

Family

Death

Carmelita Clark

Carmelita Clark, 76, of Goodland, died Saturday, May 31, 2008, at Swedish Medical Center in Denver, Colo.

Survivors include her husband Carmelita Maxine McGinley was born Feb. 2, 1932, at her grandparents' farm home south of Levant, the daughter of Floyd and Doris (McBride) McGinley. She graduated with the class of 1950 from Levant High School.

She married John C. Gilley and they had seven children: John, Rod, Scott, Tom, Dan, Tim, and Marla. The family made their home south of Brewster, where they farmed, and she was a homemaker. Her husband preceded her in death in June 2001.

She married Lyle Clark Feb. 8, 1996, and the couple lived in Goodland.

Preceding her in death were her

first husband in June 2001; three of her sons: Scott in 1977; Tom in 1988; and John L. in 1994.

Survivors include her husband Lyle Clark of Goodland; three sons Rod Gilley and his wife Susan of Brewster; Tim Gilley and his wife Pam of Westminster, Colo.; Dan Gilley and his wife Rose of Long Prairie, Minn.; and daughter Marla Bassler and her husband Ron of Phoenix, Ariz.; and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

The memorial graveside service was today at the Brewster Cemetery with Pastor Dorine Chambers officiating. Inurnment will follow.

Memorials may be designated to the Carmelita Clark Memorial, and mailed to Koons Funeral Home, 211 North Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735-1555.

Donald Smull

Donald Ray Smull Sr., 69, of Colby, died Friday, May 30, 2008, at Citizens Medical Center in Colby.

Mr. Smull was born Nov. 24, 1938, in St. Francis and worked as a licensed practical nurse.

He is survived by sons: Ben Smull of St. Francis; Donald Smull II of Topeka; and Winston Smull of Kansas City, Mo.; former wife, Kathey Smull of Colby; brother: Bill Smull of Topeka, Wash.; mother: Beryl Smull of St.

Francis and 12 grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by a grandson in 2005.

Services were held today at the United Methodist Church in St. Francis. Burial was at St. Francis Cemetery with military honors by the U.S. Navy.

A memorial fund was established for the Don Smull Memorial Fund. Donations may be left at Knodel Funeral Home, 202 S. Benton, St. Francis, Kan. 67756-0606.

Katherine Epp

Katherine A. (Franz) Epp, 95, of Colby, died Monday, June 2, 2008, in Colby. She was born May 13, 1913, in Goessel.

Mrs. Epp was a homemaker and member of Mingo Bible Church, Fireside Garden Club and TOB Club.

She was an area resident since 1946.

Preceding her in death was her husband, Dan Epp in 1975.

Survivors include her sons: Richard Epp of Colby and Frank Epp of Great Bend; sister: Hulda Goossen of Colby; eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Friday, at Mingo Bible Church in Mingo with Pastor Keni Epp and Pastor Pat Colley officiating.

Burial will be at Beulah Cemetery in Colby.

Visitation is from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m., Thursday, at Harrison Chapel, 190 S. Franklin Ave., Colby, Kan. 67701.

Donations may be made to Baptist Bible Fellowship International or Mingo Bible Church and left at any Colby bank or Harrison Chapel.

Harrison Chapel is in charge of all arrangements.

Vote for Cooper Barn by June 15

By Leilani Thomas
Convention and Visitors Bureau

School is out and summer is officially here. We look forward to a busy Summer with lots of activity. Please do not forget to vote for the Cooper Barn as one of the eight architectural wonders of Kansas. The deadline for voting is Sunday, June 15.

The site is www.8wonders.org and please vote for eight or the vote will not count. The Kansas Sampler Foundation is receiving about 150 votes per day on line; this does not count the paper ballots. The final announcement will be made June 30th. The Convention and Tourism Committee voted to host the 8 wonders of Thomas County contest. You will be hearing more about this in the future.

We welcome Phil DeYoung as our newest board member replacing Jim Brown who served so many years. We will also miss Steven Reed who has moved. Officers for the coming year are Chairperson Leesa Wark and Vice-Chair Julie Saddler. We look forward to working with this team. Proposed projects for the near future include website development and a signage program updating our billboards.

We had the opportunity to honor our volunteers and staff from the Colby Visitors Center during Tourism Week in May.

Ten of the volunteers have been active since the Center opened four years ago. A couple of Tourism Fast Facts provided by the State of Kansas are that the total impact of travel and tourism (direct and indirect) was \$5.46 billion in 2006.

In addition, 9.5 percent of total employment in the state was created by travel and tourism economic activity making it the third largest private sector employer in the state. About \$3.4 billion in wages and salaries were generated by travel and tourism.

Tourism works for America, Kansas and Colby.

We had the opportunity to work with a professional photographer taking photos in Colby for the Kansas Travel and Tourism Division. He took photos of the museum complex, the visitor's center and Bourquin's. He took some very interesting shots using lots of interesting angles.

Leadership Thomas County Class met for their class project May 7. The class traveled from Brewster to Colby and then to Golden Plains Schools. First grade teachers in all of the schools were asked to submit a wish list for their class. The class provided checks to enable the teachers to purchase teaching tools which might not have been possible to have for their classrooms. Sacred Heart and Heartland Christian Schools were also

included in the project.

The class had lunch with the Senior Progress Center staff and seniors. They enjoyed visiting and playing games with them before serving the lunch. It was truly an inter-generational day in Thomas County.

The premiere event for this month is the Colby Cruise to the Past Rod Run which will be held June 13-15. Don't miss the Cruise-in, Show and Shines, Dances at Southwind in the evening and awards. We will be developing the quarterly calendar of events for the months of July, August and September. If you have an event during this time period, please give us a call at (785) 460-7643.

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Ruth Kersenbrock



Ruth Maxine Kersenbrock was born February 6, 1925 to Milton and Eva Biggs at their homestead in Rawlins County.

Ruth married Ray on April 23, 1944 at the home of Edith and A.C. "Boom" Kersenbrock. She was a dedicated wife and mother who enjoyed spending time with her family and friends. After 35 years of service to the Thomas County National Bank/Sunflower Bank, Ruth retired. She thoroughly enjoyed watching and listening to every sporting event that she could. You would often see her at the baseball fields honking her horn for every great play or homerun that happened. She was locally known for her pies, chocolate sheet cake and her all famous chicken noodle soup.

She was and will always be "Aunt Ruth" to all high school and college kids who knew her. Most of Ruth's family and friends have a little piece of Ruth right in their very own homes; whether it's an embroidered tea towel, a hand sewn quilt or a crochet afghan, we have all been wrapped up in her love some way or another.

Ruth died June 1, 2008 at Citizen's Medical Center in Colby, Kansas. She is survived by her daughter Linda Rae Kaveny of Ketchum, Idaho; grandson Cory Ray Kaveny of Phoenix, Arizona; sisters Marie Ditzges Torrington, Wyoming; Lola Andrews of Indianapolis, Indiana; Sylvia Hurst of Goodland, Kansas, and brothers Jim Biggs of North Carolina and Walt Biggs of McDonald, Kansas. She was preceded in death by her husband Ray Kersenbrock, sister Thelma Frerichs and brother Fred Biggs and a host of other family and friends.

Services will be held at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, June 7, 2008 at Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby, Kansas.

The family truly believes Ray waited for Ruth to join his "Field of Dreams." Visitation will be 9am-8pm, Friday, June 6, 2008 at Kersenbrock Funeral Chapel - Colby, KS.

Memorials are designated to the CHS All Sports Booster Club. Donations in Care of the Funeral Chapel.

Linda Ann Stoecklein Holzhter



Linda Ann Stoecklein Holzhter died on Saturday, May 31, 2008. She was born on Monday, March 16, 1964, in Colby, Kansas. She was blessed to be a member of an incredible family. Her loving parents, Theodore and Pauline (Wirtz) Stoecklein, both preceded her in death.

Her life was filled with the wisdom, love and humor of her siblings and extended family. Linda is survived by Mike and Peg Stoecklein of Minneapolis, Minnesota; Mark and Tanya Stoecklein of Seattle, Washington; David and Carol Stoecklein of Chino Hills, California; Dale Stoecklein of Denver, Colorado; Mary and Russell Disberger of Glenwood Springs, Colorado; Paul and Jodi Stoecklein of Lenoir, North Carolina; Fr. Ted Stoecklein of Spearville, Kansas. She also had a brother, Kenneth Stoecklein, who died in infancy.

She graduated from Colby High School in 1982, received her Associates Degree from Colby Community College in 1984. After attending Emporia State University she transferred to The University of Kansas where she received her Bachelor of Science in Education in 1988. She continued to take graduate classes with Emporia State University in anticipation of the completion of her Master of Education.

In 1986, she married John M. Holzhter at St. Paul's Parrish in Olathe Kansas. He survives of their home. She was his faithful companion and joyous gift of God until the time of her death. Their lives were enriched by two wonderful boys, Sean and Scott, currently serving as missionaries in China.

She is also survived by her stepmother, Barbara Scheopner Stoecklein and her children, Cindy Scheopner, Donna Swager, Jeanette Hornung, Mary Yewell, Kenny Scheopner. A stepsister, Sue Riggs, preceded Linda in death. After starting her teaching career in Topeka, Linda moved with her husband from Lawrence to Ottawa in 1989. In the fall of 1991, Linda began teaching first grade at Sacred Heart Catholic School, where her tenderness and compassion touched the lives of her students and fellow teachers. Linda was Building Co-chair for North Central Accreditation and also a member of the Student Improvement Team. Linda gracefully shared the talent and spirit of her voice with her fellow parishioners as a member of the choir at Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

Friends may pay their respects to Mrs. Holzhter at Dengel & Son Mortuary, 235 S. Hickory, in Ottawa from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 4, 2008. A Vigil and Rosary will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Wednesday, at Sacred Heart Catholic Church, 408 S. Cedar, in Ottawa followed by a family visitation, where a Funeral Mass will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, June 5. On Friday, June 6, family and friends will meet at Mt. Calvary Cemetery in Topeka at 10:00 a.m. for committal services.

Memorial Donations will be accepted through two non-profit charitable funds: the Linda Holzhter Fund for Children, donations in care of People's Bank, PO Box 20, Ottawa, Ks 66067 or the Angel's Fund at Sacred Heart Catholic School (a scholarship fund), donations in care of Sacred Heart Catholic School.

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