

July 4th plans 75 years ago different from today's

The Depression certainly didn't stop organizers and the patriotic spirit from planning a big Fourth of July for Sherman County and surrounding areas.

According to *The Goodland News-Republic* in 1932, some of the activities were quite different from the ones being planned for Freedom Fest 75 years later.

PLAN FOR FOURTH Horse Races, Boxing Match and Dances for Holiday

Not exactly what might be termed a Fourth of July celebration in the old time meaning of the word, but at least a number of good entertainment features for the day are being planned for the national birthday by the local post of the American Legion. The committee held a meeting last night and tentatively drew up its plan but is not ready to



marcia smith

• from the vault

say definitely that it will be carried out, although it very likely will.

Horse races during the afternoon, a prize fight and a dance during the evening are the contemplated amusements. Efforts are being made to get a good carnival company for the day.

Since the Fourth comes on Monday, it is rather planned to have something going on over the weekend, with the opening of the racing meet on Saturday afternoon and possibly a dance in the fairgrounds

handling the race program for the fair association each year, is arranging the races for the holiday. He has a lot of fast horses lined up that will come here. Mr. Roberts believes he can get 40 to 50 good horses from Kansas, Colorado and Nebraska towns, in fact practically knows the horses he can count on for the event.

The present plan is to hold the entire celebration at the fair grounds, with the carnival setting up there, the races, of course, on the track, perhaps a baseball game or

two on the diamond in the center of the grounds, the lights (fireworks) in the open air in front of the grandstand and the dance or dances in the pavilion.

Several short news items appeared in the same paper that gave insight into the daily life of this locale three quarters of a century ago.

HIGDON CAR BURNED
Fire, probably starting from a short circuit in the wiring, damaged Wm. Higdon's car and threatened the garage late Sunday night. The fire was discovered in time that Mr. Higdon was able to pull the car out, getting his hands badly blistered in doing so. The body of the car was completely destroyed.

YOUNG SHERMAN COUNTY FARMER DIES

Lewis E. Dare, young farmer of the Brownville community in the southeast part of Sherman County, died in the hospital here Saturday from injuries he received Friday when a truck turned over with him near McCook, Neb. He was so badly crushed in the accident that he died after being brought here.

Mr. Dare was 28 years old with a wife and one child.

In the "Llanos News" items by Mrs. Grace Leighton, more information was given of the same accident. "Charley Kammer and Carl were called to McCook Friday to bring Lewis Dare home. He was fatally injured when his truck stalled almost to the top of a hill. It was heavily loaded with cane seed when the truck started back down the hill. Jim Chaffman, who was with him,

got out to help push the truck up the hill but was too late. It backed off the steep graded road and turned over injuring Mr. Dare. Funeral services were Tuesday at Brewster."

"Ruleton Route No. 1" by Mrs. W.R. Gernhart also had some interesting local news.

"Roy Gernhart has killed four snakes at his home during three days. He also says he is improving his health and gaining strength faster than he did before he came home from the sanitarium.

"Omar Day purchased a windmill tower one day recently.

"Louise Lundin from Goodland has been hired as teacher in Dist. 55.

"Ceolla, Beitheilda and Eu Veane Gernhart were dinner guests with Evilo and Evelena Linnell Saturday."

Do you ever get the feeling 'customer service' is an oxymoron?

Cost of credit card: 0 percent interest (for six months, then 28 percent), no annual fee (for six months, at least).

Expecting help from customer service: unacceptable.

Talking to a customer service representative: priceless.

My sister sent me an e-mail that is supposed to be someone's actual experience dealing with customer service at a credit-card company. After some of the things I've heard from customer service, this seems believable to me. Sound familiar to you?

"A lady died this past January, and the bank billed her for February and March for their annual service charges on her credit card and added late fees and interest on the monthly charge. The balance had been \$0.00 but then was somewhere around \$60. A family member placed a call to the bank. Here's the exchange:

Family Member: 'I am calling to tell you she died in January.'



sharon corcoran

• just for fun

Bank: 'The account was never closed and the late fees and charges still apply.'

Family Member: 'Maybe you should turn it over to collections.'

Bank: 'Since it is two months past due, it already has been.'

Family Member: 'So, what will they do when they find out she's dead?'

Bank: 'Either report her account to frauds division or report her to the credit bureau, maybe both!'

Family Member: 'Do you think God will be mad at her?'

Bank: 'Excuse me?'

Family Member: 'Did you just get what I was telling you, the part

about her being dead?'

Bank: 'Sir, you'll have to speak to my supervisor.'

(Supervisor gets on the phone)

Family Member: 'I'm calling to tell you, she died in January.'

Supervisor: 'The account was never closed, so the late fees and charges still apply.' (This must be a phrase taught by the bank!)

Family Member: 'Do you mean you want to collect from her estate?'

Supervisor: (Stammering) 'Are you her lawyer?'

Family Member: 'No, I'm her great nephew.'

Supervisor: 'Could you fax us a certificate of death?'

Family Member: 'Sure.' (fax number is given).

After they get the fax:

Bank: 'Our system just isn't set up for death. I don't know what

more I can do to help.'

Family Member: 'Well, if you figure it out, great! If not, you could just keep billing her. I really don't think she'll care.'

Bank: 'Well, the late fees and charges do still apply.'

Family Member: 'Would you like her new billing address?'

Bank: 'Yes, that will help.'

Family Member: 'Odessa Memorial Cemetery, Highway 129, Plot Number 69.'

Bank: 'Sir, that's a cemetery!'

Family Member: 'What do you do with dead people on your planet?'

I had a run-in with customer service at a firm I work with last week. I had sent an order from a party with items ordered by several customers and the hostess, and two weeks later, the stuff wasn't in.

I had delivery confirmation from the post office saying they delivered my envelope with the order and

check two days after I mailed it.

My third call to customer service: Representative (after I explained the situation): I can't do anything about that. I'm just sitting here at my desk behind my computer. That's on another floor.

Me: (in my head) I'm sorry, did I interrupt you while you're filing your nails? (out loud) Can't you go there and check on it?

Representative: Well...

Me: (in my head) Is your butt glued to the chair? (out loud) Miss, I'm in Kansas; you're in Illinois, where my order was delivered. I can't go down there to check on it myself.

Representative: Oh! I'll go check and call you back.

The next day, after nothing was resolved, speaking to someone else, I was again promised she'd check and call back. She didn't.

I called again:

Representative: Was the check cashed?

Me: No.

Representative: Until the check is cashed, we can't prove it was ever delivered here. You'll have to resend the order.

Me: Can I fax the order and then give my debit card information on the phone to pay for it?

Representative: No. We can't accept orders by fax unless we first receive them in the mail. You'll have to mail it again.

Me: Huh?!

Last winter, I called to ask about some items that were out of stock, trying to find out when my customers would be able to order them.

The representative said, "They couldn't make enough of those to keep up with the demand. I don't think they're going to get any more in."

I can only assume she's not a business major. Perhaps there should be a college degree program to train customer service representatives to think, or at least try to do the job.

matters of record

Goodland Police
The following crimes have been reported to the Goodland Police Department:

June 15 — 11:13 p.m., 2510 Commerce, arrested Elaine Kay McClelland for driving while suspended and warrant arrest for Brown County. Case referred to city attorney.

June 17 — 1:39 a.m., juvenile arrested for driving under the influence and minor in possession and consumption of alcohol. Case referred to city attorney.

June 18 — 3:49 p.m., 1802 Sandy Road, arrested Stacy R. McKenzie and Michael D. Unruh for theft of fuel from Stage Stop Sinclair. Case referred to city attorney.

ferred to city attorney.
6:02 p.m., 1407 Walnut, Glenda L. Morris reported theft of a bicycle.

1:12 p.m., 2510 Commerce, Presto Convenience store reported theft of motor fuel.

June 19 — 12:40 a.m., 1602 Main, arrested Keith D. Carr for battery against Damian Troy Johnson. Case referred to city attorney.

12:38 a.m., 1602 Main, arrested

Keith Carr for aggravated assault, battery and driving while sus-

pended. Case referred to county attorney.

Sherman County Household Hazardous Waste Collection

Saturday, July 7, 2007
7 a.m. to 11 a.m. Mountain time
HHW Facility
1820 Cherry Street, Goodland, Kansas

For more information please contact Kenny Griffith at 821-1024.
No early drop off or no drop offs without personnel present.
There will be no **Used Oil** collected at this time.
For Sherman County Residents Only!

The Goodland Star-News

is now taking orders for corrugated paper for fair booths. Available in a variety of colors including, white, canary, orange, pink, flame red, apple green, emerald green, violet, bright blue, azure blue, rich blue, brown and black.

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