

Man showed off potatoes, expected an abundance

By Evelyn Ward

Sherman County Historical Society
July 30, 1904: Fine Potatoes — James Yarger, who lives southwest of town, brought in samples of his potato crop last week. They were large in size and superior in quality. Mr. Yarger has out about an acre and will have considerable more "spuds" than he will need for home use.

There are perhaps more potatoes being raised this year than ever before in this county. They seem to do well and are quite free from the bug pest, and the yield per acre and the price per bushel make them a profitable crop.

July 31, 1904: Lightning Strikes Three Times — The recent thunder storms over this county have not been without nature's fireworks.

A horse belonging to Mrs. S.L. Franklin was killed Friday by a thunderbolt. On Sunday, lightning landed twice.

It struck a load of hay on Joe

today in history

Kolcney's place southwest of town, both wagon and hay being destroyed. C.E. Swarts' slaughter house north of town was also struck but not damaged to any great extent.

August 1, 1904: Lowest Levy In Our History — Economy In the County Administration Makes Taxes Light — The County and Country District Out of Debt — The board of county commissioners met August 1 in regular session to make the county levys, to allow court claims and to transact other business.

The commissioners, upon completion of an examination of the records and accounts of various funds, made a general reduction of the tax levys ranging from seven mills to 35 mills over those made in 1903, although a reduction had been made for 1903.

This lowering of the tax levy affects the entire county, no part receiving a less reduction than seven mills, the part which was bonded receiving the greatest cut in levy.

There was a lowering of the state levy of one mill on account of the reduction of the amount to be raised this year by this county as state taxes.

The levys just made by the county commissioners are the lowest ever made since the organization of the county, and there will be a material reduction in taxes on all kinds of property in Sherman County unless the city council and school boards increase their levys over last year for city and school purposes, over which the county commissioners have no jurisdiction or control.

The entire school bonded indebtedness has been paid, except the Goodland city district, the only one that has a bond outstanding. Only a few years ago, nearly every district was under bond of debt.

There are no outstanding county warrants, for they are at par and are paid by the county treasurer upon presentation. Less than a year ago, the county paid off the state seed grain warrant, which amounted to about \$2,500.

This condition of things speaks well for Sherman county. Its finances have been handled in a business-like manner, and Sherman

county today is in better financial condition than any other county in western Kansas.

August 2, 1904: The outside work on the high school building is being done by Grant Fleming and his assistants. Instead of one contract, which was reported to have been let to McCants and Smees, there were two, the exterior work being let to Mr. Fleming. Mr. Fleming was formerly a contractor in Denver and has been doing work in Goodland for several months.

August 3, 1904: AD — We can offer you 320 acres of Improved

Land, Small Frame House and Stable, Well, 100 acres under cultivation, within a few miles of Goodland. This is good, smooth land. Price \$1,200.

We furnish warranty deed and abstract of title with every farm.

WILSON BROS., Bonded Abstracters, Goodland, Sherman County, Kansas

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.

West Nile found in Wallace County

West Nile virus has been confirmed in a mosquito pool in Wallace County, in two birds in Pratt County and two birds in Reno County, the Kansas Department of Health and Environment said Thursday.

West Nile virus activity was confirmed earlier in Barton, Harvey, Johnson, Sedgwick, Shawnee and Wilson counties.

"Since West Nile virus has been found in birds and a mosquito pool in several Kansas counties throughout the state, everyone in Kansas should realize they are at risk for the disease," said Gail Hansen, acting state epidemiologist. "We cannot emphasize enough that people should not wait for the virus to be confirmed in their own backyard before taking precautions."

The virus is carried by birds and transmitted by mosquitoes that bite the infected birds, which then transmit it to horses and people.

The best way to be prepared, state says, includes personal precautions such as use of an insect repellent with DEET and reducing mosquito breeding grounds.

There have been no human cases reported to the state Health Department this season, either through the state laboratory or through positive lab results from private labs. Physicians should report West Nile virus cases to the state by calling (877) 427-7317.

The health department recommends these precautions to reduce

the risk of West Nile virus:

- Use insect repellent with the chemical DEET and wear long-sleeved clothing when practical.
- Remove standing water where mosquitoes breed. Use larvicide in water that cannot be drained or removed.
- Change water frequently in bird baths, pet bowls and wading pools.
- Limit outdoor activities at dawn and dusk when mosquitoes are most active

The state is asking citizens who find dead birds to call the West Nile Virus Information Line at (877) 228-2287 and learn how to submit a bird to Kansas State University for testing.

In counties where two reports of the virus have been confirmed, no more birds will be tested, including Harvey, Johnson, Pratt, Reno, and Sedgwick.

Birds being tested include: crows, blue jays, magpies, or birds of prey (hawks, owls, eagles):

- Bird should not have been dead

longer than 24 hours;

- Bird should be intact and should be placed in double plastic bags and frozen.

Callers must leave their name and number and will receive a call back with information on what to do with the dead bird. K-State Extension agents will ship the specimens to a lab. Test results will not be released to individuals submitting birds, but birds testing positive will be reported on the West Nile virus web site.

In 2003, 90 human cases of West Nile virus with neurological illness were confirmed through the state Division of Health and Environment laboratories, including seven deaths. Private labs confirmed 731 human virus test results. Three additional deaths were attributed to the virus, but unconfirmed through lab work. In 2002, 22 human cases with neurological illness were confirmed through the state lab but no deaths reported.

For more information on West Nile Virus, go to www.westnileks.com.



Eugene and Lola Marrs 50 years ago



The couple today

Couple together 60 years

Eugene and Lola Marrs are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary this summer.

They were married July 11, 1944, in Colby. Their children are having a reception for them from 2-4 p.m.

Central Time on Saturday, Aug. 14, 2004, at the Brewster United Methodist Church, 202 Nebraska. They request no gifts.

They have four children, Dwight (Mona) Marrs of Goodland; Sonia

(Tim) Dahl of Algona, Iowa; Linda White of Maxwell, Neb.; and Marvin Marrs of Winslow, Ariz. They also have seven grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.



SALE

All Cake Donuts
3 for 99¢

1222 Main, Goodland, Kan.
 785-890-2219

Tuesday 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. - Friday 8 a.m. - 6 p.m.

WE'VE REMOVED THE SPEED BUMPS FROM YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD.

Welcome to SBC Yahoo! DSL.



Introducing SBC Yahoo! DSL to your neighborhood. Tired of wasting valuable time waiting on a slow dial-up connection? Then get to know your new neighbor. Sign up for SBC Yahoo! DSL and start navigating the Internet with lightning speed. Download images, songs and movies faster than ever. And best of all, you'll save time, allowing you to do the things you really want to do. It's just one more way we bring it all home. To learn more, visit sbc.com/sbcyahoo or call 1-866-SBC-YAHOO. SBC. GOING BEYOND THE CALL.®

SBC.COM/SBCYAHOO |  | 1-866-SBC-YAHOO

LOCAL SERVICE

LONG DISTANCE

INTERNET

HABLAMOS SU IDIOMA. LLAME 1-877-SOLO-SBC.

DSL Internet by SBC Internet Services; content by Yahoo!.