

New mystery books, along with audio tapes, arrive at library

If you happen to be a fan of "cozy" mysteries, as I am, then you will be glad to know that we have a few new ones at the Library that will keep you busy reading. First, we have *Puzzled To Death* by Parnell Hall. It features Cora Felton, known to the world as "Puzzle Lady".



JoAnne Sunderman
•Library Link

She is hooked on crossword puzzles and because she is so good at solving them, everyone thinks she is a marvelous sleuth.

In reality, it is her niece Sherry, maker of crossword puzzles, who is the one solving all the crimes. You see, good old Cora gets way too chummy with the bottle, if you get my drift, and it is up to Sherry to figure out the clues, solve the case, and make Cora look good in the process.

Janis Harrison, that stars an amateur sleuth known as the garden lady. The story setting is Branson, Mo., where a florist's convention is taking place.

The design competition coordinator, Bretta Solomon, is finding that life is anything but a bed of roses.

A series of murders takes place within and around this thorny bunch of competing flower-shop owners, and poor Bretta unwittingly becomes both the suspect and the victim. Cozy gardening mystery fans are sure to enjoy

Lilies That Fester

Third, a good new cozy has just arrived by Leslie Meier. It is called *Wedding Day Murder* and is just as delightful as her former mysteries like Christmas Cookie Murder, Valentine Murder, etc.

This one begins when Lucy Stone learns that her friend Sue's daughter will marry a dot.com millionaire at Sue's Maine home.

When the prospective in-laws appear and try to take over the wedding,

the groom drowns, and Sue finds herself the leading suspect. Good old Lucy rushes to the rescue.

In this eighth Lucy Stone mystery, Meier continues to take her well-worn plot elements such as small-town tensions and in-law troubles, and turn them into fresh new stories. *Wedding Day Murder* is just a good old-fashioned fun mystery.

Finally, we have *Murder Boogies With Elvis* by Anne George. The statuesque Mary Alice and the small but sharp Patricia Anne, 60 something sisters from Birmingham, Ala., have their last adventure together.

Author Anne George died in March. Mary Alice (aka Sister) is planning to marry her fourth husband, a Norman Schwarzkopf look-alike named Virgil, and Patricia Anne (aka Mouse) is

keenly awaiting her daughter Haley's return from abroad and the birth of her grandchild.

The line of Elvis impersonators at a benefit arranged by one of Virgil's relatives hides a murder when one of the would-be Presleys falls dead nearly into Mouse's lap.

Meanwhile, one of Sister's daughters is getting serious about pregnancy if not marriage, and a friend's three daughters, Dawn, Day, and Dusk, have some odd ties to the deceased Elvis. *Murder Boogies With Elvis* is a great southern cozy mystery.

Ms. George will be missed by her legion of fans.

Last, but not least, if you are a fan of the "Left Behind" series by Jenkins and LaHaye, you will want to note that the 9th installment called *Desecration* is

now available for checkout at the Library. The series centers around the last days of earth when the anti-Christ is in power.

We have several copies of the book and also have the audio tape and CD. Tim LaHaye and Jerry Jenkins are best selling writers of Christian fiction and their "Left Behind" series has been extremely popular.

Stop by Pioneer Memorial Library soon. We are located at 375 West 4th and are open seven days a week as follows: Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. 5 p.m.; Saturday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; and Sunday, 1 p.m.-4 p.m. For more information contact the library at 462-4470. We look forward to serving you.

Citizens Medical Center to participate in scholarship program

Citizens Medical Center is again participating in the Health Careers Foundation Scholarship Loan Program for the 2002-2003 school year, said Jeanene Brown, director of education.

The Health Careers Foundation (HCF) encourages healthcare careers

by providing a scholarship/loan program.

"A strong emphasis in candidate selection is placed on nontraditional students, older students, single parents and underemployed individuals as they reach for their dream of a career in healthcare," she said.

Citizens Medical Center participates in the program by providing community awareness about the program, supplying program information and applications to interested individuals and signing countersignatures on the application.

Fields of study eligible for this pro-

gram are: dietetics; pharmacy; health information management; physical therapy; medical technology; radiology; nursing; respiratory therapy; occupational therapy; and speech therapy

Awards are generally scholarship/

loan awards consisting of 1/2 scholarship and 1/2 loan.

The application deadline is April 1. "Applications must be obtained from Citizens Medical Center by March 27," she said. For information, call Brown, at 785-462-4850.

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Economic impact not widespread as Hutchinson recovers from gas crisis

HUTCHINSON (AP) — Duct-tape letters spelling "Closed" are taped over the entrance sign at the Big Chief Mobile Home Park. Overgrown, waist-high weeds fill the deserted lots.

Battered storage buildings, broken chairs and empty laundry lines now occupy the park where a year ago a spewing gas geyser erupted underneath a mobile home, blowing it apart and killing the elderly couple that lived there.

Thursday marks the one-year anniversary of the first of those explosions, which set off a towering fire that destroyed two downtown businesses.

But it would not be until the next day — when a second explosion destroyed the mobile home and spectacular gas geysers began erupting throughout the city — that the full extent of the crisis began to unfold. More than 200 families were evacuated as officials scrambled to find the cause for the eruptions.

Leaking gas from Kansas Gas Services' underground storage facility in the Yaggy salt formations seven miles northwest of Hutchinson had apparently pooled underneath this central Kansas city. Gas plumes spewed from abandoned brine wells left behind from old salt mining operations.

A year later, the gas crisis is over but some residents are still trying to get their lives together. Geologists are still unraveling what happened, and their findings may have implications on underground storage facilities around the world.

Meanwhile, the Hutchinson economy — battered this past year by the gas crisis, an outbreak of hepatitis and the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the middle of the state fair — has proved amazingly resilient.

"This past year has tested the people of Hutchinson," state geologist Lee Allison said.

Stacey Lyon and her husband, Dennis, still have nightmares about that day. The couple were shopping for their wedding when the party supply store they were in exploded. The couple were treated at the emergency room and released.

The next day, they felt a big boom that shook their house. Just a little more than a mile away, another explosion had destroyed the mobile home where Johnny and Mary Ann Hahn lived.

"I told Dennis I thought it was moving our way and it was going to get us — I wanted to leave town," she said.

Dennis still has a recurring problem with his right shoulder from an injury

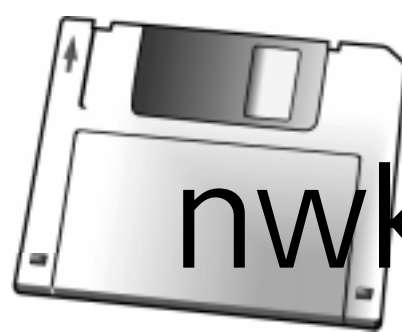
suffered in the initial explosion at the store. Stacey has some permanent hearing loss, and she is easily startled at loud noises. The couple has talked to a lawyer, but have not yet filed a lawsuit. She hopes time will heal her anxiety attacks: "It is still too soon."

Meanwhile, gas pressure beneath this central Kansas city has dropped enough to plug most of the venting wells drilled following deadly explosions a year ago, Allison said. Only three or four of the 57 venting wells near the Yaggy underground gas storage field are still releasing small amounts of gas, he said.

State and city officials are working to find the 100 to 160 brine wells believed to be scattered in the area so they can be properly plugged, not just to prevent more explosions but also to protect the groundwater from saltwater contamination from the old salt mining wells.

For its part, the Kansas Geological Survey is working on what Allison jokingly calls its Theory No. 6 about how the gas traveled from the Yaggy fields to Hutchinson.

Geologists now believe a subtle fold in the shale rock in the area provided a pathway for the escaped gas to travel uphill toward Hutchinson.



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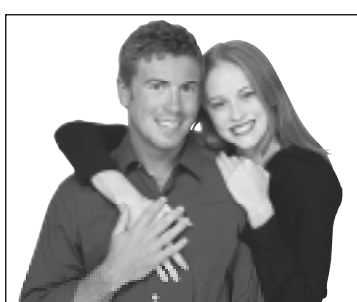
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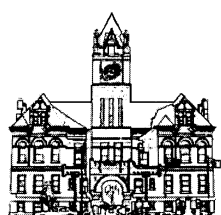
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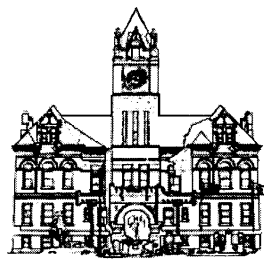
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