World War II was in full swing and Gordon was subject to recall, back into military service. He enlisted in the Army Air-Corps in 1944 in hopes of becoming a pilot. His eye sight was not quite 20/20, and his height at 6 foot 2 inches kept him out of a tail gunner's seat. He went on in-active duty in 1946, as a staff sergeant. After the war ended, he stayed active in the Air Force Reserves until he was honorably discharged in 1949.

He had worked in security at the Solar Aircraft Company after getting out of the Marine Corps and had advanced to employment manager. A corporate re-organization brought a new president and personnel, and with the loss of that job, it helped in his decision to enlist in the Army Air-Corps.

During his tour in the Army Air-Corps, he met Irma Janette Roberts, in Denver. He noticed her skills in softball and other areas of interest at a church picnic. That led to a marriage union that lasted over 60 years. They were married in Denver on Feb. 2, 1946.

Gordon's second son, Daniel W. Pledger, who resides in La Mesa, was born in San Diego, in September 1950.

Gordon had worked briefly at Kelco Corporation prior to re-entering the service in 1946 and returned to that company after getting out of the service. He had brought his young bride with him to San Diego and they lived there until he died.

Gordon worked as many as three jobs at a time during that period of his life and finally was hired as a patrolman for the San Diego City Police Department, on April 1, 1948.

He retired as a sergeant in 1974. His last position was the sergeant in charge of the department's newly formed Community Relations Division which was a new concept in community involvement, called "Store Front," throughout the various communities of the city.

In 1956, he found the third love of his life: San Diego Masonic Lodge 35, F & AM. He so loved Masonry, he opted to pursue the officer line of the Lodge, instead of further advancement in his police profession.

He did, in fact, go through the line of officers and served as Master of the Lodge in 1966. He also held the position of inspector, for ritual work done in the Masonic Blue Lodges, and he was a life member of the San Diego, Scottish Rite, as well as a life member of San Diego Masonic Lodge 35, F&AM.

After his retirement from the city of San Diego in 1974, he served as secretary of the San Diego Lodge 35 for five years, and then finished his career in the working world, as the head of security for the Timken Museum of Art. He started on Oct. 16, 1980, and worked just passed the New Year's Millennium in January of 2000, for another 20-year career.

The last couple of years he had been fighting a battle with lung cancer and spent the last few weeks of his life convalescing at home with the assistance of San Diego hospice, his wife Janette, his two sons and their wives. Memorial services were held at the Scottish Rite Center in San Diego on Thursday, March 23.

The remains were placed in the Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery in Point Loma.

Gordon leaves two children and their wives, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Inez Helen Holzworth

Sept. 4, 1920 - April 12, 2006

Inez Helen Holzworth of Loveland, Colo., died Wednesday, April 12, at her home. She was 85.

Inez was born Sept. 4, 1920, in St. Francis, Kan., to Margaret and Henry Walter. She married Ernest Holzworth Jan. 25, 1941. Mrs. and Mr. Holzworth shared the love of farming together.

They began their life in Prospect Valley, Colo., where they grew irrigated sugar beets, alfalfa and cereal grains. They also farmed near Firestone before starting their own farm near Fort Lupton. There they raised their two sons, Larry and Donald, and they grew cereal grains, tomatoes, cucumbers, peas, string beans, potatoes, corn and alfalfa. They also started a Holstein dairy business. Later, they expanded their dairy operation to a farm east of Longmont. They ended their farming career west of

Johnstown, where they sold out in 1972.

Inez and Ernest moved to Loveland and worked for Eastman Kodak until retiring in 1985. Throughout her life, Inez loved cooking - including traditional German dishes she learned from her mother - and tending brilliant flower gardens. In retirement, she enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren, traveling, sewing, and listening to country and polka music.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Ernest; a son, Jerry Lynn; four brothers and three sisters. She is survived by her two sons, Larry Holzworth and Donald Holzworth; one sister Francis Williams of St. Francis, Kan.; four grandchildren, Jody Fagan, Justin Holzworth, Shemie Holzworth and Todd Holzworth; great-grandson, Lane Holzworth; and loving caretakers, Cathy Buchanan and Darlene Bandy. Inez's laughter and loving kindness will be missed by all.

Funeral services were held April 18 at Kibbey Fishburn Funeral Home, Loveland, with Rev. Kay Palmer Marsh of Westminster United Methodist Church officiating. Interment was in the Foothills Garden of Memory.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association in care of Lewellen Longmont Memorial Chapel, 503 Terry St., Longmont, CO 80501. To send condolences please go to <http://www.longmontchapel.com>

Club Clip

Red Hat Mamas

April 18 the Bird City and McDonald red hat ladies met at the museum in St. Francis. After a very interesting return to the early history of Cheyenne County, the ladies enjoyed their lunch at Koinonia Coffee House, from there, the Red Hatters went to another point of interest in St. Francis, Sweet Dreams Bed and Breakfast, the home of the late Dr. Lucille Carmen Stephenson. The new owners have created a cozy retreat with that home away from home feel.

Those ladies who attended the outing were Bev Higgins, Edna Roesner, Vernetta Haack, Bonnie Burr, Frieda Black, Carol Mears, Annie Antholz, Betty Lewis, Phyllis Wingfield and Margaret Voorhies.

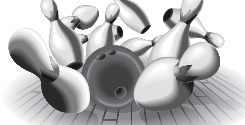
Bowling News

Ladies Nite Out 4/13

Team standings: Jersey Maids 42-22; Wray Meat Packing 39-25; Cheyenne Bowl 38-26, Dundy Ag 33-31, Bankwest Alley Cats 29-35, Mel's Gal's 26-38, Wright Carpet 25-39, Stockmans Strikers 24-40

High game (scratch): Tammy Overlease 214, Kathy Blecha 199, Marsha Kechter 193; (handicap) T. Overlease 256, Blecha 226, Nikki Gelvin 222

High series: (scratch): T. Overlease 506, Marlys Poulignot 490, Kechter 480; (handicap) T. Overlease 632, Poulignot 625, Gelvin 618



Mr. and Mrs. Justin Wright

Couple exchanges their wedding vows

Ashley Nicole Feikert and Justin Charles Wright were married on Saturday, Nov. 26, at Trinity Lutheran Church in Colby. Pastor Alvin J. Bruenger officiated the wedding ceremony with Pastor John L. Schmidt reading the scriptures.

Parents of the couple are Bruce and Sharon Feikert, St. Francis, and David and Sandra Wright, Lakin. Grandparents of the bride are Stan and Marilyn Martin, Goodland, and Ruben and Darlene Feikert, St. Francis. The groom's grandparents are Charles and Neva Maxfield, Garden City.

The bride was escorted down the aisle by her father. Amber Feikert, sister of the bride, was the maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Lea Coulter, Mindy Cooper and Kristy Ostmeyer, cousin of the bride. Junior bride's maid was Kaitlynn Raile, goddaughter of the bride. The bride's personal attendants were her aunts, Cindy Worley and Marla Poppelreiter.

Luke Juenemann was best man. Groomsmen were Andrew Feikert, brother of the bride; Eric Wright and Kelly Wright, brothers of the groom. Dustin Dunn, Staley Edmundson, Travis Towns and Andy Zwegardt seated guests.

Candlelighters were Sarah Worley, cousin of the bride, and Stephanie Maxfield, cousin of the groom. The flower girls were Tacey Coulter and Valerie Wright, niece of the groom. John Wright, nephew of the groom, was the ring bearer.

Organist Brenda Mattson provide music along with soloist Monica Bugbee-Miller. Musical selections included "The Lord's Prayer" and "The Parent's Prayer." Roxy Stuart and Chantel

Poppelreiter, cousin of the bride, attended the guest book. Jennifer Fabrizius, Michelle Cooper, Cassie Cooper, Madison Fabrizius, Brady Poppelreiter, Ethan Fabrizius, Colton Cooper and Carlee Cooper handed out programs, favors and attended to the gift table.

The reception and dance were held at the American Legion. Hosts for the evening were Duane and Peg Hanke, godparents of the bride, and Steve and Laurie Maxfield, uncle and aunt of the groom. Dessert attendants were Kelsey Andrist, Kathy Feikert, aunt of the bride; Julie Morris, Kerrie Olson, cousin of the bride; Kayla Weber, Jennifer Wright, sister-in-law of the groom; and Dennon Zimbelman. Serving the meal was the bride's First National Bank family.

The bride graduated from St. Francis Community High School and attended Fort Hays State University. She is employed by First National Bank in Colby.

The groom graduated from Lakin High School and Northwest Kansas Technical College. He is employed by the Thomas County Highway Department.

Following a wedding trip to Orlando, Fla., the newlyweds are at home in Colby.

Student News

Fort Hays State University

Fort Hays State University's Phi Eta Sigma seniors who have maintained a 3.5 grade point average throughout all four years were recently awarded the Senior Bookplate Award.

Among those honored was Kari Gienger of St. Francis.

Paid Advertisement

To Clarify

I am putting this article in the paper to clear up any misunderstanding of my complaint to the County Commissioners.

I have had my home on East Fourth Street since 1985. Even when I was gone, the lights, gas and electricity were left on so that when family members came to visit my mom, they had a place to stay. My mom has been on her property since 1956 and the house that she now lives in was built in 1968. The Brewer family was living in their house before we moved there in 1956.

Everything was fine there and everyone got along fine until a few years ago when a well-respected, business-owning, church-going-pillar-of-the-community bought the ground to the south of our property. Our bill of sale provided us with a 60-foot right of way for life, so we were able to block their attempts to close our road.

They put in their fence to the south of the road and put in cattle-feeding bunks right along the north side of their fence within 100 feet from my neighbor Mrs. Brewer's front door. She had lived on her property for 60 years and what she got for her 97th birthday was a cattle-feeding operation at her front door.

Most of you know that in a short amount of time, an area where you pen up cattle to feed them will soon start to stink and it draws flies and mosquitoes. This is my big complaint.

I talked with Mrs. Brewer and her oldest son Doug about the problem because most of the time, the smell is very bad. It even smells inside our homes at times. We can no longer sit outside at night in the summer because we will be attacked by swarms of flies and mosquitoes that have been nesting in the waste of the cattle across the street.

As most of you know, mosquitoes can carry a large number of deadly infections or diseases. The four worst are yellow fever, typhoid, malaria and the West Nile virus. Most elderly people that

contact the virus will most likely die. Mrs. Brewer is 100 years old and my mom is 80 years old and I am not in the best of health. I am an Agent Orange victim from Vietnam and have been fighting many health problems for the last 20 years. If I am infected with the West Nile virus, I might die, as my immune system will not fight it off.

It is possible that there may have already been two victims already. In 2004, the wife of the family that was living in my house was bitten on the leg by an insect. Her leg swelled up and got infected to the point that she had to go to a doctor. She had a bad rash all over her body and fought flu-like symptoms for months. At the same time, my mom got sick and started falling. She fell and broke her shoulder and that was the end of a free life for her. Now she sits in the nursing home, a mere shell of a person she was three years ago.

With this knowledge, I went to the Kansas Department of Health and Environment and had them come out and inspect the site. They told me that it was not a confined feeding area, that it was a concentrated feeding area and, at the present time, it was legal but they would recommend to the people that had the cattle to move their feeding operation to the east in line with the other pens that were already there. That was all that I wanted.

Their response was to contact the family that used to live there. The man told him how bad it stunk there at times and since they put the cattle in, they could no longer sit outside because of the flies and mosquitoes. That was one of the reasons they moved.

I waited for 30 days and nothing happened, so I wrote a letter telling the owner of the cattle that what he had done had caused our property values to go down and I explained to him the health risks that were involved in having his feeding area this close to family homes. I also told him my health condition and my fear of catching a virus that could kill me. I have read all the laws in the state of Kansas and I have found that there is no law that controls a feeding area



under 300 head. It is left up to the local community to do that by the use of a nuisance law. This town used to have one and now I am told that it does not.

During the time that Ray Lee was the sheriff, a family that was renting my mom's rental house (the building that I made into a garage), brought in a lot of junk and dogs and the community evicted them and ran them out of town using the same law that I am asking to be used to move the cattle feeding area to the east away from our homes. I call that a "dual standard."

What is even worse is the powers that ran one family out of town have allowed yards junk on other property. I guess it depends on who is doing the complaining. No one listens to poor people like me, but if I was one of the leading people in St. Francis, then something would be done. I had to go all the way to the governor's office to find someone that the cattle owner would listen to and get the feeding bunks moved from our fence line and I should not have had to do that.

We now have the state in our county directing a clean up of areas that the county commissioners and sheriff office should have been taking care of. It is good for the town because areas like that become a home to mice, skunks and snakes.

Most individuals in the United States have the right to own property and can do what they like on the property as long as they do not break any laws and as long as they do not do things that would cause the property values to go down in their part of town. And, the most important is that they do not cause a health problem for the area that they are living in.

I am publicly asking the owners of the cattle to move his feeding operation to the east away from our homes and to clean up the mess that is in front of our homes and spray for flies and mosquitoes.

I am asking for the public to call your county commissioners and ask them to pass a law that would stop this from happening to someone else. Feedlots belong in the country — not in town.

Bill Dungan, St. Francis

