



Other Viewpoints

Despite no trophy, quarterback's great

Collin Klein wasn't called on for an acceptance speech during the Heisman Trophy ceremony, but anyone who has followed the young man's career at Kansas State University pretty much knows what he would have said.

Klein would have been humble and grateful as he tried to deflect attention from himself and share credit with others, including God, his family, coach Bill Snyder, his teammates and friends and Wildcat fans, pretty much in that order.

It would have been a great speech, and Klein would have been a worthy, and responsible, recipient of college football's highest individual award.

It wasn't to be. But the fact Klein didn't leave New York with the trophy does nothing to diminish his many accomplishments or what he has meant to the football program at K-State and the entire state.

Although he hails from Colorado, Klein now will forever be claimed as one of Kansas' own, by the expanded K-State family, football fans (regardless of which university they claim) and Kansans who don't even follow football.

There is a chapter in Klein's K-State football story yet to be written, the Fiesta Bowl, but it is not too soon to congratulate Klein for all he has accomplished thus far and thank him, in our own humble way, for the manner in which he has represented Kansas State University and Kansas.

Snyder, when he came out of retirement to resume his coaching career, said he was coming back to "calm the waters" after the K-State program had fallen from the heights to which he had guided it earlier. Rather than calm the waters, however, Snyder has been responsible for a rising tide that has lifted K-State football as high, or higher, than it has ever been, and in a short period of time.

Late into a difficult season, K-State sat at No. 1 in the polls and the BCS standings.

But Snyder can't work his magic alone. He occasionally recruits a recognized high school star, but largely is at his best working with previously unheralded players who have athletic ability and skills and are willing to dedicate themselves to the program and the team and work hard to "get better every day," a phrase repeated uncountable times throughout each season by Snyder and his players.

Klein not only fits that mold, he defines it. He would be the first to say that his teammates also adhere to the "get better every day" philosophy and that he couldn't have accomplished much without them.

That's true, but great teams need great leaders.

K-State's quarterback for the last two years has provided that leadership on the practice field, on game day and in his daily life. With or without a trophy, he has done enough over his football career to make Kansans proud to acknowledge him forever as one of our own.

— *The Topeka Capital-Journal, via the Associated Press*

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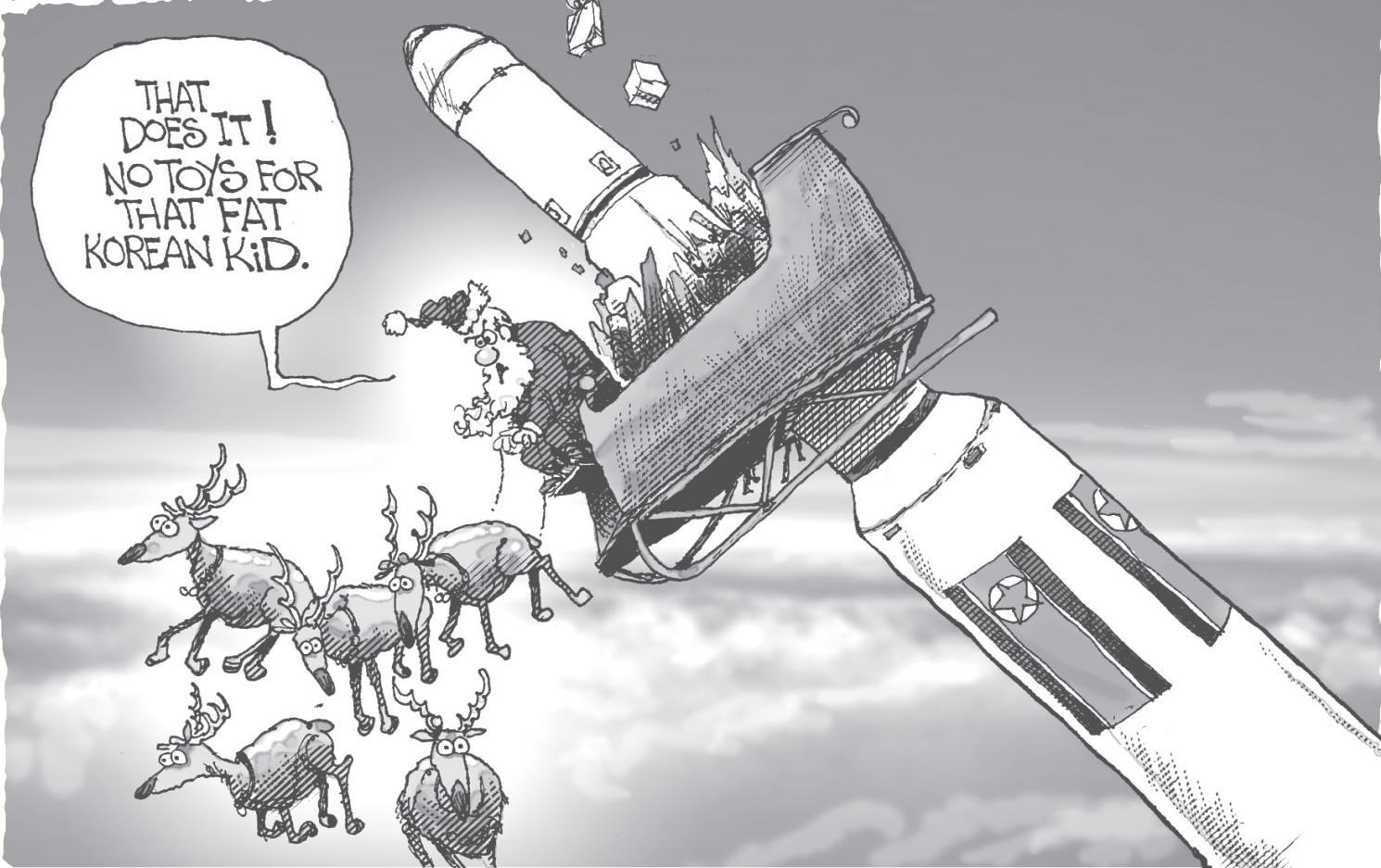
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Jackrabbits thrived in drought years

This is the fourth and final column containing excerpts from the book, "My Life on the Kansas Plains," by Leslie Linville, published by the former Prairie Printers of Colby. I was given permission to use this information by Harold Linville, one of Leslie's eight children. Harold died Nov. 11 in Colby at the age of 81.



Marj Brown

• **Marj's Snippets**

During those depression years of 1932 to 1938 when the Linvilles were still living on the old Stone farm near Winona, Leslie wrote, "One thing that still did very well was the increase in the jackrabbit population.

"Those rabbits devoured what little vegetation was left.... A bounty of five cents per head was placed on jackrabbits, but still they continued to increase.... Neighbors got together and started rabbit drives. Groups formed long lines around the fields and drove the rabbits to the centers and clubbed them to death."

"With all the drought and dust," Leslie wrote, "we couldn't even raise feed for our cattle, and the cattle were starving."

Finally, Leslie and a group of neighbors planted a half section of Russian thistles. They were thick and tall and made excellent feed, but needed something to supplement them.

"Some feed was shipped into the country by the government," he wrote, "but some of it wasn't worth hauling home."

Leslie said the thistles kept their cattle going that winter, but after that, they couldn't even raise thistles. When the cattle got so poor they couldn't walk, the government stepped in and bought cattle. Calves went for \$10 a head and were destroyed right on the farm. Cows were bought for around \$15 and shipped to market, where they were slaughtered and processed and fed to hungry people all over the country.

During those drought years, Leslie worked with the Works Progress Administration, or WPA, at Russell Springs on building projects. He said every spring, he would get a crop loan

to put out a crop, but got very poor results.

The government was paying part of the cost of "listing" the land to stop the blowing dust. Since there were few tractors, Leslie said, he could get custom work doing listing. One year, he listed about 1,600 acres for himself and others, who paid him \$1 an acre from government loans. That allowed him to keep up tractor payments and feed his family. However, he had a lot of crop loans to pay off.

"We lived on next year's hope 'till it was worn so thin that we did not think it was ever coming," he wrote. "Goodbye to the '30s, and I hope that such as they were will never be seen again."

In 1938, the Linvilles rented a farm on a half section southwest of Colby with a good basement house on it. Leslie said that this was one of the best moves he ever made, since Thomas County had not been hit quite as hard as had the area near Winona.

While they had a couple of tough years before they finally raised a crop, he wrote, he was always happy they made that move. During his first year on that farm, his wheat crop looked great until the spring, when the worms completely destroyed it.

That fall, Leslie rented a half-section just north of where they lived and planted wheat. "Never a crop did better," he recalled, "and I harvested my first wheat crop in the summer of 1941."

After a couple more good crops, he finally got his farm loans paid off. In 1940, they had

worked out a deal to buy a couple of sections of land for \$17.50 per acre. In 1941, they bought the Cook land.

Norman was born in 1938 and Larry in 1940 and then the last boy, Donald, was born. All attended school in Colby.

During World War II, Leslie wrote, they had good crops and prices rose steadily because agriculture products were needed all over the world. Machinery, parts and tires were rationed, and so were building materials. It was seven years before they completed their house and all the plumbing.

In 1944, Leslie purchased some land south of the railroad and had some wonderful crops on it. Some of his wheat made 50 bushels per acre. By 1945, he had about 1,400 acres in his farm, owned and rented, and produced 20,000 bushels. In 1945, he bought the northeast quarter of Section 10-8-33 from Willard Cooper.

1945 was a year of bad wheat field fires. When they saw smoke, all the neighbors shut down and went to help fight the fire. During the following years, Leslie was active as trustee of North Randall Township and helped to get the High Plains Co-Op started.

There's much more of Leslie's book I would have liked to tell you about, but I had to pick and choose what I felt was the most interesting and leave out other things.

Leslie and Bertha are no longer alive, but I want his family to know how much I appreciate the fact that Leslie had the foresight to write all of this down for us. It helps us to appreciate what we have and make us realize that if we don't use caution, it could happen again. Water is precious, and we shouldn't take for granted that it will always be there.

Marj Brown has lived in Colby for 62 years and has spent a good deal of that time writing about people and places here. She says it's one of her favorite things to do.

Remember the hungry while feasting

During the holidays, many Kansas families will celebrate by sharing a meal together. While feasting, we should remember that hunger is a reality faced by too many in our country.

We live in the world's wealthiest nation, yet nearly 49 million Americans struggle to put food on their tables. This year, 1 in 5 children in our country will face hunger. In Kansas alone, more than 14 percent of our neighbors are uncertain about where their next meal will come from.

The good news is that many Kansas organizations are working to put an end to hunger. Last year, I visited Wichita's Cargill Cares Complex, a food bank that is helping fill the hunger gap in 86 western, central and south-central Kansas counties. Thanks to contributors from around the state, and with the help of thousands of volunteers, this Wichita food bank provides food for thousands of Kansans. It is the primary source of food for hundreds of hunger-relief agencies throughout rural Kansas, including soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters and senior delivery programs. The food bank also partners with schools to provide food and supplies to students who are not receiving enough food outside of school.

While hunger is a problem facing too many Americans, the pangs of hunger are felt by many more across the world — nearly a billion people. I have traveled to regions of the



U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

• **Moran's Memo**

world that suffer from severe malnutrition, such as Sudan, where more than 90 percent of the population struggles with poverty and may not know where the next meal is coming from. We must address the immediate needs in our communities, but I believe we also have a responsibility to help put an end to hunger in developing countries through responsible investments in food aid and development.

In Congress, a bipartisan coalition of senators committed to fighting hunger and food insecurity is working to raise awareness and address hunger issues both here at home and abroad. As co-chair of the Senate Hunger Caucus, I introduced an amendment earlier this year to set aside money for development aid programs that reduce hunger in poor, crisis-prone countries and to help people provide food for themselves and their families. My amendment, which was included in the Senate-passed 2012 Farm Bill, follows the adage, "give a man a fish, he eats for a day; teach a man to fish, and

he'll eat for the rest of his life."

Yet, building resiliency in poor countries takes time and there are immediate needs that must be met. In October, K-State and Numana, a charity headquartered in El Dorado, teamed up to host SWIPE Out Hunger, the second annual statewide food packaging event. I had the chance to again join dozens of volunteers to bag more than 100,000 packages of food. The food will be sent to the Horn of Africa to assist in famine relief efforts and will feed several hundred thousand hungry people. I was impressed by the number of volunteers who gave up their Sunday afternoon to help assemble meals for those in need across the globe.

You, too, can make a difference. This holiday season, I encourage you to remember those who are less fortunate by donating to a hunger-relief organization, volunteering at a local soup kitchen or contributing to your food pantry. You can look for opportunities to help in your area by going to www.kansasfoodbank.org or www.harvesters.org.

This Christmas, I hope you will remember that it is "more blessed to give than to receive." By working together, we can make a difference in a hungry world.

Jerry Moran of Hays is the junior U.S. senator from Kansas. To sign up for his weekly newsletter, go to moran.senate.gov.

Mallard Fillmore

• **Bruce Tinsley**

