



Treasure Hunt begins Friday

By Karen Krien

The Great U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt begins on Friday and lasts through Sunday. Cheyenne County, along with other counties along U.S. 36, will be passing sales featuring antiques, collectibles, stuff and junk.

Both St. Francis and Bird City will be hosting garage sales. Maps will be available in several different places including the Cheyenne County Museum, Empire Motel, Hilltop General Store and *The Saint Francis Herald* in St. Francis and on Bird Avenue as people come into Bird City. There are 30 sites listed on the St. Francis map and 21 on the Bird City map. However, people do not have to be listed on the map to participate in the Treasure Hunt. The map does take the buyers and lookers to the site of the sales.

Shirley Sherlock reported that there are numerous items listed on the St. Francis map including antiques, a kerosene range, church pews, tools, quilts, furniture and just "old stuff." Businesses are also getting in on the Treasure Hunt. Donna's Gift Palace, United Methodist Thrift Store and St. Francis Supers, all on Washington Street, will make shopper's trip downtown worthwhile.

On the highway, Hilltop General Store is joining with Ranch Food Direct for the Treasure Hunt; McDanel's Antique Shop; Country Collage Antiques and Prairie House Herbs will be open. Milton Lampe is hoping to draw visitors to his shop for a wide variety of wooden crafts. Besides the cafes which will be offering specials along with their regular fare, the St. Francis Swim Team will open the "lunch wagon" at the Empire Motel. There are garage sales with antiques, quilts, furniture, household items and crafts. The Bird City map has a variety of items including antique toys such as pedal cars and tractors as well as antique salt cellars, dishes, an antique bed and dresser and patio furniture.



"We are excited about the Treasure Hunt and, since we hold an annual city-wide sale each year, people have been collecting items through the year and getting ready," Carol Marsh said.

There are other such events held in other states. This is the first year for the U.S. 36 Treasure Hunt and it is expected to continue.

"We are looking for many people to stop by and see what we have," Mrs. Sherlock said. "It should be lots of fun."

Cleanup of waste items on Sept. 23

Those having household hazardous waste items can bring them to the Cheyenne County Landfill east of Wheeler between 1 and 4 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 23. This hazardous waste cleanup is specifically for Cheyenne County residents.

The Northwest Kansas Small Solid Waste Landfill Authority, of which Cheyenne County is a member, is hosting the cleanup to help residents clean out their garages and basements of any products which are considered "hazardous" and are not allowed in the landfill at any other time.

It should be noted that this cleanup is not the same as the St. Francis City-Wide Cleanup because city employees cannot pick up hazardous waste products.

Some of the items considered as hazardous are: paints, solvents, cleaners, pesticides, aerosol cans, batteries, anti freeze and used oil. Automobile lead acid batteries will be accepted.

All hazardous materials brought to the landfill on Oct. 1 must be in sturdy boxes and any used oil should be in disposable containers. However, materials should be left in their original containers so they can be accurately identified.

Don't dump hazardous materials together and if loose or leaking, secure them before transporting them to the landfill. Also, don't carry open containers of liquids with strong odors, especially if they might spill, inside a closed automobile and pack all items so they won't tip, break or spill during the trip.

The hazardous waste cleanup is part of the ongoing program to provide a means of proper disposal of hazardous substances commonly found in the home.

For more information, contact the landfill at 785-332-8842; Kelly Doyle, 785-332-8840 or the commissioner of your district.



POINTING OUT HISTORY — Kent Chapman, center, pointed to some of the places that he felt were important to history. There were approximately 70 people attending the meeting at the Bird City Library and later, went to the Kidder Massacre site south of Bird City. Herald staff photos by Casey McCormick

Kidder massacre history retold by professor

By Casey McCormick

A large crowd met at the Bird City Library on Sunday to discuss and learn more about one of northwest Kansas' most infamous events: the 1867 Kidder Massacre. The Cheyenne County Historical Society hosted the gathering that featured retired Emporia State University professor and Bird City native, Kent Chapman. Although Mr. Chapman will be the first to admit that he has no formal training in the history of George A. Custer and the 7th Cavalry, he has long been interested in the subject and has done a great amount of research.

Over 70 people showed up to hear Mr. Chapman talk about growing up in Bird City and how his interest in Custer developed.

As a boy he reminisced about going to the pool hall with his dad for a game of pool.

"There was a Budwieser sign that showed Custer making his last stand at the Little Big Horn," Mr.

Chapman said, "That was my first introduction to the man and battle, and I've always been interested in Indians."

Mr. Chapman recalled reading Edgar Stewart's *Custer's Luck* in 1965, which started him on the trail of Custer. He also remembered the dedication of the Kidder Memorial in 1969.

Historic accounts tell of how Lieutenant Lyman Kidder, along with 10 soldiers and an Indian scout were attacked by a war party of Cheyenne and Sioux warriors. Estimates are that up to 700 Indians could have pursued Kidder and his men. The cavalry soldiers made a several-mile run to the south but were overcome by the huge number of Indians.

The massacre happened on June 29. Custer's party located the mutilated bodies on July 12, 1867.

After Mr. Chapman's talk, most of the group drove south on the Edson Road (C.R. 28) to

Beaver Creek. First the tour stopped at the memorial which lies north of the creek. This location is where a long-time resident, "Grandpa Cormac," believed was the site.

Next the group retraced the bumpy country road to the Edson Road and took the county road which lines the southern edge of the creek.

Along the way, the tour passed the location where Randy Johnson, in his *A Dispatch To Custer*, believes that the massacre occurred. It is about a quarter mile east of the memorial.

Then the caravan turn north into a pasture and, by foot, crossed the dry creek bed and went over a barbed-wire fence to reach the third location. This was another quarter mile to the east of the Johnson site.

As a herd of bewildered cows watched the group, Mr. Chapman showed where Colorado historian, Dr. Jeff Broome, feels is the site that

Kidder and company met their bloody end. This is documented in Broome's *On Locating The Kidder Massacre of 1867*, pamphlet.

Both Johnson and Broome have located military and Indian bullets, shells and artifacts that they use to support their theories.

The locations visited are on private property which the Historical Society had gained access to. The Bird City Library Board allowed the use of the Library for the meeting.

"We need to identify these historic sites as accurately as possible and work together doing it," said Mr. Chapman.

Mr. Chapman also believes that the locations of artifacts give credence to the historical value. But he cautions people not to react too quickly.

"We need to keep an open mind and not shut the door on any research until we absolutely know it will not stand up," Mr. Chapman said.



Margaret Bucholtz, president of the Historical Society, introduced guest speaker Kent Chapman

Weather

Date	High	Low	Prec.
Sept. 6	81	52	
Sept. 7	83	52	
Sept. 8	78	52	.10
Sept. 9	73	56	
Sept. 10	70	54	
Sept. 11	71	47	

Beecher Island Days set for this weekend

By Karen Krien

There will be musical entertainment, races and games, a black-powder shoot, craft booths and lots of visiting at the 107th Beecher Island Reunion weekend. The activities will be held at the battle grounds located 22 miles west of St. Francis on U.S. 36 and then north 8.5 miles on Rd. LL.

led by Lieutenant Fred Beecher. Others come for the entertainment, food and the black powder shoot and others just come to get away from the busy life and to camp down along the river bottom under the huge cottonwood trees. Musical entertainment will be provided by Bob and Shelia Everhart, Highway 385 Band and the Swinging Seniors. The Swinging Seniors and Highway 385 Band are known throughout the area. The Swinging Seniors See BEECHER ISLAND on Page 9A



Council commends local man for achievements in community

The St. Francis City Council meeting held Sept. 5, with Clarence and Madeleine Roberson, in behalf of their son, Dave Roberson, accepting the certificate given by the city. The certificate is for the positive things which Dave has done for the community. Rachel Huffman, several weeks ago, had nominated Dave, noting that she had appreciated the concern he had given to her husband, Ray.

Mayor Scott Schultz told the Robersons that the council appreciated the volunteer work their son had done for homebound persons, the Good Samaritan Village and a variety of positive work around the

community. The certificate is the first to be awarded in a program, "Spotlighting the Positive," which the city implemented last month. The public can nominate people or organizations which they feel have made a positive impact on the community. The Economic Development Planning Board will pick one nomination each month.

Kan-Step Councilman Dale Weeks updated the council on the progress of the Emergency Building. He said that Dave Flemming, county road and bridge supervisor, had told him there would be room in the quonset

at the county shop for storing materials. The council felt that more storage room would still be needed and will continue to look for more places. The council approved to authorized payment of 10 percent which would be approximately \$10,000 down on the building based on the recommendation of the grant administrator, Michele Kippes. The funds will be reimbursed upon submission of the bill to Kan-Step.

Roadside Park At the previous council meeting, Mayor Schultz made the following appointments to the Roadside Park See COUNCIL on Page 10A