

Deaths

Vera Steiger

Vera Steiger, 95, Dallas, a homemaker formerly of Menlo, died Tuesday, Aug. 2, 2011, in Dallas.
Born March 21, 1916, near Menlo to Cornelious Ely and Eva Jane Blacksten, she married Harvey Steiger on Sept. 2, 1934, and was an active member of the Menlo community and Menlo Methodist Church for 65 years.
In 1999 they moved to Texas to be near their son and his wife.
She was preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, her daughter Patricia Ann Leonard, and great-granddaughters Chelsey

Kear and Amanda Cameron.
Survivors include her son Robert (Susan) Steiger, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.
Graveside services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 6, 2011, at the Menlo Cemetery.
Visitation will be from 6 to 8 p.m. Friday at the Kersensbrock Funeral Chapel in Colby.
The family suggests, rather than flowers, contributions be made to the Vera Steiger Memorial in care of the administrator, Walnut Place, 5515 Glen Lakes Drive, Dallas, Texas, 75231.

Clara M. Richers

Clara M. (Zuege) Richers, 83, formerly a St. Francis farm wife and homemaker and mother of Linda (Stan) Orth of Colby, died Saturday, July 30, 2011, at the Hays Medical Center.
She was born Dec. 30, 1927, in Cheyenne County, the daughter of Paul and Johanna (Buehler) Zuege, and grew up on a farm south of Haigler, Neb.
On Nov. 19, 1950, she married Herman L. Richers. They farmed west of St. Francis.
Preceding her in death were her parents; her husband; two sisters, Margaret Zuege and Deloris Krien; a son-in-law, Richard Hanna; and a granddaughter, Jolynn Richers.
Survivors also include a son Kenneth (Jean) Richers, St. Francis; two other daughters, Ruth

(Jerry) Gotchall, Torrington, Wyo.; and Mary Hanna, North Platte, Neb.; two sisters, Victoria Clapper and Bonnie (Les) Doggett; two brothers-in-law, Elmer Richers, Arvada, Colo.; and Don Bruder, Bird City; a sister-in-law, Elvera Neitzel, Goodland; 12 grandchildren; and 13 great-grandchildren.
Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, Aug. 5, 2011, at the Peace Lutheran Church in St. Francis, with Pastor Chris Farmer officiating and burial in the St. Francis Cemetery.
The family suggests memorials to the Prairie Senior Living Complex in Colby, in care of Bank West, Colby, Kan., or Knodel Funeral Home in St. Francis, 202 S. Benton St., St. Francis, Kan., 67756.

Georgia Patton

Georgia Patton, 72, Grand Junction, Colo., formerly of Colby, died Monday, Aug. 1, 2011, at her home.

Graveside services will be at 2 p.m. (Central Time) Friday, Aug. 5, 2011, at the new Elmwood Cemetery in Fruita, Colo.

On the Beat

COLBY POLICE

- Sunday**
12:44 a.m. – Secured building at Meadow Lake.
1:03 a.m. – Domestic battery: caller reported subject being beaten. Report filed.
1:53 a.m. – Provided security in Twister's parking lot.
1:57 a.m. – Caller reported being hit by another subject.
6:21 a.m. – Unlocked building at Fike Park.
7:16 a.m. – Caller reported three juveniles on bikes riding lane to lane westbound on Fourth from Martin. Located at Garfield and Third; spoken to.
9 a.m. – Caller reported of hitchhiker behind Motel 6 and Burger King asking for money or a ride. Subject checked and was moving on.
9:16 a.m. – Deputy from Riley County called requesting officer contact subject about identity theft case. Message delivered.
1 p.m. – Provided civil standby.
2:17 p.m. – Assisted motorist at

- Country Club Dr. and Willow.
4:21 p.m. – Report filed for disorderly conduct incident.
5:35 p.m. – Theft report filed.
10:56 p.m. – Locked building at Fike Park.
THOMAS COUNTY SHERIFF
Sunday
2:22 a.m. – Helped motorist at Oasis and escorted vehicle to Holiday Inn.
2:34 a.m. – Decatur County advised of an overdue motorist taking U.S. 83 to Oberlin. Unable to locate.
2:45 a.m. – Booked Theodore E. Hart.
3:20 a.m. – Released Hart.
10:44 a.m. – Took transient to the Sheridan County line.
12:59 p.m. – Assisted motorist at I-70 mile 51 eastbound.
5:01 p.m. – Booked Mark A. Ostmeyer.
5:18 p.m. – Released Ostmeyer.
11:50 p.m. – Got several calls about a cow on U.S. 24 between Brewster and Levant. Cow got back into pasture, owner notified.

Art workshop planned

High Plains Art Club will have a painting workshop from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday in the Fellowship Hall at the Colby United Methodist Church, 950 S. Franklin Ave.
John Scott of Hoxie will be the instructor. Artists are to bring anything they are working on they need help with along with their own supplies. They will also need to bring a plastic tablecloth for their table.
Scott is adept at any medium including oil, acrylic, watercolor, pastel or pencil.
Cost for the two day workshop is \$25 for club members and \$40

for non-members. For information contact Bev Kern at (785) 460-2300 or Ruth Hughes at (785) 462-2876.

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Sharing books with children can help them grieve personal loss



Melany Wilks
•Library Links

The book to catch my eye this week on our new book shelf was "The Reading Promise: My Father And The Books We Shared," by Alice Ozma.
The title drew me, but the front cover was precious also. It shows a father standing in a room with books stacked up on the floor. The father is standing and reading to the daughter, who is standing on a stack of books to bring her to the right height to enjoy the book with her father. At the age of nine she and her father had agreed to read together.

In their discussion she wanted to make a challenge for them to read consecutively every day for 1000 days. In the foreword her father explains that he thought this was a very difficult challenge but he was not about to discourage his daughter from setting goals and striving to reach them (pp. xi – xii). Her father also talks about reading to children and the advantage he saw in his child's success in learning and educational pursuits (pp. xv-xvii). Alice tells us in the acknowledgements that her father was not to read the book: "It was too mushy" (p. vii)!
I read through the book and discovered many delightful parts, but the one that showed what a unique child the author was – and probably still is – is found in the telling of the story when she lost Franklin the fish. Alice learned before going to school in the morning that her one and only fish had died. She arranged with her mother, father and sister to attend the funeral for the fish.
That afternoon they marched out

to the grave site, sang two songs, and finally father gave the eulogy. Mother, father and sister were struggling to keep their composure through the whole ceremony. Alice tells us that at the end she declares that this was a serious occasion, and that they should not be laughing. She went on to say that to commemorate Franklin's death she would never have another fish, nor will she ever eat fish again. At the end of the chapter, she tells Franklin the fish that she has kept the promise and has not eaten fish even unto her adult life (pp. 39-49).

When I started this column I just picked out some new items that I thought adults should read and look through to help children with grieving the loss of a loved one. I had no idea that the book above would tie in so well. While I was reading the story, I wondered how and what children feel and if we take time to allow them to express them self when a person close to them dies. Alice's story demonstrated to me that kids think deeply and struggle when family members, friends and animals die.

A book that might help adults with this issue is "A Parent's Guide to Raising Grieving Children: Rebuilding Your Family After the Death of a Loved One,"

by Phyllis R. Silverman and Madelyn Kelly. This book is not just a scholarly book, but one that shares stories of families that personally experienced loss.

Many of these people shared because they wanted to help others through the process of grief. The age range discussed in the book is broad. The 10 chapters are well thought out and creatively done. There is also a very nice index at the back. Another book on this subject is "Saying Good-bye to Someone You Love: Your Emotional Journey Through End of Life and Grief," by Robert J Taub, M.D.

Four other books you will find in the new book adult section of the library are picture books for children. Ideally they are for adults to read with a child. The first is "Gentle Willow: A Story for Children About Dying," by Joyce C. Mills, Ph.D., and illustrated by Cary Pillo. The tree Gentle Willow has gotten sick. It is discovered that she will not recover. So her friends must encourage the tree through the process of dying and also encourage themselves to find ways to remember Gentle Willow. At the end of the book there are notes to parents about talking with "children about their illnesses" and "the child's feelings." On the last page there are two exercises that parents can read, consider and use to help their children cope.

A book written specifically for interaction "Help Me Say Good-bye: Activities for Helping Kids Cope When A Special Person Dies," by Janis Silverman. This book has brief sentences to read

and consider. Then the child can draw what they have discussed. Now the library book should not be drawn in, but a parent can photocopy the pages.

A third book is "I Miss You: A First Look At Death," by Pat Thomas. This one discusses feelings and such that a person feels after someone dies. A fourth book is "We Were Gonna Have A Baby, But We Had An Angel Instead," by Pat Schwiebert and illustrated by Taylor Bills. A touching story told through a boy's experience. The book shares with the child the parents' and grandparents' grief and the boy's personal sorrow. At the end of the book it has two pages entitled "How to Help Your Child."

These are very sensitive books with realistic discussions about the real feelings about loss. Children are affected but often are unseen sufferers. Maybe we need to encourage our children, like Alice to express and share their thoughts of their loss.

I know many families plant a tree or rose bush to remember a loved one. Many families in our area remember loss by giving to a special project in the library. These families got together, talked about the project and were able to be a part of something that makes them remember their grandparent, parent or sibling.

Remember our summer hours are: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 9 to 8 Thursday, 9 to 5 Friday, 9 to 4 p.m. Saturday and 1 to 4 p.m. Sunday.

See you in the library!

Judge issues humorous order

LEXINGTON, Ky. (AP) – A humorous order issued by a Kentucky judge is making rounds in legal publications, including the *American Bar Association Journal*.

Kenton Circuit Judge Martin Sheehan said in an order issued last month that he was "happier than a tick on a fat dog" that a settlement had been reached in a lawsuit over a contract dispute, according to the *Lexington Herald-Leader* (<http://bit.ly/olcS72>).

In the order canceling the trial, which had been set for July 13, Sheehan wrote the court is "busier than a one-legged cat in a sand box and, quite frankly, would rather have jumped naked off of a twelve foot step ladder into a five gallon bucket of porcupines than have presided over a two week trial of the herein dispute, a trial which,

no doubt, would have made the jury more confused than a hungry baby in a topless bar and made the parties and their attorneys madder than mosquitoes in a mannequin factory."

The newspaper said Sheehan and attorneys in the case either declined to comment about the order or did not return calls.

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UPCOMING EVENTS in Kansas

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Halstead Old Settlers August 12-14, Halstead Come celebrate with us! Family fun for ALL! Parade, bull riding, music, mud volleyball, softball, mutton busting, fun run. <http://OldSettlers.HalsteadKansas.com>
Lawrence Busker Festival August 19-21, Lawrence Witness crazy and creative acts, oddities, and performances in Historic Downtown Lawrence. Sword Swallowers, Fire Eaters, Aerial Acts & much more! LawrenceBuskerFest.com
BlackTop Nationals August 26-28, Wichita One of the largest car, truck and motorcycle events in the country. Includes car show, autocross and cruise night. (316) 425-6767, blacktopnationals.com
Autumn & Art at Bradley Fair September 16-18, Wichita A juried visual Arts show with artists from across the U.S. Enjoy art from a variety of mediums. Hands-on children's art activities, food & music. (877) 934-3378, autumnandart.com
Kansas 150 Festival October 8, Wichita The Sunflower State's Biggest Birthday Bash Ever! Kansas Sunflower Parade, historic reenactors, "Home on the Range" concert and more! Find out more at KS150.org

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