

# Home talent was displayed at the Opera House

By Evelyn Ward

*Sherman County Historical Society*  
**May 3, 1904:** Rendition of the play, "A Gay Deceiver," at the Opera House by Home Talent — Home talent played at the opera house, the farce entitled "A Gay Deceiver," and after all had been said and every act gone through, the large crowd in the hall was pleased with the performance.

Some said that the players rivaled the professionals that make our town.

Various conditions of life were portrayed — love, anger, hate, whim, deception — a side light on society full grown.

Harry McClure bore the heavy load on the male side, and Kate McCoy may be said to have played the part of leading lady. Lulu Auer was the charming young lady wooed and won by T.A. Stevenson.

## today in history

They were said to have had the divinest, sweetest parts. They liked their roles real well — more so than Jessie Vincent, who had to act as though the sweet had all soured, shrug her shoulders and impersonate a fidgety old maid.

Asher Wilson, impersonating the parson's part, looked more like a shortgrass preacher whose salary for a year had consisted of drouth and hot winds. His face was an expressionless of joy as that a man wears when he is playing a stiff game of poker. But that was in the game, you know.

Cass Hogeboom acted natural. He knew just how the fellow felt whose part he was to shuffle off. The players all did well.

The general criticism would be: the action of the play was too slow, and each player failed to a certain extent to throw himself or herself fully into the part played. The receipts of the entertainment was about \$70.

**May 4, 1904:** The long season of dry weather was broken by a heavy fall of wet snow Sunday, the precipitation amounting to an inch of water. Trains were blocked, and the wind blew down telegraph poles. A large area of western Kansas and eastern Colorado were covered with the welcome snow.

**May 5, 1904:** Bound Over, \$2,000 Bond — Tom Bandy to be Tried in District Court for Stabbing Moses Eversoll — The preliminary

trial in the case of the state of Kansas against Tom Bandy, under the charge of assault with intent to kill Moses Eversoll at Kanorado was held before Justice Floyd, and Bandy was bound over to be tried at the July term of the district court.

Bail was fixed at \$2,000. Bandy has been in jail since the conclusion of the trial and is trying to get sureties for his release. He has secured men on his bond who have qualified for \$3,000, but Sheriff Bradley has not approved the bond.

**May 6, 1904:** Death in Rattlesnake Bite — First Instance of Death from a Rattlesnake Bite in the History of the County — Violet Palmer, the three year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrene Palmer, who live ten miles southeast of Goodland, was bitten on the leg by a rattlesnake shortly after dinner

Friday and died the following morning at 2:30 o'clock.

The little girl was playing outside of the house and was busy around a little playhouse of her own when something stung her just above the shoe top, the girl not noticing the snake.

In a minute it hurt her so Violet ran to her mother, crying and saying that something had got in her shoe. There was the bite in the flesh, but the thought that a rattlesnake had done the work was not considered until the playhouse ground was looked over when a restless, coiling monster rattler was encountered and killed.

Mr. Palmer hastened to town for medical assistance and meanwhile ammonia, turpentine and a plaster of mud applied to the wound. Whiskey was also given, and soon antidote prescribed by Dr. Gulick.

Early in the morning, the patient fell into a deep sleep following by extreme restlessness, and died in agony. The foot was badly swollen, and parts of the body turned spotted.

Funeral services were held at the home Sunday morning at 10 o'clock, the Rev. J.E. Stevens officiating. Burial was made in the Dunkard cemetery, five miles southwest of Goodland.

This is the first instance of death from a rattlesnake bite in the history of this county. Several persons have been bitten, all older than Violet Palmer, but they all recovered after much suffering.

*From weekly issues of The Goodland News, provided by the Sherman County Historical Society. Since the paper was published weekly, some items were arbitrarily assigned a date.*

# Therapy causing pain but bringing improvement; walker needed less

I'm still getting settled from being gone most of last week. I have been doing those additional exercises with the resulting sore leg but can see and feel some improvements.

I'm using the big walker less and less, mostly for use if going somewhere I've got to do a lot of walking. I did use it when I was in Colorado the day we did a little shopping, and I mean little shopping. I went in to the area I needed to go to and out to the car.

Around the house, I use the smaller walker or a cane, but for the most part, I try to do it on my own. The last word from Dr. Durbin was not to get too anxious and go overboard driving.

Use it only for limited necessity and with someone in the car that can



Jan Zwetzig

• goodland gazette

drive if I get into trouble. Slow down on using the car for a few more weeks.

Visits to the canyon this summer will be rather limited, as again, I'll need a backup driver, so trips are on hold until later this summer.

I don't have a job at the center, so I was starting to think about the canyon, but he put a slow-down for a few more weeks on that idea. I will survive, and all will be OK.

I've been keeping busy doing

some housework, some baking and fixing most of my meals. Outside trips are still limited, and then again, a backup driver is needed.

Bob picked out a cordless phone that he felt I should have. Bob and Martha are great, as they do things for me while with them. Their health is getting to be of great concern to me. Nothing can really be done for them, and I sure saw a difference in their actions since January.

I only have one birthday for the last week of April, that of Don Weick. Best wishes to him and anyone else having a special day. There are no anniversaries that I know

about, but I'm sure there were some, and best wishes to those people.

I know there are several in the hospital, but I'm not sure of how many. I sure miss the hospital information that used to be in the paper. Unless someone tells me, I find out after they get home.

Sincere condolences to anyone mourning the loss of a friend or family member.

School is coming to an end in just four or five weeks. It's hard to believe that the first half of the year is about to go. Mommy always said when summer comes, school is out; it will soon be time to get the kids back in school, and the year is almost over.

I always kind of laughed at her thinking, but as time goes by, I'm beginning to understand what she

was telling us. It's hard to understand how this time flies away.

I sure hope they find a solution for the mess overseas. I only wish we hadn't gotten involved in it since those countries have not been good for each other since the beginning of time.

They'll have a hard, long time of finding a solution agreeable to all. May God give all the calm needed to come up with a solution and end all this heartache and bloodshed.

There's no other news I need to share with others. If you have some, give me a call or drop off a message. My recorder died a noble death, so you'll not get a message when you call.

No answer doesn't mean I'm gone, just not close enough to the phone. Give me six-eight rings before you hang up, as I travel more like a snail than a rabbit.

On that note, I'll sign off until next time. Take care of yourself.

# Colorado woman writes novel about battle of will

"Where There's a Will," a novel by a Kit Carson, Colo., woman, is about one family's chaotic and often humorous battle over the contents of the will left behind by its fearsome matriarch, Iola Clank-

ton. The book, the first novel by Lucinda Perry, is available on the websites of several major booksellers, including Borders, Barnes and Noble, and amazon.com.

Over the next few months, Perry will be involved in several book signing engagements.

"Where There's a Will" is available to libraries and bookstores through Ingram Book Group at

ingrambook.com, or by contacting the author directly at (719) 962-3136.

Perry lives with her husband Dean in Kit Carson, where she is at work on her second novel.

## student of the week



**Name:** Jocelyn Lucas  
**Parents:** Jack and Linda Lucas  
**Grade:** Senior  
**Age:** 18  
**We've nominated this student because:** Jocelyn made the decision to take Trigonometry/PreCalculus and Calculus her senior year. She has given 110 percent effort in both classes. She has impressed me with her work ethic and her attitude.  
**Student Comment:** I enjoyed all my experiences at Goodland High School, and will always remember the

wonderful memories with my friends. I am going to miss seeing everyone next year, but I know that good friendships never die.

**Activities involved in at school:** FCCLA, Girls Athletic Association, National Honor Society, cheerleading, dance team.

**My choice of movies, books, and games:** My favorite type of movie is comedy. I enjoy reading action novels and listening to all types of music.

**After I leave Goodland High School I intend to:** Attend Kansas University in Lawrence to pursue pharmacy.

**And 10 years from now, I think I'll be:** Happy and healthy at a job that I enjoy and hopefully thinking about marriage and starting a family.

**Favorite Quote:** "Reach for the moon...even if you miss, you'll land among the stars." -Unknown

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