

Obituaries

-St. Francis News-

Robert Leroy Erskin

Nov. 27, 1924 - Sept. 13, 2006

Robert Leroy Erskin, aka, Bubber, Lee, Leroy, Bob, Pop, etc., etc., was born in Shallow Water, Kan., on Nov. 27, 1924. It was his sister's 10th birthday. He was the sixth of nine children. He could remember riding a horse to school in his younger days.

In 1941, he decided to join the military and did so by entering the Navy. He was really too little but they took him anyway due to the ensuing war. While in the military he became a chef and cooked for many a man on land and on sea. He was essentially a life-long Navy man.

In 1946, he married Helen Pfiffer and they had one son, Larry. After their divorce, Helen married another man and gave Larry his last name of Johnson.

Pop took a few years off from the military and did various jobs including working at a lumberyard, cooking, harvesting, and as a mechanic. During this time off he married Leora Annette Moore, called Annette. They had one son, Robert Leroy (Bud) Erskin Jr. He went back into the Navy at this time.

While back in the Navy, the family moved to various locations but spoke most fondly of Naples, Italy. They were lucky enough to live in Italy on a couple of occasions where they were able to rekindle old friendships.

The Navy provided many opportunities for Pop including his publication in the *Guinness Book of World Records* for decorating the world's largest cake. Of course it has been far surpassed today, but it was quite the ordeal then. When his granddaughter, Kary, learned of his cake-making past she put him to work. He helped make her graduation cake and her wedding cake. He even tried to teach her how to make flowers but she must not have inherited that talent.

Any free time that Pop had was spent hunting and fishing. He loved to go to Washington state to visit his brother, Alvy. While he was there they took in a lot of fishing and hunting. He had many a proud photo taken with his catch and many antlers mounted.

On Sept. 17, 1977, Kary Jo Erskin, his granddaughter, was born and quickly became his little sidekick. He even tried to teach her to hunt. He took her on her first deer hunt. It was her last deer hunt also as she apparently didn't inherit that either. "That poor deer didn't do anything to her."

He always looked out for Kary, no matter what the circumstance. All 90 pounds of him would chase someone off if he thought they were not there in Kary's best interest.

In 1986, the family purchased Majestic Service, a truck stop, in St. Francis. Pop opened it up early and stayed until mid afternoon. He sat

in there drinking coffee with the customers and shooting the breeze. He made many friendships there and had a regular crew that showed up after they had hit the other coffee shops to fill him in on the days gossip. He occasionally helped fix tires and do other mechanical work when the coffee crew wasn't in session.

Bud became a computer nut during this time and set Pop up a computer to play various card games on. If he wasn't listening to CNN, he was playing cards. He could play by the hour and never lose interest.

On Dec. 11, 2001, another addition to this family, Audrey Annette Meyer was born. She was not only his great-granddaughter, but she was his "great" granddaughter. She was all he lived for. Not too many moments went by that he did not think of her. He called her his little Boo Boo. They shared many a muffin and soda pop in their time. Annette was like a muffin factory when these two were in full swing. Audrey seemed to have that special spirit that made him want to do more than he normally would for others. In an interview taken one day before his death they said that if he could do anything, anytime what would it be, and he said, "taking care of my little girl."

Pop had a special bond with the two girls of his life, Kary Jo and Audrey. Kary Jo would sum Grandpa up as a stubborn, feisty, 90-pound spit-fire that she loved every ounce of.

Pop died on Sept. 13, 2006, at the Cheyenne County Hospital at the age of 81.

He is survived by his wife, Annette; son, Bud; granddaughter, Kary Jo and husband, Troy Meyer; special great-granddaughter, Audrey Annette; son, Larry Johnson and family; and brothers, Elmer and Alvy and families; and many nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Sept. 21 at Knodel Funeral Home with Reverend Morita Truman officiating.

Honorary pallbearers were Alvy Erskin, Larry Forsythe, Lenard Schleppe, Elmer Erskin, Lanny DeGood, Emmett Seaman and Keith Peter.

Interment was in the Scott City Cemetery, Scott City, with Full Military Honors by Fort Riley.

Arrangements by Knodel Funeral Home, St. Francis.

June Nadine Krien

May 3, 1927 - Sept. 23, 2006

June Nadine (Owens) Krien was born May 3, 1927, to Rollie and Violet (Allen) Owens in Greeley County, Kan. She died at her home in St. Francis on Sept. 23, 2006, at

the age of 79 years.

Her earliest years were spent in Greeley County, and then a few years near Longdale, Okla. In 1932, her parents and their children moved to a farm in Cheyenne County, Kan. She went to country school near her home and then attended high school in St. Francis for a few years.

She was united in marriage to Paul Krien on April 23, 1947, in Goodland. They were living in St. Francis when their son John Alan was born.

They moved to Albuquerque, N.M., in 1949. They then moved to Brush where June worked in the nursing home. In 1972, they moved to Loveland, Colo. June spent the last 15 years of her working at Hewlett-Packard.

June was baptized into the Seventh-Day Adventist Church in 1959 in Greeley, Colo., and remained a faithful member throughout her life.

June and Paul lived in LaPort, Colo., for many years before purchasing a house in St. Francis. June was diagnosed with cancer two years ago.

She is survived by her husband, Paul; four sisters: Lillie Peter, Betty Lester, Virginia Miley and Joyce Dabney, all of St. Francis; brothers-in-law Oscar Krien, Loveland, and Bill Krien, St. Francis; sister-in-law Edna, Loveland, and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her son John, and her sister Hazel Montgomery.

A graveside service was held at the St. Francis Cemetery on Tuesday with Pastor Mike Larson officiating.

Reunion enjoyed

The Grout family picnic was held Sunday, Aug. 6, at Atwood. Nineteen people were present for lunch at Park Hill Too restaurant.

Those attending were Bud and Craig Manteuffel of Hays; Virginia Terry, Michael, Victoria and Cameron Hayes of Goodland; Lester Jensen of Scott City; Heather and Anna Kate Wine of Texas; Stan and Janet Carman, Dan, Kris, Andrea and Aaron Blair and June Henderson of St. Francis; and Delmer, Iris and Jonathan Pancake of Atwood. Darrel and Beverly Henderson of Amarillo, Texas, came along later.

After eating lunch, everyone joined Betty and Louie Grout at their home in Atwood for a time of visiting.



Troy and Angela Worth

Couple wed in August ceremony

Angela Sue Knodel and Troy Adam Worth were united in marriage at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 10, 2006, at Faith Lutheran Church in Hastings, Neb. The Reverend Paul Dunbar officiated with music provided by organist Bev Kral and soloists Lorraine Worth and Andrea Knodel. Following the ceremony, a reception was held at the Holiday Inn Convention Center with musical entertainment by the Green River band.

The bride is the daughter of Steve and Susan Knodel of Idalia, Colo. She is the granddaughter of Ward and Vaudie Wiley and Ruth Knodel, all of Burlington, Colo.

The groom is the son of Paulette and Glen Kuehn of Kenesaw, Neb., and Ron Worth of Springview, Neb. He is the grandson of Meredith and Enid Worth of Springview, Paul and Frieda Iden of Lincoln, Calif.; and Don Kuehn of Kenesaw.

Given in marriage by her parents and escorted by her father, the bride wore an ivory strapless gown with shirred-organza flowing asymmetrically across the bodice into a layered skirt and semi-cathedral

train. She carried a bouquet of ivory roses and purple hydrangeas with ivy and pearl accents.

Andrea Knodel, sister of the bride, served as maid of honor. Bridesmaids were Jaime Andersen, Ann Goding and Laura Lee Richards, Jessica Kuehn, sister of the groom, was the flower girl and Robbie Parker, cousin of the bride, was the candle lighter.

Mitch Worth, brother of the groom, served as best man. Groomsmen were Chase Koehler, Josh Staab and Rusty Rhynalds. Ushers included Reed Parker, cousin of the bride and Dave Brown and Jeff Tonniges. The ring attendant was Courtney Kuehn, sister of the groom.

Angela graduated from Hastings College with a degree in business administration and is employed at Ames Community Bank.

Troy graduated from Hastings College with a degree in biology and entered his first year at Iowa State University College of Veterinary Medicine this fall.

Angela and Troy live in Ames, Iowa.

Leon and Darlene Merklin and Alvin and Sylvia Zimbelman of Goodland stopped at Topeka on the way to Branson and visited the Merklin's granddaughter, Heather Merklin, at Washburn University. They were overnight guests of the Beuhring's at Lansing.

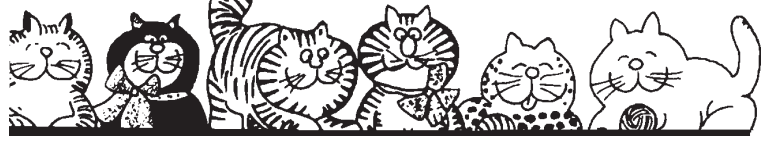
Enroute to Branson they visited their cousins, Irene and Perry Whipple of Neosho, Mo., They saw several shows and Precious Moments. At the Mickey Gilley theater, the starpucked Leon to dance with her.

The outdoor show at Silver Dollar City was canceled because of a tornado watch. Otherwise the weather was beautiful and the leaves were starting to turn beautiful colors.

Debbie Grizzell of Macksville was a guest of her parents, Milton and Betty Lampe, from Sept. 10 to Sept. 19. She came up for the U.S. 36 Garage Sale.

Fun Facts

• Fourteenth century physicians didn't know what caused the plague, but they knew it was contagious. As a result they wore an early kind of bioprotective suit which included a large beaked head piece. The beak of the head piece, which made them look like large birds, was filled with vinegar, sweet oils and other strong smelling compounds to counteract the stench of the dead and dying plague victims.



THANK YOU
The Auction of Homecoming Candidates was a huge success - over \$2,000 towards Playground Equipment for the Park!
The Chamber of Commerce would like to thank: The Homecoming Candidates; Hoagie, Coach Lambert; Skip & Betty Petersen; Robin Petersen; Brett Petersen.
A BIG Thank You to the buyers; BANKWEST; First National Bank; St. Francis Equity; Tiny Tikes Daycare; Jaqua Abstract; Western Auction & Realty; Elton & Ella Mae Keller; Randy & Rikki Rueb; Mike & Cindy Henderson, Jennifer & Lane Henderson.

Megan Rice
Grade: Senior
Parents: Bud & Marla Rice

Student of the Month

Megan, a senior at St. Francis Community High School, is the September Student of the Month. She is involved in music, volleyball, track.
Megan is also involved in the Methodist Bell Choir, Methodist Chancel Choir and Methodist Youth Group.
After St. Francis Community High School, Megan plans on attending the University of Northern Colorado and major in Broadcast Journalism.
Ten years from now Megan plans to be financially stable with a place of her own.
Megan's favorite quote is: "Diggity check yourself before you wreck yourself" "I must let the show go on." —Three Dog Night

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