

Stabilizing foundation major step in renovations



Dick Morton (above, right) and Steve Kathka of Oberlin walk through the back area of the Dr. A.C. Gulick house, where they have been stabilizing the footings by pumping concrete underneath. The stabilization is a major step in Rod Cooper's plan to renovate the house, which is over 100 years old. Cooper said he has taken several truckloads of debris off the front yard (left), and knows this is a long-term project.

Photos by Tom Betz
The Goodland Star-News

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The house at 403 W. 11th, built between 1888 and 1901, was the home of Dr. A.C. Gulick from 1901 until his death in 1958.

In the past few months, an effort has begun to renovate the home of one of Goodland's most beloved physicians.

Rod Cooper, owner of Crazy R's, purchased the house last year, and began renovation this spring. He said they had taken several truckloads of debris off the yard, but this will be a long-term project.

One of the major projects was to stabilize the foundation under the back portion of the house, and Cooper turned to Dick Morton of Morton Construction for this job.

Morton bought stabilizing equipment from Marlin Hackney of Kansas City, and with the help of Steve Kathka of Oberlin, who had worked for Hackney and was familiar with the equipment, they set to work to save the old house.

They pounded 10 rods down below the foundation, and Morton said, they pumped over 50 sacks of concrete under the house to stabilize and shore up the footings. He said when the project was done, they had raised the foundation about two inches in spots to bring it back to where it was over 100 years ago.

Cooper said he does not have a schedule for completing the renovation, but that he hopes to bring the house back to what it was when the doctor and his family were living there.

Historic records, provided by Gennifer House of the Sherman County Historical Society, say that Arthur Cornelius Gulick came to Goodland in 1901 to temporarily replace Dr. Smith, who was going to serve in the Kansas legislature.

The young Dr. Gulick, with a degree from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, found himself in love with Ella Myra Morse, who worked at the post office. She had come to Goodland from Phillipsburg and Vermont some years earlier.

The couple married on April 15, 1901, though the doctor was late to his wedding because he was putting a woman headed for the insane asylum on the train. After the wedding, the couple moved into the four-room brick house at 403 W. 11th.

The house was made of a soft, red, low-fired brick from a local manufacturer, one of four buildings in Goodland built with this brick.

The first of five children, Ethelwyn (Knaggs) was born in 1903. In the next 14 years, four more arrived, Mervin in 1908, Arthur E. in 1913, Loretta (Sullivan) in 1915 and Grace (Krause) in 1917. All five were delivered by Dr. Gulick in the upstairs bedroom. As the family expanded, the house was remodeled and enlarged.

An upper story was added around 1903, with three distinct Dutch gables and decorative cut wood siding. An indoor bathroom with a stool, sink and bathtub, was added. The tub and sink remain. A cesspool was placed west of the house and electricity was added. The home was one of the first in the city to have these modern conveniences.

The original turn switches and push-button switch plates are in place, as are many of the original light fixtures. About the same time, central heat with steam radiators was installed. Hard nut coal was stored in the basement. The coal furnace was eventually changed to a gas model.

A sleeping porch, with decorative tin ceiling, was added about 1912. Sliding glass windows were installed in the 1930s.

Dr. and Mrs. Gulick were honored in 1950 when the park east of the courthouse was dedicated to them.

Grace Gulick Krause, youngest of the children, tended both of her parents in their final illnesses. She inherited the house from her mother in the mid 1970s and spent the last 20 years of her own life cherishing the property and memories of her parents. It was owned by her daughter, Karen Krause Neitzel until purchased by Cooper.

Commissioners plan to improve Goodland image

By Greg Stover
The Goodland Star-News

City commissioners and the Sherman County Convention and Visitors Bureau board talked about ways to improve the image of Goodland to visitors, and potential new businesses, at a special meeting earlier this month.

Board chairman Dale Neill said the meeting served as a working session to begin a campaign to get everyone working together to improve the image of Goodland and Sherman County. He said keeping each other up-to-date and maintaining an exchange of ideas was an important part to making the campaign a success.

Neill asked the group to come up with ideas for what can be done to make Goodland more attractive.

Mayor Rick Billinger, who attended the meeting long with city commissioners John Garcia and Dave Daniels, said the word needed to get out that when people see something that should be cleaned up or fixed, they need to tell someone with the city.

Billinger said city workers do not

see everything that needs work in Goodland and people can be a big help if they report things, especially on city property. Daniels said the city could maintain a nuisance list through which the "squeaky wheel gets the oil" principle can be applied.

Donna Swager, Goodland Area Chamber of Commerce board president, who attended along with Chamber manager Courtney Warden, said the Chamber's beautification committee met the week before and was excited to get to work.

Arlo Hansen of the Sinclair station on Commerce Road, a member of the bureau's board, is serving on the committee. He said the one of its goals is to build community pride in the city's appearance.

Neill said the bureau had entered into a contract with the Sunflower U.S.A group to "aggressively" market the Van Gogh pins and mini-easels. Money from their sale will be used for improvement projects in the county. Garcia said the Goodland Rotary Club probably will continue to donate money to help improve the looks of the city.

Bureau board member Ryan

Hageman of Wendy's said once the ideas have been collected, someone has to take the lead to turn some of them into action. Once people see where an idea led to results confidence will build in anticipation for further results.

After the joint meeting, which lasted about an hour, the bureau's board held its regular monthly meeting. Advisory member David Branda, owner of the Sherman Theatre, said as far as he could find out, there was no problem in the bureau using the slogan "They Came to Stay." This is the name of the pioneer statue in front of the Sherman County Courthouse.

Bureau director Donna Price said the Van Gogh postcards were "on the press" and the first distribution to merchants should be during the first week of July.

Hansen reported that the Sinclair station at 2320 Commerce Road was again an official travel information center. The next meeting of the Convention and Visitors Bureau will be at 9 a.m. Tuesday, July 20, on the second floor of Butterfly Aviation at Renner Field.

Visitor wins classic car



David Nannarone of Garden City won the 1965 Ford Mustang at the 40th Anniversary Celebration of the Northwest Kansas Technical College. The vintage car was restored by college students and raffled off to raise over \$9,000 for the college's endowment scholarship fund. The weekend of celebration featured a car show with models used by students 40 years ago in 1965.

Photo by Doug Jackson/The Goodland Star News

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