

# Radio announcers are eyes and ears for fans

RADIO, from Page 1

a clear look at Goodland High School, the adjacent neighborhood, the water tower and the grain elevators down by the tracks.

The broadcasters' station is set up in the front right of the box. Their equipment includes a metal box set up on the open railing. The box is hooked into two sets of big, old-fashioned headphones complete with thin microphones for the announcers to speak into.

Melia said they use more computers at the radio station than they did in his father's first days, but for on-site broadcasts the equipment hasn't changed much.

"For ball game broadcasts," he said, "it's the same old thing."

Kay Melia tests his headset, making sure he can hear himself clearly in the headphones.

The two men are equipped with clipboards listing the line-ups of both teams. Melia said they have important statistics from the Goodland team and some record information on hand for the game.

"We don't have everything," he said. "The athletic director gives us a few of the more important ones."

They talk about the type of game they expect, like is Andale a "running" team or a "passing" team.

"It helps to know a bit about the game," said Marty motioning to Kay, who was a quarterback for the Bucklin Red Aces in high school.

They look at players' names, too, so they make sure they are pronounc-

ing the difficult ones correctly.

Both men have lived in town for years, so they are familiar with the players and their families. Marty graduated from Goodland High in 1973.

"It's a small town," said Kay, "When you've been here as long as we have, you know everybody."

Although they are from Goodland and support the home team, the pair said they try to keep their broadcast unbiased. The playoff game was fed to KSKU radio near Andale, too.

Along with the radio broadcasters, coaches and photographers are cramped into the small box for the game.

After the color guard raised the American flag and the national an-

them was played, the broadcasters put on their headphones and called the kick-off.

Kay, a veteran of 53 years as a broadcaster and was inducted in the Kansas Broadcaster Hall of Fame, said he likes to call football games.

He looked sharp in neat trousers and a polo, and his comfortable style highlights his experience. He moved to town nearly 45 years ago and started the radio station here after working in Hays.

"I came to Goodland in 1960," he said.

The football games have been crowding the airwaves on KLOE, and later FM stations KKCI and KWGB, ever since then and it seems there is no end in sight for the Melia family.

## Production begins



Jenny Nevels of Colby is one of the new employees at Aircraft Seal and Gasket in Goodland. Production began last week, and the first 34 seals were delivered to Wichita. The plant expects to be at full production in a few months.

Photo by Tom Betz / The Goodland Star-News

# Tank gunner returns to France 60 years after battle

DAISE, from Page 1

of all these young people and the price of pain for so many families, which time does not erase."

Ron Daise then made a short speech on behalf of his father, thanking the French for remembering and honoring the American soldiers who died that day. The mayor then presented Maurice with a medal, Avoie gave him a copy of his book and Lynne was given a bouquet of flowers.

Between 400 and 500 people attended the commemoration, including several wearing World War II American uniforms.

The Daises spent a little over a week in France, visiting Paris and taking in the view from on top of the Eiffel Tower. Maurice said he got a better view of the tower this time than he did 60 years ago through the gunner's periscope of a moving tank.

Daise was drafted in November 1942, 15 months after he eloped to Atwood with Irene, his wife of 63 years. He was sent to Camp Crooke, Calif., for basic training. While there, he was assigned to the 5th Armored. The division took part in the Tennessee Manuevers in the spring of 1943 and in July moved to Pine Camp, N.Y., and later to Fort Indiantown Gap, Pa.

In February 1944, the division sailed from New York to England. The division set up camps to provide services for the troops who were making the D-Day invasion. Maurice said his unit mostly helped feed the troops.

In July, the division crossed over and on Aug. 2 entered combat, earning five battle streamers by the time the war in Europe was over. Daise said it was about that time he was promoted to sergeant. The division returned to the U.S. in October 1945 and was inactivated. Daise was sent

*Veterans Day  
service 11 a.m.  
on Thursday*

to Fort Riley for discharge, then returned to Goodland.

Daise's decorations include the Purple Heart, Good Conduct Medal, the World War II Victory Medal and the European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal.


Daise said he got to see more of France on this trip than he did in his 15 months there 60 years ago. He said he, Ron and Lynne were amazed at the French people's dedication and esteem towards the American soldiers who liberated them.

One of the people they met was Pierre Gesland, who was 6 when the battle took place and told Maurice that his visit was one of the greatest moments of his life.

Daise said they were treated like royalty the whole time they were there, especially by their hosts Jean-Michel and Martine Lafebvre. He said the only negative part of the trip was that he broke his right wrist

getting out the shower his second day there, which, although healed, is now hampering his bowling game.

It was, they said, the trip of a lifetime for three generations of Daises.




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I would like to say "Thank You" to all veterans for the sacrifices you made and the lives you gave to give us our very precious gift of freedom. *FREEDOM WAS NOT FREE.*

**Ralph Ostmeyer**  
40th Senate

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