



COLBY FREE PRESS

8 pages

Train time

By JAY KELLEY

Colby Free Press

The train station in Colby was busier than ever.

Train station? Colby?

Yes.

The Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club sponsored their second annual Northwest Kansas Train Show and Swap Meet over the weekend at the Colby National Guard Armory.

"We had 365 people attend," said Reed Hartford, club member. Three layouts were set up in the armory on Saturday and Sunday.

The Boot Hill Club from Dodge City operated their 22x24 foot HO-scale layout and a 4x8 foot N-scale layout.

Train enthusiast Harry Putnam of Bennington operated his 25x35 foot G-scale layout.

The northwest Kansas club's HO-scale layout was also open for public viewing in the Colby schools administration building, where it remains.

In addition, nine dealers were registered to set up swap tables with model train paraphernalia ranging from new and modern to rare and antique.

The northwest Kansas club started the show in the second year of their existence.

"The club began in September, 1999," Hartford said. "The first layout consisted of 10 modules.

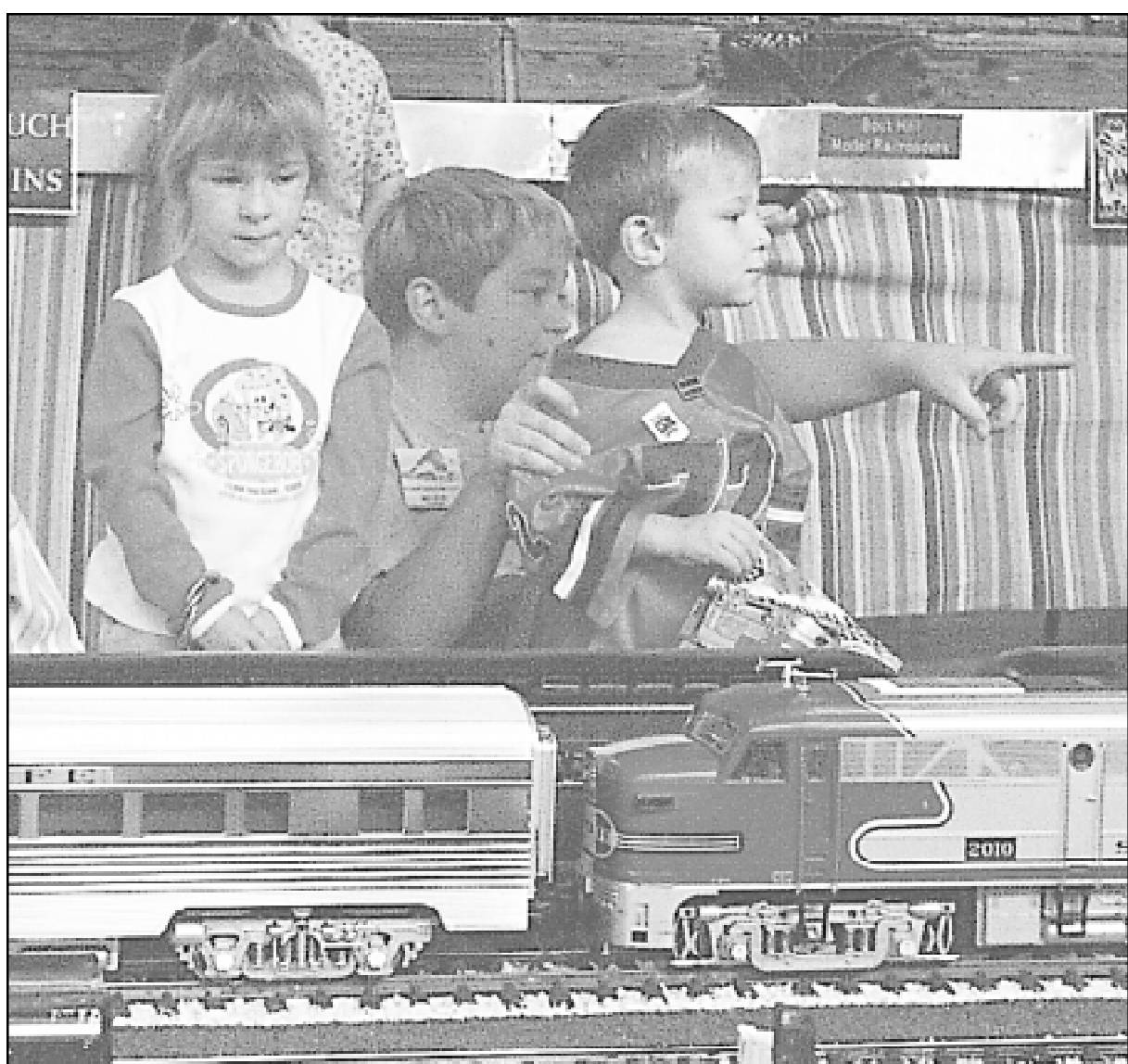
The layout started with 10 modules and has grown to 16, with scenes ranging from urban to rural to mountain terrain.

"In the near future we anticipate adding two additional modules and an 18-foot staging yard," said Hartford.

Hartford said model railroaders enjoy the children who come to the shows.

"Model railroaders love to see their trains run; yet at shows it is even better watching the children watch the trains," said Hartford. "The large G-scale trains were especially popular with the children; some pulled up a chair for Mom or Dad and were entranced for long periods of time."

After the show, the Colby club



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Models trains fascinated young and old alike at the Second Annual Northwest Kansas Train Show and Swap Meet at the Colby National Guard Armory this past weekend. **TOP:** Natasha Besser (left), Nick Henry (pointing) and Kevin Besser enjoyed a large G-scale layout. **BOTTOM:** Ed Guy (left) and John Donelan, members of the Northwest Kansas Model Railroad Club, learned how to make scale trees in a workshop for model railroaders.

hosted a spaghetti dinner at the First Christian Church for the dealers and exhibitors Saturday evening. The meal was prepared and served by the Technical Student Association at Colby High School.

After supper, Colby's own troubadour Larry Booth entertained the guests with railroad songs and stories of the old Rock Island Railroad.

"We want to express our appreciation to the women and men of the Colby National Guard, the Technology Student Association and (Retired Senior Volunteer Program,) whose assistance made the Train Show possible," said Hartford.

The national guard not only provided their building, but had people available to help, and RSVP members took tickets and provided a concessions booth at the armory.

Club members include; Hartford, Norm Claus, John Donelan, Ray Duffy, Cody Duffy, Ed Guy, Cal Mahin, Charles Marchbanks, Don Saddler, and George Werth.



Telephone system, bus lease approved

By MAXINE NELSON
Colby Free Press

The Colby Community College telephone system will soon be able to function in most emergencies following action by the board on Monday night. The board approved a \$6,800 bid from Northwest Kansas Communications for a package containing 40 amp. batteries which would give a 20-minute backup, allowing the computer to shut down properly. One other bid was submitted, that by Jim's Electric for \$7,740.

The board had postponed the decision at the last meeting because of a question about warrantees. Kenneth Johnson, dean of fiscal affairs, said the warrantees were comparable.

In other business:

- The board approved a lease for the new 29-passenger Goshen bus. Approval had been postponed from the last meeting because the college had been negotiating with the dealer about a problem with flooring on the new bus. The college had wanted a rubber flooring and the bus came with carpet. Johnson said the work had been done and the new rubber flooring put in. He said the college had saved money on interest because the prime rate had gone down. The college adopted a resolution financing the bus with First National Bank over a five-year period.

- The board approved an audit report presented by Jerry Arnsdorf, CPA, which had been presented at the previous meeting. Johnson said Arnsdorf had recommended student loans be turned in to a collection agency for collection 'in a timely manner.' Johnson said this refers to loans made with Perkins funds, which are grant money, not tax dollars.

- Dr. Mikel Ary, college president, presented a proposal to purchase two Plato computer programs for remedial learning. He said last year the college purchased two programs, and got one

free, and the offer was repeated this year. He said the programs give excellent results. It can be used for several purposes, including English as a second language. The board approved the \$7,825 purchase.

- The board also approved the purchase of a mannequin for the nursing program which can be programmed to replicate illnesses, such as various heart murmurs, respiratory ailments, abdominal complaints, and such. The purchase was for \$6,300 which will be paid by Perkins money. Ary said last year the nursing department got a mannequin with a rubber arm which can be programmed to evaluation techniques in inserting IV needles. "Better if than me," said board chairman Kenton Krebbiel.

- Ary said the faculty had asked for the usual \$300 donation for the Christmas gathering. The board approved the request.

- Ary and board members Cleona Flipse and Don Kready reported on a meeting of the Association of Community Colleges they attended in San Diego, Calif. Flipse said a lot of attention was given to steps taken in the aftermath of the World Trade Center attack. The City University of New York presented a paper on what was done there, and what was done at the Borough of Manhattan Community College which was next door to the World Trade Center and which is hosting the rescue operations.

- Ary said the Colby College horse team had taken first place among seven teams at a meet in Las Cruces, N.M.

- The board went into a 10-minute executive meeting to discuss negotiations. No action was taken when they returned to open session.

The next meeting will be Nov. 5 to be followed by a dinner in the college cafeteria for board members and spouses. The business meeting will be at 5 p.m.

Deaths of postal workers possibly from anthrax

WASHINGTON (AP) — The death of two postal workers of "almost certain" anthrax led health officials to begin testing mail workers from 36 post offices in the nation's capital today and put thousands on antibiotics as a precaution.

Among those being tested: Washington Mayor Anthony Williams. He, his wife and mother visited a post office last Friday to show support for workers and could have been exposed. Nine people with suspicious symptoms were being monitored. Dr. Ivan Walks, the city's chief health official, said not all nine are mail workers.

He also raised the possibility that the contaminated letter received in the office of Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle was not the only one that passed through the postal system here. "It's clear more than one letter was sent," Walks said on NBC's "Today."

Two postal workers with inhaled anthrax remain hospitalized — resting comfortably, in Walks' words. Congress was open for business today, although the office buildings for Senate and House workers remained closed for anthrax testing. Four "hot spots" have been identified around the congressional campus, and possibly the Capitol itself, congressional sources said.

The Postal Service defended a delay in looking for anthrax at the city's cen-

tral processing facility, where the victims worked, and considered new precautions for workers nationwide.

Deborah Willhite, senior vice president of the U.S. Postal Service, said the agency relied on federal officials who advised against testing of all workers. But by Thursday, three days after the letter was discovered in Daschle's office, postal officials questioned that decision and began their own testing.

Testing for anthrax continued at Washington's Brentwood postal facility, a week after the tainted letter appeared on Capitol Hill. Health officials said they would expand testing to 36 post offices across the city that received mail from Brentwood, as investigators tried to pinpoint any other sites contaminated with anthrax.

Authorities said postal workers citywide should begin taking preventive antibiotics. The number prescribed such precautions neared 10,000 in Washington alone.

As the bioterrorist toll mounted, postal officials planned to meet today with experts at the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to consider new precautions for postal workers across the country, including wearing gloves and masks as they handle mail. "Like other symbols of American freedom and power, the mail and our employees have become a target of terrorists," postal officials said.

Plummeting prices put cattle feeders at risk

WICHITA (AP) — At the Winter Feedyard in Dodge City, owner Ken Winter figures he is feeding 10 percent more cattle today than a year ago at this time.

Winter is one of many feedyards across Kansas that are reporting a backlog of record heavy cattle — many held off from market by feeders reluctant to sell them at a loss because of plummeting prices, said Rodney Jones, an agricultural economist at Kansas State University.

The big Kansas feedlots had 2.54 million head on feed on Oct. 1, up 10 percent from a year ago and 2 percent more than a month earlier, Kansas Agricultural Statistics Service said in its newly released September livestock report. By comparison, the U.S. inventory of cattle on feed was 1 percent above this time last year.

Cattlemen are losing between \$85

"We have taken some risk protection through the futures market..."

Ken Winter, feedlot owner

and \$100 per head coming out of feedlots to market, Jones said.

"It is not fun losing the kind of equity we are losing right now," Winter said Monday.

"We have taken some risk protection through the futures market, and that has helped some, but we can't go on like this for very long."

Winter knows of at least two other feedlots in Kansas that have recently gone up for sale.

And in northwest Kansas, St. Francis cattle feeder Mike Callicrate can

name four other feedlots in Kansas and nearby communities in Nebraska and Colorado that filed for bankruptcy protection in the last week.

Meanwhile, feeders are obviously reluctant to put any more cattle in feedlots when budget projections are for further losses, Jones said.

Kansas placements in September totaled just 470,000 head — down 18 percent from a month earlier, and down 13 percent from a year ago, the statistics service said.

Nationally, placements in feedlots in

September were down 20 percent.

More cattle feeders are holding on to their cattle, allowing cattle weights to get heavier and creating a significant backlog of heavy cattle that will need to be marketed in the short term.

The five-year average for federally inspected dress weights per animal has been 730 to 735 pounds, Jones said. But the dress weights of animals now being slaughtered are running well over 760 pounds — and that translates into increased meat supplies all through the system, Jones said.

Callicrate said the United States imports 20 percent of the beef consumed in this country.

He blames the big packing plants for driving down the cattle prices with talk of a backlog of cattle.

"There is no way we have too many cattle on feed — that is an absolute lie," he said.

Briefly

Weather: Very windy

Strong winds will be the weather problem tonight through Wednesday night for the Colby region, reports the National Weather Service. Tonight will bring cloudy skies, lows in the middle 30s and northwest winds 20-30 mph with gusts to 40 mph. Wednesday, expect partly cloudy conditions, highs only in the middle 50s and northwest winds 25-35 mph with gusts to 45 mph. Wednesday night, clearing skies, lows in the middle 20s and northwest winds still brisk at 20-30 mph, then decreasing to 5-15 mph late. Thursday, Friday and Saturday, partly cloudy, lows 25-30 and highs in the lower 60s. Monday's high in Colby was 79 and the overnight low this morning was 32. The soil temperature at the four-inch depth is averaging 61 degrees. Precipitation for the month remains at 0.45 inches. The records for Oct. 23: 89 in 1927 and 7 in 1917. (The daily temperatures,

precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Drug awareness workshop planned

A drug awareness workshop will be held from 5 to 7 p.m., Sunday, Oct. 28, at the Colby United Methodist Church. The workshop, said Doug Finley, organizer, will feature speakers familiar with alcohol and drug abuse. The workshop is in conjunction with Drug Free Awareness programs, he said. The event is open to everyone. For information or questions, call Pastor Jim Mardock, 462-2761, or Finley at 465-5300.

Kready Bunch performs Saturday

A family barbershop quartet show, The Kready Bunch, is planned for Saturday, Oct. 27, at two locations. The first

will be at Quinter High School in Quinter beginning at 2 p.m., followed by a second performance at Colby High School's auditorium starting at 7:30 p.m. Tickets for the concert are \$8 and can be purchased at the door or by calling Don Kready, (785) 462-3004 or visiting James Edmundson at First National Bank. All proceeds will go to help vocal music programs in the area.

Field check meeting Wednesday

There will be field check meeting concerning the viaduct between officials from the City of Colby and the Kansas Department of Transportation at 8 a.m., Wednesday, in the council chamber at City Hall, 585 N. Franklin.

Holiday items needed for sale

Citizens Medical Center Auxiliary is planning its second

annual recycled holiday sales and is looking for donations of new or good used holiday items, said Carolyn Miller, one of the organizers. Donations can be left at 545 Woofter Ave. between Saturday, Oct. 27 and Thursday, Nov. 1. For those with questions or to make other arrangements, call 462-7777 or 462-6898. The actual sale will begin on Friday, Nov. 2 from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday, Nov. 3, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. at 545 Woofter Ave.

Genesis gears up for holiday project

Genesis-Thomas County, which is the area food bank, is again planning to help families during the holiday season, said Marcy Wasson, chairperson of the Christmas basket project. Pick up forms at the Genesis-Thomas County office, 350 S. Range, Colby, or call, (785) 462-7930 for information or questions.

