

from our viewpoint...

## Opportunity knocks; are we really ready?

An airplane parts company wants to relocate from California to Kansas, and it comes down to a decision between Goodland or Wichita.

Friday, President Herb Menold told the Goodland Rotary he would prefer to bring his manufacturing operation to Goodland, but that he was up against a deadline to make the decision.

"I will come to Kansas," he said. "The question is if I can come to Goodland. I know I can do this in Wichita, but I would rather it be Goodland."

The Aircraft Seal and Gasket Corp. has been looking at Goodland for several months, and the main consideration the decision hangs on is money. Menold said he has been in the airplane parts business for about 40 years, and has in his current company since the mid '90s.

Roy Dixon of Brewster, project manager for the move, said he has been working with the company for several months and had a meeting with Lt. Gov. John Moore in Topeka. Dixon said Moore, who serves as state secretary of commerce and housing, was supposed to meet with the firm for half an hour, but they talked for more than two and a half.

"We had been there for 15 minutes when the lieutenant governor told his economic development person to see what the state could do to help bring the business to Goodland," Dixon said. "That is how the state got interested, and they have said they could bring about \$100,000 to \$125,000 to help make this happen."

During presentations earlier last week and again on Friday, representatives said the company needs about \$300,000 more to make the move to Goodland. The total need is for \$800,000, and part of that can be handled with industrial revenue bonds.

The immediate need is for moving expenses and operating capital to get the business open in Goodland by the middle of November, when it has contracts for orders to be filled.

With the state's help, about half of this available. Now it is up to the people and businesses in Sherman County and northwest Kansas to decide if this is something we should invest in.

Steve West of Western State Bank and Jon Pope of People's State Bank have checking into the firm. Both spoke highly of the opportunity for the area. The plant would provide about 30 jobs right away and as many as 100 within a year or two.

Pope asked Menold how he would explain the money needs to anyone who wanted to consider being an investor. Menold said this was different than helping a new company because his is an established company and they are a certified parts company with orders in hand and an established customer list.

There was a discussion of how the money could be raised. Anyone who wishes to be an investor is encouraged to talk to Dixon or to Pete Whalen.

After the Rotary meeting, Dixon said Menold had told him he needed to have a decision by Wednesday. He said he felt it would work out.

This is probably one of the biggest opportunities for economic development Sherman County has seen in several years, but it comes with a catch—a need for money. Whether the plant is going to come to northwest Kansas or go to Wichita, the situation shows we need to have our ducks in order to be able to respond when opportunities arise.

So, who will write the check? — *Tom Betz*

## The Goodland Star-News

(USPS No. 222-460. ISSN 0893-0562)

Member: Kansas Press Association  
Inland Press Association Colorado Press Association  
National Newspaper Association  
e-mail: [star-news@nwkanssas.com](mailto:star-news@nwkanssas.com)

**Steve Haynes**, President  
**Tom Betz**, Editor  
**Pat Schiefen**, Copy Editor  
**Sharon Corcoran**, Society Editor  
**Greg E. Stover**, Reporter/Sports Editor  
**Doug Jackson**, Advertising coordinator  
**Bill Wagoner**, **Phyllis Hadley**, Advertising Sales  
**Sheila Smith**, Office Manager

### Nor'west Press

**Jim Bowker**, General Manager

**Richard Westfahl** **Ron VanLoenen** **Judy McKnight**  
**Betty Morris** **Mary Jo Tapparo** **Lana Westfahl**

 **nwkansas.com**

**N.T. Betz**, Director of Internet Services  
([nbetz@nwkanssas.com](mailto:nbetz@nwkanssas.com))

**Evan Barnum**, Systems Admin.([support@nwkanssas.com](mailto:support@nwkanssas.com))

Published every Tuesday and Friday except the days observed for New Year's Day and Christmas Day, at 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735. Periodicals postage paid at Goodland, Kan. 67735; entered at the Goodland, Kan., Post Office under the Act of Congress of March 8, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Goodland Star-News, 1205 Main Ave., Goodland, Kan. 67735.

TELEPHONE: (785) 899-2338. Editorial e-mail: [star-news@nwkanssas.com](mailto:star-news@nwkanssas.com). Advertising questions can be sent to: [goodlandads@nwkanssas.com](mailto:goodlandads@nwkanssas.com)

The Goodland Star-News assumes no liability for mistakes or omissions in advertising or failure to publish beyond the actual cost of the ad.

SUBSCRIPTIONS: In Sherman County and adjacent counties: three months, \$20; six months, \$38; 12 months, \$72. Out of area, weekly mailing of two issues: three months, \$30; six months, \$45; 12 months, \$80. Mailed individually each day: 12 months, \$115. (All tax included.)

Incorporating:

**The Goodland Daily News**

1932-2003

**The Sherman  
County Herald**

Founded by Thomas McCants  
1935-1989

THE SHERMAN COUNTY  
**STAR**  
Founded by Eric and  
Roxie Yonkey  
1994-2001

**Nor'West Newspapers**

Haynes Publishing Company



## Mission to Nebraska was a great adventure

We had a mission, and we picked Saturday to carry it out.

A couple of months ago, Evan, our computer guru, got a call from a friend in Hastings, Neb., asking if he would like to buy a bunch of Macintosh junk.

In spite of the fact it's been a tough year, or maybe because of it, we agreed to pay \$200 for a truckload of old computers, monitors and pieces. We hadn't been able to afford our usual round of computer purchases, and Evan thought he could use the older machines as parts and the monitors as replacements when one of ours failed.

That was, as I said, about two months ago. Since then, Evan hasn't had a weekend free and neither have Steve and I. If it isn't one thing it's another — vacations, illness, holidays, equipment failures that needed immediate attention, you name it. Something was always coming up.

In the meanwhile the computer stuff was languishing in the basement of the *Hastings Tribune*, and they hadn't cashed my \$200 check.

There is little that will drive a bookkeeper nuttier than someone who doesn't cash a check. It messes up the whole system. Each month as you do your checkbook, you wonder if it's really been cashed and you missed it somewhere.

Finally, I offered to accompany Steve to Hastings after being assured it was only about a two or two and one-half hour drive. We were to leave at 10 a.m. and, hopefully, be back by



**cynthia  
haynes**

• open season

about 5 p.m.

Between dealing with the mail, dog, house and business problems, it was 11 a.m. before we took off for Nebraska. Still it was a beautiful day. We each had our portable computer or work and our book for breaks.

I drove on the way up as Steve tried to write. Now, while most people wouldn't name Nebraska as a really scenic state, those same folks keep telling me Kansas is flat.

We headed up to McCook and took U.S. 34 all the way across the bottom of the state to Hastings, driving through neat little towns and along rolling countryside punctuated with wonderful looking corn. It was irrigated and looked great. I was so envious.

From McCook, we turned east, passing through the towns we hear of all the time, but seldom visit — Indianola, Bartley, Cambridge, Holbrook and Arapahoe. Then the highway angled off to the northeast and we got into less familiar territory in Atlanta, Holdrege, Funk, Axtell, Minden and Heartwell.

At Holdrege, just 20 or 30 minutes from Hastings, Steve had said, the sign claimed it

## Celebrating our first 10 years in business

Cynthia reminded me that there was a bottle of champagne in the basement, and it was our 10th anniversary.

How time flies. It seems like only yesterday that we walked into *The Oberlin Herald* office with Randell Braden and met the staff. We drove out to Norcatur to meet Dorothy Kelly, who didn't come to the office much by that time.

And then we drove to St. Francis to meet the staff there.

Some days it seems like we've been on the road ever since. But those first four years, when there were just two offices, those were the easiest and in some ways, the best.

Life was busy, but we've always been busy. But there was more time to stroll down Penn Ave. and chat with the merchants. More time to talk with customers. Time to do a simple feature story now and then. Time to meet people and chat.

It all started on sort of a whim. We'd sold our newspapers in Colorado to a chain, not something we wanted to do, but it pleased our partners. We were looking for a place to settle with our family.

Cynthia was managing the pharmacy for a Dillon's store (called City Market in southern Colorado), but the kids and I had the summer off. We went on a tour, visiting newspapers in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico.

We were on the way to Nebraska. A friend, a newspaper broker, suggested visiting Oberlin.



**steve  
haynes**

• along the sappa

The paper had been for sale, he said, and might still be. We didn't give it much of a thought, but we wanted to stop off and see Cynthia's mother in Concordia, so why not? It was on the way.

We toured the office in the dead of night, because newspaper owners are secretive about selling the babies. The day before, we'd stopped to see the St. Francis office on the sly.

It was a long two weeks, and we looked at a lot of towns. Some were OK, some not so great. Even the kids were excited about Oberlin, and I hadn't expected that. We told Cynthia she had to come take a look at this surprisingly pretty little town. And the business was in a lot better shape than most we looked at.

Four years later, we got an inkling that we might be able to buy the larger papers in Goodland and Colby, which had been passed from one chain to another for the past 20 years and suffered in the process. We made an offer, and after much blood and tears, it came to be.

That nearly tripled the size of our company, in people and business volume. It brought us our own press facilities. More territory. More headaches. And a lot more travel. But we were proud to have brought those papers back un-

der "home" ownership. I would have liked to stop and look over the cars that lined the streets for a Show and Shine day.

It was 1:30 p.m. by the time we got to Minden and I demanded food. Since I was driving, I took a right in front of Pioneer Village, the famous Nebraska tourist attraction, and headed for the town square. Food was found in a little cafe, where everyone was watching the football game — this was Nebraska and the Huskers were playing.

On the road again, we made Hastings in good time and collected a truck full of old computers, monitors, keyboards and mice. We got a tour of the *Tribune* and were on our way home, stopping along the way for a nap, a read and to watch a fast freight or two.

We stopped in Kearney for some wonderful Mexican food and picked up a copy of *Buenos Dias Nebraska*. The price was right (free), and the headline proclaimed, "Historico Evento en Grand Island." We figured the place was authentic, so we sat down to feed our stomachs and try and read the paper. The dinner was delicious and the paper interesting. We brought it home and I'm still trying to decode the recipe for green rice, or arroz verde.

We finally got home at 11 p.m., tired but triumphant. It had been a little longer day than we had planned, but we had stopped to play and enjoy both the scenery and the day. We weren't complaining.

der "home" ownership.

That was six years (and for me, five trucks) ago. A lot has happened since then, a lot more miles on the road. But we've met and worked with a lot of wonderful people over that time.

Cynthia pointed out that 10 years is the longest we've been in one place since Kansas City, where we made our first home together, had our children and learned our trades.

It's not long in the history of a newspaper. *The Oberlin Herald* is nearly 125 years old. It has had 10 publishers, and some measured their time in decades. But it is a start.

In most respects, the last year has been the hardest. It seems the day we bought *The Norton Telegram* a year ago was the day the economy decided to get really bad.

The drought has affected us all. It's difficult to have to cut people and jobs, to scrimp and save to keep things going. But when times are tough out here, Kansans just keep going. It's all we know how to do. We know the sun will rise tomorrow, and someday, it'll rain.

That champagne? It's still in the basement.

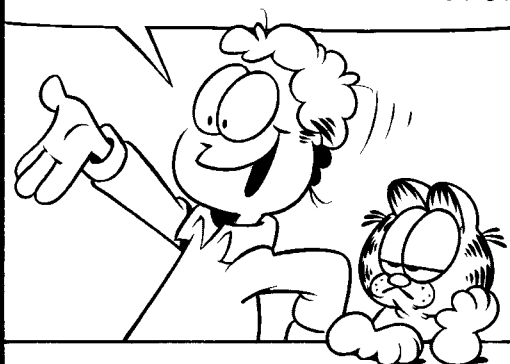
Cynthia is working in Norton as I write and I'm in Oberlin. Tomorrow, I'll be in Goodland and she'll be back in Norton. But we'll get around to it, maybe with a good steak.

And there are benefits: A fiery western Kansas sunset with the stark outline of an elevator in relief. Fishing off the dock at the lake. Walking in the dusk out in the valley.

And the people. Always the people.

### garfield

THERE'S A GREAT BIG WONDERFUL WORLD OUT THERE!



www.garfield.com  
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate



I HOPE IT DOESN'T COLLIDE WITH THIS ONE



© 2003 Paws, Inc. All Rights Reserved.  
JPM DAVIS 9.16