

Even in the '30s, zinnias were tops

Growing up on that dusty depression-ridden Sand Hills farm in the 1930s wasn't a whole lot of fun.

But kids like me didn't realize at the time that times were tough, as we searched for ways to have a little fun and enjoyment in life. It was a little later, when harvests were reasonably dependable and a little money was circulating, that we would look back and realize just how bad things really were.

But we would create things to do and learn to appreciate the occasional reasons for small joys that might come our way. Because of the garden, the milk cow and the chickens, we had plenty to eat — which was sometimes not the case for city kids. And we spent a lot of time with neighbors, who were never more than a half mile away in any direction.

Of course there are little remembrances of those days that occasionally pop into your mind in later years. One of those things that comes to mind, even more than the half-acre of potatoes that seemingly always needed tending, was a small space in the garden where my mother always, year after year, planted a packet of zinnia seed. Everything in the garden was neatly planted in rows, but the zinnias were relegated to a small 4 by 4 foot block, and mother would bank up the soil around the square so that she could easily flood-irrigate the little plot.

In those days, zinnias were either red or pink, period. I will always remember the block of color the zinnias provided in an otherwise standard green garden. Later, orange and yellow zinnias became available, but always, those huge double-petaled blooms were the star attraction wherever they were



Kay Melia

• The Gardener

planted.

The Burpee Seed Company would later develop a beautiful white zinnia. In the '20s and '30s, zinnias became the most planted and prized annual flower. Today, it's hard to believe the variety of zinnia cultivars that are available, and yet, flower gardeners plant fewer zinnias than a decade or two ago. Why? Probably because zinnias offer no fragrance. They never have. Apparently, gardeners are forsaking them for something that smells good.

But, oh my, there are so many reasons to plant them today. They are so easy to grow. Just scatter a few seeds in a shallow mode, and then stand back. There are no transplants or pots or careful attention required. They love the heat, and thrive in poor soils.

In the past few years, plant breeders have created single-petal types, like the Profusion series, and the double-petaled Zahara series, both of which have added untold diversity to flower beds near you. Still, the Super Giant zinnias, with five- to six-inch blooms will continue to be favorites of many. You simply must try the gorgeous dahlia-flowered White Wedding, and the Pop Art Red and Yellow zinnia that is a pure "wow factor."

Today, it just doesn't get any better than zinnias in the flower garden. If they just had a bit of fragrance, and of course they will someday, every gardener would plant them.

Colby Rotary Club

Colby Rotary Club met at Colby Community College Tuesday with 31 members and guests Christy Rocca, Maggie Schneider, Sue Taylor and Kate Ziegler.

The monthly collection for Genesis-Thomas County was taken.

Club correspondence included thanks from scholarship winner Michael Tubbs and an invitation to attend the installation service for District Governor Robert Friesen on Saturday, July 7, in Lyons.

Nick Wells presented a banner from the Phillipsburg Rotary Club meeting he recently attended.

Vernon Hurd was inducted. He is a Farm Bureau agent and provides services to western Kansas and parts of Nebraska. His sponsor is Connie Renner.

Terrel Harrison had the program, on the background of the "Sum-

mer Autumn" painting by Birger Sandzen of the Smoky River area that the school received as a gift from the Class of 1946.

Sandzen was originally from Sweden and taught for over 50 years at Lindsborg. His art work is well known and the value of the school's painting is in excess of \$60,000. Harrison said the painting has been hanging in the Administration Building and the Board of Education has decided to share it with the community through the Prairie Museum of Art and History.

Sue Taylor, museum director, gave additional information on Sandzen works at the museum. A public event will be held Thursday, June 21, for the formal presentation of the painting.

Melinda Olson said a fund has been established at the Thomas County Community Foundation for Colby Public Schools Education Endowment Fund to benefit the school's art program.

Tom Peyton won Roto-Lotto.

Rotary meets Tuesdays in Room 106 of the Student Union.

— Relda Galli

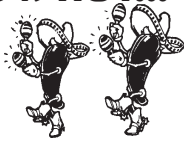
Corrections

The Colby Free Press wants to maintain an accurate record of our town. Please report any error or lack of clarity in a news story to us at 462-3963.

Markets

Quotes as of close of previous business day Hi-Plains Co-op	
Wheat (bushel)	\$5.98
Corn (bushel)	\$5.98
Milo (hundredweight)	\$10.32
Soybeans (bushel)	\$12.96

Some like it HOT... and some like to shop the COOL way!!



The Colby Free Press - 462-3963

Retirement Reception for Carolyn Armstrong
Colby City Manager

June 15th, 2012 • 3-5 p.m.

Law Enforcement Training Center
360 N. Franklin Ave., Colby, Kansas



Joe and Sheryl (Kennedy) McIlnay will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary on Sunday, June 17th. The couple married at the St. Francis Catholic Church in Hoxie, Kansas on June 17th, 1972. Their children and grandchildren, Melissa and Doug Johnson, Brandon and Emma, of Colby, Kansas; Brad and Gretchen McIlnay, Charlotte, Ted, Maeve, and Peter, of Leawood, Kansas; Angela and Patrick Tinkham, Courtney and Caitlin, of Colby, Kansas; and Amanda and Michael Juenemann, of Colby, Kansas, are requesting a card shower for the couple. Cards may be sent to: 1091 County Road 15, Colby, KS 67701.

40th Anniversary



JOLENE HANSEN

Teacher Lori Miller sat with her class of pre-primary kids, going into kindergarten through second grade, on Monday in their "miner's cabin" area to teach a Bible story. Rexford children learned

Bible truths and trivia about the Old West during Vacation Bible School at Rexford Community Church.

Rexford buzzes with Bible school, camp

The Rexford Community Church was full of children all week long during Vacation Bible School.

Around 45 area youth attended this weeklong event, which had the Old West and gold mining as its theme.

Throughout the week the children took up offerings towards a building project in Mexico. Their goal was to raise \$600 to pour a foundation for a building to be used for ministry in Mexico; by the end of the session on Friday, over \$700 had been raised. Sondra Barnett will be in charge of delivering these funds and a truckload of donated items to the ministry in Mexico. We are proud of all who worked to meet this goal!

The Vacation Bible School program was held Friday night at the Rexford Community



Gwen Griffiths

• Rexford Correspondent

Church, and many area families attended. The children got to share songs and verses with the community, then everyone congregated for cookies. It was a good ending to a busy week.

A group of workers from the Hoisington Church of the Nazarene drove three hours to Rexford on Saturday. They spent the entire day working to get the Shepherd's Staff facilities ready for Creative Arts Camp. The crew of 10 painted, cleaned and installed the stage extension. Shepherd's Staff is thankful for their help.

Saturday night, staff members began to arrive for Creative Arts Camp, traveling from Texas, Hays, Topeka and Garden City. Campers began to arrive on Sunday afternoon.

This will be one of the biggest years for this

event. There are over 40 campers, and 10 area families from Rexford. Shepherd's Staff would like to invite the entire community to attend the closing performance on Friday night. It will be held at 7 p.m. in The Hall at 230 Main St.

Tom and Judy McCarty would like to invite everyone to attend the Open House at the McCarty Dairy. It will be from 3 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, with free yogurt for everyone who attends.

Don't forget about the community garage sale coming up Saturday, June 23. You can still register — just call or e-mail by Wednesday.

That's the news from Rexford. I'd love to publish any special occasions in your life — just call 687-2076 or e-mail griffithsgang@gmail.com.

Have a great week!

Painting workshop offered in July

David Vollbracht will be giving a four-day painting workshop Wednesday through Saturday, July 11 to 14, at the Dane G. Hansen Memorial Museum in Logan.

Classes will run from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a one-hour break for lunch. Cost is \$150, with discounts available for Hansen museum members.

Using photography as a reference material will be the focus of the class, with special emphasis on the limitations of photography and how to use it as a point of reference instead of a crutch. Design, color, values and composition will

be explored as well as the more elusive elements of mood, passion and attitude that can make a good painting better and a better painting great.

Intermediate and advanced artists may call (785) 689-4846 for information or to register by phone.

Vollbracht is a representational landscape painter of the west. His work reflects the quality of light, nature and spirit drawn from the land. He has traveled to various parts of the west to gather reference material for realistic impressions created primarily in oil. His

compositions emphasize the beauty and importance of the natural landscape. He is intrigued by the patterns and shapes in nature and concentrates on the effects of light on these elements.

A resident of Medicine Lodge, he has a degree in art from Fort Hays State University and recently received Signature Membership to Oil Painters of America.

His work has been shown in Tucson, Ariz., Wichita, La Luz, N.M., and Winter Park, Colo. He has art work in galleries in Winter Park and Breckenridge, Colo.

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