

Great Bend 3-I Show a popular display of implements

One thing about it, the wind keeps the smog down. We are supposed to find something positive about all things, and that's about the size of it for these windy, cold days that seem so prevalent nowadays.

Roger and I just finished covering the tomatoes, and we almost made it back to the house before the covers got blown off.

George and Roberta Luckert were in Great Bend over the weekend for the 3-I Show, and, according to Roberta, they about froze and didn't enjoy it quite as much as they would have if the weather had been a little nicer.

They did enjoy visiting their daughter, Betty Jensen, and were grateful she had some winter jackets they could borrow. Sounds like there were several local folks attending the display of all the implements and equipment that made the annual demonstrations.

You know, there've been some pretty tremendous advancements in machinery in just a few years time. There are lawn mowers that look like oversized ladybugs, tractors that look like something from an alien world, and household appliances that one would never dream of, but after seeing them for the first time, we decide we can't live without them.

Just got word tonight that our Colby friend, Anita Roulier, had a fall a week or so ago, and broke her ankle. After a trip to Hays, and then back to the Colby hospital, she will be home again in a few days. Sounds like she might be laid up for a few more weeks, so a 'cheer-



sally michael

• brewster beacon

up card' might be just what the doctor ordered. Roger and I will be looking forward to seeing you while we're shopping again, Anita, so hurry and get well.

Cornelia Baird had a great gathering for her 85th birthday at the Community Church in Brewster on the 27th of April. She is also having a recuperation time, and her daughter, Betty Jo Carpenter, will be helping her accomplish this.

Coleen Crumrine had surgery a little quicker than planned last week, and now she is well on the road to recovery from the gall bladder removal. Seems like she is feeling better than she has in quite some time.

There seems to be quite a few folks that have been battling health problems, and we hope they all do as well as Coleen has. Sherry Horney also seems to be getting along great, and it is good to see her smiling face.

Betty Wolfe has really been getting into Brewster history, and, from the sound of what folks have been telling me, you all are enjoying it too. Stepping back a few years and hearing about the times that once kept folks busy, is a little like being there with

them. Thanks for the memories, Betty.

First off, Betty wants you to know that there will be a delivery of new books on May 7th so be sure to stop by and see what the new titles are. I know

you remember that the hours are Monday and Wednesday from 1-4 p.m. and Saturday from 9-11 a.m.

In *The Brewster Tidings*, of Aug. 16, 1945, "During the thunderstorm on Sunday afternoon, lightning struck the north front corner of the Horney stone building, cracking some of the stones and knocking one of the coping stones which fell to the sidewalk, barely missing the marquee front of Georgia's Cafe " If one looks above the Senior Center, the effects of this storm can still be seen.

Further in 1945, in December, "The Farmers Coop was making preparations to move the exchange into the new quarters in the old Farmers Bank building. The building is to be remodeled, making living quarters for the Showalters, in the rear part. A new switch board and other equipment will be installed."

John and Selma Showalter and daughter, Betty, were well-known telephone operators of the company and were honored for their service, in 1957, after serving the community for 15 years. That is the year that Dial telephone came to Brewster. How many of you still have dial phones?

With the graduations coming up, Betty wants you to know there are several past announcements on display at the Heritage Center from past graduating classes of Brewster and Edson. Stop in and see if your year is on display.

Now, the next entry that Betty has given me goes way back to 1922. According to *The Brewster Herald* of May 25th of that year, "The first Junior-Senior Banquet of Brewster High School was held in the Methodist Church, on May 17.

Those present were: Superintendent and Mrs. W.E. Miles, Mr. and Mrs. C.R. McCall, Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Shirley, Mrs. N.E. Brooks and Miss Ivena Hance.

Students present were seniors, Bertha Parker, Berniece Eicher and Hazel Peacock and juniors, James McDonald, Hubert Sampson, Mable Strait and Leola Guise.

Mrs. Sampson and Miss Iva McCall were the servers. Commencement that year was postponed because of rain, and it was held in the American Legion Hall (current museum). E.W. Albright had charge of the invocation and benediction. Professor C.E. Rarick of Hays gave the address for the graduates and the large audience.

C.R. McCall presented diplomas to the three graduates. Later, on June 8, there were 106 Thomas County boys and girls that graduated from the common schools 8th grade, which was held at the Opera House in Colby. Those from Brewster were Marion Strait, Edith Parker, Milan Barger, Lawrence Winchip, Neva Crumrine and Corine Hemming."

Well, that was a fun trip in the past. It's neat that so many of the names are still Brewster mainstays. Most of the names mentioned have died, but the lives of those that they left behind are

still actively involved in local events.

It's nice to have 'roots,' and, although my heritage did not begin in Brewster, I call this place 'home,' so it is nice to know about the way it used to be.

The Brewster United Methodist Women held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 24, at the Briney Soddy, 20 miles northwest of Brewster. Lesa Juenemann, hostess of the Bed and Breakfast Soddy, served a delicious 6 p.m. dinner. Ceci Allen, Thesia Aschenbrenner and Becky Luckert were invited as guests of some of the members.

Ten United Methodist Women ladies attended: Eva Lou Selby, Tanya Gray, Joyce Crabtree, Colleen Rall, Loraine Bear, Nadine Kammer, Roberta Luckert, Sue Randolph, Bonnie Reid and Barbara Springsteen, who made the arrangements for this dinner and program event.

Groups seek rights for rattlesnakes

PROTEST, from Page 1

ment for the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks in Pratt, said he can't remember anyone ever being caught gassing snakes out of their dens.

Both animal rights groups claim rounding up rattlesnakes hurts the ecological balance. Snakes eat rodents, which can carry diseases. If the snake population gets too low, they say, rodents can run rampant.

Once the snakes are caught, Telecky says they are stockpiled for weeks, and sometimes months, in trash cans or crates, often without food or water.

In Kansas, though, Jones said, hunting snakes can't start more than 30 days before the event.

"These snake hunters don't always care about what is legal," Telecky said, adding that often snakes are brought in to Sharon Springs from other states, where laws might be different.

Telecky says "daredevil shows," where a snake-handler makes the reptiles perform tricks, cause abuse to the snakes, and teach young people bad habits. Telecky also said snakes are often killed and skinned in public as

part of the show, in front of children, but Withers denies that this happens in Sharon Springs.

"Snakes are killed privately," Withers said. "We don't make a spectacle of it. People can watch if they are interested. We do hope some people watch, to see how an animal works, its structure."

Withers says the only way children would be able to see the butchering of snakes is if their parents hold them up, because the windows in the building are above a child's eye level.

"We did skin them in public the first year or two," Withers said, "but we stopped doing that a long time ago."

Telecky says people who have gone through snake bones after the Sharon Springs event have found broken ribs and jawbones, which she said is "a sure sign of abuse."

"Snakes can feel pain, and fear, and can be hurt," Telecky said.

Even if she was assured all the snakes in the show were treated fairly, she says she would still call for an end to the roundup.

"This is causing serious ecological damage," she said. "They are exterminating a species."

Withers says the show is an important part of her town's economy.

"This is an economic development project. If people would look at the statistics, they would see we are a very poor county," she said. "This show gives our businesses a two-day boost, which is what we intended."

Telecky said raising money should not mean animals have to be hurt.

"I don't doubt they make a lot of money," Telecky said, "but there are much better ways they could be doing it."

Withers says she likes it when groups protest the show, because it's free publicity.

"Every time these environmentalists raise a fuss," she said, "that many more people hear about our show, and we didn't have to pay for the advertising."

The event doesn't cause any damage to the rattlesnake population, Withers added.

"Before this show, anyone who saw a rattlesnake killed it and let it rot in the field," she said. "We don't capture more than anyone ever killed. This way, we put them to a good commercial use."

Hunting license required for roundup

ROUNDUP, from Page 1

possess no more than 20 at a time.

To get a snake permit, a person must have a hunting license, he said, which includes taking a hunter's safety course for people born after July 1, 1957, and pay a \$5 fee.

Some hunters use a noose-type catcher, Withers said, but some more experienced snake gatherers use a tong-type catcher with a long handle, which allows them to stand back three or four feet.

The snakes are usually found around

prairie dog towns, Withers said, and on warm days, can be caught basking in the sun.

After the show, the snakes are sold and used for meat, leather and taxidermy work, she said.

The diamondbacks are imported from Oklahoma. Since they are bigger snakes, Withers said, they are used for butchering and making "snake snacks."

"Everyone says they taste like chicken," she said. "They taste like deep-fried something with a heavy crust."

Besides being able to try snake as a meal, people can visit exhibits including a climbing wall, butcher shop, black powder and taxidermy booths, a blacksmith, and of course, the thrill show.

There will be different non-poisonous snakes on display, Withers said, and the wildlife department will set up a hunting simulator. Entertainment will be provided by an "open mic" every half hour.

"We have a range of things," she said. "There ought to be something interesting for everybody."

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