



Dorothy and Frank Sawyer held their hands up in celebration of their 65th anniversary Thursday. Frank said she couldn't hit him when he holds her hand like that, but Dorothy said she has a good cross. Photo by Sharon Corcoran/The Goodland Star-News

## Pair together 65 years

Frank and Dorothy Sawyer celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary Thursday at the Sherman County Good Samaritan Center. They were married Dec. 4, 1938 in Stockton, in a spur-of-the-moment ceremony. "We had been visiting down there," Dorothy said, "and just decided to do it." The couple lived in Atwood until nursing home care was needed. They have two daughters and a son, whom they adopted when he was 12

years old. Dorothy said she can't remember how many grandchildren they have, but they are good grandchildren. Dorothy was a dime store clerk for 20 years, and Frank was a mechanic and drove a school bus. "We didn't get to see each other until after 6 p.m.," she said. "They were busy years and years you wouldn't change. They were good years to us."



Barbara and Duane Neitzel

## Couple together 40 years

Duane and Barbara (Bishop) Neitzel will be celebrating their 40th wedding anniversary Monday. They were married Dec. 15, 1963, in Garden City. Their children and grandchildren are requesting a card shower for their anniversary.

Send cards to 115 N. Main, Goodland, Kan. 67735. Their children are Kelly and Kenny Studer of Goodland and Kevin and Beth Neitzel of Manhattan. Their grandchildren are Alicia and Christy Studer of Goodland.

# Christmas shopping time soon to end

What! Less than 20 shopping days until Christmas, and time is moving fast! Actually, it seems that our shopping is 95 percent done, but the baking and the Christmas card sending is still to be scheduled.

One thing, we aren't decorating, so we don't have to do that. When I see all the beautiful decorations, though, it makes me want to get out the lights and start in. I believe we will probably be spending Christmas in Hays, so we won't be around for the big day.

There are several who have decorated, and the town looks very festive. The senior center is looking good, thanks to the efforts of the Prairie Gem 4-H Club. Several members and their sponsors were in on the 2nd, and they zipped right into business.

This 4-H club has helped us for many years, and every year, the decorations seem to get more beautiful. Many thanks to the kids and to their very actively involved parents.

A lot of families were together over the Thanksgiving holiday, and it was good to see some of the family members we haven't seen for a while. Our own family was no exception, as we were able to have four or five kids and their spouses home, along with seven of 12 grandkids.

Brad and Melany and Ethan from Montana traveled the farthest and were able to stay the longest. Brian and Michele with Sam and Hannah from Bennington, Barry and Kim with Rebekah and Andrew of Salina and Beth and David with Nathaniel and Corinne Ziegler of Hays were



sally michael

• brewster beacon

all glad they could come for the day to share food and memories with Brad and family.

Brad also enjoyed visiting with classmates and friends, and he especially enjoyed seeing Mike Baughn, his former class sponsor. It's hard to believe it's been nearly 28 years since he graduated from Brewster High School.

It's always a treat for us to be able to have our kids around, as I am sure you have gathered about me from past columns.

Mary Ruth and Marvin Garrett had a lot of family on hand too. And I had a nice visit with Dawn Schultz the other day, and she is coming along with her treatments in Hays and will be done soon.

I think she is a model for good attitude for anyone who had a health issue, and it has proved a very powerful medicine for her.

Don and Donna Farley enjoyed having family over for Thanksgiving, as they had a big dinner at their home. Clarice Blakely was able to spend some time with her kids at the Farley home, so it was a busy day for her.

Several people enjoyed a fine supper and meeting for Monsanto Seed Company held Tuesday the 2nd at the Brewster Community

Church. There were more than 100 people on hand for the meal and the entertainment, as well as the information that was presented. Wilma Burk has spent several days in the Goodland hospital, and we hope she is feeling better now. Pauline Lemmer was a patient in the Colby hospital, so these two ladies will be recuperating for several days at their homes.

The experts all say the flu this year is going to be extra wicked, so we hope there are no more ailments lurking around town. Between October and November, there were more than 70 residents who received the flu vaccine, so we hope there isn't an epidemic around here.

It's been good visiting with Nancy Hawkins this week, as she has been visiting from Tulsa. She spent time with friends in the area, including Willard and Joan Hartley in Goodland.

She has her special buddy, Bogart, as a traveling companion. That's her dachshund pup that keeps her on her toes but gives her a lot of company.

It would be nice if she would stay a week or so, but she said she has an appointment back in Tulsa early next week.

The Christmas program was held on Thursday the 4th with a soup/dessert supper served beforehand by the Lutheran ladies. This is always an enjoyable evening, espe-

cially by the parents and grandparents of all the performers of the music program. Also, I believe they had a special visit from a certain jolly fat man dressed in red, following the concert.

Our sympathy is extended to Marilyn and Arnold Schindler due to the death of Marilyn's brother, Bill Boehme.

A while back, the phone rang one evening, and when I answered, a voice said, "Grandma, can you tell me what the capitol of North Carolina is?"

Well, due to the rapid changing of our grandkids voices, I wasn't sure which grandchild I was talking to. So, I answered that I thought it was Raleigh, and then I said, "And now I have to ask, who am I talking to?"

The voice on the other end said, "Reno, and Mom said she was sure you would know the answer."

I replied, "Well, I'm a grandma, Reno, but I don't think I'm your grandma."

He said, "Mom wants to talk to you; she wants to know who you are."

When "Mom" got on the line, I had it figured out who it was, and I said, "Sherry, I think you got the wrong number."

Grandma was supposed to be Doris Mayer, who grew up in North Carolina, but I thought it was great to get a long distance wrong number and still know who I was talking to. Reno is the son of Sherry (Mayer) and Fred Armstrong, and they live in Lakin.

That's it for this week. See you next time.

## Holidays a stressful time for families of divorce

The holidays are a stressful time of the year and can be especially difficult for families of divorce, remarriage and stepfamilies. Child visitation issues can become quite a challenge and require good communication and planning for things to go smoothly.

Family images portrayed by the media focus on the happy family and perfect family gatherings, when in reality, such get-togethers are often much less than perfect.

Holidays are a time of the year when families reflect on past seasons and events. Major family changes, including deaths, divorce and remarriage, significantly affect family events, conversations and memories.

While this can be difficult for those involved, it can be especially hard for stepchildren who may al-



high plains mental health

• plain sense

ready feel like outsiders when visiting mom's or dad's house.

And even more so when spending time with extended stepfamily members such as step-grandparents, aunts, uncles and cousins. Family dynamics vary a great deal, but you can still make it a positive experience by keeping a few things in mind:

- Talk with all family members involved in regards to holiday visitation and time with the non-custodial parent. Children feel better when they know where they will be,

and planning ahead will help reduce last minute confusion and conflicts.

- Treat everybody as equally as possible. Try to keep the cost and number of gifts the same for every child.

- Include stepchildren in as many holiday family activities as possible. With two or more families to deal with, it is easy for them to feel left out.

- Talk about family traditions within your stepfamily. Try to preserve past traditions that are special, but more important, start to develop your own family holiday traditions. Include stepchildren in the planning process; let them have some input into how they would like to cel-

brate.

Being part of a stepfamily is not always easy, whether you are a stepchild, stepparent, or a grandparent dealing with these family changes. The holiday season is a time of giving and forgiving and can be a time of year for positive experiences that help strengthen all involved.

Contributed by Karen D. Beery, Consultation and Education Department.

The views expressed here are those of the individual writer and should not be considered a replacement for seeking professional help.

Mail questions to: High Plains Mental Health Center, Plain Sense, Consultation and Education Department, 208 East Seventh, Hays, Kan. 67601.

Internet site: [www.highplains-mentalhealth.com](http://www.highplains-mentalhealth.com)

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Sherry Wilkerson (sister), Sandra Bagley (owner), Peggy King (mother), Sally Pettibone (sister) and Britany Pettibone (niece). Not pictured Rex Bagley

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welcomes

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