



COLBY FREE PRESS

Happy Valentine's Day



PATTY DECKER/Colby Free Press

For about six hours today, members of the Colby Community College Sunflower Singers, along with their director, Phil Shuman, sang "Valentine" wishes to more than 33 people around the city. Among the many places the Sunflower Singers visited were Colby High School, Colby Middle School, Lantern Park Manor and several downtown businesses. The annual fund-raising event, Shuman said, helps the pro-

gram, along with providing smiles for everyone. Left to right are Sharon Redmond, secretary to the dean of Community Services; Marge Miller, bookkeeper; Kathy Cayton, secretary to the dean of instruction; and Peggy Stupka, college receptionist. Amy Bosomworth, a freshman from Fernley, Nev., handed Stupka a bouquet of flowers as the singers entertained the other college secretarial staff.

Stoplight project on Range expected to start this spring

By PATTY DECKER
Free Press Editor

It's been a long time in the making, but Colby will soon have new stoplights at the corner of Kansas Highway 25 and Davis/Zelpher Road (located between Montana Mike's and Wal-Mart Plaza), city officials said Wednesday. The idea of stoplights at that intersection has been discussed for two years, said Gerry Bieker, public works director. The initial bids, however, were too high based on engineering estimates until recently when bid letting for the work was approved by the city council and Venture Corporation of Great Bend's bid of \$333,333.33 was accepted.

Bieker said he anticipates the stoplight project to begin this spring since Venture Corporation was also approved to do work on Interstate 70 from

Colby to Levant. The Kansas Department of Transportation will be overseeing the stoplight project with 10 percent of the cost paid by the city. Prior to the actual installation of the new stoplights, Bieker said, there will need to be some reworking of the traffic lanes in that area to include redesigning drainage and the center island, along with filling in the median and reasphalting.

Although not part of the stoplight project, but associated with it has been the changing out of street lights from the median area to the sides on Kansas Highway 25 (near Dillons) in order to make way for the improvements in the spring, he said.

When the work is completed, Bieker said, the new stoplights will look a lot like the configuration on College Drive.

Kidnapped reporter now believed dead

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) — The key suspect in the abduction of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl told a court Thursday that he believed the journalist is dead. Officials said they would reserve judgment until a body was found, and the newspaper said it remained confident Pearl was alive.

"As far as I understand, he's dead," Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh said in a courthouse in the southern Pakistani city of Karachi, where Pearl disappeared on Jan. 23 while investigating a story on Islamic militants.

Saeed appeared in the Karachi court where he was formally charged with kidnapping and ordered jailed for two more weeks.

A sullen, bespectacled Saeed, sur-

rounded by police with machine guns, helmets and bulletproof vests, confessed to the crime.

"I don't want to defend this case. I did this," he said.

He gave no details on where or when the 38-year-old journalist was allegedly killed.

Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider cast doubt on Saeed's statement. "Until the body is found we cannot believe what Omar is saying," Haider told The Associated Press by telephone.

Steven Goldstein, spokesman for Dow Jones & Co., The Wall Street Journal's parent organization, said he had not heard about Saeed's statement. "We continue to remain hopeful," Goldstein said. "We remain confident that Danny is still alive."

Colby man and former FBI agent writes book about his youth

By JAY KELLEY
Colby Free Press

Whenever Bill Piper would regale his children with stories of his youth, they would tell him he needed to write them down. So he did.

His second book, *The Elf That Got Away*, is a humorous look at growing up in a small Iowa town during the depression and working as an FBI agent for 30 years.

"It has a humorous slant," said Piper, who has lived in Colby with his wife Nancy since opening an FBI branch office here in 1963.

The book is available for loan at the Pioneer Memorial Library.

Piper said he wrote about things like "what do you do with a man so big you can't get handcuffs around his wrists."

Piper said fortunately, the man was also a very easygoing person.

He also told of two Royal Canadian Mounted Police who came to testify at a trial and found the Kansas winter temperatures, in the teens, "quite balmy."

Piper grew up in Corydon, Iowa, a small county seat town of 1,750. Although the town was small, Piper said there was plenty to do for inquisitive boys.

"We had a lot of Tom Sawyer in all of us," he said. He and his friends, including his cousin Hugh, spent a lot of time exploring woods and streams near town.

Piper was too young for World War II, joining the Army in 1945. After the service he went to Drake University and joined the FBI.

"I guess I had a curious and inquisitive nature," Piper said when asked about the lure of the FBI.

"The FBI was enlarging the force and I was accepted," he said.

Before coming to Colby, where he retired, Piper served in Washington, D.C., Syracuse, N.Y., Philadelphia, New York and Kansas City offices.

He met Nancy while working for the FBI and they married in 1952. They have three children, Dave, Jane Mahoney and Mary Hull.

Piper's work helped him in writing, he said.

"I had to write factually accurate, detailed reports on investigations," he said.

He and Nancy wrote a genealogy of the Piper family a few years ago, which primed him for the second book.



JAY KELLEY/Colby Free Press

Bill and Nancy Piper enjoy a look at Bill's book, *The Elf That Got Away*, available at Pioneer Memorial Library. The book is a collection of humorous incidents from Bill's childhood and 30 years in the FBI.

Briefly

Weather: No moisture

The forecast for the Colby region doesn't hold out any hope for moisture, reports the National Weather Service. Tonight, cloudy early then clearing, lows in the upper teens and north winds 10-15 mph. Friday, sunny, highs in the middle 40s and northwest winds 5-10 mph. Friday night, clear, lows in the upper teens. Saturday, sunny, highs in the 50s, and Sunday, cloudy, lows in the lower 20s and highs in the middle 50s. Colby's high Wednesday was 52 and the overnight low this morning was 15. The soil temperature at the 4-inch depth is averaging 32 degrees. Nothing to add to the moisture board. The records for Feb. 14: 74 in 1945 and -9 in 1936. Today's high was expected to reach 53. (The daily temperatures, precipitation and records are provided by the Northwest Kansas Research-Extension Center, Colby.)

Booster club fundraiser Saturday

The Booster Club will have a Lube-A-Thon Saturday, from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Kansas Quick Lube. Part of the proceeds will go to the Booster Club. For information contact Kathy Elliott, Booster Club president.

College to meet Monday

The Colby Community College Board of Trustees will meet at 5 p.m. Monday in the board room of the Thomas Hall administration building. Items of business include

discussion of capital outlay, bids for the college catalog, resignations, health insurance plan, payment of claims, and any other item any member wishes to discuss.

School conferences planned

Parent-teacher conferences have been mailed by Colby Public Schools. If you did not receive a card for your student, please call the respective building for the time, said school officials.

Fair board in session tonight

The Thomas County Fair Board will meet at 8 p.m. tonight in the 4-H building at the fairgrounds. The buildings and grounds committee will discuss a groundskeeper replacement. Plans for the coming fair to be discussed include the rodeo, demolition derby, races, barbecue, fair book, parade and advertising. The audit contract will be discussed. New business to be discussed will include a vendor letter, Dillons charge cards, and uncashed fair exhibitor checks from 1999. Bills will be reviewed.

Pre-enrollment scheduled

Sacred Heart pre-enrollment for kindergarten and preschool is planned from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 20, in the school's lobby. Those planning to pre-enroll children are asked to bring immunization records, birth certificate, physical, and social security card. For questions, call the office at 462-2813.

Coalition advances redistricting plan

TOPEKA (AP) — A bipartisan coalition rewrote a Senate redistricting bill, leaving some Republicans stunned that a certain victory had eluded them.

The Senate voted 21-19 on Wednesday for a plan to redraw the 40 districts drafted by Ed Pugh, R-Wamego. His proposal replaced a bill endorsed by the Reapportionment Committee and backed by many GOP senators, including President Dave Kerr.

A key difference in the two plans was the treatment of Sen. Janis Lee, D-Kensington.

The committee's plan put her in a district with Sen. Stan Clark, R-Oakley. The Pugh plan pairs Lee with Sen. Larry Salmans, R-Hanston, which Democrats deemed more helpful to her.

After amending the bill, senators gave it first-round approval on an unrecorded 20-18 vote. Kerr and his allies had another 24 hours to lobby their colleagues before a final vote.

The Pugh plan had the support of all 10 Democrats and 11 of the 30 Repub-

licans, including Majority Leader Lana Oleen.

Some Republicans were furious that Oleen, R-Manhattan, joined with the minority party. Kerr and others also were upset because they hadn't seen Pugh's plan before.

"There was an unholy alliance between the majority leader and the minority leader," said Sen. Derek Schmidt, R-Independence. "I expect my leadership to support their committee, and if they're not going to do that, be open with all of us."

Oleen said she supported Pugh's plan because she thinks the Lee-Salmans pairing is fairer than the Lee-Clark one.

However, Oleen said some of the changes in the redistricting bill weren't discussed during the debate.

"That may cause some of us to rethink our positions," Oleen said. "I don't know that I'm rethinking, but I'm thinking."

Legislators must redraw Senate districts to account for population shifts in over the past decade. The new

boundaries will be in effect for the next Senate elections, in 2004.

Democrats wanted to avoid any pairing for Lee, but accepted the Pugh proposal because they thought it more favorable than the committee's map.

Lee and Clark had drafted a plan pairing no incumbents in a single district. Clark offered it but it failed, 16-24.

"This vote will be the definitive vote for the next 10 years on where you stand in rural Kansas," he said.

Some rural senators said the Pugh proposal also was their second choice but still better than the committee version because of the way it drew new lines in rural areas.

"Rural Kansas finally had a victory for a day," said Sen. Tim Huelskamp, R-Fowler, a coalition member. "We have 24 hours to see how it holds up."

Kerr said several Republicans, whom he would not identify, had promised to vote against any amendments, then didn't.

Sen. Dave Corbin, R-Towanda, said "Two or three people lied to their colleagues."

